

NEWSLETTER



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65TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DGfA

American COUNTER / Publics

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The 65th annual meeting of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA) took place at Freie Universität Berlin from May 24 – 27, 2018. The John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies hosted this year's conference, with the heads of its six departments serving as local organizers: Irwin Collier (Economics), Jessica Gienow-Hecht (History), Ulla Haselstein (Literature), Frank Kelleter (Culture), Christian Lammert (Political Science), and Harald Wenzel (Sociology). The local organizers were assisted by a planning committee of junior faculty members (David Bosold, Thomas Dikant, Sophie Spieler, Alexander Starre, Birte Wege).

More than 300 American Studies scholars from Germany and abroad attended the conference. The program included 14 workshops with a total of 74 individual papers by international speakers. Five keynote lectures completed the program.

The conference opening took place on Thursday night at the Henry Ford Bau of the Freie Universität. Philipp Gassert, the president of the DGfA, welcomed all



PHILIPP GASSERT (PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES)

delegates and guests in his opening remarks. In their ensuing addresses, Peter-André Alt (President of Freie Universität Berlin), Christian Lammert (Director of the John F. Kennedy Institute), and Kent Logsdon (Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Berlin) spoke about the long tradition of transatlantic cooperation between the Freie Universität and various North American institutions. The three speakers also introduced the conference theme

“American Counter/Publics” as a timely and important framework to discuss historical as well as current shifts in the spheres of public discourse and debate.

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. In this manner, the US Constitution, while based on enlightened principles of free debate and rational deliberation, already eschewed a philosophy of consensus building in favor of a philosophy of multi-interested checks and balances. As a consequence, “public opinion” in the United States could never easily be identified with the “public good,” but has always been open to multiple sub- and non-public (private, corporate, technological, etc.) influences. 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. 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.

In the opening lecture titled “Fake Publics,” Michael Warner (Yale) – one of the most widely cited experts on the American public sphere – reflected on his historical research in light of what he termed the “media crisis”



MICHAEL WARNER (YALE UNIVERSITY)

of the present day. The four keynotes that followed on the remaining days of the conference likewise coupled historical considerations with outlooks on the present-day politics, culture, and art in the U.S. The speakers and topics were: Catherine Squires (Minnesota), “Generating Creative Friction: Counter-Narratives & Ethical

Imaginarities at Home in Black Counterpublics”; Andrew Gross (Göttingen), “Community and Contagion: Crises of Liberalism in the Writing of Benjamin Franklin”; Sarah Igo (Vanderbilt), “Thinking Publics: The History of a Promise and a Problem”; and Todd Gitlin (Columbia), “How the American Right Organized Its Assault.”



PARTICIPANTS GATHERING IN FRONT OF THE JOHN F. KENNEDY INSTITUTE

On Saturday night, a German-language panel discussion focused on the concepts of “fake news” and “fact checking,” drawing a large crowd of conference attendees and guests. The conference concluded on Sunday with a much-anticipated event with poet and scholar Claudia Rankine, the award-winning author of *Citizen, An American Lyric*. Rankine’s lecture “The Racial Imaginary in Contemporary American Art” brought the conference to a fitting close, filling the convention hall to the last seat for a final time. The conference proceedings will be published by Winter Verlag in 2019.

The conference website, including a PDF copy of the printed program, is available [here](#).

ALUMNI/ALUMNAE



In spring 2018, the John F. Kennedy Institute Alumni Association became a so-called chapter of the Ernst-Reuter-Gesellschaft, Freie Universität's alumni organization (for further details please consult the [website](#) of the ERG). All former members of the JFKI Alumni Association have now become members of the ERG. Membership in the ERG offers a number of benefits and is available for as little as 10 EUR/year for students. Applications for membership can be submitted [here](#). Besides the annual graduation ceremony which will take place on November 24, 2018 we intend to establish additional formats to connect current students with our Alumni.

Starting this fall, we will host alumni/alumnae for our new series of Alumni Talks. The talks will be advertised in October and will feature a brief presentation by an alumnus or alumna who will talk about their current position and career strategy as well as give advice to current students. We have so far been able to recruit alumni from the advocacy, non-profit and museum sector. If you are a JFKI Alumni and would like to visit your alma mater, please send an e-mail to student.assistant@gsnas.fu-berlin.de. We are still looking for volunteers!

GRADUATE SCHOOL



DAAD Graduate School Scholarship Programme

After receiving the Einstein Award for Doctoral Programs in January 2018 (cf. Newsletter No. 24), the Graduate School was also successful in its application for the Graduate School Scholarship Programme (GSSP) by the German Academic Exchange Service. Thanks to the GSSP, the Graduate School will be able to award two 3-year PhD scholarships to international students in 2019 and 2020.

New Doctoral Candidates

On May 2nd and 3rd, 2018, seven new doctoral candidates were selected. They will start their doctoral studies in October 2018. This year's PhD students come from Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Turkey and will research topics related to Political Science, Literature, and Cultural Studies.

Interdisciplinary Roundtable

The Interdisciplinary Roundtable, organized by Marius Kleinknecht, offers various ways for doctoral students to make a presentation in the forum as useful as possible. Speakers can use the forum to practice their PhD defense, test out an upcoming conference paper, or seek input for a chapter or article they are working on. The audience is critical, supportive, and helpful.

The IR started on April 27 with Marius Kleinknecht's and Clark Banach's talks on "US Foreign Policy with the Barbary Powers" & "Humanism as an Economic Order". On May 18, Lee Flamand presented his work on „How does Violent Spectacle Appear as TV Realism?

