



Heidelberg Center for American Studies

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

SPECIAL FEATURE

Martin Thunert & Tobias Endler:

"Hope and Change? Appraising the

Obama Era and Envisioning the Trump Presidency"



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RECTOR'S WELCOME

PROF. DR. DR. H.C. BERNHARD EITEL
RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HEIDELBERG

Dear Reader,

This fall, the Ruperto Carola mourns its long-time friend and patron Curt Engelhorn, who passed away on October 13 at ninety. This is a great loss for the university and, more specifically, for the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA). As an honorary senator of the university for more than fifty years, promoting bonds between the Ruperto Carola and the United States was always near and dear to Curt Engelhorn. Through his support for a library for American history, for an endowed chair in American history, and for the founding and sustainment of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, he contributed immensely to American Studies in Heidelberg.

Curt Engelhorn would have felt vindicated had he lived to see the mid-November decision of the German Research Foundation to fund with three and a half million euros a new research training group in the field of interdisciplinary American Studies. Based at the HCA, the project will focus on "Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History and Politics" and will bring together scholars from all disciplines represented at the HCA as well as associate scholars from Germany, Europe, and North America. The topic is of great interest for the humanities and the social sciences as well as for the general public. In addition, the research training group is based on an innovative qualification concept that ties in well with the comprehensive concept of graduate training that the Ruperto Carola has developed in recent years. I am confident that, with this project, the HCA will assert and expand its position as one of the most visible centers for American Studies in Europe.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Bernhard Eitel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Bernhard Eitel
Rector of the University of Heidelberg



PREFACE

PROF. DR. DR. H.C. DETLEF JUNKER
FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE HCA

Dear Friends and Benefactors, Students, and Colleagues,

Institutions and the people who work there can only be successful when they can rely on a resource that is always scarce: trust. That is also true for our Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA), which—in a mere twelve years—has become one of the leading European centers for American Studies.

In the past months we had to realize almost painfully, how much our development and our productivity have depended on the trust of a great benefactor, Curt Engelhorn, an honorary senator of Heidelberg University for fifty-two years. He passed away on October 13, 2016 (see obituary pages 8-9).

Curt Engelhorn was “present at the creation.” Since 1991, when I first met the entrepreneur, he generously and systematically supported American Studies at Heidelberg, first underwriting the Schurman Library for American History, then endowing the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at the History Department, and finally significantly funding the HCA. Our splendid home in Heidelberg’s Old Town, the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais, bears witness to Curt Engelhorn’s exceptional sense of style, which is shared by his wife Heidemarie, who is committed to preserving and developing her late husband’s philanthropic legacy here in Heidelberg.

That legacy encompasses B.A. students who tell us how much they appreciate an at once aesthetic and intellectual environment unlike any other in Germany—and how much they had come to appreciate it even more after moving on to other universities. It also encompasses M.A. graduates from—for example—China or Uzbekistan who remember their time at the Engelhorn Palais as a life changing experience and a stepping stone to a previously unattainable career; Ph.D. candidates who have moved on to head think tanks in Chile or rise in the ranks of the UNESCO in Paris; the American doctoral student from Hawaii who confessed that the HCA Spring Academy made her “realize that Germany is a special place”; numerous visiting professors from around the world who enjoyed the spirited atmosphere and convivance at the HCA; and—last but certainly not least—several U.S. Ambassadors to Germany and one President of the United States of

America who praised and acknowledged the work done at the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais.

Those who support the HCA may trust that we will not rest on our laurels. In fact, starting next year, the HCA will take another “great leap forward” when a new research training group, funded with 3.5 million euros by the German Research Foundation (DFG) will resume work at the Engelhorn Palais. Focusing on “Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History, and Politics,” (see page 98) the group will be guided by ten researchers from seven different disciplines, plus associated scholars from Germany, Europe, and North America. Professor Manfred Berg (Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History) will serve as the training group's speaker, Professor Günter Leypoldt (English Department) as its co-speaker.

Hardly could anyone have envisioned how prescient the project would appear once an enormous loss of authority and trust catapulted Donald Trump into the White House. The topic of the research training group has become—in plain view now—a central problem for the United States and its position in the world.

A powerful manifestation of trust, by way of contrast, is the decision of the Ruperto Carola to create a new full professorship in American Studies for my successor. Within a few short years, this new position is the third created at the HCA, next to the two bridge professorships for the history of Christianity in North America and for human geography of North America.

Last but not least, the HCA continues to win the trust of students from near and far. This fall, almost one hundred students were enrolled in our B.A. program. Our international master's program has thus far attracted 216 students from 49 countries; this year for the first time from Azerbaijan, France, New Zealand, and Syria. Our Ph.D. program has graduated 17 students; 19 are currently enrolled. The HCA Spring Academy is another highly successful program that since its inception in 2004 has received almost 1,200 applications from 67 countries and has brought together 269 Ph.D. students from 41 countries.

On behalf of everyone on the HCA's faculty and staff, I want to thank all those—donors and dignitaries, grant givers and guest professors, colleagues and students—who have hitherto and will further on put their trust in the HCA. With your trust and tower, we will be able to continue to speak with authority on matters pertaining to the United States of America

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Detlef Junker', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker
Founding Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies



OBITUARY

CURT ENGELHORN (1926-2016) ENTREPRENEUR AND BENEFACTOR

Curt Engelhorn, who demonstrated a remarkable presence of mind just last May at his ninetieth birthday celebration, has been taken from us. With his passing, our region, and especially Heidelberg University, has lost an exceptional personality and an exceptional benefactor.

For decades, Curt Engelhorn was a successful entrepreneur, working passionately to transform a traditional family business in Mannheim into a global enterprise with sales of over four billion dollars and 20,000 employees. When he sold Boehringer Mannheim and a company in Delaware for eleven billion dollars to the Swiss Roche Group in 1997, it seemed like an economic earthquake. Until the end of his life, Curt Engelhorn was proud that this prudent decision secured a great many jobs in the Rhein-Neckar region.

Curt Engelhorn's entrepreneurial lifework was part and parcel of the golden decades of the twentieth century. On the one hand, he was lucky to begin his career during this period of exceptional economic growth. On the other hand, he possessed the business acumen to utilize these conditions and, through a series of daring decisions, to push the development, the internationalization, and the globalization of Boehringer Mannheim.

A fascinating characteristic of Curt Engelhorn's personality was the exceptional scope of his interests, many of which he was still passionately speaking about on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday. He was interested in history, politics, business, the natural sciences, technology, but also in painting and music. He was a collector and an art enthusiast who especially loved classical modernism. This sense of form and beauty was also evident in his role as builder and architect; his wife, Heidemarie Engelhorn, has always shared this passion.

Curt Engelhorn was a German-American globetrotter with roots in Munich, Garmisch, Mannheim, and Heidelberg, and with residences in the United States, England, Switzerland, and France, as well as in Bermuda, where he owned a small island. Travel, changes of location, and invigorating encounters were integral parts of his existence. I often discussed problems of world history and global economics with him. But it could also happen that he would suddenly draw me into a conversation about the problems that the secretly Unitarian Isaac Newton—the physicist of God—had at Trinity College in Oxford.

Curt Engelhorn's life was characterized by enormous possibilities and achievements, but also by enormous stresses and strains. His complex and sometimes complicated personality was much more difficult to fathom than his cosmopolitan outlook and friendly manners suggested. A future biographer may sigh: "Will the real Mr. Engelhorn please stand up?"

Heidelberg University can consider itself lucky that Curt Engelhorn's life was closely linked to the United States, since this is the only way to understand his continued dedication to advancing the field of American Studies at the Ruperto Carola. Curt Engelhorn's mother was an American artist with German roots, who survived two world wars in Germany. In 1947, after divorcing Curt Engelhorn's father, she made the momentous decision to return to the U.S. with Curt Engelhorn and his sister. In the western zones, before the currency reform of 1948, there seemed to be no future for them. Curt Engelhorn studied chemical engineering at the University of Texas in Austin, somehow managing to make ends meet, and, after getting his degree, found a job as a chemical engineer at a pharmaceutical company in New Jersey. Later, he returned to Germany to enter the family business.

Curt Engelhorn's American roots contributed to his decision to vigorously and unceasingly support American Studies at Heidelberg University: first through the creation of a library for American history, then through the endowment of the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History, and, finally, through the establishment of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) with its exceptional residence, the Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais at Hauptstraße 120. Due to the critical support of the Engelhorn family, over the last decade the HCA has emerged as one of the leading American Studies institutes in Europe with a thoroughgoing international and multidisciplinary outlook.

Last but not least, on the occasion of the 625th anniversary of the Ruperto Carola in 2011, the Engelhorns resolved upon the renovation of the university's largest lecture hall, the auditorium in the so-called New University, complete with its splendid organ. Curt Engelhorn thereby—and quite deliberately—placed himself in the tradition of U.S. Ambassador Jacob Gould Schurman. After all, it was Schurman who, shortly before the Great Crash of 1929, managed to raise half a million dollars from Wall Street businessmen in order to give Heidelberg its own "White House"—the New University.

