

NEWSLETTER



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GRADUATE SCHOOL



New Doctoral Candidates

In the winter semester 2017/18, ten PhD candidates have started their doctoral studies at the Graduate School. The group consists of four women and six men, who come from Germany, the Netherlands, Belarus, and the USA. The official welcome for the new cohort took place as part of our tenth anniversary celebrations and conference “The Fault Lines of Democracy” at the Brandenburg Academy of Sciences on October 20 and 21, 2017. Opening remarks by Klaus Hoffmann-Holland (Vice President, Freie Universität Berlin), H.E. Stéphane Dion (Ambassador of Canada to Germany), Kent Logsdon (Chargé d’Affaires ad interim, Embassy of the United States to Germany), Ulla Haselstein, and Winfried Fluck were followed by several keynote lectures and workshops.

On October 20, keynote speakers were Robert Warrior (University of Kansas) who spoke on “Away from Home: Indigeneity in Global American Studies” and Paul Gilroy (King’s College London) with his talk on “Anti-Racism in the Era of the Alt-Right.” Amy Kaplan’s (University of Pennsylvania) lecture on “Our American Israel: The Paradox of Exceptionalism” and a literary reading by Percival Everett (University of Southern California) followed on October 21. The panels “Drifting Apart? Democracy and its Discontents” (chaired by Christian Lammert), „We the People? Nation/State/Community“ (chaired by Ulla Haselstein), and “Only Connect? Conflicting Narratives of Globalization“ (chaired by Harald Wenzel) engendered lively discussions with the audience.

Interdisciplinary Roundtable

The postdoctoral candidates Sean Bonney (Literature), Chris Jefferis (Politics) Simon Strick (Culture), and Paola Castaño Rodriguez (Sociology), who ran the forum for the past semesters, transferred the organization to Marius Kleinknecht and Clark Banach from the 2017 cohort in an inaugural session on November 21. This forum aims to create an environment in which everyone below senior faculty level can present and discuss ongoing projects in various shapes and stages—a chapter draft from their dissertation, a paper for an upcoming conference, a research outline, a grant application. Everybody can choose their preferred mode of presentation, as the forum is explicitly intended as a space for works-in-progress, with all the uncertainties, open questions, and loose ends this entails.

The newly named Interdisciplinary Roundtable then got underway on December 12 with Betsy Leimbigger’s talk on “Discourse Analysis of Presidential Speeches,” followed by Marius Kleinknecht who spoke on “Theories and Methods of Discourse Analysis.” On January 9, Lee Flamand started the new year with a discussion on “The Changing Nature and Impact of Television,” and Sarah Epping spoke on “Early 20th Century Humanitarian Interventions in Basra, Iraq by Michigan University.” On January 23, Clark Banach’s talk on “Humanism as an Economic Order” was followed by Maxi Albrecht speaking on “Emotional Intelligence in Dystopian/Post-Apocalyptic Fiction.” On February 6, Max Klose spoke on “Public and Political Discourse on United States Humanitarian Aid to Germany, 1945-1962” before the Roundtable concluded for the winter semester with

Anna Zetsche's talk on her forthcoming book „Unlikely Partners: German-American Elite Networking during the Cold War.“

International Graduate Conference 2018

The 11th International Graduate Conference entitled “Follow the Yellow Brick Road? Challenging Approaches to Progress in North America“ will be taking place in the John-F.-Kennedy Institute from June 7-8, 2018. The conference is organized by the doctoral candidates of the 2017 cohort.

Keynote speakers will be Jason Scott Smith (University of New Mexico), John Collins (London School of Economics), and Jack Halberstam (Columbia University), and Frank Kelleter will be delivering a welcome address.

The call for papers ended on February 14, 2018.

Visiting Professors

In the summer term 2018, the Graduate School will host José David Saldívar (Stanford University), Khary Polk (Amherst College) and Peter Andreas (Brown University) as visiting professors.

Alumni

Koen Potgieter (Literature) and Nikolas Keßels (Politics) successfully finished their doctoral studies. Congratulations!