Sources of OZ's Penal Imaginary" and Nitya Koch's presentation was titled „Bodies for the Boys: Dance and Instrumentalizations of Femininity in the World War II Film Musical“. On June 29, Johannes Kohrs spoke on "Notes of a Native Novelist – Institutional Blackness and Critical Uplift in Percival Everett's Self-Help Satire Glymph." Betsy Leimbigger finalized the International Roundtable of the summer semester with her talk on „Re-Igniting the War on Drugs? Trump and the Opioid Crisis“ on July 19.

Graduate Conference 2018

The International Graduate Conference 2018 on "Follow the Yellow-Brick Road? Challenging Approaches to Progress in North America" was held at the John-F.-Kennedy-Institute on June 7th and June 8th, 2018, and was organized by the doctoral candidates of the cohort 2017. The introduction by Frank Kelleter was followed by the first keynote lecture by Jack Halberstam, (Columbia University) titled Trans*: Histories, Bodies, and the Unbuilding of Words". Other workshops followed and two other keynote lectures by Jason Scott Smith (The University of New Mexico) and John Collins (The London School of Economics).

Visiting Professors

In the summer term 2018, the Graduate School welcomed three visiting professors:

José David Saldivar (Stanford University), **Peter Andreas** (John Hay Professor of International Studies and Political

Science of Brown University), and **Khary Polk** (Amherst College) for the months June and 2018. They joined the GSNAS faculty and served as additional advisors to the students as they research their dissertation projects.

On June 25, Khary Polk gave a presentation on “We Don’t Need Another Hero: The Paradox of Black Military Imperialism” in the seminar „Theorizing Culture“.

José David Saldivar (Stanford University) talk was on „Junot Díaz: On the ‘Half-Life’ of Love” on June 27. Peter Andreas gave a lecture on July 4. titled „Drugs and War: What is the Relationship?“

GSNAS Alumni/Alumnae

Nikolas Keßels (Political Science), **Mathias Großklaus** (Political Science), and **Talel Ben Jemia** (Culture), successfully finished their doctoral studies. **Siofra McSherry** was awarded the DRS HONORS fellowship. Congratulations!

JOHN F. KENNEDY INSTITUTE



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL STUDIES

Frank Kelleter, the chair of the department, also holds the position of Executive Director of the Graduate School of North American Studies (GSNAS) at Freie Universität Berlin. Additionally, he continues to be an associated researcher (Assoziierter Wissenschaftler) of the DFG-Graduiertenkolleg (GRK 2190) "[Literatur- und Wissensgeschichte kleiner Formen](#)" situated at Humboldt University Berlin. Together with the other chairs of the departments at the JFKI, he hosted the annual meeting of the German American Studies Association (DGfA), where he moderated a book presentation of Werner Sollors' *Die Versuchung zu verzweifeln: Geschichten aus den 1940er Jahren*. He provided the opening remarks at the annual conference of the Graduate School of North American Studies on the conference theme "Follow the Yellow Brick Road? Challenging Approaches to Progress in North America" in June. Together with Alexander Starre, he published the edited volume *Projecting American Studies: Essays on Theory, Method, and Practice* (Winter Verlag, Heidelberg) in February.

During the summer term, **Alexander Starre** helped to organize the DGfA annual conference as a member of the official planning committee. He also co-hosted (with Regina Schober) one of the workshops at the conference; the session was titled "American Studies as Engaged Scholarship: Doing Public Humanities from the Local to the Transnational." The introduction

to this panel, as well as abstracts of the individual papers and a selected bibliography are available on a dedicated HumanitiesCommons website: <https://publichumanitiesDGfA18.hcommons.org>. In June, Alexander gave an invited lecture at the University of Göttingen on his ongoing book project on American Knowledge Cultures at the turn of the 20th century. Also in June, he hosted a reading and discussion with Miriam Mandelkow, the German translator of James Baldwin's complete works, at Literarisches Zentrum Göttingen. In the context of his interdisciplinary MA seminar (taught together with Christian Lammert), he co-organized a student symposium on "The Evolution of North American Publics" in July. An essay by Alexander recently appeared in a German-language edited volume on the significance of the concept of the work in contemporary literary studies.

Martin Lütke co-organized a follow-up workshop on "The Contemporary African Diaspora" with Robert Reid-Pharr, which took place at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City from April 18 to April 20. On the occasion, the African Atlantic Research Group (AARG) was founded as a transatlantic, collaborative research group. Also in April, Lütke gave a talk on "Digital Soccer and Another 'Other American Exceptionalism'" at the conference *Playing the Field: Video Games and American Studies* at LMU in Munich. In addition, he gave a talk entitled "When the Ticker Ticks: Telegraphic Fiction, Media Change, and Infatuating Communication" at the annual meeting

of the German American Studies Association (DGfA) in Berlin in May and in June he helped organizing the Terra symposium “Empathy, Intimacy, and Ethics in American Art”.



HORTENSE SPILLERS AT THE CONFERENCE “EMPATHY, INTIMACY, AND ETHICS IN AMERICAN ART”

Lüthe published an essay on „Lebensgefühl und Lebensform in Postmoderne und Zukunft – Populärkultur und Medialität als affektive Regime?“ in an essay collection dedicated to his father’s research and teaching entitled *Lebensgefühl und Lebensform in der Postmoderne und Zukunft*, which came out with Lit Verlag in July.

