

65th Annual Conference of the German Association for American Studies

May 24—27
2018

American

COUNTER

/ Publics

John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies
Freie Universität Berlin

Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Amerikastudien e.V.

German Association
for American Studies

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Universität Mannheim

Vice President

Prof. Dr. Karsten Fitz
Universität Passau

Executive Director

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Julius-Maximilians-
Universität Würzburg

Conference Organization

**John F. Kennedy Institute
for North American Studies**
Freie Universität Berlin
Lansstraße 7–9
14195 Berlin

www.jfki.fu-berlin.de/dgfa2018



#dgfa18

Design: Studio Pandian

President's Welcome

With its 65th annual meeting, the German Association for American Studies returns to the question of how the idea of competing public spheres within an open and competitive media environment has shaped and continues to shape American democracy and society. As the organizers of this conference put it in the call for papers for the 2018 GAAS annual meeting, the “public sphere” has rarely been understood as a single and unified concept in an American context. This stands in marked contrast to the way many people in Europe still conceive of it. How we define and thereby create “publics” is a question of utmost importance in the contemporary world. At this point, we are living through a “social media” revolution. It rivals earlier such media revolutions that came with the rise of mass circulation dailies during the nineteenth century, the introduction of broadcasting in the 1920s, and the breakthrough of television during the 1950s and 1960s. Yes, social media are now part of the daily routines of billions of people. Yet, we need to remind ourselves that they experienced their political breakthrough only about ten years ago, with Barack Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign. Its impact on social ideas of “publics/counterpublics” has not yet been thoroughly understood. We are faced with the question, for example, of how a political environment, in which major decisions are being announced “straight to the people” in unfiltered 140-character text messages (“tweets”), will be shaped by a continued competition of opinions, standpoints, as well as social, political, and commercial interests. If history is any guide or if the “Black Lives Matter” campaign and the present vociferous resistance of young people against mass shootings give any indication of a future to come, we should expect the rise of new publics and counterpublics that will continue to challenge “the powers that be.” While many (rightly) bemoan the rise of “fake news” and “alternative facts,” the cool, detached, and methodologically rigorous analysis of the dynamics of past and present change is more warranted than ever. Such scholarly pursuits are at the core of our mission at the GAAS. Therefore, as president of the Association, I would like to thank the local organizers at the John F. Kennedy Institute for putting together a highly intriguing program, for inviting many renowned keynote speakers, and for providing a first-class venue for lively scholarly debates. Moreover, I would like to thank the many members of the Association who have answered the call for papers for contributing to what I am sure will be a very stimulating 65th GAAS Annual Meeting.

Philipp Gassert
Chair of Contemporary History
Universität Mannheim

President of the German
Association for American
Studies



A Warm Welcome to Berlin

The “public sphere”—an idea with deep roots in the European enlightenment—has always been a contested concept in American culture and society. Almost by default, American intellectuals, artists, politicians, and activists have stressed the non-unitary, diversified, and oppositional dynamics of all things public. While based on enlightened principles of free debate and rational deliberation, the US Constitution in this manner already eschewed a philosophy of consensus building in favor of a philosophy of multi-interested checks and balances. Not the expressiveness of Rousseau’s *volonté générale* but the procedurality of Madison’s *extended republic* stood at the beginning of American notions of democratic governance. As a consequence, “public opinion” in the United States could never easily be identified with some widely accepted “public good,” but has always been open to multiple sub- and non-public (private, corporate, technological, etc.) influences.

Thus, from the early days of the American republic, competing interest groups and commercial mass media (first newspapers, novels, and the theater, then radio, television, and the internet) have worked to pluralize public speech and public action—and ultimately the notion of “publicness” itself. Numerous social, political, and aesthetic developments throughout American history can be (re)described against this background as struggles for publicity, waged against the power of elites to define or usurp the national agenda. Despite their ideological differences, two of the most important American contributions to the theory of the public sphere—Walter Lippmann’s *The Phantom Public* (1925) and John Dewey’s rejoinder *The Public and Its Problems* (1927)—concur that the public

Photo credits: Harald Wenzel (p. 4), Masha Conquest (p. 5)



sphere is not a realm of unbiased exchange and unanimous agreement. Rather, in the United States, the public sphere becomes visible as a multi-agential, commercially embattled, highly mediated, and eventually trans-nationalized aggregate of publics and counterpublics. Numerous later discussions of American counter/publics—from Nancy Fraser, Seyla Benhabib, and Michael Warner to Robert Darnton, Michael Hardt, Catherine Squires and others—have further refined this self-conceptualization of democratic speech under the conditions of capitalist mass media. Recent accounts frequently stress the deterritorialized—though regularly Anglophone—nature of counter/public communication in global digital networks. In particular, the communication of public trust—within political contexts naturally inclined to distrust—has been a central topic in and for American culture in the twenty-first century.

The Freie Universität Berlin, the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, and the Graduate School of North American Studies are proud to host this year’s Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies. As the capital of Germany, with its vibrant public sphere, Berlin is the perfect place to critically engage with the topic of this year’s conference. We are all looking forward to fruitful and engaged debates that will continue the well-established tradition of open exchange of ideas at our annual conferences. Welcome to Berlin! We hope that all of you will have a wonderful time!

Irwin Collier
(Dept. of Economics)
Jessica Gienow-Hecht
(Dept. of History)
Ulla Haselstein
(Dept. of Literature)
Frank Kelleter
(Dept. of Culture)
Christian Lammert
(Dept. of Political Science)
Harald Wenzel
(Dept. of Sociology)

**John F. Kennedy Institute
for North American Studies
Freie Universität Berlin**

Planning Committee

**David Bosold,
Thomas Dikant,
Sophie Spieler,
Alexander Starre,
Birte Wege**

WEDNESDAY 23 May 2018

4.30–6.30 p.m. • Room 319/JFKI
Editorial Board Meeting

THURSDAY 24 May 2018

8.30 a.m.–4.30 p.m. • Room 319/JFKI
DGfA/GAAS Board Meeting

1.00–2.00 p.m.
Catered Lunch for Board Meeting

3.00–4.30 p.m. • SSC
PGF Get-Together

The get-together aims to welcome new scholars to the Postgraduate Forum of the GAAS and to facilitate exchange between early career scholars of American Studies. In a casual setting, early career researchers of all qualification levels can learn about the PGF and meet other graduates and postgraduates before the conference picks up pace.