Einstein Award for Doctoral Programs

On January 18, the Einstein Foundation awarded three doctoral programs during the New Year reception at the Altes Stadthaus for excellence in doctoral training. The Graduate School of North American Studies received the *magna cum laude* award which includes an annual prize money of €100,000 for the coming three years. The other awards were received by the Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies and the Berlin Mathematical School.



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL RECEIVES THE MAGNA CUM LAUDE AWARD (DAVID BOSOLD, MAXI ALBRECHT, FRANK KELLETER, ULLA HASELSTEIN)

JOHN F. KENNEDY INSTITUTE



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL STUDIES

Department chair **Frank Kelleter** now also holds the position of Executive Director of the Graduate School of North American Studies (GSNAS) at Freie Universität Berlin. He is also an associated researcher (Assoziierter Wissenschaftler) of the DFG-Graduiertenkolleg (GRK 2190) "Literatur- und Wissensgeschichte kleiner Formen," situated at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. In July 2017, he read from his monograph on David Bowie at an event in the Musikbar Schellack in Siegen, which was co-sponsored by the University of Siegen. In October, he gave a talk on "Post-Critique and the Fault Lines of American Democracy" at the ten-year anniversary conference of the GSNAS, held at the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften. In January 2018, Frank Kelleter presented a talk entitled "Nach Bethlehem schleichen: Roman Polanskis Rosemary's Baby" as a part of the interdisciplinary lecture series "1967/68: Schaltjahre der Popkultur" at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. Together with Alexander Starre, he published the edited volume *Projecting American Studies: Essays on Theory, Method, and Practice* (Winter Verlag). The [volume](#), available since February, features his contribution "DISCIPLINE COOL. Notes, Quotes, Tweets, and Facebook Postings on the Study of American Self-Studies.

In the spring term of 2017, **Winfried Fluck** was a fellow at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS). He continues to be one of the co-directors of the "Futures of American Studies" Institute at Dartmouth, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017. Winfried chaired

a session on the concept of critique in current literary studies and supervised a workshop in which graduate students and junior faculty presented their projects. Over the course of the year he gave the following lectures: "Trying to Understand Trump" (FRIAS), "Michel Foucault and Modern Power" (Universität Basel), "Machines in the Garden: Changing Narratives About America in American Studies" (Universität Frankfurt), "Reading for Recognition: The Case of Jane Austen" (FRIAS), "The Hopper Paradox" (Museum Barberini, Potsdam), "Drifting Apart? Value Exceptionalism and Power Exceptionalism" (Konferenz zum 10-jährigen Jubiläum der Graduiertenschule des Kennedy-Instituts, Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie). Winfried continues to teach a course on "American Exceptionalism" in the Graduate School of the JFKI.

At the beginning of the winter term, **Alexander Starre** returned from his one-year stay as visiting assistant professor in American Studies at Brown University. In December, he gave a lecture on "Comprehending Class in the Industrial City: Jane Addams's Chicago and W.E.B. Du Bois's Philadelphia" as part of the JFKI Ringvorlesung. He also put the finishing touches on an essay collection that he co-edited with Frank Kelleter. This edited volume, titled *Projecting American Studies: Essays on Theory, Method, and Practice*, came out with Winter Verlag in February. The book contains a programmatic essay that Alexander co-wrote with Ruth Mayer on the interrelation of media and knowledge in American Studies.

Martin Lütke is currently organizing a second collaborative workshop on "The New Black Atlantic: Traveling Cultures

in the Contemporary African Diaspora” with Robert Reid-Pharr, which will take place at the CUNY Graduate Center in NYC from April 18 to 20. As part of the JFKI Ringvorlesung “Capitalism and the North American City,” which he co-organizes this term with Markus Kienscherf, he gave a talk on “Poverty’s Paradise? Hip Hop, Capitalism, and the North American City.” In October he gave two talks at the Akademie für Politische Bildung in Tutzing at a workshop called “Chances and Challenges: Immigration and International Relations” and in November he served as a member of a roundtable on the state of American Studies in Germany at the DGfA’s Post Graduate Forum (PGF) in Berlin. In December he gave a talk on “The Myths of Amerika” at Deutsches Theater Berlin to set the stage for a play based on Franz Kafka’s unfinished novel *Amerika*. He finished an essay entitled “Lebensgefühl und Lebensform in Postmoderne und Zukunft” for his father’s “Festschrift” (to be published in May 2018) and an essay on “MTV Cribs and the Performance of Class on German Cable TV” as well as an article on “Travelling Cultures in the Here, There, and Now of a New Black Atlantic” for Frank Kelleter’s and Alexander Starre’s volume *Projecting American Studies: Essays on Theory, Method, and Practice*.