In the summer term of 2018, **Kathleen Loock** has started her Dahlem Postdoc Fellowship at the GSNAS. In April, she gave a talk on “Star Wars in China” at the Media Industry Conference in London (UK). In May, she presented parts of her current research project in the JFKI Literature/Culture Research Colloquium with a talk entitled “A Theory of Hollywood Remaking.” She presented on “Remaking Winnetou, Reconfiguring German Fantasies of American Indians and the Wild West” at the Symposium “Remaking European Cinema,” held in Ghent (Belgium) in June. Moreover, both Maria Sulimma and Kathleen co-organized the student workshop “Postfeminism(s) in Popular Culture” in July as part of their co-taught master seminar for which they also invited sociologist and feminist cultural theorist Rosalind Gill from City, University of London (UK) earlier in the summer term. Kathleen attended a two-week intensive workshop on videographic criticism at Middlebury College (USA) in June. The workshop was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and organized by Christian Keathley and Jason Mittell. Finally, the print version of the special issue “American TV Series Revivals,” which Kathleen has edited for the peer-review

journal *Television and New Media*, came out in May 2018 and garnered attention in several US- and UK-based media outlets.

Simon Strick returns to the institute as he has been successful in the third round of the Volkswagen Foundation’s funding initiative “Original – isn’t it?” with a project on the transatlantic Alt-Right and its online manifestations. Volkswagen’s new funding programme supports scholars in the humanities and cultural studies to embark on projects of groundbreaking originality. Dr. Simon Strick receives a one-year stipend and generous research budget, giving him the opportunity to explore his idea and formulate his findings in a free-form essay. The Volkswagen Foundation supports the project with 80,000 EUR. Strick’s project “Feeling (Alt)Right: Identity and Affect Politics of Rightwing Extremism Online” is among 17 successful projects that were selected from over 170 applications. As his first foray into the project, Strick has published the peer-reviewed article “Alt-Right-Affekte: Provokationen und Online-Taktiken” in *Zeitschrift für Medienwissenschaften* (Nr.19, 2018), along with two essays on the ZfM’s Gender Blog. Fresh from the printers is also the collectively written volume *Schädelbasiswissen* (together with Sigrid Weigel et al, Kadmos), which features Simon’s extensive work on scientific racism, craniometry and its cultural legacies.

Maria Sulimma co-published an article with Julia Havas (University of East Anglia) entitled, “Through the Gaps of my Fingers: Genre, Femininity, and Cringe Aesthetics in Dramedy Television” in the journal *Television and New Media*. At the annual meeting of the German American Studies Association (DGfA) in May in Berlin she presented on “‘Sir, she can hear you’: The Mute Woman in Popular Culture”. And at the “Console-ing Passions: An International Conference on Television, Video, Audio, New Media and Feminism” she gave a paper entitled “‘You’d be the first to die.’ – Death, Gender and Serialized Survivalism in *The Walking Dead*-Franchise” in July.

Terra Visiting Professor, Lauren Kroiz

In addition to her classes during the academic year of 2018–19, Lauren also delivered a lecture at the Terra Foundation’s exhibition *America’s Cool Modernism* at Oxford’s Ashmolean Museum (April). Here, she participated in a dinner for Faith Ringold’s important

exhibition in Berlin funded in part by the Terra Foundation. In Berlin, Lauren also participated in a study group on “Irrational Modernisms” founded by Terra post-doctoral fellow Larne Abse Gogarty and Eva Ehninger at Humboldt University.

Using Berlin as her base, Lauren also spoke at a conference in Zurich on the New-York based, early twentieth-century photography journal *Camera Work* (March). She furthermore conducted preliminary research for a new project on American artist Shinkichi Tajiri in Berlin, as well as in Amsterdam and at his family’s Castle Scheres in Baarloin the southern Netherlands. Lauren also visited museums and sites of national heritage in Malta, Prague, Venice, Genoa, Barcelona, London, Munich and Leipzig. At the Kennedy Institute, Lauren spoke on “Artist vs. Art Historian: Grant Wood, H.W. Janson, and the ‘Case of the Naked Chicken’” within the research colloquium culture/literature in May. In the Culture Department of the JFKI, Lauren organized a highly visible and very successful study day around the theme “Empathy, Intimacy, and Ethics in American Art”.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Prof. Irwin Collier, Ph.D.

Prof. Irwin Collier presented “Graduate Economics Classes taught by Paul Samuelson at M.I.T. in 1943” in the session on graduate economics training the 45th annual meeting of the international History of Economics Society held at Loyola University, Chicago in June. He was able to outline the detailed course content based on the notes taken by the graduate student Elizabeth Ringo. The historical significance of this archival material is that it provides the historian of economics a glimpse into the very early years of the M.I.T. doctoral program in economics that was to become the world’s leading economics program during the last quarter of the 20th century.

On July 4, Prof. Collier held his official farewell lecture “Reflections on Academic Communities, Clans, and Clubs” that contrasted the Humboldtian dual mandate of research and instruction in an ideal academic community with the academic realities of competing schools of thought and non-inclusive networks that fall short of that ideal. Musical entertainment was provided by the

Berlin-American folk singer, John Shreve. Following his retirement from the JFK-Institute, Collier is moving on to a part-time visiting professorship at Bard College Berlin and will continue to provide content to his blog, [Economics in the Rear-view Mirror](#).

The FU campus magazine *campus.leben* dedicated [an article](#) to the event. The script of the lecture can be found on [his website](#).

Prof. Jonathan Fox, Ph.D.