4.00 p.m. • Henry Ford Bau
Registration Open

5.00–7.00 p.m. • Henry Ford Bau
Conference Opening

OPENING REMARKS

Philipp Gassert
President of the German Association of American Studies

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Susie Asado

WELCOMING ADDRESSES

Peter-André Alt
President of Freie Universität Berlin
Christian Lammert
Director of the John F. Kennedy Institute
Kent Logsdon
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim,
U.S. Embassy Berlin

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Susie Asado

AWARD CEREMONY

– U.S. Ambassador's Grant for Young Researchers in American Studies
– Fulbright American Studies Award
– Christoph Daniel Ebeling Fellowship
– John W. Kluge Center Fellowship at the Library of Congress
– Best Article Award *Amerikastudien/American Studies*

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Susie Asado

Keynote Lecture

Michael Warner (Yale)
"Fake Publics"
Chair: Susanne Rohr (Hamburg)
→ p. 20

7.00 p.m. • Henry Ford Bau
Reception

FRIDAY 25 May 2018

8.00 a.m.–6.00 p.m. • Room 206/JFKI
Conference Office

9.00–10.30 a.m. • Seminaris

Keynote Lecture

Catherine Squires (Minnesota)
"Generating Creative Friction: Counter-Narratives & Ethical Imaginaries at Home in Black Counterpublics"
Chair: Boris Vormann (Bard College Berlin)
→ p. 21

10.30–11.00 a.m.
Coffee Break

11.00 a.m.–12.30 p.m. • Seminaris

Keynote Lecture

Andrew Gross (Göttingen)
"Community and Contagion: Crises of Liberalism in the Writing of Benjamin Franklin"
Chair: Astrid Franke (Tübingen)
→ p. 22

12.30–2.00 p.m.
Lunch Break

PGF LUNCH MEETING • SSC

Early career scholars are invited to address issues of their concern and to vote for the location of the 2019 PGF conference (free pizza provided). Organized by the current PGF team in Berlin (Helen Gibson, Anne Potjans, Simon Rienäcker, Jiann-Chyng Tu).

TEACHING AMERICAN STUDIES LUNCH

• eßkultur @ Museum Europäischer Kulturen
This is an informal meeting to discuss innovative ideas on teaching, curriculum development and cooperation with schools, teachers, and students. Everybody interested in teaching is welcome.

RECEPTION BY DE GRUYTER

• Room 319/JFKI
Presentation of the *Handbooks of English and American Studies* and its newest volumes by the series editor Gabriele Rippl (Bern) and the volume editors. Light lunch provided.

BUCHPRÄSENTATION DES UNIVERSITÄTS- VERLAGS WINTER • Room 340/JFKI

Werner Sollors, *Die Versuchung, zu verzweifeln: Geschichten aus den 1940er-Jahren*
Ein Gespräch mit Werner Sollors, Andreas Barth (Verlagsleiter und Lektor), Frank Kelleter (FU Berlin) und Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson (Augsburg). Der Verlag stellt einen Mittagsimbiss zur Verfügung.

2.00–5.00 p.m. • JFKI/GSNAS/SSC

Workshops 1–7

→ p. 10 et. seq.

3.15–3.45 p.m.
Coffee Break

5.15–6.15 p.m. • Room 340/JFKI

Women's Caucus

6.30–7.30 p.m. • Room 340/JFKI

Diversity Roundtable

SATURDAY

26 May 2018

8.00 a.m.–6.00 p.m. • Room 206/JFKI
Conference Office

9.00–10.30 a.m. • Seminaris

Keynote Lecture

Sarah Igo (Vanderbilt)

“Thinking Publics: The History of a Promise and a Problem”

Chair: Olaf Stieglitz (Köln)

→ p. 23

10.30–10.45 a.m.
Coffee Break

10.45 a.m.–1.00 p.m. • Seminaris
DGfA/GAAS Members’ Meeting

1.00–2.00 p.m.
Lunch Break

INFO SESSION DFG funding and GAAS scholarships with Peter Schneck (Osnabrück)—Brown Bag Lunch • Room 340/JFKI

BROWN BAG LUNCH Digital Project Shorts (DASI Forum) • Room 319/JFKI

The Forum of the Digital American Studies Initiative (DASI) will first provide an overview of activities and developments since last year’s annual meeting. Following this, scholars will give short presentations on current digital humanities projects in American Studies. At the end, there will be the opportunity for an exchange of ideas and further networking.

2.00–5.00 p.m. • JFKI/GSNAS/SSC
Workshops 8–14
 → p. 14 et. seq.

3.15–3.45 p.m.
Coffee Break

5.15–6.15 p.m. • Room 340/JFKI
PGF Meet the Speakers

The Postgraduate Forum invites early career scholars to participate in a panel discussion with the keynote speakers of this year’s annual meeting. The event allows for open scholarly exchange between the speakers and early career researchers and intensive discussion about the conference’s general topic as well as the individual keynote lectures.

6.15–7.45 p.m. • Seminaris
Podiumsdiskussion: “Zwischen Fake News und Fact Checking: Die Transformationen des öffentlichen Raumes”

→ p. 26 et. seq.