Curt Engelhorn has supported the University of Heidelberg for decades. For fifty-two years he served as honorary senator at the Ruperto Carola. His wife Heidemarie was appointed honorary senator in 2008. She is determined to preserve and further promote her husband's tremendous philanthropic legacy in Heidelberg.

Detlef Junker



THE HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR
AMERICAN STUDIES

MISSION STATEMENT

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) is a central academic facility of the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. As an intellectual center dedicated to the study of the United States, the HCA serves as an institute for higher education, as a center for interdisciplinary research, and as a forum for public debate. Building on long-standing ties between Heidelberg and the United States, the HCA also fosters interdisciplinary and intercultural exchange across the Atlantic.

Officially inaugurated in 2004, the HCA has become one of the leading centers for American Studies in Europe. It provides excellent research and education opportunities for scholars and students from all over the world. In addition, the HCA strengthens the profile of Heidelberg University as one of Germany's finest academic institutions. Heidelberg University's 630-year-old tradition of excellence, its international reputation, and its strong record in the study of the United States combine to create the ideal environment for the HCA.

BENEFACTORS

Although the HCA is legally and institutionally a central academic institution of Heidelberg University, financially it is perhaps the only public-private partnership (PPP) in the humanities in Germany. Without the long-standing support and patronage of dedicated benefactors, the founding and continuous operation of the HCA would not have been possible. The HCA is sincerely grateful for the generosity of many individuals, corporations, and institutions.

This report is testimony to the generous support of our benefactors, whose contributions are acknowledged on these pages. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all individuals, institutions, and corporations who have supported the HCA for many years, among them six honorary senators of Heidelberg University: Curt Engelhorn (†), Heidemarie Engelhorn, Soyehl Ghaemian, Rolf Kentner, Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, and Dr. Hans-Peter Wild. In addition, the HCA gratefully appreciates, in alphabetical order, the donations of Claudia Bussmann, Dr. Martin Bussmann, and the Ladenburg Foundation; Dr. Kurt Bock and the BASF Group; Elfie and Ray Carrell; Herbert A. Jung; and Dr. Oliver Neumann and the John Deere Company. Donations from these benefactors not only enabled the institutional development of the HCA in general but also provided several scholarships for its master's and Ph.D. programs as well as funding for conferences.

With exceptional generosity, Honorary Senators Curt Engelhorn (†) and Heidemarie Engelhorn have provided the Heidelberg Center for American Studies with a sound financial footing for years to come. In 2008, they committed to supporting the HCA with 400,000 EUR annually for ten years. Simultaneous with this long-term financial support, the Engelhorn family most hospitably put the Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais at the HCA's free disposal and, moreover, underwrote construction of an annex to the landmarked palais that houses additional academic facilities and was dedicated in October 2009 (see pages 28-29).

Again, the Ladenburg Foundation and the Friends of the HCA, headquartered in New York City, have been pillars of institutional support. The Ghaemian Foundation supported the HCA from 2007 to 2012. It established the Ghaemian Travel Fund for scholars in 2007. From 2009 to 2013, the foundation offered a Ghaemian Scholar-in-Residence fellowship as well. The first recipient of this fellowship was Professor Rashida Braggs, who came to the HCA from Stanford University, followed by professors Patrick S. Roberts from Virginia Tech University, Charles Postel from San Francisco State University, and Sarah-Jane Mathieu from the University of Minnesota.

One of the most active benefactors of American Studies in Heidelberg since 1991, Rolf Kentner, established the Rolf-Kentner-Dissertation Prize in 2010. This annual award recognizes an outstanding and yet unpublished dissertation submitted to a German University. In 2010, the award went to Daniel Stein from the University of Göttingen; the 2011 recipient was Frank Usbeck from the University of Leipzig; in 2012, Leonard Schmieding, also from the University of Leipzig, received this award; in 2013, the Kentner Prize was awarded to Jasper M. Trautsch, who received his doctorate from the Free University Berlin; in 2014 the award went to Juliane Braun from the University of Würzburg; Tom Kaden from the University of Leipzig received the Kentner Prize in 2015; the 2016 recipient of the Kentner Prize was Birte Wege from the Free University of Berlin (see pages 96).

Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger and the Lautenschläger Foundation continued their longtime support of the HCA by providing the initial funding for a new and exciting program set up jointly by the HCA and the Faculty of Theology: the James W. C. Pennington Award. On the occasion of the award's inauguration, the HCA was honored to receive a message of greetings from U.S. President Barack Obama acknowledging this new initiative (see HCA annual report 2010-11). In 2012, this prestigious award, named for the first African American to receive an honorary doctorate from a European University, brought the first preeminent visiting scholar in this program to the HCA, Professor Albert J. Raboteau from Princeton University, followed by Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham from Harvard in 2013, Professor Laurie Maffly-Kipp from Washington University in St. Louis in 2014, Professor William L. Andrews from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 2015, and Professor John Witte Jr. from Emory University in 2016.

During the academic year 2015-16, ten MAS students and three Ph.D. candidates were privileged to enjoy the support of the BASF Group, Elfie and Ray Carrell, Curt Engelhorn (†) and Heidemarie Engelhorn, and the Leonie Wild Foundation. And once more, the 2016 Spring Academy was made possible due to the generosity of the John Deere Company.

Last but not least, two foundations, the Schurman Foundation and the Friends of the HCA (FHCA), are responsible for managing parts of our privately donated funds. With a registered office in Heidelberg, the Schurman Foundation is in charge of tax-deductible contributions to the HCA from Europe and Germany.

Jacob Gould Schurman Verein
c/o Heidelberg Center for American Studies
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Since the spring of 2004, the American counterpart of the Schurman Foundation, the FHCA, has administered tax-deductible donations to the HCA from the United States:

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ORGANIZATION

As a central academic institution of Heidelberg University, the HCA is not part of a single faculty or department but is directly affiliated with the rector's office. A board of trustees (Kuratorium), composed of long-time supporters of the HCA and chief executives of Heidelberg University, advises the HCA in structural and financial affairs as well as in the solicitation of donations. A Board of Directors, one from each of the six faculties participating in the HCA, provides advice on strategic decisions and supervises the center's academic activities. Founding Director Professor Detlef Junker heads the HCA; daily business is managed by Executive Director Dr. Wilfried Mausbach.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In November 2005, the HCA established a Board of Trustees. Today, it consists of eleven members, all of them long-time supporters of the HCA and of the endeavor to create a leading center for American Studies and transatlantic exchange at Heidelberg University. Along with HCA Founding Director Professor Detlef Junker they are: Dr. Kurt Bock (BASF Group, Ludwigshafen), Dr. Martin Bussmann (Mannheim LLC, New York), Ray Carrell, Curt Engelhorn (†), Heidemarie Engelhorn, Rolf Kentner (BW-Bank, Mannheim), Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger (MLP Group, Heidelberg), Dr. Hans-Peter Wild (Rudolf-Wild-Werke GmbH & Co KG, Eppelheim), and the rector of Heidelberg University, Professor Bernhard Eitel. In 2014, and after rendering great service to the HCA since its inception, Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan left the Board of Trustees. His successor is Joachim Häger of BNF Bank. The Board of Trustees meets at least once a year to discuss the institute's progress and to advise its future developments.



DR. KURT BOCK

Dr. Kurt Bock is chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF. Since 2003 he has been a member of the Board of Executive Directors and served as chief financial officer of the BASF Group, responsible for finance, corporate controlling, global procurement and logistics, and information services as well as for corporate audit. In this capacity, his responsibilities also included the North America regional division. Dr. Bock was born in Rahden, Germany, in 1958. From 1977 to 1982, he studied business administration at the universities of Münster and Cologne as well as at Pennsylvania State University. He received his doctorate in economics from the University of Bonn in 1985. He joined BASF's finance division in 1985 and served as executive assistant to the CFO until 1991 and as head of technology, planning and controlling, engineering plastics division until 1992. In 1992 he joined the Robert Bosch GmbH in Stuttgart, first as senior vice president, finance and accounting, before becoming managing director of Bosch Brazil. In 1998, he returned to BASF, this time as CFO of BASF Corporation, Mount Olive, New Jersey. In 2000, Dr. Bock became president of logistics and information services at BASF headquarters in Ludwigshafen. As a member of the Schurman Foundation he has been involved in promoting research and education in American history and culture at Heidelberg University for many years. (Photo courtesy BASF SE)



DR. MARTIN BUSSMANN

Dr. Martin Bussmann is a trustee of the Mannheim Trust in New York. He is managing director of Mannheim LLC and also active in other portfolio companies of the Mannheim Trust. He spent 15 years in the health care and chemical industry with Knoll AG, Abbott Laboratories, and BASF in Europe and in the United States. Dr. Bussmann obtained his law degree from Heidelberg University in 1975 and was a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School in 1977. He received his Dr. juris. utriusque degree from Heidelberg University in 1978.