During the summer semester 2018, Prof. Jonathan Fox had the article titled “Is a Positive Relationship Between Fertility and Economic Development Emerging at the Sub-National Regional Level? Theoretical Considerations and Evidence from Europe” (joint with Sebastian Kluesener and Mikko Myrskylä) published in the *European Journal of Population*, linked here: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10680-018-9485-1>. This article explores the relationship between fertility trends and income for developed countries, and uses European data to estimate whether that relationship, traditionally negative, has trended to positive for high-income countries, and high-income regions within those countries. Prof. Fox had a second article, titled “A rural health supplement to the hookworm intervention in the American South” (joint with Prof. Theocharis Grigoriadis), published in the *Freie Universitaet VWL Discussion Paper series*, linked here: <https://ideas.repec.org/p/zbw/fubsbe/20185.html>. This article re-investigates the hookworm eradication efforts of the Rockefeller Foundation’s Sanitary Commission (RSC) in the American South during the Progressive Era, and finds that rural health centers had an important role in explaining the impact of the initial hookworm eradication intervention.

Prof. Dr. Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich

LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS:

Following an invitation by the student initiative “Critical economists Berlin” Prof. Holtfrerich gave a lecture on the topic “Hyperinflation” on 23 May 2018 at the FU department of economics. It was embedded in a lecture course under the general heading “Financial Crises and Monetary System” organized by the students under the supervision of Prof. Barbara Fritz.

On 14 and 15 June 2018, Prof. Holtfrerich participated in the conference “Transatlantic Crossings. A Symposium in Honor of Detlef Junker” at the Heidelberg Center for

American Studies (HCA). He contributed a paper entitled “Reflections on U.S. Protectionism Past and Present”. His session was chaired by Welf Werner who is the successor of Detlef Junker as director of the HCA and chair of American Studies. Welf Werner has been working in the economics department of the JFKI for about 10 years while writing his dissertation and habilitation thesis under my guidance. Before taking up his new positions at Heidelberg in February 2018, he served as a professor of economics at the Jacobs University Bremen.

On 21 June 2018, Prof. Holtfrerich delivered the keynote address on the 70th anniversary of West Germany’s currency reform in Fulda (near Kassel), where a *Currency Reform Museum* had existed for 25 years in a building historically connected with the preparation of the currency reform. He reported on my current research project “Edward A. Tenenbaum and the Deutsche Mark”. He is writing a biography of Tenenbaum, who was the true father of Germany’s currency reform.

FUNDING:

After having received funding by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation for his current project on Tenenbaum and the

Deutsche Mark last year, Prof. Holtfrerich won additional grants this year for the same project by two American institutions, the Harry S. Truman Foundation in Kansas City MO and the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) in New York City.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

“Wie ein amerikanischer Leutnant Ludwig Erhard half. Edward A. Tenenbaum und die Währungsreform von 1948“, in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 28. Mai 2018, S. 16.

„Power or Economic Law? Fresh Reflections on ECB Policy“, in *Intereconomics. Review of European Economic Policy* 53 (2018), S. 164-169.

“The American Behind the Deutsche Mark”. Blog of the Institute for New Economic Thinking, 20 June 2018.

Online: <https://www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/blog/the-american-behind-the-deutsche-mark> (Accessed 20 June 2018).

Daniel Dieckelmann

Daniel Dieckelmann currently works on disaggregated, long historical data series of private credit in the United States from 1896 to 2017 and their ability to predict



financial crises. He presented his work in progress in June at the Young Scholars European Regional Convening organized by the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) in Trento. Daniel further participated in January as a panel discussant at the event “*Boom Bust Boom. 10 years after the crisis - Have we learned?*” organized by the University of Rostock and the OstseeSparkasse Rostock. Together with his colleagues from the 2017 PhD cohort, Daniel co-organized the 11th Graduate Conference in North American Studies at the institute in June. In the coming semester he will collaborate with the Bank of Israel to develop an early warning model for financial crises for Israel and comparable small, open economies.

Marc Adam

Since 2017 Marc Adam investigates the history of the Federal Reserve System, from its foundation until the Banking Act in 1933. After having visited several archives in England, Switzerland and the US, he presented his first results in April 2018 at the annual conference of the Economic History Society at Keele University, England. In early August 2018, Adam will participate in the World Economic History Congress in Boston MA, where he will organize a workshop about *New Approaches to Economic History*, and present a poster about his research on *The Fall of World Trade, 1925–1936*.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Personnel News

Jessica Gienow-Hecht is happy to be back at her desk to work with students, colleagues and the team of the department of history! Much energy and time this semester was dedicated to the Freie University’s application in the Excellence Initiative, notably the application “Contestation of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS). For more, see: <https://www.fu-berlin.de/en/sites/inu/excellence-strategy/proposals/scripts/index.html>. After years of hard work and what seems like countless dress rehearsals, a team of 13 scholars from the social sciences at FU, Humboldt University, and the Wissenschaftliche Zentrum Berlin, including Gienow-Hecht, traveled to Bonn on June 26, 2018 to present and defend the proposal. Let’s keep our fingers crossed for September when we’ll get the news! A joint proposal with colleagues from FU and Carleton University (includ-

ing members from the JFKI) for an international research and training group titled “Power and Humanity,” presented in late February, was not successful. Irrespective of the result, Gienow-Hecht would like to take the opportunity and thank all her colleagues at and outside of the JFKI and the members of her stellar team in the history department who cooperated and supported her in this effort.

Adam Hjorthén has been in Sweden on parental leave during the summer semester, and will return to the department in the fall.

Sebastian Jobs received an extension of his contract at FU Berlin and will remain a professor at the JFK Institute for three more years.