Kathleen Loock has returned from her yearlong stay as a visiting scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to continue her DAAD P.R.I.M.E. (Postdoctoral Researchers International Mobility Experience) fellowship at the JFKI. She was awarded the fellowship, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the People Program (Marie Curie Actions) of the European Union, by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Kathleen has also been awarded a Dahlem Postdoc Fellowship at the GSNAS. In the winter term, she gave a lecture on “The Rise of the Hollywood Franchise: Industrial Logic, Intertextuality, and Cultural (Re)Production” at the JFKI, was invited to talk at the sustainability conference “Nachhaltig(keit): Lernen durch Erzählungen” in Berlin, and gave the guest lecture “Columbus & Columbia: Mythmaking, Nationhood, and Cultural Politics from the American Revolution to the Civil War” at the University of Tübingen. The [special issue](#)

“American TV Series Revivals” that Kathleen has edited for the journal *Television and New Media* was published in November 2017.

Lauren Kroiz is currently the Terra Foundation for American Art Visiting Professor at the JFKI. On leave from University of California, Berkeley, she is teaching the BA courses “Race and Representation in American Art since 1890” (Winter 2017/18) and “American Art, 1607-Present” (Summer 2018), as well as MA courses “U.S. Modernism and the Culture of Things” (Winter 2017/18) and “American Art and Diaspora” (Summer 2018). She will give a talk in the JFKI Ringvorlesung “Capitalism and the North American City” on urban segregation and U.S. art, drawn from her essay “Leaving the Body: The Empty Spaces of American Modernism” which will appear in the catalogue for the exhibition *America’s Cool Modernism* at Oxford’s Ashmolean Museum. She will speak at the exhibition in Oxford in April. Lauren will also be giving talks on



PROF. IRWIN COLLIER AT SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (AUGUST 2017)

American Pictorialist Photography in Zurich in March and on abstraction, blackness, and post-war sculpture in Berlin in May. She is currently organizing a study day on “Intimacy, Empathy and Ethics in American Art” to take place at the JFKI in June. Her [new book](#) *Cultivating Citizens: The Regional Work of Art in the New Deal Era* will be published by University of California Press in April.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Last August, Prof. **Irwin Collier**, Ph.D. was honored at the dedication ceremony in the Graduate School of Public Administration at Seoul National University in South Korea for his donation of 22 boxes (664 kg!) of papers, books, and statistical data from his years of research on the economy of the German Democratic Republic. In October he attended a workshop at the Centre Walras-Pareto at the Université de Lausanne on the historiography of contemporary economics, where he presented a paper on syllabi and examination questions from economics courses taught at leading U.S. universities during the first half of the twentieth century. During the last week

of October he took part in the Festival for New Economic Thinking sponsored by the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange in Scotland, where he was able to feature his [blog](#) “Economics in the Rear-View Mirror.”

Prof. Dr. **Julia Püschel** is currently working on two areas of research, China and digitalization. Max Zenglein from the Mercator Institute for Chinese Studies has given a guest lecture in Julia’s course “America First vs. Made in China 2025.” In January, Julia presented in the workshop “Digital Transformation in China” at the FU’s Institute for Chinese Studies. Genia Kostka from the Institute for Chinese Studies and Julia are planning joint research and teaching projects. With respect to the digitalization area, Julia is involved in a project funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung that analyzes new ways to decrease child obesity.

Prof. Dr. **Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich** is currently working on a project that aims to reconstruct the private and professional life of Edward A. Tenenbaum by releasing the unpublished manuscript of his memories of the monetary reform of 1948. Although Ludwig Erhard claimed responsibility for the monetary reform in post-war West Germany, it was actually planned and executed by the Allied forces. The U.S. regime under General Lucius D. Clay and particularly Lieutenant Tenenbaum played a central role in the economic reform. Tenenbaum pulled the strings and made all decisions over the heads of eleven German experts, who were confined for seven weeks to military barracks in Rothwesten near Kassel under strict supervision.