RAY CARRELL

Ray Carrell was born in Texas in 1946 and holds a B.A. from Texas Tech University. He has more than forty years of executive experience in development, sales, and finance, including positions as managing director of companies in the U.S., France, and the U.K. From 1966 to 1982, his career with the Michigan-based Clark Equipment Company took him to Wiesbaden and Strasbourg. In 1982, he became group vice president of the Perkins Engines Group in Peterborough, Great Britain. Ray Carrell returned to Texas in 1987 as the President and CEO of MTU North America. In 1995, he joined the Board of Management of Kühnle, Kopp, and Kausch in Frankenthal and became president and CEO of the Company in 1999. With the sale of AG KK&K to Siemens AG in 2006, he joined ECM Equity Capital Management, a mid-sized private equity fund based in Frankfurt. Ray Carrell has supported the HCA and its multidisciplinary programs for many years, fostering the transatlantic dialogue that is important to him.



PROF. DR. RER. NAT. BERNHARD EITEL

Professor Bernhard Eitel studied geography, German philology, and literature at the University of Karlsruhe. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Stuttgart in 1989 and his *venia legendi* from the same university in 1994 with a study on calcium-rich cover beds and calcrete generations in Namibia. Prior to coming to Heidelberg, Professor Eitel taught at the University of Passau. Since 2001, he has held the chair in physical geography and has also acted as head of the Department of Geography at Heidelberg University. His major fields of research are in

geomorphology, geoecology, the Quaternary research, soil geography, geoarchaeology, and dryland areas, particularly in Namibia, Peru, and China. In October 2007, Professor Eitel assumed the office of rector of Heidelberg University. He was reelected for a second term in 2012.



CURT ENGELHORN (†)

Curt Engelhorn (1926-2016) was born in Munich. From 1947 to 1952, he lived in the U.S., where he studied chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. After graduation and a traineeship at a pharmaceutical company, Curt Engelhorn returned to Germany, working at the Munich-based chemical company Perutz. In 1955 he joined the pharmaceutical family business of C.F. Boehringer & Söhne GmbH, later called Boehringer Mannheim. From 1960 to 1990, Curt Engelhorn served as the company's CEO, transforming it to a leading global producer of health care products. He retreated from operative business in 1990 to become chairman of the board of Corange Ltd., which held his and his partners' shares in Boehringer Mannheim. In 1997 they were sold to Hoffmann-La Roche. Curt Engelhorn was a patron of many philanthropic projects in Germany and abroad, supporting the arts and culture as well as research and education. He was named honorary senator of Heidelberg University in 1964. His support of the university included the endowment of a seminar center, a chair in American history, major donations to the Schurman Library for American History, the generous dedication of the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais and an annual donation of 400,000 EUR to the HCA, and an annex to the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. In 2011, on the occasion of the 625th anniversary of the Ruperto Carola, Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn funded the lavish renovation of the aula of the "New University."



HEIDEMARIE ENGELHORN

Heidemarie Engelhorn was born in Munich, where she studied at the College of Business Administration. In 1970 she moved to Italy to manage a company founded by her first husband. Orm Berggold Chemistry soon acquired an excellent reputation for dependable top quality chemical products and became very profitable. Heidemarie Engelhorn sold the company to Safety Kleen in 1991 after the death of her first husband. In 1995 she was married to Curt Engelhorn. She has since been

instrumental in selecting and shaping many philanthropic projects of her husband, especially the extraordinary support of sustainable and far-sighted projects at Heidelberg University. In 2008, Heidemarie Engelhorn was named Honorary Senator of the university for her unflinching commitment to and support for the promotion of American Studies in Heidelberg.



JOACHIM HÄGER

Joachim Häger is CEO of BHF-BANK AG and member of the executive board of Oddo&Cie. From November 2014 to June 2016, he was head of Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management after heading Wealth Management Germany since June 2007. He is a member of Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management Global Executive Committee and chairman of the Supervisory Board of Sal. Oppenheim and Deutsche Oppenheim Family Office AG. Following his apprenticeship at Deutsche Bank, Joachim Häger studied business administration in Trier, graduating with the degree "Diplomkaufmann" in 1990. He returned to Deutsche Bank and started his professional career as executive assistant to Deutsche Bank's chief economist, Professor Norbert Walter. From 1991 to 1997, Joachim Häger was responsible for mid-cap corporate client coverage in Global Banking. In 1997, Joachim Häger took over responsibility for Deutsche Bank Corporate Banking in Eastern Europe and Austria. In 1999, Joachim Häger joined the Private Banking Division and founded a private and institutional UHNW clients business in Germany. From 2002 to 2005, he served as a member of the Executive Committee of Private Wealth Management (PWM) with the responsibility for sales and strategy development. In 2005, he became member of PWM's Global Executive Committee with responsibility for global strategic business development. Joachim Häger was born in Wuppertal in 1963. He is married and has two daughters.



PROF. DR. DR. H.C. DETLEF JUNKER

The founding director of the HCA was born in Pinneberg near Hamburg. He studied history, political science, philosophy, and German philology in Innsbruck and Kiel, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1969. In 1974 Professor Junker was appointed associate professor at the University of Stuttgart. He taught modern history at Heidelberg University from 1975 to 1994 and held the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History there

from 1999 to 2004. From 1994 to 1999, Professor Junker served as the Director of the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D.C. The foci of his research are U.S. foreign policy in the twentieth century, German history, international relations and the history of transatlantic relations, and the theory of history. His most important recent publications include his monograph *Power and Mission. Was Amerika antreibt* (2003) and the two volume handbook *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War 1945-1990* (2004), which he edited. In 2005, Professor Junker was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the University of Maryland–University College Europe (UMUC) in Heidelberg, recognizing his commitment to fostering German-American dialogue and cross-cultural understanding. In 2007, he was appointed Distinguished Senior Professor of Heidelberg University. In 2009, Professor Junker was elected president of the American Studies Network Association (ASN) Europe. In September 2010, he received the Federal Cross of Merit for his exceptional support of American Studies as a discipline, his academic teaching, and his administrative abilities.



ROLF KENTNER

Rolf Kentner studied business administration in Germany and the United States, graduating with the degree of Diplomkaufmann from the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in 1973. After holding positions for an international commercial bank in Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and the U.S., he joined the Baden-Württembergische Bank AG in Mannheim in 1982 as a member of the general management. From 2005 until his retirement in 2009, he headed the bank's corporate clients key account II. Rolf Kentner is active in many philanthropic organizations, among others as chairman of the Schurman Society for the Promotion of American Studies in Heidelberg and as chairman of the Jacob Gould Schurman Foundation. Both organizations are named after the Heidelberg alumnus Jacob Schurman, who served as U.S. ambassador to Germany from 1925 to 1930, and both have been crucial in the establishment of the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History as well as of the HCA. Rolf Kentner is honorary senator of Heidelberg University and of the Mannheim University for Applied Sciences. In 2009, he endowed the annual Rolf-Kentner-Dissertation Prize for a yet unpublished outstanding dissertation in American Studies submitted to a German university.



DR. H.C. MANFRED LAUTENSCHLÄGER

Manfred Lautenschläger studied law at the universities of Heidelberg, Freiburg, and Hamburg. After graduating in 1968, he practiced as a lawyer for a short time before co-founding the Marschollek, Lautenschläger und Partner KG (MLP) in 1971. Following its conversion into a public limited company in 1984, Manfred Lautenschläger assumed the position of CEO, expanding the company to one of Germany's leading suppliers of financial consultation services. From 1999 to 2008, he was chairman of the supervisory board of MLP Group; since then he has been a member of the supervisory board. For many years, Manfred Lautenschläger has been actively supporting Heidelberg University, for example with the provision of the biennial Lautenschläger Research Prize, endowed with 250,000 EUR, and the new building of the university's children's hospital, partly funded by a donation from the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation. In 1998, Lautenschläger was named honorary senator of the university. Recognizing that Germany owes the United States a special debt of gratitude for its democratic and prosperous development after World War II, Manfred Lautenschläger is convinced that a center such as the HCA can foster mutual understanding, especially in times when political differences create irritations in transatlantic relations. In October of 2008, Manfred Lautenschläger was awarded an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University. In 2010 he generously underwrote the James W.C. Pennington Award, created by the HCA and the Faculty of Theology of Heidelberg University to honor the African American abolitionist and pacifist.