8.00 p.m. • Domäne Dahlem
Party

SUNDAY

27 May 2018

8.00 a.m.–1.00 p.m. • Room 206/JFKI
Conference Office

9.30–11.00 a.m. • Seminaris

Keynote Lecture

Todd Gitlin (Columbia)

“How the American Right Organized an Assault on the Others”

Chair: Katja Kanzler (Dresden)

→ p. 24

11.00–11.30 a.m.
Coffee Break

11.30 a.m.–1.00 p.m. • Seminaris
Concluding Lecture

Claudia Rankine

“The Racial Imaginary in Contemporary American Art”

Moderator: Sean Bonney (FU Berlin)

Followed by a Book Signing

→ p. 25

WORKSHOPS 1–7

FRIDAY 2.00–5.00 p.m.

1

(Trans)National Counter/Publics and the Politics of Humor in US Culture

• Room 201

Organizers Erik Redling (Halle), Stefanie Schäfer (Erlangen)

2

Early Mass Cultures as Counter/Publics • Room 203

Organizers Aleksandra Boss, Kristina Graaff, Martin Klepper, Simon Rienäcker (HU Berlin)

3

When the Beacon Breaks: The End of Mass Media and the Rise of the Niche

• Room 319

Organizers Torsten Kathke (Mainz), Sabrina Mittermeier (München)

4

Muckraking 2.0: Activist Modes and Media of Documentary Revisited

• Room 340

Organizers Astrid Böger (Hamburg), Christof Decker (München)

5

The Ableist Public and Crip Counterpublics • LIB

Organizers Simon Strick (FU Berlin), Olga Tarapata (Köln)

6

Rumor, Gossip, and Reputation in the American Counter/Public Sphere • SSC

Organizers Pierre-Héli Monot (München), Florian Zappe (Göttingen)

7

Teaching Counter/Publics: American Studies and Digital Pedagogy • GSNAS

Organizers Ingrid Gessner (Regensburg), Uwe Küchler (Tübingen)

WORKSHOPS 8–14

SATURDAY 2.00–5.00 p.m.

8

American Studies as Engaged Scholarship: Doing Public Humanities from the Local to the Transnational

• Room 201

Organizers Regina Schober (Mannheim), Alexander Starre (FU Berlin)

9

Taverns, Salons, and Vaudeville Theaters: Space and Public Spheres in Nineteenth-Century America

• Room 203

Organizers Evangelia Kindinger (Bochum), Dietmar Meinel (Duisburg-Essen)

10

Counter/Publics and the Private Sphere • Room 319

Organizers Karsten Fitz (Passau), Johannes Voelz (Frankfurt), Stefan Hippler (Würzburg), Katrin Horn (Erlangen)

11

Public Feeling • Room 340

Organizer Heike Paul (Erlangen)

12

Transnational Periodical Counter/Publics • LIB

Organizers Florian Freitag, Tim Lanzendörfer (Mainz)

13

Electronic Agoras: Inter/Multimedial Dissensus and the Public Discourse of Islamophobia • SSC

Organizers Elena Furlanetto (Duisburg-Essen), Frank Mehring (Nijmegen)

14

The Prison as Counter/Public • GSNAS

Organizers Birte Christ (Gießen), Andrea Zittlau (Rostock)

WORKSHOPS 1–7

FRIDAY 2.00–5.00 p.m.

2

• Room 203

Early Mass Cultures as Counter/Publics

Organizers Aleksandra Boss, Kristina Graaff, Martin Klepper, Simon Rienäcker (HU Berlin)

Christina Meyer (Hamburg)

“Middlebrow Publics? Reading Gender in the Serial Press, 1910–1930”

Mashid Mayar (Bielefeld)

“‘our work is done and now for some fun and play’: Personal Fictions of the World and (Counter) Publics of Childhood”

Annabel Friedrichs (Hannover)

“Drawing Appeals: Femininity and Feminism in Nell Brinkley’s Graphic Art”

Luvena Kopp (Frankfurt)

“Publics/Counter Publics: Billie Holiday and the Early War on Drugs”

Carmen Dexl (Erlangen-Nürnberg)

“Negotiating the Boundaries between Consent and Dissent: Josephine Baker as a Cultural Icon, International Star, and Social Activist”

1

• Room 201

(Trans)National Counter/Publics and the Politics of Humor in US Culture

Organizers Erik Redling (Halle), Stefanie Schäfer (Erlangen)

Allison Stagg (Mainz)

“Political Humor in Early American Caricature Prints”

Mischa Honeck (HU Berlin)

“The Senator and His Satirist: Carl Schurz, Thomas Nast, and the Ethnicization of Political Humor”

Antje Dallmann (HU Berlin)

“19th-Century Medical Humor, Professional Authority and Lay Audiences in Narratives by Henry Clay Lewis, Marcus Lafayette Byrn, and Silas Weir Mitchell”

Guido Isekenmeier (Stuttgart)

“The (Counter)Public Burning: Cold War Politics and Frontier Humor in Robert Coover’s *Magnum Opus*”

Carsten Schinko (Stuttgart)

“Fun Rides in Lethal Rush Hours? Reflections on the Buddy Cop Movie”

Carsten Junker (Leipzig)

“Haunting the Monstrous President: Reinstating High-Culture Notions of Authorship in Contemporary Political Satire”

3

• Room 319

When the Beacon Breaks: The End of Mass Media and the Rise of the Niche

Organizers Torsten Kathke (Mainz),
Sabrina Mittermeier (München)

Martin Lütke (FU Berlin)

“When the Ticker Ticks: Telegraphic
Fiction, Media Change, and Infatuating
Communication”

John Munro (Saint Mary’s University, Halifax/Tübingen)

“Fighting Fake News in the Age of
McCarthyism: A Counter-Public Sphere
at the Heart of Empire”

Sabrina Mittermeier (München)

“From The WELL, Actually”: How Partisan
Websites Flooded Public Discourse”

Kay Losey (Grand Valley State University, MI)

“Trump in the ‘Twitter-verse’: Using
Personal Style for Mass Appeal and its
Implications”

Stefanie Mueller (Frankfurt)

“@AltNatParkSer and @RogueNASA:
Science, Nature, and Rogue Tweeting”