At the 2017 Annual Conference of the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) at Edinburgh, Prof. Holtfrerich presented a lecture entitled “Power or Economic Law? Some Fresh Reflections on ECB Policy.” This was part of the podium discussion on “The Future of the Eurozone” on October 21, 2017. In his lecture Holtfrerich challenged the widespread view that interest rates were determined by central banks alone. Rather, he argued, they were the result of supply and demand on capital market, where central banks are powerful, but by far not the only, actors. It so happened that a quarterly report by the

Bank for International Settlements (BIS) of December 3, 2017 corroborated Holtfrerich’s thesis with its empirical finding that restrictive monetary policy measures by the Federal Reserve in 2017 did not increase interest rates on the capital market, but rather lowered it.

Prof. **Jonathan Fox**, Ph.D. has been on parental leave during the winter term 2017/18.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Personnel

Jessica Gienow-Hecht took a sabbatical, a month of which she spent doing research in the State Department files at the National Archives II in College Park, in the Library of Congress, and at Houghton Library (Cambridge, USA). She has won a grant from the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) to pursue a project titled “The Quest for Harmony: Classical Music, Emotion, and the Discourse of Human Rights in the United States since World War Two.” The project investigates how human rights and classical music relate to one another by specifically studying U.S. symphony musicians’ increasing lobbying activity for justice, freedom, and human rights after World War II. The project will



PROF. COLLIER AND PROF. HOLTFRERICH AT INET, EDINBURGH

begin in 2018, include one doctoral student as well as one student assistant, and run for three years. For more information, see [here](#).

This semester, **Sönke Kunkel** became the Institute’s spokesperson for the BA program. As part of this assignment he has also been involved in reviewing and discussing changes to the BA-Studienordnung.

In August, **Adam Hjorthén** joined the department as a postdoctoral research fellow. Adam will be spending a total of two years at the JFKI throughout a three-year period (2017–2021), working on a project on transatlantic genealogy, funded by the Swedish Research Council. He is also affiliated with the Department of Culture and Aesthetics at Stockholm University, Sweden.

This winter, the History Department welcomed **Maximilian Klose**, **Ivo Komljen**, and **Marius Kleinknecht** as new doctoral students, as well as **Adam Hjorthén** and **Jean-Michel Turcotte** as new post-doctoral researchers.

Departmental News / JFKI Events

In September 2017, **Maximilian Klose** joined Professors **Jessica Gienow-Hecht**, **Sebastian Jobs**, and **Sönke Kunkel** for a workshop in Ottawa, Canada to finalize the joint application for an international research training group titled “Power and Humanity: Contesting Notions of Human Rights and Humanitarianism in North America.” The proposed graduate program is a cooperation between Freie Universität and Carleton University, Ottawa.

Marius Kleinknecht has been organizing this semester’s “Interdisciplinary Round Table,” a forum developed as a space for graduate students and post-docs from all of the JFKI’s departments to exchange ideas and further research.

Together with her GSNAS cohort, **Anette Karpp** co-organized the International Graduate Conference “The Revolution Will Not Be Peer-Reviewed: American Disconnects and the Production of Knowledge,” which took place at the JFKI on May 5 and 6, 2017.

Publications and Presentations outside of JFKI

Much of **Gienow-Hecht**’s sabbatical was spent on activities related to several grant applications. Along with **Sebastian Jobs**, **Sönke Kunkel** and **Maximilian Klose**, she participated in a (third) workshop dedicated to a planned cooperation on the part of Carleton University (Canada) and FU Berlin, titled “Power and Humanity: Contestations of Human Rights and Humanitarianism in North America” in Ottawa, September 18-19. Also in September, Gienow-Hecht offered a reflection of her academic and personal experiences as a John-F.-Kennedy Memorial Fellow during the program’s 50th anniversary gala at Harvard University. From September 29 to October 1, she visited her alma mater, the University of Virginia, to meet with colleagues and administrators to discuss the feasibility of future collaboration and a Memorandum of Understanding. On November 1, 2017, Gienow-Hecht delivered a paper and a draft at the Harvard International & Global History Seminar (HIGHS), titled “Who Is Part of Humanity? Gender, Humanitarianism and the War of 1898 in Cuba.” Following a string of individual workshops,