DR. HANS-PETER WILD

Dr. Hans-Peter Wild, domiciled in Zug/Switzerland, is a Swiss entrepreneur who built a global consumer goods business under the Capri-Sun® brand. Furthermore, he is the owner of INDAG, a manufacturer of machines for the beverage and food industries that develops and manages modern processing units. Dr. Wild studied law at Heidelberg University and business administration in Mannheim, Cambridge, and at the Sorbonne, Paris. He holds a doctorate from the Faculty of Law of the University of Mannheim. Dr. Wild was managing director of the oil and shipping company Diersch & Schröder before joining his parents' company in 1974. Hans-Peter Wild developed WILD Flavors to one of the world's leading producers and suppliers of natural ingredients and flavor systems for the food and beverage industry. In 2014 he sold the company to Archer Daniels Midland Company, one of the largest agri-

cultural processors in the world. Additionally, Dr. Wild has taught at the University of Sofia. He also is president of the Leonie Wild Charitable Foundation, which he established with his mother in 1997, supporting social and cultural projects. As an acknowledgement of his gratitude for freeing the Germans from the Nazi regime in 1945, Wild donated sixteen million dollars to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation in January 2016. He has been a long-time supporter of Heidelberg University, which named him honorary senator in 1996. Based on his experience with foreign markets and other cultures, Dr. Wild has always acknowledged the importance of paying attention to and respecting cultural differences. To provide others with the opportunity to also learn about the cultural specifics of the U.S., he has been supporting the HCA from the very beginning, for example with the endowment of the Wild Scholarships for the M.A. in American Studies program.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies consists of members from the six faculties that contribute to the HCA. These are the Faculties of Chemistry and Earth Sciences; Economics and Social Studies; Law; Modern Languages; Philosophy; and Theology. In 2004, the six representatives adopted the proposal of Professor Peter Hommelhoff, then rector of Heidelberg University, and named Professor Detlef Junker the founding director of the HCA. The late Professor Winfried Brugger and Professor Michael Welker were named deputy directors.



PROF. DR. MANFRED BERG

On the HCA's Board of Directors, Manfred Berg represents the Faculty of Philosophy. He has held the Curt Engelhorn Chair in American History since September 2005. From 1992 to 1997, Professor Berg was a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. Subsequently he taught at the Free University of Berlin, Cologne University, and the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. He also served as executive director of the Center for USA Studies at the Leucorea Foundation of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The foci of his research and teaching are African American History, the history of mob violence, and the history of U.S. foreign relations. He is the author of *The Ticket to Freedom: The NAACP and the Struggle for Black Political Integration* (2005), *Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America* (2011), and most recently *Geschichte der USA* (2013). His biography of Woodrow Wilson is due out with C.H. Beck in March 2017. In 2006 Professor Berg received the David Thelen Award from the Organization of American Historians (OAH) for the best article on American history published in a foreign language for his article "Black Civil Rights and Liberal Anticommunism: The NAACP during the McCarthy Era." In the spring of 2009 Manfred Berg served as the Lewis P. Jones Visiting Professor of History at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. From 2010 through 2012, Professor Berg served as dean of the Faculty of Philosophy.



PROF. DR. ULRIKE GERHARD

Ulrike Gerhard is professor for human geography of North America at the HCA and the Institute of Geography. Previously she taught North American Studies as well as urban geography at the universities of Cologne (2000-2001), Würzburg (2001-10), Munich (2005-06), and also Heidelberg (2008-09). She studied geography at Marburg as well as

Waterloo, Ontario, and Edmonton, Alberta, and received her Ph.D. in 1998 from Marburg University doing research on urban consumer landscapes in Canada and Germany. Since then she has analyzed political and socio-economic trends in U.S. American cities (see, for example, *Global City Washington, D.C. – eine politische Stadtgeographie*, 2007), spending several months in Washington, D.C., and other urban centers. Her most recent research topics deal with reurbanization trends in North American cities, urban inequality in the Americas, and urban sustainable politics across the world. She aims at developing a planetary research perspective on urban theory that takes into account the wide array of urban developments in an increasingly urbanized world. Professor Gerhard was a visiting professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from March to July 2015 and is facilitating a close partnership with that university. She joined the HCA Board of Directors in 2011.



PROF. DR. BERND GRZESZICK

Bernd Grzeszick studied law at the universities of Bonn, Freiburg, and Heidelberg. In 1992 he passed his first state examination. From 1992 to 1993, he worked as a research assistant at the University of Freiburg and pursued LL.M.-studies at Cambridge University in 1993 and 1994. From 1994 to 1996, he completed his Referendariat, during which he also practiced in Paris and New York. In 1995, he was awarded a doctoral degree (Dr. iur.) for his dissertation on the development of federalist thinking in Germany, *Vom Reich zur Bundesstaatsidee. Zur Herausbildung der Föderalismusidee im modernen deutschen Staatsrecht* (1996). In 1996, after having passed the second state examination in Berlin, Bernd Grzeszick acceded to the position of assistant professor, first at Mannheim University, later at the University of Cologne. In 2001, Bernd Grzeszick received his *venia legendi*, having written a Habilitation thesis on rights, claims, and the reconstruction of state liability from individual rights (*Rechte und Ansprüche. Eine Rekonstruktion des Staatshaftungsrechts aus den subjektiven öffentlichen Rechten*, 2002). Afterwards he was a visiting professor at the universities of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Bonn, and Münster where he was appointed professor for public law in 2003. In 2004, he assumed the chair for public law, international public law, and legal philosophy at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, where he also served as director of the Institute for Legal Philosophy and General Theory of the State. In 2009, Bernd Grzeszick was appointed professor for public law, international public law, and legal philosophy at the University of Mainz. Since 2010 he has held the

chair for public law, international public law, and legal philosophy as well as the directorship of the Institute for Constitutional Law, Constitutional Theory, and Legal Philosophy at Heidelberg University. He joined the HCA's Board of Directors in 2011. In 2013, he was appointed an ordinary member of the social sciences class of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities.



PROF. DR. SEBASTIAN HARNISCH

Sebastian Harnisch is professor for international relations and comparative foreign policy, deputy director of the Institute for Political Science at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, and deputy executive director for the Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE). He taught international relations, German and American foreign and security policy at Trier University (2003-2006), the Federal Armed Forces University, Munich (2006-2007), Beijing Foreign Studies University (2011), and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (2013). Sebastian Harnisch holds degrees in history and political science from Trier University (M.A., doctorate and Habilitation) and was a research fellow at JCIE (Tokyo, 1996), Columbia University (New York, 1996), Yonsei and Seoul National University (Seoul, 1996-1997), as well as Heidelberg's Center of Excellency, the Marsilius-Kolleg (2011). He has published widely on U.S. foreign and security policy, including a monograph on U.S.-Korean relations (1850-1995) and an edited volume on role theory in international relations (2011). Professor Harnisch joined the HCA Board of Directors in 2010.

PROF. DR. DR. H.C. DETLEF JUNKER

(See p. 18)



PROF. DR. GÜNTER LEYPOLDT

Günter Leypoldt is professor of American literature and culture at the Faculty of Modern Languages. He taught American Studies at the universities of Tübingen (2001-2007), Maryland—College Park (2003), and Mainz (2007-2009). Günter Leypoldt holds degrees in American, British, and German literatures from Cape Town (B.A.) and Tübingen (doctorate and Habilitation). He has published essays on literary transcendentalism, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century aesthetics, twentieth-century literary and cultural theory, and a monograph on contemporary fiction,

Casual Silences: The Poetics of Minimal Realism (2001). His most recent study deals with nineteenth-century U.S. literary culture and its modernist reconstruction, *Cultural Authority in the Age of Whitman: A Transatlantic Perspective* (2009). His present research interests include transatlantic romanticism and modernism, American pragmatism, transculturality, the borders between aesthetic and religious experience, and the sociology of knowledge formation. Professor Leypoldt joined the HCA Board of Directors in 2009.



PROF. DR. DRES. H.C. MICHAEL WELKER

Michael Welker, Distinguished Senior Professor of Systematic Theology and Honorary Professor of Seoul Theological University, represents the Faculty of Theology on the board. Professor Welker served as director of the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg from 1996 to 2006. He was a visiting professor at Harvard, Princeton, Cambridge (U.K.), and the Emory Law School. He is currently administrative director of the Forschungszentrum für Internationale und Interdisziplinäre Theologie (FIIT) in Heidelberg. Recent publications include: (Ed.) *Concepts of Law in the Sciences, Legal Studies, and Theology* (2013); the sixth edition of his work *Gottes Geist. Theologie des Heiligen Geistes* was published in 2015 (*God the Spirit*); with Francis Schüssler Fiorenza and Klaus Tanner (eds.), *Political Theology. Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions* (2013); with Jürgen von Hagen (eds.), *Money as God? The Monetization of the Market and its Impact on Religion, Politics, Law, and Ethics* (2014); (ed.) *The Depth of the Human Person: A Multidisciplinary Approach* (2014); (ed.) *Quests for Freedom: Biblical—Historical—Contemporary*, (2015); with William Schweiker (eds.) *Images of the Divine and Cultural Orientations: Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Voices* (2015); (ed.) *EUROPA REFORMATA: 48 Reformation Cities and Their Reformers* (2016). Michael Welker was invited to give the Gifford Lectures in Edinburgh in 2019.

FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT

In January of 2002, a group of Heidelberg professors and administrators set up an interdisciplinary initiative with the aim of establishing a new center for the study of the United States of America at Germany's oldest university. The first order of business of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies was to develop a novel graduate studies program: the Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS). To raise public awareness of its activities, the HCA initiative also organized a public lecture series, "Typically American," during the winter term 2002-03, which soon attracted a broad audience. Within a year of its creation, the HCA opened a small office from which it continued to develop the MAS and future research projects and conferences.