4

• Room 340

Muckraking 2.0: Activist Modes and Media of Documentary Revisited

Organizers Astrid Böger (Hamburg),
Christof Decker (München)

Ina Batzke (Münster)

“‘Define American’:
Undocumented Activism 2.0”

Julia Faisst (Eichstätt)

“Homelessness 2.0:
New Documentary Modes of Precarious
Habitats in Late Capitalism”

Lee A. Flamand (FU Berlin)

“The Intermedial Aspirations of Document-
ing Dissent: Ava DuVernay’s *13th*”

Anne Nassauer (FU Berlin)

“Documenting Dissent—US Activists’
Capture and Representation of Protests”

Sarah Säckel (Stuttgart)

“Bursting the Fashion Filter Bubble:
Activist Documentary Modes Presenting
the Exploitation of Textile Workers and
the Planet”

Babette B. Tischleder (Göttingen)

“The Inconvenience of Loving Gaia:
On the Style and Sentiment of Ecocritical
Documentaries”

5

• LIB

The Ableist Public and Crip Counterpublics

Organizers Simon Strick (FU Berlin),
Olga Tarapata (Köln)

Sharif Bitar (Oldenburg)

“Witches, Voodoo, and Down’s Syndrome:
Disability as Intersectional Feminism’s Blind
Spot in *American Horror Story: Coven*”

Tatiana Prorokova (Marburg)

“Alcoholic, Mad, Disabled: Constructing
Lesbian Identity in Ann Bannon’s *Beebo
Brinker Chronicles*”

René Dietrich (Mainz)

“Assimilation as Debilitation: Incapacitated
Sovereignty, Ableist Settler Publics, and
Bodily Refusal”

Gesine Wegner (Dresden)

“Through Deaf Eyes”: Losing and Reclaiming
Public Space in Brian Selznick’s *Wonder-
struck*”

6

• SSC

Rumor, Gossip, and Reputation in the American Counter/Public Sphere

Organizers Pierre-Héli Monot (München),
Florian Zappe (Göttingen)

Katrin Horn (Erlangen-Nürnberg)

“Creating a Public (from) Scandal: The
Gossip Circles of *Town Topics: The Journal
of Society* (1887–1923)”

Sebastian Jobs (FU Berlin)

“Just Rumors and Gossip? Uncertain
Knowledge from a Historian’s Point
of View”

Marek Paryż (Warsaw)

“The Social Dynamics of Rumor in Walter
Van Tilburg Clark’s *The Ox-Bow Incident*”

Maria Verena Peters (Hagen)

“From the Whisper Network to #MeToo:
Framing Gender, Gossip and (Sexual)
Violence against Women”

7

• GSNAS

Teaching Counter/Publics: American Studies and Digital Pedagogy

Organizers Ingrid Gessner (Regensburg),
Uwe Küchler (Tübingen)

Alexander Dunst (Paderborn):

“Teaching Digital American Studies: Some
Approaches, Tools, and Experiences”

Sebastian M. Herrmann (Leipzig):

“Questioning the Authority of the Linear
Form? Leipzig’s Social Hypertext Reader
SHRIMP and the ‘Introduction to American
Studies’”

Horst Tonn (Tübingen):

“New Formats for Digital Teacher Trainings”

Viola Huang (Passau):

“Teaching the Black Power Movement,
the Genre of Documentary Film and Critical
Media Literacy”

Joannis Kaliampos (Lüneburg) & Martina Kohl (Berlin):

“‘I Think They Are Irresponsible’: Teaching
Sustainability with (Counter)Narratives
in the EFL Classroom”

WORKSHOPS 8–14

SATURDAY 2.00–5.00 p.m.

8

• Room 201

American Studies as Engaged Scholarship: Doing Public Humanities from the Local to the Transnational

Organizers Regina Schober (Mannheim),
Alexander Starre (FU Berlin)

Susan Smulyan (Brown University)

“What Can Public Art Teach the Public Humanities?”

Philipp Löffler (Heidelberg)

“Consequences of Academic Reading? Teachers Training, the German Public High School System, and Tom Franklin”

Gary T. Edwards (Arkansas State University)

“Local Historic Knowledge Production and ‘The Public’ in Jonesboro, Arkansas: An Academic’s Encounter with Contemporary Community Theatre and a Historic Community Lynching”

Katharina Motyl (Tübingen)

“Engaged or Enraged? On the Disparate Acceptance of the Scholar-Activist Mode in U.S. and German American Studies”

Antje Kley (Erlangen-Nürnberg)

“The Public Humanities and Literary Knowledge”

Briann G. Greenfield (New Jersey Council for the Humanities)

“‘Democracy Demands Wisdom’: The Role of State Humanities Councils in the American Model”

9

• Room 203

Taverns, Salons, and Vaudeville Theaters: Space and Public Spheres in Nineteenth-Century America

Organizers Evangelia Kindinger (Bochum),
Dietmar Meinel (Duisburg-Essen)

Laura Bieger (Groningen)

“Toward a Definition of Public Space”

Jan D. Kucharzewski (Hamburg):

“‘A cannibal of a craft’: Ships as Liminal Counter/Publics in the Works of Herman Melville”

Ferdinand Nyberg (Tübingen)

“Spacing Out: Alcohol, Threat, and Antebellum Temperance”

Daniel Stein (Siegen)

“Crime Scenes as Popular Public Spheres in Antebellum City Mystery Novels”

Rieke Jordan (Frankfurt)

“With Eyes Closed and Ears Open: The Phonograph and the Listening Public”

10

• Room 319

Counter/Publics and the Private Sphere

Organizers Karsten Fitz (Passau), Johannes Voelz (Frankfurt), Stefan Hippler (Würzburg), Katrin Horn (Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Pia Wiegink (Mainz)

“Domestic Publicity in Antebellum African American Women’s Life Writing”

Cedric Essi (Bremen)

“Queer Memoirs on Interracial Adoption: Domestic Intimacies, Public Interventions, and the Rise of Multiracialism”

