



HEIDELBERG  
CENTER  
FOR AMERICAN  
STUDIES



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

# AUTHORITY AND TRUST IN AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Annual Conference of the Political  
Science Section of the German  
Association for American Studies  
(GAAS/DGfA)

June 6-8, 2024



Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Amerikastudien



Atlantische  
Akademie



**GKAT**

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## DAY 1 – THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

06:00 pm, Welcome and Opening Keynote Address  
**On the Democratic Duty to Trust the People**

**Roberto Frega**, French National Scientific  
Research Center (CNRS)

in cooperation with the Graduiertenkolleg “Authority and Trust”  
(GKAT). Followed by a reception at the HCA.

## DAY 2 – FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

08:45 – 09:00 am, Welcome

09:00 – 10:30 am, Panel 1

### **Authority and Trust in American Media and the Digital Sphere**

Chair: Sarah Wagner

**Mike Cowburn** (Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)) –  
*Blasting the Elephant: Reconceptualizing Right-Wing “Alternative  
News” as Republican “Digital Surrogates”*

**Matt Sheedy** (University of Bonn) – *Remixed Spiritualities and  
the Gurus who Shape Them: On the Authority of Popular Digital  
Influencers*

**Caroline Leicht** (University of Southampton) – *#WomenWin –  
How Gendered Representations of Candidates in Political Satire  
Affect Public Discourse during US Presidential Elections*

**Christoph Rosa** (Free University Berlin) – *Partisanship and news  
media consumption as moderators of the COVID 19 pandemic’s  
impact on mental health in America*

10:30 – 11:00 am, Coffee Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Panel 2

### **Authority and Trust in the Supreme Court, Justice System, and the Role of Polarization**

Chair: Michael Dreyer

**Sebastian Dregger** (University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt) – *The  
US Supreme Court as Guardian of the Constitution – Losing  
„Authority“ (as understood by Hannah Arendt)?*

**Sofie Sabbioni** (University of Basel) – *“Fuck the government  
and the corrupt justice system”: Distrust and Rejection of State  
Authority in U.S. American Far-Right Fiction*

**Manfred Berg** (Heidelberg University) – *Gun Rights and  
Polarization*

12:30 – 01:30 pm, Lunch at HCA

01:30 – 03:00 pm, Panel 3  
**American Authority in the World**

Chair: David Sirakov

**Marcus Dietrich** (Heidelberg University) – *In the Dollar we  
(must) trust? A socialist perspective on the emergence of  
international finance*

**Jan Hornat** (Charles University Prague) – *State responsabilization  
and the reproduction of the liberal international order: the US  
and the appeals of status recognition*

**Eva Rieger** (University of Passau) – *Bigotry, bombs, and burkas  
– Contestations of feminism in US foreign policy*

**Richard Lange** (Heidelberg University) – *How Distrust in Europe  
Changed American Global Authority - Anti-Europeanism and EU-  
criticism in United States Foreign Policy after the Cold War*

03:00 – 03:30 pm, Coffee Break

03:30 – 05:00 pm, Panel 4

### **Domestic Division, Foreign Policy Volatility, and International Trust of U.S. Global Authority**

Chairs: Florian Böller, Gordon Friedrichs

**Julia Simon** (University of Bremen) – *The transatlantic transfer  
of domestic divisions: Anti-Wokeness as right-wing civilizational  
populism*

**Hubert Zimmermann** (University of Marburg) – *Ending the  
Forever Wars: Discourse Coalitions in U.S. Debates on Military  
Intervention Abroad*

**Jakob Wiedekind** (Leibniz Universität Hannover) – *Shifting  
Tides: Patterns of Lawmaking in US Foreign Policy*

**Gordon Friedrichs** (MPIL Heidelberg), **Florian Böller** (RPTU  
Kaiserslautern-Landau) – *Does Anybody Care? Grasping the  
Effect of Domestic Polarization on U.S. International Relations*

05:00 – 05:30 pm, Coffee Break

05:30 – 07:00 pm, Keynote II

### **Authority and Trust in the Age of Social Media and AI: What to Expect in the Super-Election Year of 2024**

**Ulrike Klinger**, Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)/  
Slubice

8.00 pm, Conference dinner for conference participants  
at Urban Kitchen

## DAY 3 – SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

09:00 – 9:45 am, Business Meeting

10:00 am – 11:30 am, Panel 5  
**Authority and Trust in the GOP, Conservatism, and  
Radicalization**

Chair: Martin Thunert

**Philipp Adorf** (University of Bonn) – *The Party of the Working  
Class or the Party of White Nationalism? The Composition of the  
GOP in the Trump Era*

**Zoe Krueger Weisel** (Eurac Research, Bozen) – *Conservatives  
and science: Understanding U.S. conservatives’ growing distrust  
in science*

**Grit Grigoleit-Richter** (University of Passau) – *The Racial Trust  
Gap*

11:30 – 11:45 am, Coffee Break

11:45 am – 01:15 pm, Panel 6  
**Democracy and the Question of Scale**

Chair: Christian Lammert

**Dirk Jörke** (TU Darmstadt) – *The Federalism of the Anti-  
Federalists*

**Ewa Atanassow** (Bard College, Berlin) – *Tocqueville’s dilemmas,  
and ours*

**Laura Kettel** (Aarhus University) – *State Level Incentives in  
Housing Policy*

**Boris Vormann** (Bard College, Berlin), **Christian Lammert** (Free  
University Berlin) – *Authority, Legitimacy, and Scale*

01:15 pm, Concluding Remarks

01:30 pm, Light Lunch and End of Conference