Ten departments from six faculties committed themselves to the program, enabling a broad range of disciplines to be represented at the HCA: American literature and culture, economics, geography, history, law, musicology, philosophy, political science, theological studies, and sociology.

In December of 2003, thanks to the generous support of Heidelberg entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, the HCA was able to settle into more spacious quarters in Heidelberg's beautiful Weststadt.

Four months later, the center hosted its first conference, the HCA Spring Academy 2004 on American History, Culture, and Politics. Twenty-six European and American Ph.D. students from ten countries and six academic disciplines participated in this conference. The annual Spring Academy has since become a highly regarded forum for international Ph.D. students in the field of American Studies and has to date attracted about twelve hundred applications from more than 65 countries.

After Heidelberg University and the Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg both approved the statutes of the HCA as well as the regulations governing the proposed new master's program, the HCA was officially inaugurated as a central academic institution at Heidelberg University on October 20, 2004. Simultaneously, the first class of the MAS program enrolled. A board of directors was established, convened for the first time in December of 2004, and was subsequently joined by a board of trustees.

During the following years, the HCA substantially expanded its activities. This would not have been possible had it not been for another major donation. In early 2006, Curt Engelhorn acquired the "Haus Neukirch," a beautiful baroque town house in the heart of Heidelberg's historic city center. With restorations still under way, the HCA moved into its new home, the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais, in May of 2006.

The Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais opened up a whole new range of possibilities for the HCA. In order to fully realize the new potential, Heidelberg University, the State of Baden-Württemberg, and private donors agreed to set up a matching fund for the future development

of the HCA. This fund enabled the HCA to initiate a joint venture with the American Academy in Berlin, bringing renowned fellows of that prestigious institution to the region as part of the Academy's Baden-Württemberg Seminar. In addition, the HCA was able to introduce a year-round Fellow-in-Residence program in 2007 and add another three young scholars to its staff, thereby broadening its research and teaching capacities. These were much needed, as a year earlier, in 2006, the HCA had launched a three-year English-language Ph.D. program with a multidisciplinary curriculum.

The next major development was the commitment of Heidelberg University in the spring of 2009 to provide funding for the HCA on a permanent basis once its start-up financing expired. In light of this reassuring news the HCA could celebrate the fifth anniversary of its founding (and the seventieth birthday of its founding director) at Heidelberg Castle. The center's vibrant growth continued. In October 2009, the HCA dedicated its new academic facilities, a modern annex to the landmark palais. The fall of 2009 also saw the first semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar under the exclusive direction of the HCA.

In late November of 2009, the HCA learned that its application – supported by Heidelberg University – for the creation of two professorships to be shared with the Institute of Geography and the Faculty of Theology, respectively, had been approved by the state government. These professorships were allocated under a special program designed to alleviate the impact of two classes of secondary school graduates hitting German universities in the same year, 2012. In the spring of 2011, Ulrike Gerhard came to the HCA as Professor of Geography of North America, and Jan Stievermann joined the HCA as Professor of the History of Christianity in the United States. A few months earlier, the HCA had successfully completed negotiations with the English Department over a joint appointment of Günter Leyboldt, Professor of American Literature and Culture. This was the second joint appointment after Manfred Berg, the Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History, in 2009. With two "bridge professors" and two joint appointments, the HCA has now established firm operational "bridges" to the Departments of History, English, Geography, and Theology.

This development went hand in hand, however, with new obligations, as the HCA was required to establish a three-year B.A. program in order to create the necessary capacities for the anticipated students. The first half of 2010 was therefore dominated by conceptualizing a new course of studies that would be true to the HCA's multidisciplinary custom, yet geared toward a different, that is undergraduate, clientele. Under the guidance of Dr. Andreas Barz from the Dezernat für Studium und Lehre and with support from the Faculties of Philosophy, Theology, Chemistry and Earth Sciences, Modern Languages, Economics and Social Sciences, and Law, as well as several student representatives, the B.A. in American Studies (BAS) was developed in record time and shepherded through the bodies of the university. When the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts finally authorized the results, barely four weeks were left before the university's application period for the fall term closed. This program became an instant success; in the fall of 2016, a total of 98 B.A. students are enrolled at the HCA; to date, more than twelve hundred have applied.

The HCA also continued to expand its activities both as a center for interdisciplinary research and as a facilitator of transatlantic academic exchange. Since 2012 the HCA together with Heidelberg University's Faculty of Theology has been annually awarding the James W.C. Pennington Award, generously endowed by the Lautenschläger Foundation (see p. 130). In the same year the Jonathan Edwards Center Germany was inaugurated. The center is a partnership between the Department of Theology and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies with the Jonathan Edwards Center at the Yale Divinity School. Together these institutions seek to further work on Edwards and early American religious history by supporting and advising related academic projects, by providing primary and secondary source materials, offering seminars, organizing lectures and conferences, as well as by engaging in student and faculty exchange both with Yale and the other international centers. In 2015 a new cooperation was initiated between the HCA and the University of Notre Dame, specifically its department of history and American Studies program. The focus will be on doctoral and post-doctoral exchanges as well as on research collaborations. So far delegations met for two colloquia, and each side will host a post-doc in the academic year 2016-17.

THE CURT AND HEIDEMARIE ENGELHORN PALAIS

The home of the HCA is a beautiful old Bürgerpalais with a long history. The location can be traced back to 1564. In 1699, the "Haus Neukirch" was purchased by Burkhard Neukirch. The current structure was built at the beginning of the eighteenth century, making the home of the HCA fifty years older than its subject of study, the United States of America. In 2006, the former "Haus Neukirch" was renamed in honor of Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn, who had bought the building and generously granted the HCA rent-free use of the rooms for ten years, a grant that in 2013 was extended to 2026.

The Lounge of the Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais





The HCA's Annex.

Within walking distance of the university library, two student cafeterias, as well as the university's time-honored premises at University Square—the Alte Universität, dating to 1712, and the Neue Universität, erected between 1929 and 1932 with funds raised in the United States by then-ambassador Jacob Gould Schurman. On the occasion of the Ruperto Carola's 625th anniversary in 2011 Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn fully refurbished the Neue Aula and donated a new organ, thus continuing Schurman's work.

The Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais is the ideal location for students and faculty alike. It also is an architectural gem, particularly because of the decorative stucco on its walls and ceilings. The extensive restoration of the palais revealed carvings long lost to multiple coats of paint, with lions' heads, musical instruments, roses, and women's faces literally coming out of the ceiling.

Thanks to the generosity of the Engelhorn family, a modern annex to the historic building was envisioned from the very start in the interior courtyard separating the palais from the student cafeteria and main university library. In October 2009, Honorary Senators Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn, Heidelberg Mayor Dr. Joachim Gerner, Heidelberg University Rector Professor Bernhard Eitel, HCA Founding Director Professor Detlef Junker, sponsors and friends of the HCA, staff members, students, and guests gathered after the MAS commencement for the official dedication of the HCA's new academic facilities. The annex comprises a new lecture room, an elevator, a kitchen equipped for event catering, and additional restrooms. The most spectacular feature of the new building, however, is a 360-square-meter glass-covered atrium with a corkscrew staircase, making the entire space available for use as an auditorium, exhibition room, or concert hall. The two seminar rooms, called Stucco and Oculus for their signature architectural features, have been outfitted with interactive whiteboards that combine integrated sound and dual use functionality. Thus, the HCA is well-prepared to host not only its BAS, MAS, and Ph.D. students but also an increasing number of international conferences and workshops.

PEOPLE 2015-2016



JENNIFER ADAMS-MASSMANN, M.DIV. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Jennifer Adams-Massmann is a doctoral student and instructor in American religious history. She teaches courses on American religious history, especially colonial and women's religious history, and works on editorial and translating projects with Professor Stievermann. She received her B.A. in English and political science (1996, magna cum laude) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her master's degree (2003, summa cum laude) from Duke University Divinity School. Her doctoral project focuses on intercultural and interreligious exchange along the "gender frontier," examining the role of German-speaking women Moravian missionaries during the Great Awakening in the eighteenth century, primarily in American Indian missions and among German-speaking immigrants in the middle colonies. Her research interests include women in religious history, colonial American religious history, missions and intercultural encounters, and the anthropology of religion. Jennifer Adams-Massmann is also an ordained Episcopal minister and an experienced translator and editor in the areas of theology and church history. She left the HCA in the summer of 2016 to pursue her doctoral work in England.



IDA BAHMANN STUDENT ASSISTANT EVENT MANAGEMENT/PR

Ida Bahmann has been a student in the HCA's BAS program since fall 2013. She spent the academic year 2015-16 on an ERASMUS scholarship in Thessaloniki, Greece. In August 2016 she started working at the HCA as a student assistant, supporting event management and public relations; she is also responsible for the retrospect reports of the forum events.