Maria Sulimma (FU Berlin)

“‘Sir, she can hear you’: The Mute Woman in Popular Culture”

Bärbel Harju (München)

“The Art of Privacy in the Age of Hyper-Publicity”

Stephan Kuhl (Frankfurt)

“Private Language and American Literary Publics”

David Rosen (Trinity College, CT) and

Aaron Santesso (Georgia Tech)

“Private in Public: The Fragment in Contemporary American Nonfiction”

11

• Room 340

Public Feeling

Organizer Heike Paul (Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Hannah Spahn (Potsdam)

“Public Feeling in Ida B. Wells’s Anti-Lynching Campaign”

Dustin Breitenwischer (Freiburg)

“Feeling Alone: Catherine Opie and the Womanless Street”

Katharina Gerund (Erlangen-Nürnberg)

“Public Feeling on the Home Front: The ‘Waiting Wives’ of US Wars Abroad”

Elisabeth Bronfen (Zürich)

“The Mimicry of Care: Representations of Female Politicians in *Homeland* and *House of Cards*”

Simon Dickel (Essen)

“ACT UP, Public Mourning, and Archival Activism”

Suncica Klaas (Potsdam)

“Consumptive Economies of Public Commemoration: Mourning ‘Tiananmen’ in American Political Culture”

12

• LIB

Transnational Periodical Counter/Publics

Organizers Florian Freitag, Tim Lanzendörfer (Mainz)

Matthew Pethers (Nottingham)

“An Executioner in the Civil State’: Periodical Culture and the Reimagining of Social Authority in Jeffersonian America”

Kate Lacson (Université Côte d’Azur)

“The *Manileña* Marked Woman”

Philipp Reisner (Düsseldorf):

“Contemporary Christian Periodicals and American Religious Culture: From *The Christian Century* (1884–) to *First Things* (1990–)”

Nina Weißer (München):

“*Radical America* and *Quaderni Piacentini*: A Case Study of a Transnational Counter-public”

Michael Connors Jackman (Memorial University of Newfoundland):

“The Imagined Audience of *The Body Politic*: Transnational Activism and the Horizons of a Liberationist Counterpublic”

13

• SSC

Electronic Agoras: Inter/Multimedial Dissensus and the Public Discourse of Islamophobia

Organizers Elena Furlanetto (Duisburg-Essen), Frank Mehring (Nijmegen)

Stefan Brandt (Graz):

“‘Fear of an Islamic Planet?’ Intermedial Exchange and the Rhetorics of Islamophobia”

Martina Pfeiler (Bochum):

“‘1700% Project: Mistaken for Muslim’: Intermedia Interplay and Challenging Islamophobia in Anida Yoeu Ali’s Performance Poetry Clip”

Brigitte Georgi-Findlay (Dresden):

“Inter/Multimedia Constructions of Islam in Contemporary TV Series”

Mahmoud Arghavan (Independent):

“Islamophobia without Islamophobes: New Strategies of Representing Imperialist versus Suicide-Bomber Necropolitics in *Syriana* and *Homeland*”

Frank Mehring (Nijmegen):

“Holy Terror! Intermediality and Public Discourse of Islamophobia in the Graphic Novels of Frank Miller”

Elena Furlanetto (Duisburg-Essen):

“The Reluctant Islamophobics: Multimedia Dissensus in *Kingdom of Heaven* (2005) and *Agora* (2009)”

14

• GSNAS

The Prison as Counter/Public

Organizers Birte Christ (Gießen), Andrea Zittlau (Rostock)

Aylwyn Walsh (Leeds, UK)

“Race, Space and Violence: US Prison Cultures Doing Time between Prison and Plantation”

Katharina Fackler (Graz)

“Race and Criminalization in Austin Reed’s *The Life and the Adventures of a Haunted Convict*”

Dennis Büscher-Ulbrich (Kiel)

“‘A counterproposal of unmanageability’: Riots and the Carceral State”

Kristina Graaff (HU Berlin)

“Navigating the Counter/Publics of Prison: An Intersectional Perspective”

Jayne Thompson (Widener University, PA)

“How to Listen: Collecting the Voices of Incarcerated Women”

Universitätsverlag
WINTER
Heidelberg



SOLLORS, WERNER

Die Versuchung, zu verzweifeln

Geschichten aus den 1940er-Jahren

Aus dem amerikanischen Englisch

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Buchpräsentation am Freitag, den 25. Mai 2018
während der Mittagspause. Wir freuen uns auf Ihren Besuch!

»Jeder, der das moderne Amerika verstehen möchte, sollte dieses faszinierende Buch lesen.« *Robert B. Reich*



»Als Trump gewählt wurde, packten sich viele an den Kopf: Wer sind die Leute, die diesen Verrückten an die Macht brachten? Die Soziologin Arlie Russell Hochschild hat bei ihnen im brutal armen Louisiana gelebt, zugehört, beobachtet. Klug.« *Der Tagesspiegel*

»Hochschild setzt darauf, dass es immer die Möglichkeit gibt, die Filterblasen der politischen Lager zu überwinden, eine neue Form der Kommunikation über die Gräben hinweg zu beginnen und alte Feindschaften in neue Freundschaften zu verwandeln.« *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

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KEYNOTES

Michael Warner

Catherine Squires

Andrew Gross

Sarah Igo

Todd Gitlin

Claudia Rankine



Michael Warner

“Fake Publics”

THURSDAY 6.00–7.00 p.m.

Michael Warner is Seymour H. Knox Professor of English at Yale University. He received his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins and taught at Northwestern and Rutgers before going to Yale, where he served as chair of the department of English. His books include *Publics and Counterpublics* (2002); *The Trouble with Normal* (1999); and *The Letters of the Republic: Publication and the Public Sphere in Eighteenth-Century America* (1990). With Craig Calhoun and Jonathan VanAntwerpen, he has edited *Varieties of Secularism in a Secular Age* (2010). He is also the editor of *The Portable Walt Whitman* (2003); *American Sermons* (1999); *The English Literatures of America* (with Myra Jehlen); and *Fear of a Queer Planet: Queer Politics and Social Theory* (1993).