on December 18, she also participated in an intense one-day workshop focusing on “Contestations of the Western Script: Global Challenges for Liberal Democracy as a Model of Organization.” In March 2018, Gienow-Hecht delivered a paper in the symposium “Internationale Beziehungen und ‘emotional regimes’: Neue Fragen an die Geschichte des Kalten Krieges” at the Historisches Kolleg in Munich, titled “Vertrauen ist gut, Kontrolle ist besser: Ein Blick in die US-außenpolitische Geschichte.” On December 2, the *Tagesspiegel* featured her [work](#) on “Transatlantic Disharmony” and the 1917 U.S. internment of conductor Karl Muck.

Sönke Kunkel submitted a number of panel proposals for various international conferences, including a panel at the 2018 meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations on the theme of cities and American foreign relations, a panel at the 2018 meeting of the Canadian Historical Association on the history of humanitarian aid (together with Dominique Marshall), and a workshop at the Villa Vigoni on Western humanitarian aid towards the ‘Global South’ in the twentieth century (together with Ilaria Scaglia). Next, he will be a contributor to a conference on the global history of the North-South conflict in the twentieth century at the University of Leipzig. In November, Kunkel also gave a talk on “Earthquakes, Winds, and Fires: Natural Disasters and Capitalism in North American Cities.”

Sebastian Jobs published a blog post on rumors as a category of historical research with “History of Knowledge,” a [website](#) operated by the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC (<https://wp.me/p8bNN8-1Od>). Furthermore, he was interviewed for a short *Deutschlandfunk* radio feature celebrating the 200th birthday of Frederick Douglass. Currently, he is finishing a journal article about the role of trust during slave insurrections. As a speaker in the Friedrich Meinecke Institute’s lecture series “Rätsel der Geschichte” he gave a talk about a slave insurrection in North Carolina. Furthermore, during the DGfA’s Postgraduate Forum (PGF), he participated in a roundtable discussion about “American Studies in Germany Today” on November 9, 2017.

Adam Hjorthén was the co-organizer of a conference titled “Swedish-American Borderlands: A Theoretical and Methodological Workshop” in Sigtuna, Sweden, on August 24-25. Twenty-one scholars representing eleven different disciplines from Sweden, Germany, Italy, and

the United States participated in the event, which was funded by the Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences.

In September, Adam was invited as the faculty reader of a doctoral dissertation manuscript at Uppsala University, presented by Christin Mays, PhD candidate in Sociology of Education. He was also interviewed in the newspaper *Dagens Arbete* about the cultural practice of commemoration.

This fall, Adam has published the articles “Global Histories and Cross-Border Commemoration,” in *Commemoration: The American Association for State and Local History Guide*, ed. Seth C. Bruggeman (Rowman and Littlefield, 2017), and “Swedishness by Blood: Transatlantic Genealogy on Twenty-First Century Television,” in *The Dynamics of Cultural Transfers: An Anthology*, ed. Margaretha Fahlgren and Anna Williams (Uppsala universitet, Avdelningen för litteratursociologi, 2017). Finally, his review of David M. Krueger, *Myths of the Rune Stone: Viking Martyrs and the Birthplace of America* (University of Minnesota Press, 2015), appeared in *Minnesota History* 65, No. 8.

On October 20, 2017, **Helen Gibson** participated as a panelist at the Graduate School of North American Studies 10th Anniversary conference, “Fault Lines of Democracy.” On October 21, she gave a paper at the Amerikahaus München on “The Invisible Whiteness of Being” as part of a workshop on “Diversity and/in the GAAS.” On November 3, Helen moderated the book launch of Joseph Ben Prestel of the Friedrich-Meinecke-Institut with guest panelists On Barak and Julie Ren. From November 9 to 11, Helen co-hosted the annual Postgraduate Forum of the DGfA/GAAS conference with three colleagues from the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin: Anne Potjans, Simon Rienäcker, and Jiann-Chyng Tu. On January 26, 2018, Helen gave a talk at the Amerikahaus München with artist Raymond Thompson, Jr. on the history of mass incarceration in the United States as part of the opening of an exhibit by Thompson. Entitled “The Divide,” the exhibit runs through the end of March and addresses the

collateral damage of incarceration to family members and friends of people held in two maximum security prisons in southwestern Virginia.

