



December 2-3, 2010

Cosmopolitanism and Nationhood in the Age of Jefferson

Conference Venue

John-F.-Kennedy-Institute for North
American Studies (Room 340)
Free University Berlin
Lansstr. 7-9
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<http://www.jfki.fu-berlin.de>

An international symposium organized by the
Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies
and the John-F.-Kennedy-Institute for North American Studies

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Thursday, December 2

Friday, December 3

Welcoming Remarks	6:15
Andrew O'Shaughnessy (International Center for Jefferson Studies) and Winfried Fluck (Free University Berlin)	
The Invention of the United States, 1776-1815	6:30-8:00
Gordon Wood (Brown University)	
Introduction: Winfried Fluck (Free University Berlin)	
Reception	8:00

This symposium explores the origins of modern conceptions of world citizenship and the nation in Jeffersonian America. In today's discussion, cosmopolitanism is often understood as a "transnational" antidote to problematic aspects of nationhood – indeed, cosmopolitanism is often treated as a direct antonym of nationalism. From the perspective of the eighteenth century, however, such an understanding would hardly be self-evident: for Thomas Jefferson and many contemporaries, it was possible to conceive of themselves as broad-minded cosmopolites and as ardent advocates of national interests, without having to emphasize a potential of conflict. The Declaration of Independence, especially Jefferson's draft of the document, may be read as the expression of an emergent cosmopolitan nationalism, one that defined America's place among nations by castigating anti-enlightened forms of commerce (like the Atlantic slave trade) and that bound its claim to national self-determination to "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind." The symposium will take an interdisciplinary approach to the controversial topic of the cosmopolitan roots of modern nationhood, examining it in its historical, political, literary, cultural, and philosophical dimensions.

Notes

	9:30	Opening Remarks Hannah Spahn (Free University Berlin) and Peter Nicolaisen (University of Flensburg)
	9:45-11:00	American Exceptionalism: Cosmopolitanism by Another Name? Philipp Ziesche (Yale University) ,Beware the wit of Voltaire: Transatlantic Asymmetries and the Limits of Republican Cosmopolitanism Thomas Clark (University of Münster) Chair: Michaela Hampf (Free University Berlin)
	11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
	11:30-12:45	Thomas Jefferson, the Transnational, and American Travel Writing Markus Heide (Humboldt University Berlin) Cosmopolitan Imperfections: Jefferson, Nationhood, and the Republic of Letters Hannah Spahn (Free University Berlin) Chair: Kirsten Twelbeck (University of Hannover)
	12:45-2:15	Lunch Break
	2:15-3:45	The Limits of Love: Jefferson's Biological Look at Wards, States, Nations, and the Cosmopolitan Community Maurizio Valsania (University of Torino) Coolness in the Age of Thomas Jefferson Catrin Gersdorf (Free University Berlin) Thomas Jefferson and Creating an Image for a Nation Gaye Wilson (International Center for Jefferson Studies) Chair: Andreas Etges (Free University Berlin)
	3:45-4:15	Coffee Break
	4:15-5:30	Thomas Jefferson and the Provincial Cosmopolitanism of William Dunbar Frank Cogliano (University of Edinburgh) Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism in the Literary and Political Writings of Joel Barlow Dietmar Schloss (University of Heidelberg) Chair: Ulla Haselstein (Free University Berlin)
	5:30-6:00	Concluding Remarks Peter Onuf (University of Virginia) Introduction: Peter Nicolaisen (University of Flensburg)