PROF. DR. MANFRED BERG CURT ENGELHORN PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN HISTORY

(see p. 22)



VICTORIA CAILLET

ASSISTANT MAS COORDINATOR

Ref. iur. Victoria Caillet has been a law student at Heidelberg University since the winter term 2010-11. In addition to her regular legal studies, she has earned further credits in Anglo American public and private law at Heidelberg University and in the U.S. at the University of California-Davis during summer 2011. An internship at the Senate Office for International Relations in Sacramento followed in 2013. Victoria Caillet joined the MAS team in September 2013. She is part of the MAS administration, in charge of the MAS newsletter and the HCA alumni reports.



PROF. JAMES COOK, PH.D.

INTERNATIONAL VISITING PROFESSOR 2015-16

James Cook is Permanent Professor and Head of the Department of Philosophy at the United States Air Force Academy, a position he has held since receiving U.S. Senate confirmation in 2002. He earned his doctorate in philosophy at Heidelberg University. As a cyber and regional affairs specialist in the U.S. Air Force, he served in a variety of positions at the Pentagon and in NATO. In 2009 he deployed to Afghanistan, where he was senior-ranking U.S. advisor to the National Military Academy of Afghanistan. His academic research interests are in applied ethics, hermeneutics, and philosophy of literature, religion, and science. His most recent publications focus on the ethics of cyber and automation.



GREGG CULVER, PH.D.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Gregg Culver has been working as a research assistant at Heidelberg University's Institute of Geography since September 2014. He received his Ph.D. in geography from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in August 2014. Gregg Culver's primary area of research interest is in the intersection of critical urban, mobilities, and transportation geographies. His research deals primarily with competing discourses in the politics of urban mobility and in the production of mobility and space. Specifically, his research investigates political struggles over urban mobility, particularly in regard to the role played in these struggles by the competing interests, beliefs, normative values, and social mean-

ings that are attached to mobility. His predominant regional interest is the U.S. rust belt. His teaching at Heidelberg University has included "Regional Geography of North America," "Transport and Mobility in the North American City," and "Social Theories of Mobility in the American Context." He has also given lectures in "Introduction to Human Geography" at the HCA.



MICHAEL DOPFFEL, M.A. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Michael Dopffel works as a research associate of Professor Stievermann. He studied American literature, sociology, and comparative religious studies at the universities of Cologne and Tübingen, where he received his M.A. in 2011. From 2012 to 2014 he taught classes on American religious history and supernatural literature at the University of Tübingen. In 2011 he started his doctoral studies in the research training group "Holy Texts" at the University of Tübingen. His dissertation discusses the interdependencies of Christian religion, natural philosophy, and literature through analysis of Anglo-American apparition narratives in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Since 2007 he has also been working for the *Biblia Americana* edition.



DR. TOBIAS ENDLER RESEARCH ASSOCIATE/ PH.D. & RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Tobias Endler has worked on public intellectuals in present-day America, Enlightenment thinking, and issues of democracy. His current research focuses on U.S. foreign policy in the twenty-first century and the future of transatlantic and transpacific relations. Tobias Endler has published three books: *After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S. and Themselves* (2011), a collection of interviews with leading foreign policy experts; *How to Be a Superpower* (2012); and *Entzauberung: Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama* (2015, with Martin Thunert). He is the co-editor of *Zeitenwende 9/11? Eine transatlantische Bilanz* (2016). At the HCA, he is responsible for coordinating research activities and the Ph.D. program.



DR. DOROTHEA FISCHER-HORNUNG

SENIOR LECTURER AMERICAN STUDIES

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung was senior lecturer in the English Department of Heidelberg University. Her research focuses on ethnic and post-colonial literatures and film in English as well as performance theories and practices. She has developed, taught, and published on international e-learning co-operations with universities in numerous countries. She is founding co-editor of the journal *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents* and former president of MESEA, Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas. For several years, Dr. Fischer-Hornung taught the MAS course "Methodology I: Introduction to American Studies." She has retired but continues to facilitate the HCA Spring Academy.



GORDON FRIEDRICHS, M.A.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Gordon Friedrichs studied political science and South-Asian Studies at the Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main, Heidelberg University, and Arizona State University. He joined the HCA in December 2013 as part of a team that coordinated and conceptualized the interdisciplinary research project "Authority and Trust." He worked as a research associate in the project "Patterns of Economic Policy Advice in Germany and the United States with a Special Focus on the World of Work" and is also a Ph.D. candidate at the HCA. His research emphasis is on international relations with a particular focus on U.S. foreign and domestic policy, South-Asian security studies, rising powers, as well as international organizations.



LUISA GAA, B.A.

RESEARCH/CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Luisa Gaa came to the HCA as a student of the first BAS class in 2010. Since April 2011 she has been a research assistant at the HCA and served as a co-coordinator of the 2011 international conference "Religion and the Marketplace." Luisa Gaa received her B.A. in 2014 and is now pursuing a master's degree in global history at Heidelberg University.

PROF. DR. ULRIKE GERHARD
PROFESSOR OF NORTH AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY

(see p. 22-23)



IRIS HAHN-SANTORO, M.A.
BAS COORDINATOR

Iris Hahn-Santoro received her M.A. in linguistics, Scandinavian Studies, and philosophy from the University of Cologne in 2002. She wrote her thesis on anglicisms and neologisms in contemporary Icelandic. After receiving her M.A., Iris Hahn-Santoro served as a research assistant at the Smithsonian Institute's Arctic Studies Center in Washington, D.C. She joined the HCA in August of 2009 as the MAS program coordinator and took over the coordination of the BAS following the establishment of the program in 2011. She is also a member of the HCA's Ph.D. program and is researching endangered Native American languages. After spending the academic year 2015-16 in Seoul, South Korea, she returned to the HCA in June 2016 as the B.A. coordinator while Eva Mayer is on parental leave.

PROF. DR. SEBASTIAN HARNISCH
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

(see p. 24)



KAI HERZOG M.A.
STUDENT ASSISTANT/RESEARCH

Kai Herzog received his B.A. in German Studies and history from the University of Stuttgart in 2012 and his M.A. in global history from Heidelberg University in 2015. In 2013 he spent a semester at Lunds Universitet (Sweden). He supported the HCA as a student assistant for research from February 2015 to September 2016 and is now pursuing his Ph.D. at the Basel Graduate School of History in Switzerland.



RYAN HOSELTON, M.DIV., TH.M.
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Ryan Hoselton is a doctoral student at Heidelberg University. Born in New Mexico, he earned a B.A. in history from the University of New Mexico and an M.Div. and Th.M. from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His research interests include Puritanism, evangelicalism, and transatlantic religious cultures, and his dissertation focuses on the history of biblical interpretation in early American evangelicalism. Ryan works as a research assistant to his adviser, Professor Jan Stievermann, mainly on the *Biblia Americana* Project.



EVA REGINA IMBSWEILER
STUDENT ASSISTANT

Eva Imbsweiler studies philosophy at Georgia State University. As a participant in the exchange program between her university and the HCA in the academic year 2015-16, Eva Imbsweiler supported the coordination of the Ph.D. program and helped to update the HCA website.



SARAH JOERIS
STUDENT ASSISTANT

Sarah Joeris has been studying in the HCA's BAS program since fall 2015. In April 2016 she started working at the HCA as a student assistant to support the MAS team, where she is primarily responsible for the MAS newsletter and the MAS marketing.

PROF. DR. DR. H.C. DETLEF JUNKER
FOUNDING DIRECTOR

(see p. 18)



KRISTINA KUHLMANN STUDENT ASSISTANT EVENT MANAGEMENT/PR

Kristina Kuhlmann is a student of political science at Heidelberg University and joined the HCA in October 2014 as a tutor for political science. She also worked as a student assistant in the HCA event management and was responsible for the retrospect reports on the website. Her main research emphasis is on the area of the U.S. foreign and security policy with a particular focus on conflict research in the Middle East and Maghreb. She is a member of the Forum for International Security (FIS) and works for the regional group "The Middle East and Maghreb" of the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIK).



CHRISTINA LARENZ OFFICE MANAGER

Christina Larenz concluded her studies at the English Institute Heidelberg as a translator for English, French, and Spanish in 1988. Since then she has worked in various branches of industry and administration. She has also worked as a translator and a foreign language teacher. She joined the HCA team in September of 2008 and is responsible for the institute's administrative matters.



PROF. ROBERT LEMON, PH.D. INTERNATIONAL VISITING PROFESSOR, HCA AND INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY

Robert Lemon was a visiting professor for human geography at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies and the Institute of Geography at Heidelberg University during the winter term 2015-16. He is a cultural and urban geographer with a passion for landscape studies. As an urban geographer and environmental designer, he has studied extensively the social practices and built transformations of cities through their aesthetic representation. In addition to academic pursuits, Professor Lemon is a filmmaker. He has produced and directed two documentaries. His latest documentary feature, *Transfusion*, tells the story of a Mexican woman's migration to Ohio. Professor Lemon earned his undergraduate degree in both history and geography from the University of Texas at Austin. He continued his education at the Ohio State University, where he earned his master's degree in city and regional planning. He then went on to complete a master's in landscape architecture from

the University of California, Berkeley. Finally, he returned to the University of Texas at Austin where he earned his Ph.D. in geography. He is also a former lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley.