Departmental/JFKI Events

On July 16, the B.A. students participating in Jessica Gienow-Hecht’s **B.A. colloquium** organized an interdisciplinary conference open to the public, featuring four panels with more than a dozen research entries reflecting current B.A. thesis topics. Well done!

The history department welcomed the following speakers this semester as part of the **M.A./research colloquium** “Harmony in History”: Ussama Makdisi (Rice University) “Coexistence as Harmony”; Kira Thurman (University of Michigan) “In Harmony with the ‘Great Masters’: German Music and African American Cultural Politics in the Era of Jim Crow”; Walter Frisch (Columbia University) “Race and American Musicals in the 1940s-1950s”; Jean-Michel Turcotte (Université Laval Québec) “The Great Commonwealth Family, a Distorted Harmony: Britain-Dominions’ Coordination and the Issue of German Prisoners of War, 1940–1945.”

Jessica Gienow-Hecht, Sebastian Jobs and Sönke Kunkel have advertised a call for papers titled “Visions of Humanity,” the sixth conference in the series “Culture and International History” that originated at the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg in 1999. This year’s call for papers solicited applications from nearly 100 scholars in Europe, Asia and the Americas, about half of whom will be invited to Berlin. The conference “Culture and International History VI: Visions of Humanity” is planned to take place in Berlin from May 6 to 8, 2019. Prof. Dr. Siep Stuurman (Universiteit Utrecht), author of *The Invention*

of *Humanity: Equality and Cultural Difference in World History* (Harvard UP, 2017), will deliver the keynote speech. The conference refers to the continued interest in the interplay of culture, politics and international history in key organizations, publications and journals such as the *Society for the History of American Foreign Relations*, the *Arbeitsgruppe Internationale Geschichte*, *Relations Internationales*, *Histoire Mondiale*, *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, *Diplomatic History*, and others. For more information, see: http://www.jfki.fu-berlin.de/faculty/history/jobs-_-opportunities/Culture-_-International-History.html, where the program will be posted in the near future.

Publications, Presentations outside of the JFKI

Jessica Gienow-Hecht delivered several keynotes and conference talks. In March, she participated in the conference “Internationale Beziehungen und „emotional regimes“: Neue Fragen an die Geschichte des Kalten Krieges“ at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Munich with a presentation on „Vertrauen ist gut, Kontrolle ist besser: Ein Blick in die US-außenpolitische Geschichte.“ In June, she delivered the keynote speech at the conference “[\(E\)valuating Transnational Music Practices: Space, Diversity, and Exchange](#)” at the Universität Duisburg-Essen, and also attended the farewell conference for her colleague Jörg Nagler at the Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena, with a presentation on “U.S. Humanitarian Intervention and the Spanish-American War of 1898.” In July, upon the invitation of Kiran Patel, she gave a presentation introducing Dutch thesis candidates to “Culture and International History” at KNAW/IISG, Amsterdam. A few days later, she delivered a talk on “Gender, Humanity, and the War of 1898 in Cuba” in Birgit Aschmann’s research colloquium at Humboldt University. Together with her (former) doctoral students Carlin Viktorin, Annika Estner and Marcel Will, she published the volume *Nation Branding in Modern History* (Berghahn Books, 2018). The Trump administration keeps her, the department, and the institute very busy. *Radio Bremen* interviewed Gienow-Hecht regarding Angela Merkel’s state visit to Washington (7.5.2018), *Deutschlandfunk Kultur Radio* had questions regarding the U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Richard Grenell, on 4.06.2018, and the AP interviewed Gienow-Hecht on July 11 about Trump’s anti-Germany remarks.

In February 2018, **Sebastian Jobs** gave a talk at the annual meeting of historians of North America in Germany

in Tutzing about the victory parade of the ‘Harlem Hellfighters’ in 1919. In April, he was featured on *Deutsche Welle News* for a long-format interview on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In May, he gave a talk at the DGfA annual meeting in Berlin about rumors as a subject of historical research. In June 2018, he co-organized a workshop at re:work (HU Berlin) on the topics of „Labor - Violence - Consumption,“ which served as a kick-off event for a series of international workshops in the years to come. Helen Gibson, a third-year graduate student at the GSNAS, joined the group as a founding member.

In February, **Sönke Kunkel** was invited to chair a panel on the history of knowledge transfers during a conference on the global history of the North-South conflict in the twentieth century at the University of Leipzig. He also presented a paper on the history of humanitarian journalism at the annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association in Regina, Canada where he teamed up with an international panel, including the history department’s cooperation partner Dominique Marshall of Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. During the conference, he also attended an informal meeting of the Canadian Network on Humanitarian History. In late June, Sönke Kunkel participated in the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. A winner of a SHAFR Diversity and Global Scholars grant, he co-organized an international SHAFR panel on the theme of “Putting the City into the History of American Foreign Relations” together with Ilaria Scaglia, Brooke Bower, Meredith Oda, and Leandro Benmergui, and gave a presentation on “Global Cities and American Disaster Diplomacy in the 1960s.”

Sönke Kunkel is now completing three articles, including one on “Kennedy as the Global Media President” for an international volume on Kennedy, one on the history of U.S. foreign aid for global cities stricken by natural disasters, to be published in another edited volume, and a further one on the historiography of science diplomacy to appear in *Neue Politische Literatur*.