The current political crisis in the US revolves around a media crisis: Twitter rivals official communiqués, bots plant invented news stories on social media to swing elections, television networks brand themselves with rival versions of the truth, and reporters who document lies are accused of peddling “fake news.” It has become clear in retrospect that the comparatively stable public sphere of the twentieth century rested on the gatekeeping function of major newspapers and television news, a function they no longer play. Their model of broadcast-plus-feedback has come to seem archaic. Social media, especially Facebook, have introduced new structuring principles in public discourse, having to do with their own architecture and profit model. The media infrastructure by which publics come into existence has fractured. In other respects, though, the combat of representation has been a condition of the public sphere from its emergence in the early eighteenth century, the very notion of the public has always been an imaginary, and publics have always been more plural than anyone wanted to admit. In this talk I will take a long view of media infrastructures as grounds from which to project publics, to ask what might have changed as well as what features of the public sphere might simply be newly exposed.

Catherine Squires

“Generating Creative Friction: Counter-Narratives & Ethical Imaginaries at Home in Black Counterpublics”

FRIDAY 9.00–10.30 a.m.

This paper begins with a meditation on the “Rosa Parks House” controversy. The house was saved from demolition in Detroit, reconstructed in Berlin, then returned to the US for a memorial exhibition only to be suspended in a legal battle over its authenticity. Both sides in the battle over the house accused various constituencies in the US of “not loving Rosa Parks enough” to do the right thing in her memory. I view the controversy as a means to incite what Hazel Carby terms “creative friction.” I braid together stories of home linked to Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, and Erica Garner. I seek to illuminate and uplift counter-narratives of radical love and hospitality obscured in mainstream narratives of these women’s contributions to Black counter-publics. I weave these stories with contemporary projects inspired by these Black female icons to imagine means of repairing and rejuvenating traumatized Black selves and communities through ethics of radical love and care.



Catherine R. Squires is Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Minnesota. She is the author of multiple books, including *Dispatches from the Color Line* (2007), *African Americans & the Media* (2009), and *The Post-Racial Mystique* (2014). Most recently she edited the collection *Dangerous Discourses: Feminism, Gun Violence & Civic Life* (2016) which was a finalist for the Tankard Award. Dr. Squires has published articles on media, race, gender, and politics in many journals, including *Communication Theory*, *American Quarterly*, and the *International Journal of Press/Politics*. Professor Squires is also engaged in a long-term partnership with Gordon Parks High School and the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. She collaborates with teachers, students and elders to create publicly-oriented media that explore the history and future development of the Rondo neighborhood. Professor Squires earned her PhD from Northwestern University and was Assistant Professor of Communication Studies and the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, from 1999–2007.

Andrew Gross

“Community and Contagion: Crises of Liberalism in the Writing of Benjamin Franklin”

FRIDAY 11.00 a.m.–12.30 p.m.

In 1722, when Benjamin Franklin began publishing letters under the pen-name Mrs. Silence Dogood in his brother’s newspaper, *The New-England Courant*, Boston was in the midst of a small-pox epidemic. The epidemic triggered a crisis of public health and a crisis of public debate. Over half the population of about 11,000 residents was infected with a disease that would kill fourteen percent of its victims; but for the first time on what would become American soil, doctors began to inoculate—in the face of violent opposition. Silence Dogood mentions neither the disease nor the inoculation debates. However, James Franklin’s paper played a key role in the controversy, backing the faction that argued against inoculation. Those arguing in favor rallied around Cotton Mather.

My talk will analyze the arguments behind the positions, exploring if perhaps the belief in the “invisible world,” so central to the witchcraft cases, put Mather in a better position to understand the mechanics of contagion. I will also discuss Franklin’s evolving attitude towards disease, in particular after the death of his four-year-old son Francis to smallpox in 1736. However, the main focus of my paper will be on the debates themselves, and particularly on how opposing inoculation enabled a diverse group of publically concerned citizens to constitute themselves as a group by putting forth arguments about the body and its maladies. As with contemporary “anti-vaxxers,” the anti-inoculators may have been united more through their opposition to authority than by any coherent political ideology. However, they began to understand themselves as a coalition and to articulate distinct visions of community, by opposing what they saw as sanctioned attacks on the body and the body politic. This controversy over the benefits of inoculation and its meaning provides an opportunity to explore the formation of publics and counterpublics at the moment when the first daily newspapers began to appear.



Andrew S. Gross is a professor of American literature at the University of Göttingen. His latest book, *The Pound Reaction: Liberalism and Lyricism in Midcentury American Literature*, appeared in 2015. Other publications include the co-authored *Comedy, Avant-Garde, Scandal: Remembering the Holocaust after the End of History*; the co-edited *Pathos of Authenticity*; and a guest-edited issue of *Amerikastudien*.

Sarah Igo



“Thinking Publics: The History of a Promise and a Problem”

SATURDAY 9.00–10.30 a.m.

Can “the public” think rationally—or at all? The question, which has been posed insistently in the aftermath of Donald Trump’s election, has in fact surfaced periodically in the United States from the early republic onward. But it especially preoccupied intellectuals and theorists in the twentieth century, when hopeful prospects for popular thought and democratic deliberation seemed to clash with the imperatives of an increasingly specialized and ever more fragmented “mass society.” Even as opinion surveyors, behavioral researchers, marketers, and focus group conveners promised to reveal the mysteries of the public mind once and for all, confidence in the people’s collective wisdom and intellectual autonomy plummeted. Indeed, as a host of experts came to believe they knew the public more precisely and scientifically, the less they thought of its capacities. This talk takes a wide-ranging, century-spanning view of what John Dewey termed in 1927 “the public and its problems” not so much in order to explore the purportedly problematic public as the problem of how scholars as well as commentators have envisioned and represented it. Reflecting on our technologies for knowing “the public”—as well as their recurring failures—it will ask how we might better characterize the career of popular thought in the twentieth century, and in our own time.