PROF. DR. GÜNTER LEYPOLDT PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

(see p. 24-25)



ANN-KATHRIN MAIER PHOTOGRAPHY

Ann-Kathrin Maier has been attending the Heidelberg Center for American Studies since the fall of 2013 as a student in the BAS program. In October 2013 she started working at the HCA as a student assistant and is primarily responsible for the photographic documentation of events.



DR. WILFRIED MAUSBACH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wilfried Mausbach received his Ph.D. from the University of Cologne where he studied history, political science, and philosophy. A research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. from 1995 to 2000, he proceeded to assistant professorships in history at both the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin and Heidelberg University. He has also been a Volkswagen Foundation fellow, a Marshall-Monnet Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a visiting researcher at Carleton University in Ottawa. His major research interests are in transnational history with a particular emphasis on the study of social movements. His most recent publications include *The Nuclear Crisis: The Arms Race, Cold War Anxiety, and the German Peace Movement of the 1980s* (2016); *The American Presidency: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* (2012); and *Changing the World, Changing Oneself: Political Protest and Collective Identities in West Germany and the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s* (2010, paperback 2012). Since 2005, he has been the executive director of the HCA.



EVA MAYER, M.A.
BAS COORDINATOR

Eva Mayer (née Kiefer) studied American Studies, psychology, and political science at Bonn University and at the University of Pennsylvania. She interned at the German Foreign Office and the German Institute for International and Foreign Affairs. In October 2010, she joined the HCA as a Ph.D. student focusing on ways to explain a post-9/11 rally around the flag effect in Congress with securitization and prospect theory. From September 2010 to June 2011 she worked as the BAS coordinator. In the following years she has held a range of different positions at the HCA. Since winter term 2011-12, she has taught American government courses. In the winter term 2015-16, she also taught a course on key skills for the BAS in American Studies. From June 2015 to April 2016, Eva Mayer served as BAS coordinator. She is currently on parental leave.



GINO MEIER, DIPL.-GEOGR.
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Gino Meier studied geography, political science, and social science at the University of Würzburg, where he graduated in April 2011 with a thesis about current potentials of socialist residential constructions in times of shrinking cities and urban restructuring. He has been working as a research associate at the Institute of Geography at Heidelberg University since May 2011. A member of the research group "North American Geography/Urban Geography," he concentrates on topics and issues of urban planning and sustainable urban development. His main research interest focuses on the role and development of public participation in recent urban planning as well as the involvement of citizens in urban planning processes.



JOHANNA MÜLLER, B.A.
STUDENT ASSISTANT

Johanna Müller started the HCA's BAS program in 2011. In September 2014 she joined Professor Stievermann's team at the Chair for the History of Christianity in the United States as a student assistant. She received her bachelor's degree in the fall of 2015 and is now pursuing a master's degree in Christianity and culture with a focus on church history at Heidelberg University.



STELLA MÜLLER B.A. SPRING ACADEMY

Stella Müller has been a student in the HCA's BAS program since the fall of 2012 and became part of the Spring Academy team in July 2013. After spending an academic year at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, she returned to the HCA in the fall of 2015, where she now organizes the Spring Academy. Stella Müller received her B.A. in 2015 and is now pursuing a master's degree in geography at Heidelberg University.



HANNES NAGL, M.A. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AND WEB CONTENT MANAGER

Hannes Nagl studied English and American literature and political science at Heidelberg University. After graduating in 2009, he joined the HCA's Ph.D. program, working on a thesis on "Figurations of Violence: Contemporary American Fiction and the Sociology of Modernization." From August 2010 to July 2011 he was a research assistant at the English Department of Heidelberg University as part of the research project "Violence and the Hidden Constraints of Democracy: A New Civilization Studies Approach to American Literature and Culture." At the HCA he teaches American literature and culture for the BAS and MAS and is responsible for the institute's website.



MICHAELA NEIDIG ADMINISTRATION

Michaela Neidig graduated as European (trilingual) secretary from the Merkur International Akademie in Mannheim. Before joining the HCA team in February 2012 as administrative secretary for Professor Stieversmann's chair, she worked in the medical as well as in the industrial sector. Besides, she has been the secretary of the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History since 2009, where she is, among other things, responsible for the contracts of the student research assistants in the history department.



FELIX NEUWERCK

PUBLISHING

Felix Neuwerck has studied geography and German literature at Heidelberg University since 2011. He started working at the HCA in September 2015 and supports HCA publications. He spent the summer semester 2016 as an ERASMUS student at the University of Maribor, Slovenia.



DR. THEOL. PAUL-SILAS PETERSON

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Paul Silas Peterson is an academic assistant to Professor Stievermann. He offers courses primarily on the history of Anglo American theology. He is also working on multiple volumes of the first edition of Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana*. Dr. Peterson is also an academic assistant to Professor Christoph Schwöbel at the Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Tübingen. In Tübingen, he offers courses in the field of systematic theology. His dissertation *The Early Hans Urs von Balthasar: Historical Contexts and Intellectual Formation* was published in 2015.



FRANZISKA PENTZ

SPRING ACADEMY ASSISTANT

Franziska Pentz started her B.A. in American Studies at the HCA in the fall of 2014. She joined the HCA Spring Academy team in August 2016.



NATALIE RAUSCHER, M.A.

STUDENT ASSISTANT

Natalie Rauscher has worked as a student assistant in the project "Patterns of Economic Policy Advice in Germany and the United States" since February 2016. Before that she worked as a teaching assistant for political science for the master's program. She is herself a graduate of the MAS program at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (class of 2015) and is now a Ph.D. student at the HCA.



KATIA ROSTETTER, M.A.
**MAS COORDINATOR/
 SPRING ACADEMY COORDINATOR**

Katia Rostetter holds an M.A. in English literature, history, and political science of South Asia. She is a doctoral candidate at the English Department. As part of the research project "Violence and the Hidden Constraints of Democracy: A New Civilization Studies Approach to American Literature and Culture," her scholarly interests range from the sociology(ies) of modernization to literary depictions of the dynamic between individuals and society as the latter evolves. Her dissertation focuses on the representation of the changing dynamic of violence and modernization in the work of American author Cormac McCarthy. After working at the South Asia Institute for a year, she joined the HCA staff in September of 2010 as part of the MAS team. She has taught theory and literature courses for the BAS and worked as an MAS coordinator in addition to organizing the Spring Academy.



DR. STYLES SASS
WRITING CENTER/PUBLIC RELATIONS SUPPORT

Styles Sass received his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Iowa. After teaching in the Basque country of Northern Spain, he moved to Germany where he was awarded several writing fellowships and published a collection of poetry and prose pieces titled *More Than These Few Days*. He received his master's degree at Heidelberg University, from which he also holds a doctoral degree. Drawing on the fields of literary studies and political science, his interdisciplinary dissertation was titled *Swaying the Nation: Campaign Narratives in the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election*. His research interests include U.S. presidential politics and representation of violence in American fiction. Alongside his responsibilities at the HCA, he also teaches, writes, and edits.



PROF. DR. DIETMAR SCHLOSS
PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Dietmar Schloss teaches American literature and culture at both the HCA and the English Department of Heidelberg University. He holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University and a postdoctoral degree (Habilitation) from the University of Heidelberg. As a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, he was a visiting scholar at Harvard University. He has published widely in the fields of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and

twentieth-century American literature and culture; his book *The Virtuous Republic* (2003) examines the political visions of American writers during the founding period of the United States. In 2009, he published a volume of conference proceedings entitled *Civilizing America: Manners and Civility in American Literature and Culture* as well as a collection of critical essays on the contemporary American novel. In his new project, entitled "Spaces of Decivilization," he explores the phenomenon of violence in American literature and culture from the vantage point of Norbert Elias's sociological theory.



DR. ANJA SCHÜLER
COORDINATOR FORUM/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anja Schüler studied history, American Studies and journalism at the University of Münster, the University of Georgia in Athens, and the Free University Berlin, where she earned an M.A. in American history. She was a DAAD Fellow at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and lived in Washington, D.C. for several years. She received her Ph.D. from the Free University of Berlin. She is the author of *Frauenbewegung und soziale Reform: Jane Addams und Alice Salomon im transatlantischen Dialog, 1889-1933* (2004), the co-editor of *Social Justice Feminists in the United States and Germany: A Dialogue in Documents, 1885-1933* (1997) and of *Politische Netzwerkerinnen: Internationale Zusammenarbeit von Frauen 1830-1960* (2007). Her research interests include German and American social history, gender history, and transatlantic history. She has taught at the Free University Berlin, Humboldt University, and the University of Education in Heidelberg. Starting in 2006, she has been teaching academic writing at the HCA. Since 2009, she has also been coordinating HCA events, including the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, and is responsible for public relations.



