

Organized and Hosted by the Departments of Culture and Literature

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John Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien



Imagining Culture

Norms and Forms of Public Discourse in America

June 26-28, 2009

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Norms and Forms of Public Discourse in America An inte

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An international conference organized by the Departments of Culture and Literature of the John F. Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikastudien, Freie Universität Berlin

PROGRAM

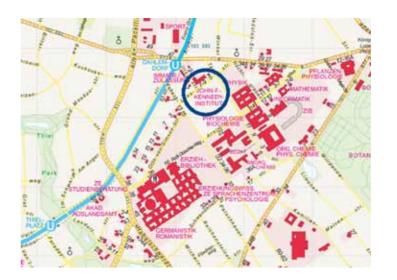
Friday, June 26		11:00 -12:15	Ramón Saldívar (Stanford University)	Sunday, June 28		16:00-16:30	Coffee
17:00-18:00 18:00-19:15	Welcome & Introduction Wanda Corn (Stanford University) "'America is my country and Paris is my hometown.' Gertrude Stein as Transnational Modernist"	12:15-13:30	"The Transnational Imaginary in Postrace America" Introduction: Sieglinde Lemke (Universität Freiburg) Lunch	09:00-10:15	Christa Buschendorf (Universität Frankfurt) "The Shaping of We-Group Ideals: A Sociological Perspective on the Imaginary" Introduction: Martin Klepper (Humboldt Universität Berlin)	16:30-17:45	Donald Pease (Dartmouth College) "Barack Obama: Changing America's State of Fantasy" Introduction: Johannes Völz (Universität Frankfurt)
Afterwards	Introduction: Laura Bieger (Freie Universität Berlin) Opening Reception	13:30-14:45	Mark Seltzer (University of California at Los Angeles) "Parlor Games" Introduction: Frank Mehring	10:15-10:45 10:45 -12:00	Coffee Herwig Friedl (Universität Düsseldorf)	Afterwards	Closing Reception
Cotundou Iun		14:45-16:00	(Freie Universität Berlin) Ulla Haselstein (Freie Universität Berlin) "Poses of Fiction"		"William James vs. Charles Taylor: Philosophy of Religion and the Confines of the Social and Cultural Imaginaries" Introduction: Kirsten Twelbeck		
Saturday, June 27			Poses of Fiction Introduction: Simon Schleusener		(Universität Hannover)		
09:00-9:15	Welcome by Peter Claussen Cultural Attaché of the U.S. embassy,		(Freie Universität Berlin)	12:00-13:30	Lunch		
	Berlin	16:00-16:30	Coffee	13:30-14:45	Hortense Spillers (Vanderbilt University)		
09:15-10:30	Walter Benn Michaels (University of Illinois at Chicago) "Real Toads" Introduction: Thomas Claviez (University of Stavanger)	16:30-17:45	Heinz Ickstadt (Freie Universität Berlin) "Imaginaries of American Modernism" Introduction: Hannah Spahn (Freie Universität Berlin)	14:45-16:00	"Some Thoughts on the African Diaspora" Introduction: Stefan Brandt (Freie Universität Berlin) Paul Giles		
10:30-11:00	Coffee	17:45-19:00	Eva Illouz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) "Imagination, Love, Modernity" Introduction: Susanne Rohr (Universität Hamburg)		(Oxford University) "The Transnational Imaginary: A Reply to Winfried Fluck" Introduction: Christof Decker (Universität München)		

CONFERENCE THEME

NOTES

The concept of the imaginary has preoccupied the humanities for the last thirty years. The term's lasting attractiveness may best be explained by its promise to throw light on the relay between the realm of the individual and that of the collective, as well as on the relation between normativization and re-valuation. Recently, the debate has shifted to collective imaginaries which are inscribed into subjects by processes of identity formation, such as national, postcolonial, to transnational imaginaries. These imaginaries organize the norms and values shared by all individuals belonging to a certain social entity; these norms and values in turn inform the imagination of the individuals and structure their actions and their fantasies. Yet, this recent focus on collective imaginaries seems to risk reducing the imaginary to an instrument of subject positioning. To what extent is it possible to enrich this recent shift by the insights provided by earlier theorists of the imaginary coming from such traditions as phenomenology, existentialism, and psychoanalysis? By the same token, in what ways can the proliferation of "imaginaries" in recent criticism be used to build on these philosophical traditions? For instance, the emphasis on transnational and environmental imaginations have suggested that questions of spatiality must figure in theories of the imaginary more prominently. A renewed theoretical rigor would allow us to deepen our understanding of the conditions of the imaginary in a world in which communal and spatial boundaries are increasingly becoming disparate.

LOCATION MAP



CONFERENCE LOCATION

Freie Universität Berlin John F. Kennedy-Institut Lansstr, 7-9, 14195 Berlin (U-Bahn Dahlem Dorf)