Sarah E. Igo is an Associate Professor of History and Director of American Studies at Vanderbilt University, with affiliate appointments in law, political science, sociology, and medicine, health and society. She teaches and writes about modern American intellectual and cultural history. Igo is the author of *The Averaged American: Surveys, Citizens, and the Making of a Mass Public*, which was an Editor’s Choice selection of the *New York Times*, and one of *Slate*’s Best Books of 2007. Her new book, out from Harvard University Press in 2018, is *The Known Citizen: A History of Privacy in Modern America*.



Todd Gitlin

“How the American Right Organized an Assault on the Others”

SUNDAY 9.30–11.00 a.m.

The road to Trump has been in the making for decades. Since the 1980s, the Republican right has been animated by revulsion against two social forces: nonwhite minorities and the knowledge class. In the wake of the 1960s revolts, wealthy ideologues began to fund an ideological reaction capable of mobilizing a strong political arm. The counter-Establishment they engendered and brought to a focus identified a common enemy: the reforming state. Over the ensuing decades, they aggrandized savage capital; cultivated a revolt against science; demolished unions; demonized the press; and otherwise campaigned against the welfare state, the civil service, and independent thought. They refined the art of compressing their animus into rousing slogans: “Law and order,” “tax and spend,” “build the wall.” Meanwhile, the liberal-Social Democratic left failed to generate an alternative spirit. This was true for both the movement left and the Democratic Party, both of which found it easier to identify with demographic segments than with a universalist or cosmopolitan alternative capable of generating a stable majority. The right’s anti-democratic tendencies have become more pronounced and more forcefully asserted. The right’s penchant for hierarchy has out-organized the left’s penchant for decentralization and anarchy.

Todd Gitlin, Professor of Journalism and Sociology and Chair of the interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Communications at Columbia University, is the author of seventeen books, many of them touching on political and cultural history (*The Sixties: Years of Hope, Days of Rage; The Twilight of Common Dreams; The Intellectuals and the Flag; The Bulldozer and the Big Tent*), as well as four novels, including the forthcoming *The Opposition*.

Claudia Rankine

“The Racial Imaginary in Contemporary American Art”

SUNDAY 11.30 a.m.–1.00 p.m.



Claudia Rankine is the author of five collections of poetry, including *Citizen: An American Lyric* and *Don’t Let Me Be Lonely*; two plays including *Provenance of Beauty: A South Bronx Travelogue*; numerous video collaborations, and is the editor of several anthologies including *The Racial Imaginary: Writers on Race in the Life of the Mind*. For *Citizen*, Rankine won the Forward Prize for Poetry, the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry (*Citizen* was also nominated in the criticism category, making it the first book in the award’s history to be a double nominee), the Los Angeles Times Book Award, the PEN Open Book Award, and the NAACP Image Award. A finalist for the National Book Award, *Citizen* also holds the distinction of being the only poetry book to be a New York Times bestseller in the nonfiction category. Among her numerous awards and honors, Rankine is the recipient of the Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry, Poets & Writers’ Jackson Poetry Prize and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, United

States Artists, and the National Endowment of the Arts. She is a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and teaches at Yale University as the Frederick Iseman Professor of Poetry.

In 2016, Rankine founded the Racial Imaginary Institute, which takes the form of a moving collaboration with other collectives, spaces, artists, and organizations towards art exhibitions, readings, dialogues, lectures, performances, and screenings that engage the subject of race. The name “racial imaginary” is meant to capture the enduring truth of race: it is an invented concept that nevertheless operates with extraordinary force in our daily lives, limiting our movements and imaginations. Because no sphere of life is untouched by race, the Institute gathers under its aegis an interdisciplinary range of artists, writers, knowledge-producers, and activists. It convenes a cultural laboratory in which the racial imaginaries of our time and place are engaged, read, countered, contextualized and demystified.

PODIUMSDISKUSSION

„Zwischen *Fake News* und *Fact Checking*: Die Transformationen des öffentlichen Raumes“

SATURDAY 6.15–7.45 p.m. • Seminaris

Demokratien brauchen informierte Bürger und einen Raum, in dem Ideen ausgetauscht und Politik kommuniziert wird. So wird Legitimität und Vertrauen in das politische System erzeugt. Medien spielen hier eine ganz zentrale Rolle. Sie bieten zum einen die Arena für den Austausch von Ideen, sie agieren aber zugleich auch als quasi-vierte Gewalt, die die Regierung kontrolliert, Regierungshandeln beschreibt und bewertet und so die Politik den Bürgern vermittelt. Nur so können Transparenz und Vertrauen in die Politik erzeugt werden, die beide zentrale Säulen demokratischer Gemeinwesen sind.

Im post-faktischen Zeitalter werden diese Fundamente in Frage gestellt. *Fake news* und *alternative facts* sind zu Instrumenten der Delegitimierung konträrer Positionen und der Medien insgesamt geworden. *Fact checking* wird als Gegenstrategie etabliert, um verlorengegangenes Vertrauen wiederaufzubauen, wird andererseits aber primär dazu benutzt, um *fake news* und Lügen zu identifizieren. Das Vertrauen in die Medien und den öffentlichen politischen Diskurs wird so vielleicht noch weiter untergraben. Ein funktionierendes demokratisches Gemeinwesen braucht einen legitimen politischen Diskurs. Kann ein solcher öffentlicher Diskurs nicht wiederhergestellt werden, so ist dies eine grundlegende Bedrohung für die Demokratie insgesamt. Im Rahmen dieses Panels sollen die Auswirkungen dieser Entwicklungen auf die Qualität und Funktionsfähigkeit von Demokratien diskutiert werden. Expertinnen und Experten aus unterschiedlichen Disziplinen der Wissenschaft und der Praxis diskutieren die Funktion von *fake news* und *fact checking* sowie mögliche Strategien zur Stärkung des Vertrauens in Medien.

