

June 27 & 28, 2013
**50th Anniversary of the John F. Kennedy Institute for
North American Studies**

The John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies (JFKI) was founded by political scientist Ernst Fraenkel in June 1963. We celebrate not only an anniversary, but also an academic success story: 50 years of research and teaching in North American Studies in a unique interdisciplinary structure. Students, instructors, alumni and renowned guests will reflect upon this history and discuss perspectives for the future during an event scheduled over two days.

On Thursday, June 27, 2013, we invite you to celebrate the anniversary of the John F. Kennedy Institute. We will be joined by His Excellency Philip D. Murphy, the Ambassador of the United States in Germany. Our keynote speaker will be Prof. Alan Trachtenberg (Yale University), whose trailblazing scholarship on the cultural history of the American Industrial Age continues to exert a major influence in the field of American Studies. Alan Trachtenberg has also written about the history of American photography and the historical trajectories of the uneasy relations between U.S. indigenous peoples and European settlers.

On Friday, June 28, 2013, the celebration will continue with the symposium »New Horizons: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on North America.« Leading scholars will analyze current developments in American society and culture, discuss varieties of the meaning of notions of »crisis,« and survey new forms of social and cultural creativity. Festivities will end with a Homecoming party.

PROGRAM

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Hoersaal IB, Silberlaube, Habelschwerdter Allee 45

CEREMONIAL ACT

4:00 – 4:15pm *Musical Performance*

4:15 – 5:15pm *Conference Opening*

Prof. Irwin Collier, Ph.D., Executive Director of the John F. Kennedy
Institute

Prof. Dr. Peter André Alt, President of Freie Universität Berlin

H. E. Philip D. Murphy, Ambassador of the United States of America to Germany

5:15 – 6:00pm *A Look Back at the Institute*

Prof. Dr. Winfried Fluck and Prof. Dr. Heinz Ickstadt (John F. Kennedy Institute), »On the History of the John F. Kennedy Institute«

6:00 – 6:15pm *Musical Performance*

6:15 – 7:15pm *Keynote Address*

Prof. Alan Trachtenberg, Ph.D. (Yale University), »Dark Patches and Solitude: Whitman's American Noir«

7:30pm *Reception* (John F. Kennedy Institute, Lansstr. 7-9)

Friday, June 28, 2013
John F. Kennedy Institute, Room 340:
SYMPOSIUM
»New Horizons: Interdisciplinary Perspectives
on North America«

10:30 – 12:00am Prof. James K. Galbraith, Ph.D. (University of Texas, Austin), »How Come Europeans Understood the Political Economy of America So Much Better in 1861 than Today, and What Did Karl Marx Have to Do with That?«

12:00 – 1:30pm *Lunch Break*

1:30 – 3:00pm Prof. Paula Moya, Ph.D. (Stanford University), »Looking Back to Looking Forward: America's Forgotten Racial History and the Challenges of Multicultural America«

3:00 – 3:30pm *Coffee Break*

3:30 – 5:00pm Prof. Ramón Saldivar, Ph.D. (Stanford University), »Historical Fantasy, Speculative Realism, and Posttrace Aesthetics in Contemporary American Culture«

5:00 – 5:30pm Final Discussion

Starting 6:00pm *Homecoming and Party »Back to the Sixties«*

Hosted by the Students of the John F. Kennedy-Institute