Anette Karpp, published a multiple book review titled “Negotiating Machismo, ‘Exoticism’ and Feminism on the Dancefloor: Tango Argentino and Transcultural Encounters in the 20th and 21st Century” on the international [blog](#) of contemporary history “Pophistory,” available online since July 20, 2017.

She co-founded, together with the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, the Reinhold Karpp Rolling Stones Collection, located at the Zentrum für Populäre Kultur und Musik at the Uni Freiburg.

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

In October 2017, **Ulla Haselstein** returned to teaching. She had been on sabbatical leave to work on her project “Getrude Stein’s Literary Portraiture,” funded by the Opus Magnum Program of the Volkswagen Stiftung. At the same time, we said goodbye to visiting professor **Kathy-Ann Tan** from Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, who acted as substitute for Ulla Haselstein in the summer semester of 2017. And we were happy to welcome **Birte Wege**, former postdoctoral fellow, in the position of assistant professor of North American Literature.



ULLA HASELSTEIN, HEINZ AND LEANORE ICKSTADT AT THE ANECDOTE CONFERENCE

At the beginning of the year, the literature department organized and hosted the international conference “Exemplary Singularity: Fault lines of the Anecdotal” (February 1-3, 2018) in honor of **Ulla Haselstein’s**

60th birthday. The conference was sponsored by the DFG, the Graduate School of North American Studies, and the Center of International Collaboration of Freie Universität. It brought together scholars from a range of disciplines, including but not limited to art history, literature, and cultural studies. The conference was based on the observation that the age of Twitter and home stories urges a renewed consideration of the anecdote as a short narrative form; its deployment of the “singular”

in the service of demonstrating the “exemplary” is at the center of current controversies as well as longer-standing negotiations of knowledge frameworks in modernity. We thank **James Dorson** (Freie Universität Berlin), **Florian Sedlmeier** (Freie Universität Berlin/UCLA), **MaryAnn Snyder-Körber** (Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg) and **Birte Wege** (Freie Universität Berlin) for their efforts and their contribution to making this an enriching and memorable event.

Heinz Ickstadt not only gave a talk at this conference, titled “Plot and Anecdote in Henry James and Julian Barnes,” but also team-taught a Master’s seminar on nineteenth-century representations of consciousness with Ulla Haselstein. In the summer semester, they will continue their cooperation by teaching the second part of this seminar, in which they will consider modernist configurations of consciousness in the twentieth century. At the international conference “Suburbia—An Archaeology of the Moment: Suburbs in the Arts and Literature of the English-Speaking World” that took place at the Université Toulouse from November 16-17, 2017, Ickstadt also spoke about “(Sub)Urban Space and the Contemporary American Novel.”

Together with Regina Schober (Universität Mannheim), **James Dorson** edited a [special issue](#) of *Studies in American Naturalism* titled “Data Fiction: Naturalism, Narratives, and Numbers” that was published in the fall of 2017. The issue examines the production and circulation of “data” as a form of knowledge through the lens of naturalist literature. He also contributed an article to this issue, “Rates, Romance, and Regulated Monopoly in Frank Norris’s *The Octopus*,” discussing the centrality of the heated dispute surrounding railroad rates in the 1890s for the novel’s aesthetic strategy. His essay “Naturalism and the Aesthetics of Failure” was published in the volume *The Failed Individual—Amid Exclusion, Resistance and the Pleasures of Non-Conformity* (co-edited by Regina Schober and Katharina Motyl) in November 2017. Here, James Dorson explores the significance of failure for naturalist writing, especially how it relates to the scientific experimentation that Émile Zola took as a model for the naturalist novel.