Currently, Sönke Kunkel is also organizing three conferences and workshops. The first of these, “Transforming Cities: Urbanization and International Development Policies in the Global South in the Twentieth Century,” will take place in Berlin in October 2018 and is organized together with Marc Frey. In November, there will follow an international workshop on “Governing Environmen-

tal Change: Science Diplomacy and the Global Politics of Knowledge since the 19th Century.” The workshop will take place in Berlin as well and is organized jointly with Nadin Heé, Mariko Jacoby (both FU Berlin), and Simone Turchetti of the University of Manchester. The third event, “Culture and International History VI: Visions of Humanity,” is being organized with department members Jessica Gienow-Hecht and Sebastian Jobs and is scheduled to take place in Berlin in May 2019.

On March 14 and 16, 2018, **Helen Gibson** gave a lecture on “Limits of the Open Road: Driving While Black in Jim Crow America and Today” at the annual Chemnitz and Rostock American Studies Teacher Seminars, held at the Sächsische Bildungsagentur Chemnitz and Universität Rostock. From March 23 to 25, she co-hosted the 16th Annual NYLON Conference, with attendees from Berlin,

New York, and London, at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. From April 4 to 7, Helen attended the Joint 32nd European Association for American Studies and 63rd British Association for American Studies Conference (EBAAS) at King’s College London. She gave a paper at EBAAS entitled “‘Oh, if I had that Ford V-8!’: Automotivity, Anti-Lynching Campaigns, and Imagined Black Liberation, 1934-39” and chaired a panel on “Prisons, Protest Culture, and Radical Politics.”

From May 24 to 27, 2018, Helen completed a year of co-organizing the Postgraduate Forum (PGF) of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA/GAAS) by co-hosting three events for postgraduate scholars of American Studies from across Germany at the 65th Annual Conference of the DGfA, held at Freie Universität Berlin. Helen and PGF co-organizers Anne Potjans, Simon Rienäcker, and Jiann-Chyng Tu (all HU Berlin) guest



edited Vol 19, No 1 (2018) of *Current Objectives of Postgraduate American Studies (COPAS)*, releasing the issue in May with an editorial entitled “On Doing American Studies Today: The 2017 Postgraduate Forum.”

In March, **Adam Hjorthén** was awarded the 2018 Loubat Prize from the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, for his 2015 dissertation *Border-Crossing Commemorations: Entangled Histories of Swedish Settlement in America*. The prize is awarded every five years for “a printed publication on North American archaeology, ethnography, history or numismatics,” and came with a cash prize of 150 000 SEK (approx. 15 000 EUR).

As a postdoctoral fellow at the JFKI history department since January 2018, **Jean-Michel Turcotte** has published two articles in *Canadian Historical Review* and *Bulletin d'Histoire Politique* and produced two book reviews in the journals *War in History* and *Canadian Military History*. He has also submitted papers to the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* and *Intelligence and National Security*. In May, he participated in the Canadian Historical Association's annual conference at the University of Regina. Finally, Jean-Michel Turcotte has received a travel grant from the Harry Truman Presidential Library to conduct archival research in the summer of 2018.

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

This semester, the literature department welcomed a number of national and international scholars to the JFKI. Not only was the department involved in the organisation of this year's 65th Annual Conference of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA, May 24-27), but the annual colloquium of the literature and culture departments brought together scholars with a wide range of research interests, allowing staff and students to listen to engaging talks and participate in lively discussions every week.

Martyn Bone's (University of Copenhagen) talk “A fine loud grabble and snatch of AAA and WPA: Faulkner, Hurston, Bontemps and the Depression South” at the colloquium made for a promising beginning on May 9th. On June 27th, he was followed by Andrea Carosso

(Università degli Studi di Torino) who spoke on the Othering of Arabs and Muslims in the United States before and after 9/11. José David Saldívar from Stanford University temporarily joined the literature department as visiting professor. Besides co-teaching a Master's seminar on Postcolonial Literary Theory with Ulla Haselstein, he gave insight into controversial author Junot Diaz's literary negotiation of love in his talk “On the ‘Half-Life’ of Love” on July 4th. The last month of the semester proved a busy one for the literature department with Chloé Thomas (Université Paris VIII) speaking on the windowpane metaphor in American theories and practices of poetry and Sabine Broeck (Universität Bremen) presenting her research on “Gender, the Slave Metaphor, and the Abjection of Blackness.”

Following her interest in Gertrude Stein's literary portraits and her early twentieth-century psychological experiments on attention and automatism, **Ulla Haselstein** spoke on “Ökonomien der Aufmerksamkeit” at the 50th anniversary of the renowned journal *Poetica* in Cologne, and presented an english version of talk at the conference “Current Tendencies in Contemporary American Fiction” (22-23 June 2018) in Hamburg. Each year, the Freie Universität Berlin offers an interdisciplinary lecture series that aims to make academic scholarship more accessible for the general public and to open for discussion current issues in science and society. As part of this semester's series on female Nobel Prize winners, Professor Haselstein gave a lecture on Toni Morrison who was awarded the prize in 1993.

In April, **James Dorson** participated in the DFG-funded research network “Narrative Liminality and/ in the Formation of American Modernities” at Leipzig University. In the framework of this group, Dorson is pursuing a project titled “Narrating Complex Causality,” which examines the challenges to narrativity posed by large-scale phenomena that resist representation in the form of causal sequentiality. In May, Dorson's article “Industrial Transcendence: Jack London and the Spirits of Capitalism” appeared in the collection of essays titled *Revisionist Approaches to American Realism and Naturalism*, edited by Jutta Ernst, Sabina Matter-Seibel, and Klaus H. Schmidt. The article is related to his habilitation project.

