

## Technical Details / Organization

**Please register by January 15, 2016 with Volker Depkat:**  
[volker.depkat@ur.de](mailto:volker.depkat@ur.de)

If you registered, but cannot take part for some reason, you should notify the Academy by February 2, 2016 (at the latest); otherwise we will have to charge 50 % of the conference fee.

### Conference fee:

Including room and board: 130 EUR  
(w/o room: 80 EUR)  
We ask you to pay when checking in.

### Meals:

All meals are included in the conference fee.  
Vegetarian meals can be served if the Academy is notified in advance.

## How to reach the Academy

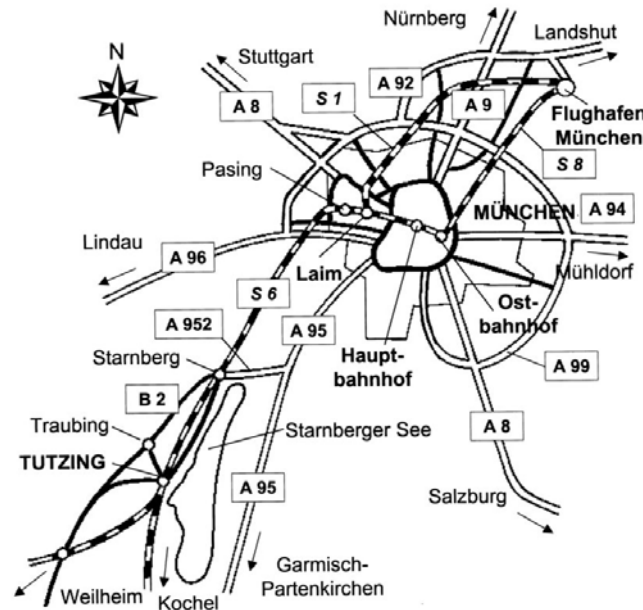
Tutzing is located about 40 km south of Munich on the shores of Lake Starnberg.

By train: You can either take the S-Bahn (S6) from Munich Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) to Tutzing (40 minutes) or you can take a train from Munich Hauptbahnhof to Tutzing (28 minutes).

By car: Take the Autobahn from Munich to Garmisch to the Starnberg exit. From there, take road B2 to Traubing and there turn left to Tutzing. The Academy is located about 400 meters after the yellow "Tutzing" sign post on your left.

From Munich airport (MUC): Take the S-Bahn (either S1 or S8) to Munich Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) and change to S6, direction Tutzing (total travel time: about 90 minutes).

At Tutzing station you will find taxi cabs to take you to the Academy (4 minutes).



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Internet: [www.apb-tutzing.de](http://www.apb-tutzing.de)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/apbtutzing](http://www.facebook.com/apbtutzing)  
Youtube: [www.youtube.com/apbtutzing](http://www.youtube.com/apbtutzing)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/apbtutzing](http://www.twitter.com/apbtutzing)



AKADEMIE FÜR  
POLITISCHE  
BILDUNG TUTZING



Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Amerikastudien

## Auto/Biographies in American History

Annual Meeting of the Historians in the German  
Association of American Studies 2016

**February 5 - 7, 2016**

## Invitation

Biography and autobiography are central to the study of American history, and this not only because U.S. history was structured and shaped by a specific and yet diverse set of historical actors. Rather, a culture based on individualism, 'doability,' and achievement seems to systematically create an interest in the lives of men and women acting in the contexts of their times.

The popularity and presence of biography and autobiography in American historiography stands in stark contrast to the theoretical endeavors of the field. Until recently, the biographical genre moved in the long shadow of Leon Edel and his model of the "secret-self-biography." In the 1990s, the project of a "new biography" began to unfold, which has not only expanded the range of American biographical practice in general, but also challenges some of the key premises upon which the biographical tradition rests. Historians were – and in many cases still are – reluctant to receive the theoretical debates primarily led by literary and cultural critics.

The conference brings together practitioners in the field of biography and theoreticians from the field of literary studies to discuss the opportunities and limits of the current interdisciplinary debates about life writing.

Dr. Michael MAYER  
Akademie für Politische Bildung Tutzing  
Prof. Dr. Volker DEPKAT  
University of Regensburg

### Friday, February 5, 2016

from	
14.00 h	Arrival, Registration, Coffee and Tea in the Main Lobby
15.00 h	<b>Welcome Address</b> Michael MAYER (Akademie für Politische Bildung) Volker DEPKAT (University of Regensburg)
15.15 h	<b>Introduction and Opening Keynote</b> <b>Chair:</b> Volker DEPKAT The Challenges of Biography Leonard CASSUTO (Fordham University)
16.30 h	Break
17.00 h	<b>Writing American Biographies for a German Audience</b> <b>Chair:</b> Klaus SCHWABE (RWTH Aachen) Why Write Another Biography of Woodrow Wilson? Manfred BERG (Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg) Malcolm X. Writing a German Biography of an African American Icon Britta WALDSCHMIDT-NELSON (German Historical Institute Washington)
18.30 h	Dinner
20.00 h	<b>Evening Keynote</b> Life Writing between Fact and Fiction Julia WATSON (Ohio State University)

### Saturday, February 6, 2016

8.15 h	Breakfast
9.00 h	<b>Workshops on Current Research</b>
10.30 h	Coffee and Tea Break
11.00 h	<b>Leadership and (Auto)Biography</b> <b>Chair:</b> Andreas ETGES (LMU Munich) Religious (Auto)Biographical Narratives. Christian Leaders in 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> Century America Stefanie COCHÉ (University of Cologne) Presidential Autobiographies – And Why They Are Usually Boring Michael DREYER (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

12.30 h	Lunch
15.00 h	<b>Transnational (Auto)Biography</b> <b>Chair:</b> Jessica GIENOW-HECHT (FU Berlin) The Transatlantic Career of Paul Lazarsfeld. On Biography as Transnational History Jan LOGEMANN (Georg August University Göttingen) Moves: Writing the Life of Wilbert Olinde, Jr. Christoph RIBBAT (University of Paderborn)
16.30 h	Coffee and Tea Break
17.00 h	<b>American (Auto)Biographical Entanglements with die Middle East</b> <b>Chair:</b> Marcus GRÄSER (Johannes Kepler University Linz) The Man Who Would Be King. Josiah Harlan's Wanderings in Afghanistan and Their Interpretations – Then and Now Christopher SCHLIEPHAKE (University of Augsburg) "A Great Way to Come to Terms with Life Here". Self-Reflection and Civil Military Relationships in U.S. Milblogs Frank USBECK (Technical University Dresden)
18.30 h	Dinner

### Sunday, February 7, 2016

8.15 h	Breakfast
9.00 h	<b>Female (Auto)Biographical Self-Fashioning</b> <b>Chair:</b> Anke ORTLEPP (University of Kassel) The Sowing of (S)Words: Southern Women's Autobiographical Cultural Histories at the Fin-de-Siècle Julia NITZ (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg) An Exemplary Life. The Autobiographical Self-Fashioning of Margaret Mead Thilo NEIDHÖFER (Johannes Kepler University Linz)
10.30 h	Coffee and Tea Break
10.45 h	<b>New Forms of Life Writing</b> <b>Chair:</b> Jasper TRAUTSCH (University of Regensburg) The Role of Autobiographical Documentary Films in Processing a Problematic National Past. Dealing with Family History and Slavery from a White Perspective Tanja SEIDER (Ben Gurion University, Beersheva, Israel / TU Berlin) Poetry as Relational Auto/Biography of Family, Race, and Nation Nassim BALESTRINI (Karl Franzens University Graz)
12.00 h	Lunch & Departure