CHRISTIAN LAMMERT PRESENTS HIS NEW BOOK AT THE JFKI, BERLIN

A selection of post-doctoral researcher **Sean Bonney’s** [work](#) was published in the poetry and poetics anthology *Atlantic Drift* by EHU Press. As part of the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August 2017, he performed his poem “ACAB: A Nursery Rhyme” at Edge Hill University Press’s launch event. In December he also presented a performance-cum-lecture at the prestigious “Specters of Communism” festival, held at Haus der Kunst in Munich.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Over the course of this semester the Department of Political Science welcomed multiple guest speakers, such as Jeremy Mayer of George Mason University, Larry LeDuc of University of Toronto, and Nancy Foner of Hunter College, who spoke in their respective lectures on the current social media environment in the United States, Canadian Trade Agreements, and the fears connected to immigration in contemporary America. In December **Christian Lammert** and **Markus Siewert** were joined by Justin Vaughn (Boise State University) and Vincent Michelot (SciPo Lyon) on a panel on “U.S. Presidency and the Crisis of Democracy.”

In October, **Christian Lammert** published his new [book](#) *Die Krise der Demokratie und wie wir sie überwinden* (Aufbau Verlag) in collaboration with Boris Vormann. The authors proceeded to hold a book presentation and panel at NYU Berlin in late November. During the discussion, which was moderated by our very own **Margit Mayer**, they explored the similarities and differences of the current democratic conflicts in the European Union and the U.S., as well as the impact of economic policy on political practices. Beyond this, Christian gave multiple interviews in different media outlets, including among others, *SRF*, *ARD Brennpunkt*, *Deutschlandfunk*, and *HR2*, predominantly commenting on President Trump’s policy, and in particular on the restriction of the green card lottery and his excessive use of Twitter, while also raising concerns about the violence-prone political right wing. On multiple occasions Christian gave talks and presentations, most notably at the Annual Conference of the German Association

for American Studies (“The End of the American Dream: Inequality and Social Mobility in the US”), the Frankfurter Buchmesse (“Die Krise der Demokratie”) and at the Gedenkstätte Ahlem (“Die USA ein Jahr nach den Präsidentschaftswahlen”).

This fall we welcomed **Markus B. Siewert**, who joined us from Goethe Universität Frankfurt and taught two courses this semester. Markus is a visiting post-doctoral fellow at the John-F.-Kennedy Institute. In his research, he concentrates on U.S. domestic politics, especially on executive-legislative relations, and on configurational and case-based methodologies. In his doctoral thesis, he explored the use of legislative instruments of the White House during the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations and the administration’s success in influencing policy outcomes. He is also the co-editor (together with Christian Lammert and Boris Vormann) of the *Handbuch Politik USA*, published by Springer VS in 2016. His two courses in the winter term at the JFKI were, on the BA level, a seminar on “The American Presidency in Times of Trump,” and an MA seminar on “Case-Oriented Research in the Social Sciences.”

In October **Lora Viola** was awarded a DFG project grant titled “[Trust and Transparency in an Age of Surveillance](#),” which will begin in the summer semester. The project studies the relationship between surveillance, trust, and transparency, specifically at the intersection of foreign security politics and legal studies. Goals of the project are to theorize the relationship between trust, transparency, and security surveillance practices; to empirically study this relationship in a comparative analysis of the U.S. and Europe; and to assess policy mechanisms that aim to regulate surveillance practices. Lora Viola also presented a paper at Oxford University on indirect governance and global financial regulation; in October, she presented a paper at the DVPW Sektionstagung in Bremen on the Financial Stability Board; and in November she held a seminar at Göttingen University on the G20 and institutional legitimacy. In addition, she is working on a larger project studying historical and contemporary institutionalizations of inter-state inequality.

Margit Mayer is continuing her work in the field of urbanism, most recently receiving a grant for a project in collaboration with Dr. Frank Gesemann to work on “Entwicklung und Nachhaltigkeit lokaler Willkommensinitiativen.” In addition to publishing articles such as “Cities as Sites of Refuge and Resistance,” Margit held lectures on urban life, urban refugee

politics and citizen engagement in Berlin, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Kassel.