The literature department is committed to providing a

learning environment for students that, even as it fosters competence in literary analysis and critical thinking, allows for engagement with the contemporary literary scene. In May, we organized a student excursion to see Michael Thalheimer's production of "A Streetcar Named Desire" at the Berliner Ensemble. After the performance, students had the opportunity to share their thoughts on the production in a discussion mediated by Thomas Irmer, formerly of the JFKI. Our theatre outings have met with an enthusiastic response from students; hence, we hope to continue the practice in the coming years. We could not have been more pleased, moreover, to welcome Claudia Rankine, author of *Citizen: An American Lyric* as keynote speaker at the DGfA conference. She introduced the audience to the work of The Racial Imaginary Institute, which she founded in 2017, with money awarded to her as a MacArthur fellow, and urged audience members to critically interrogate the concept of Whiteness as well as to reconsider their own subject positions, both in their critical endeavors and in everyday life. In June, the literature department then hosted Lan Samantha Chang, Program Director of the prestigious Iowa Writer's Workshop, for a reading and discussion of her upcoming novel. She was accompanied by graduates of the Workshop who answered questions on the writing process and their personal journeys as writers.

Siofra McSherry received the postdoctoral stipend of the Dahlem Research School (DRS). Congratulations!

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science was able to welcome **Peter Andreas**, the John Hay Professor of International Studies and Political Science of Brown University, Rhode Island as visiting professor for the Graduate School of North American Studies. Andreas also gave a panel on his upcoming book project with the working title "Killer High: A History of War in Six Drugs" (under contract with Oxford University Press), exploring the relationship between warfare and mind altering substances, from ancient times to the present.

Christian Lammert

In April, **Christian Lammert** and **Boris Vormann** (Bard

College), formerly visiting professor at the John F. Kennedy Institute, discussed the topic "The Crisis as a Chance" at the Transatlantic Breakfast of the Heinrich Böll Foundation. At the colloquium „Illiberal democracy? Reconciling Liberalism and Democracy Today," jointly organized by Bard College Berlin and the Hertie School of Governance, he gave a panel on "North Atlantic Comparisons: The United States and the European Union." The colloquium addressed the tension between liberalism and democracy in light of rising authoritarian and "illiberal" tendencies around the globe, notwithstanding the apparent solidity of the democracies concerned. On occasion of the book launch of „Democracy and the Welfare State: The Two Wests in the Age of Austerity" (eds. Alice Kessler-Harris and Maurizio Vaudagna) by Columbia University Press in Paris on May 29th, Christian Lammert spoke on "The Welfare State and the Crisis of Democracy: Paths into the Crisis and Ways Out!" In the book, leading historians and social scientists rethink the history of social democracy and the welfare state in the United States and Europe in relation to global transformations of the economic order. His article, "Privatization and Self-Responsibility: Patterns of Welfare-State Development in Europe and the United States since the 1990s" was published in Part II of the book under the heading "Varieties of Retrenchment." To conclude the semester, Lammert again spoke on democracy in crisis at the Summer European Academy 2018 of Texas A&M University in Passau. As American politics continues to be hotly debated in German media, so researchers at the politics department remain in high demand as expert commentators. Since the beginning of the year, Christian Lammert has appeared on numerous radio shows, including *SRF*, *HR 2*, *Radioeins* and *Deutschlandradio Kultur*.

Lora Viola

May saw the launch of the DFG-funded TATAS project (Trust and Transparency in an Age of Surveillance). In collaboration with Paweł Laidler from Jagiellonian University in Crakow and Abel Reiberg, post-doc researcher at the Freie Universität, Lora Viola explores the theoretical and empirical relationship between trust in government, government transparency, and security surveillance policies. TATAS's comparative approach relies on a thorough empirical analysis and study of the political and legal context of American surveillance practices in order to understand how these affect legal and political deci-

sions on surveillance practices in Germany and Poland. In November, the research group will hold its first workshop at the John F. Kennedy Institute, followed by one in Cracow in 2019. We are also happy to announce that Viola was awarded a research fellowship from the „Center for Advanced Studies“ at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) to participate in the research group “Power Shifts and Institutional Change in International Organizations” from Oct. 2018 to Oct. 2019. Led by Bernhard Zangl, the project asks why attempts at institutional adaptation succeed or fail in the context of shifts in international distribution of power. It inquires after the conditions under which different pathways to institutional adaptation in new power realities are chosen. Besides continuing her research, Viola has held numerous talks, among them “Coping with the Global Power Shift” at Jagiellonian University in May and “Strengths and Weaknesses of Multilateral Organizations” at the Aspen Institute in Berlin in June.

Thomas Greven

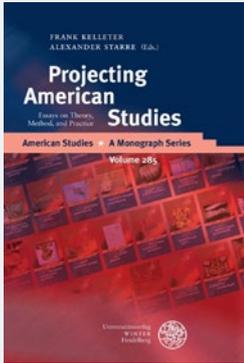
Thomas Greven continues to write a column on American politics for the online journal “Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft” and its English edition “International Politics and Society.” In addition to reviewing various books and comics for German-language media, Greven wrote on subjects as varied as French comics artist Catel Muller’s work (for specialist magazine *Comixene*) and the state of politics and economics in Senegal (with Annette Lohmann) for Bertelsmann. At the 15th International Workshop on Right-Wing Extremism in New Orleans, Louisiana, Greven furthermore presented a paper on “Globalization and the Far Right. The Backlash Hypothesis Revisited.” Throughout the semester, he gave talks on globalization and populism (Universität Mainz, “Rechtsextremistische Vernetzung. Die ‘globalisierte Anti-Globalisierungsbewegung?’”), on US unionism (Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, Georgia, “The Wobblies: Industrial Workers of the World”), and on French comics artist Catel Muller at Humboldt University. He also participated in panel discussions on “Comic Journalism: Zwischen Kunst und Information” at the 18th International Comic Salon, Erlangen (May 31st – June 3rd 2018), and on “The Mainstreaming of Right-Wing Extremism” at Tulane University, New Orleans (May 8th).