Moderation **Christian Lammert (FU Berlin)**

Diskussion in deutscher Sprache u.a. mit

Ingrid Gessner (Universität Regensburg)
Andreas Horchler (Redakteur, ehemals USA
Korrespondent des Hessischen Rundfunks)
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Uta Zeuge-Buberl

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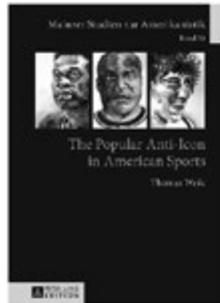
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CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

THURSDAY

Conference Opening at **Henry Ford Bau**
Garystraße 35
14195 Berlin

The **Henry Ford Bau**—the venue for the conference opening and the keynote by Michael Warner—is located in walking distance of the JFK Institute and the Seminaris Campus Hotel (15–20 minutes). Conference participants may also take the subway line U3 for one stop from “Dahlem Dorf” to “Freie Universität (Thielplatz)”; the building is just a short walk down the street from the station (see map).

FRIDAY–SUNDAY

All keynote lectures, as well as the members’ meeting and the concluding lecture by Claudia Rankine take place at the conference center of the **Seminaris Campus Hotel** (Takustr. 39, 14195 Berlin). All other conference events, including most of the workshops, are at the **JFK Institute** (Lansstr. 7–9, 14195 Berlin).

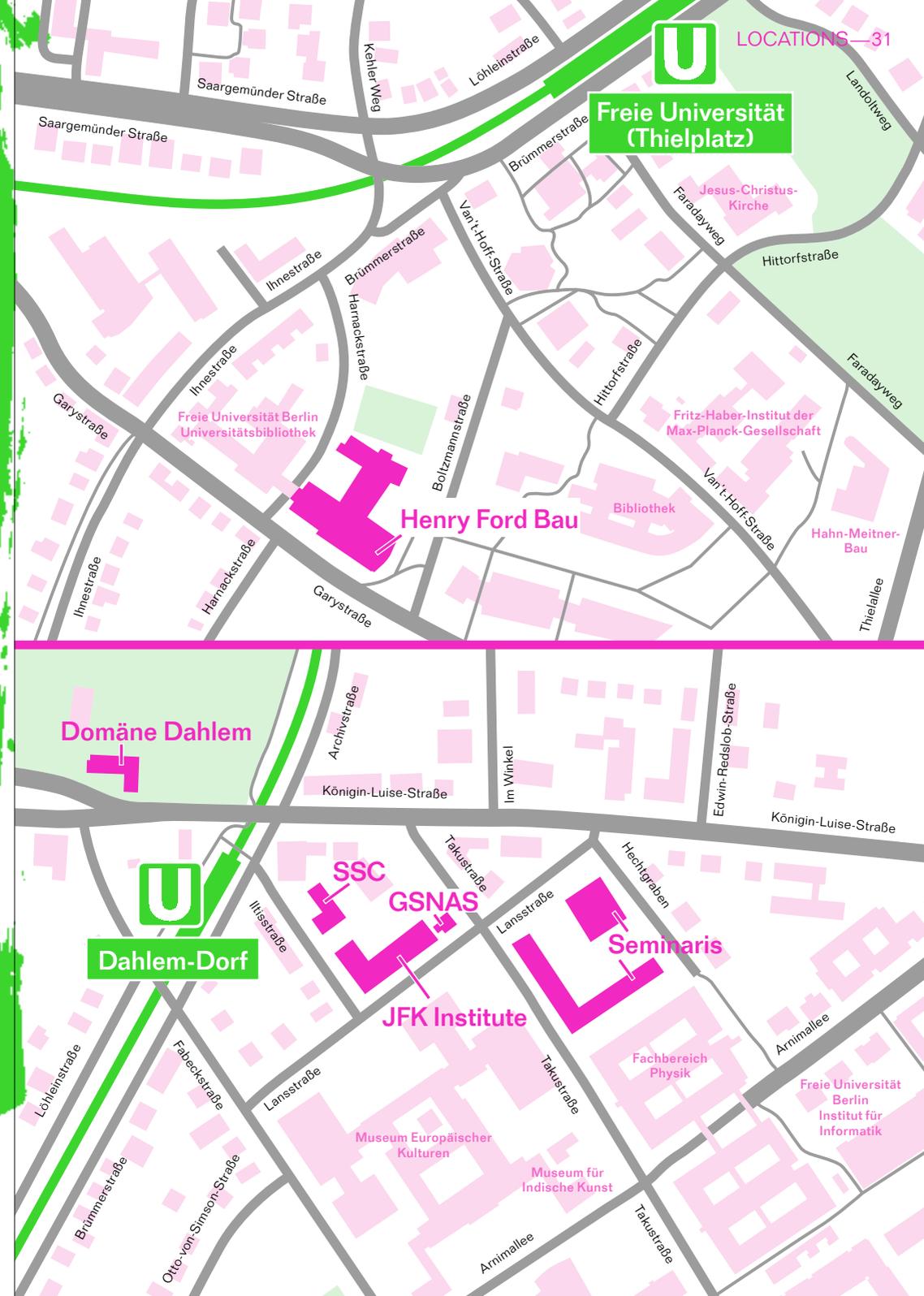
The party on Saturday night is at **Domäne Dahlem**, an open-air museum with a small farm just a short stroll away from the JFK Institute at Königin-Luise-Str. 49, 14195 Berlin.

Room Directory

Rooms 201, 203, 319, 340 and the library (LIB) are located in the **JFK Institute** at Lansstr. 7–9.

The seminar room of the **Graduate School of North American Studies (GSNAS)** is located in the building next to the JFK Institute at Lansstr. 5.

The **Student Service Center (SSC)** of the Freie Universität is around the corner from the JFK Institute at Illitsstr. 4





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