Thomas Greven continues to write a column on American politics for the online journal *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft* and its English edition *International Politics and Society*, most recently publishing on President Trump and white supremacy. He also gave a number of interviews to the Deutsche Welle and N24 on the Trump Presidency, populism and other issues. Greven also reviewed the collection of Garry B. Trudeau’s Trump comic strips (as part of his *Doonesbury* strip) for various media, such as *Tagesspiegel* and *Comixene: Fachmagazin Comic + Cartoon*. Greven also gave several talks on populism, Trump, U.S. politics and society, American industrial relations and unionism, at the Goethe Institute in Dakar, Senegal (“Le Spectre du Populisme”), online (Webinar “Donald Trump und die Entwicklung des Populismus”), and at the Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft, Berlin.

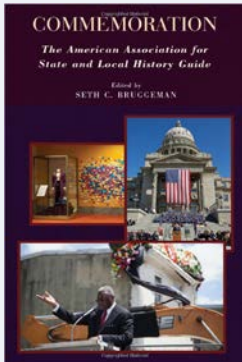
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

During the winter semester, **Anne Nassauer** continued data collection and analysis for two research projects on violent and criminal behavior in the United States. She continued her research on human aggressive and violent behavior, in which the Karisoke Research Center (Musanze, Rwanda) assists her in data collection to compare behavioral patterns of humans to other great apes. She also continued her research project on rampage school shootings in the United States. During the winter semester she presented her theoretical and empirical findings on violence, visual data, and criminal behavior in the United States at conferences on “Controversies in Violence Research” (RWTH Aachen), “Visual Criminology” (Universität Bielefeld), “Theorizing Violence” (Leibniz Universität Hannover), and “Video Analysis” (University of Copenhagen). Her paper on police strategies and prevention of crowd violence, based on her research stay with the Berlin police in Spring 2017, was published as a book chapter (Verlag für Polizeiwissenschaft). A paper on her research on protest violence in Germany and the United States was accepted for publication in the journal *Psychology of Violence*. Her paper on the transnational and national diffusion of social movement tactics, co-authored with Ion Bogdan Vasi (University of Iowa), will be published in the journal *Acta Sociologica*. Her proposal “Capturing and Analyzing Social Change:

Opportunities of Analyzing Visual Data in the 21st Century,” co-authored with Nicolas Legewie (Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung) received funding by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin to be organized as a Blankensee-Colloquium.

PUBLICATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



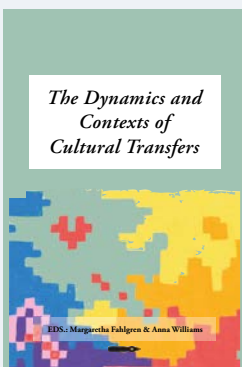
Rowman, 2017
ISBN: 978-1-4422-7918-6
180 pages

Commemoration: The American Association for State and Local History Guide

Edited by Seth C. Bruggeman

Commemoration serves as a handbook for historic site managers, heritage professionals, and all manner of public historians who contend daily with the ground-level complexities of commemoration. Its fourteen short essays are intended as tools for practitioners, students, and anyone else confronted with common problems in commemorative practice today. Of particular concern are strategies for expanding commemoration across the panoply of American identities, confronting tragedy and difficult pasts, and doing responsible work in the face of persistent economic and political turmoil. A special afterword explores the role of emotion in modern commemoration and what it suggests about possibilities for engaging new audiences.

Adam Hjorthén of the history department has contributed with the chapter “Global Histories and Cross-Border Commemoration.”



Avdelningen för
litteratursociologi, 2017
ISBN: 9789198281927
238 pages

The Dynamics and Contexts of Cultural Transfers

Edited by Margaretha Fahlgren and Anna Williams

This anthology examines the nature and consequences of cultural transfers—ways in which cultural, social and political/ideological elements cross national and cultural boundaries, how they are changed and how they affect the contexts in which they arrive. Processes of translation and adaptation play an important role, as do the roles performed by different actors—governmental, academic, and artistic. The Dynamics and Contexts of Cultural Transfers highlight questions of different power relations, of what is national and what is world literature, and how cultural transfer intertwines ideas on culture and literature.

Adam Hjorthén of the history department has contributed with the chapter “Swedishness by Blood: Transatlantic Genealogy on Twenty-First Century Television.”

Imprint

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