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Anne Nassauer

During the summer semester Anne Nassauer continued data collection and analysis for her project on rampage school shootings in the United States. Her paper on an interdisciplinary approach to analyzing social outcomes caught on video (co-authored with Nicolas Legewie, DIW), was published in *Sociological Methods & Research*. She also co-launched a website on the approach (VideoDataAnalysis.com). Her analysis of protest violence in the US and Germany was published in *Psychology of Violence* and her analysis of CCTV footage of armed store robberies in the US was published in the *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*. In May, she presented a paper on US activists’ representation of protests at the DGfA Conference at the JFKI. In June, she organized the JFKI events at the *Lange Nacht der Wissenschaften* together with Martin Lüthe, where she also presented her analysis of YouTube footage of armed robberies. In July, she presented her findings on rampage shootings at the *International Sociological Association World Congress in Sociology* in Toronto and in August, she presented a paper on her interdisciplinary theory on a human peaceful or violent nature at the *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting* in Philadelphia. In Philadelphia, she also co-taught a workshop on Video Data Analysis. In spring 2018, she signed a book contract with *Oxford University Press* to publish her doctoral and postdoctoral research in a book entitled “Situational Breakdowns: Protest Violence and Beyond,” for which she will submit the final manuscript in September.

PUBLICATIONS

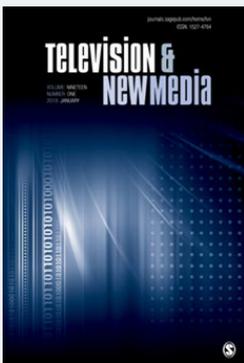


Frank Kelleter and Alexander Starre, ed. *Projecting American Studies: Essays on Theory, Method, and Practice*. Heidelberg: Winter, 2018. 314 pages

How do theories, methods, and scholarly practices shape major research projects currently underway in American Studies? In twenty original essays, the contributors to ‘Projecting American Studies’ interrogate their ongoing work in various interdisciplinary contexts, shedding light on contemporary Americanist practices, styles, and publics. In keeping with the original meaning of the French term *essai*, each contribution is a try, an attempt, an experiment: Several chapters employ a personal tone, others distill their arguments into condensed prose, some use non-linear formats.

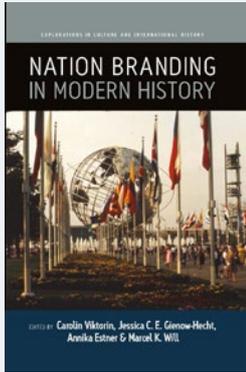
All contributors openly reflect on the future of American Studies in its interchange with Literary, Cultural, and Media Studies as well as with History and Political Science. Avoiding the rhetoric of “turns” and paradigm shifts, ‘Projecting American Studies’ aims to replace perennial appeals to do things differently with sustainable ideas for how to do things better.

Contributors: Frank Kelleter, Alexander Starre, Christoph Ribbat, James Dorson, Klaus Benesch, Winfried Fluck, Florian Sedlmeier, Aleksandra Boss, Martin Klepper, Martin Lütke, Julia Sattler, Barbara Buchenau, Jens Gurr, Rita Felski, Heike Paul, Boris Vormann, Simon Wendt, Sabine Sielke, Babette B. Tischleder, Laura Bieger, Johannes Voelz, Daniel Stein, Ruth Mayer



Kathleen Loock, ed. „American TV Series Revivals.“ Special issue of *Television & New Media* 19.4 (2018).

The special issue “American TV Series Revivals,” edited by Kathleen Loock, is the first collection of articles dedicated to the current revival trend on American television. It examines contemporary American TV series revivals with a focus on production and reception contexts as well as the industrial, cultural, and textual practices involved. Each essay is concerned with a different case study and brings a distinct approach to the analysis of the trend on American network television and the online streaming service Netflix. Together, they analyze how revivals rely on past TV experiences to circulate new products through the crowded contemporary media landscape, and how they seek to negotiate the televisual heritage of original series, feelings of generational belonging, as well as notions of the past, present, and future in meaningful ways. The contributions by Matt Hills, Felix Brinker, Julia Leyda, Kathleen Loock, and Ryan Lizardi cover the revivals of *Twin Peaks*, *The X-Files*, *Full House*, *Arrested Development*, and *Gilmore Girls*.



Carolin Viktorin, Jessica C. E. Gienow-Hecht, Annika Estner, Marcel K. Will, ed.
Nation Branding in Modern History. Berghahn, 2018. 300 pages

A recent coinage within international relations, “nation branding” designates the process of highlighting a country’s positive characteristics for promotional purposes, using techniques similar to those employed in marketing and public relations. *Nation Branding in Modern History* takes an innovative approach to illuminating this contested concept, drawing on fascinating case studies in the United States, China, Poland, Suriname, and many other countries, from the nineteenth century to the present. It supplements these empirical contributions with a series of historiographical essays and analyses of key primary documents, making for a rich and multivalent investigation into the nexus of cultural marketing, self-representation, and political power.

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