PROF. ADAM SEIPP, PH.D.
DAAD VISITING FACULTY RESEARCH FELLOW

A professor of history at Texas A&M University, Adam Seipp joined the HCA as a DAAD visiting research fellow during June and July 2016. His research focuses on war and social change in modern Germany, particularly the period since 1945. His recent publications include *Strangers in the Wild Place: Refugees, Americans, and a German Town, 1945-1952* (Bloomington, 2013). He is currently working on two research projects. The first is a social history of the American military presence in the Federal Republic of Germany from 1945-1995. The second examines the

role of testimony in shaping narratives of concentration camp liberation in the United States and Germany. Professor Seipp's research has been funded by the Fulbright Program, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), German Marshall Fund, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C., and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In 2015-16 he served as a DAAD Research Ambassador and the A.I. and Manet Schepps Foundation Teaching Fellow of the USC Shoah Foundation.



DANIEL SILLIMAN, M.A. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Daniel Silliman joined the HCA in April 2011 as a research associate and instructor in American religion. He has a B.A. in philosophy from Hillsdale College in Michigan and an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Tübingen. His research interests include twentieth-century American evangelicals and pentecostals, religious book history, atheism, and the cultural conditions of belief. He defended his doctoral dissertation on representations of secularity in contemporary evangelical fiction in the fall and is currently at the University of Notre Dame as part of the HCA-Notre Dame faculty exchange.



ERHAN SIMSEK, M.A. STUDENT ASSISTANT

Erhan Simsek received his B.A. in English language teaching from Middle East Technical University with a minor degree in European Studies. In 2009, he received his M.A. from the HCA, with a thesis on American literature. After his M.A., he continued his studies at the Free University of Berlin. In 2010 he returned to Heidelberg and joined the Ph.D. program of the HCA. The working title of his dissertation is "Changing Images of Business and Businessmen in American Fiction and Social Thought, 1880-1929."



DR. ANNE SOMMER MAS COORDINATOR

Anne Sommer (née Lübbers) studied political science, German philology, English, and Romance languages at Heidelberg University and the University of Bologna, Italy. She interned at the German Foreign Office in Berlin and at the Goethe Institute in Paris. After receiving her M.A. in 2006, she began work on her doctoral dissertation, making research

trips to Italy, France, and Switzerland. She earned her Ph.D. in 2013 with her dissertation on "Alfieri, Foscolo, and Manzoni as Readers of Machiavelli: Intertextuality and Reception in the Early Risorgimento." Anne Sommer has worked for the HCA since 2003. From 2003 to 2007, she was responsible for organizing and convening the Spring Academy and the Baden-Württemberg-Seminar. She has served as MAS coordinator since 2007. In 2010, she was instrumental in developing and implementing the B.A. program at the HCA. After lecturing at the Romance language department, Anne Sommer now teaches American literature seminars at the HCA and conducts workshops on intercultural competence. She developed a concept of research-oriented teaching that has been competitively funded by the university as part of the program "Welcome to Research." In addition, she is the editor of the online journal "HeLix –Heidelberger Beiträge zur romanischen Literaturwissenschaft" and the book series "HeLix im Winter," both published by Winter Verlag.



PROF. DR. JAN STIEVERMANN
PROFESSOR OF THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
IN THE U.S./DIRECTOR, JONATHAN EDWARDS
CENTER GERMANY

Jan Stievermann has written and edited books and essays on a broad range of topics in the fields of American religious history and American literature, including a comprehensive study of the theology and aesthetics of Ralph Waldo Emerson (2007). He co-edited *A Peculiar Mixture: German-Language Cultures and Identities in Eighteenth-Century North America* (Pennsylvania State UP, 2013) and *Religion and the Marketplace in the United States* (2014). His most recent publications are the edition of vol. 5 of Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana* (2015) and a book-length study of this hitherto unexplored source entitled *Prophecy, Piety, and the Problem of Historicity: Interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures in Cotton Mather's Biblia Americana* (2016). For the *Biblia*-project as a whole (10 vols.) he also serves as the executive editor.



HANNA THIELE

STUDENT ASSISTANT

Hanna Thiele works as a student assistant in the project "Patterns of Economic Policy Advice in Germany and the United States with a Special Focus on the World of Work." She has been attending the Heidelberg Center for American Studies since the fall of 2013 as a student in the BAS program.



DR. HABIL. MARTIN THUNERT

SENIOR LECTURER POLITICAL SCIENCE/ SOCIOLOGY

Martin Thunert joined the HCA as research lecturer in political science in September 2007. He is a graduate of Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University Frankfurt, holds a doctoral degree from the University of Augsburg, and received his Habilitation in political science from the University of Hamburg, where he was an assistant professor. Martin Thunert was an exchange student at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and did graduate work at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, and at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. He has held appointments in political studies at several German universities and spent four years (2002-2006) as visiting associate professor of political science at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He was a Kennedy Fellow at the Harvard Center for European Studies and gained practical experience as staff assistant in the U.S. Senate (Labor, Education and Health Committee).



MICHAEL TRÖGER, DIPL.-SOZ.

IT

Michael Tröger graduated from Heidelberg University in 2007 with a degree in sociology, majoring in industrial sociology. From 2001 to 2003, he was in charge of the IT administration at the Institute for Anthropology of Heidelberg University. After completing an internship in Lisbon in 2003, he started his own IT business. He currently is the IT service provider at the HCA.



CURTIS URBAN, PH.D.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Curtis Urban received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Notre Dame, as well as an M.A. from Miami University, and a B.A. from the Ohio State University. He is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Notre Dame representing the Department of History in a teaching exchange program at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. His teaching and research focus on the history of Early America, specifically the importance of transnational connections for shaping the Atlantic World. His dissertation, "An Emotional Revolution: Fearing France in New England, 1754-1794," explored how cultural exchanges between British colonists and the French during the revolutionary era influenced nascent understandings of American identity. His research has been funded by various organizations at the University of Notre Dame, including the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.



JANINA WEISS

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Janina Weiss is studying English, German, and natural sciences for elementary school at the University of Education in Heidelberg. She interned at a German immersion school in San Diego, Calif., from August 2013 to February 2014. Janina Weiss started working at the HCA as an office assistant in October 2012.



PROF. JOHN WITTE JR., PH.D.

JAMES W.C. PENNINGTON DISTINGUISHED FELLOW 2016

John Witte, Jr., JD (Harvard), is Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, McDonald Distinguished Professor, director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University, and the fifth recipient of the James W.C. Pennington Distinguished Fellowship. He is a specialist in legal history, marriage law, and religious liberty. Professor Witte's writings have appeared in fifteen languages, and he has delivered almost four-hundred public lectures throughout North America, Europe, Japan, Israel, Hong Kong, South Korea, Australia, and South Africa. With major funding from the Pew, Ford, Lilly, Luce, and McDonald foundations, he has directed twelve major international projects on democracy, human rights, and religious liberty, and on marriage, family, and children. These projects have collectively yielded more than one-hundred-sixty

new volumes and two-hundred-fifty public forums around the world. He edits "Emory University Studies in Law and Religion" (Eerdmans) and the "Cambridge Law and Christianity Series" (Cambridge University Press). Professor Witte has won dozens of other awards and prizes for his teaching and research. Recent book titles include: *Religion and Human Rights: An Introduction* (2012); *From Sacrament to Contract: Marriage, Religion, and Law in the Western Tradition* (2012); *No Establishment of Religion: America's Original Contribution to Religious Liberty* (2012); *The Western Case for Monogamy over Polygamy* (2015); and *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment* (2016).



EMMA WOLF

STUDENT ASSISTANT EVENT MANAGEMENT/PR

Emma Wolf joined the HCA's BAS program in fall 2014. She supported the event management and wrote the retrospect reports for the website from April to July 2016, when she left the HCA to continue her studies at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Henning Jansen, B.A.
Teaching Assistant History

Christian Kribben
"Advanced English Conversation Course"

Julia Lichtenstein, M.A..
BAS "Methodology"/Teaching Assistant
Literature

Sebastian Mayer, B.A.
Teaching Assistant Politics

Everett Messamore, M.A.
Teaching Assistant History

Erhan Simsek, M.A.
Teaching Assistant Literature

Daniel Sommer
BAS "Debating Club"/"Presentation Skills"

Bryce Taylor, M.A.
Lecturer Religious Studies

Cosima Werner, M.A.
Teaching Assistant Geography

Cynthia Wilke, J.D.
Lecturer Law

ASSOCIATED FELLOWS

Professor Elizabeth Borgwardt, Ph.D.
Professor of History, Washington University
St. Louis

Professor Rashida Braggs, Ph.D.
Professor of Africana Studies, Williams
College

Professor Kirsten Fischer, Ph.D.
Professor of History, University of Minnesota

Prof. Dr. Philipp Gassert
Professor of History, University of Mannheim

Dr. Thomas Gijswijt
Associate Professor for American Culture and
Literature, University of Tübingen

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Professor Jeannette Jones, Ph.D.
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History Department, Heidelberg University

Dr. Felix Philipp Lutz
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Dr. Anthony Santoro
History Department, Sogang University, Seoul

Dr. Alexander Vazansky
Assistant Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Simon Wendt
Professor of History, University of Frankfurt

Professor Mark Wilson, Ph.D.
Professor of History, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

HCA INTERNS 2015-2016

In 2015-16, the HCA successfully continued its internship program, which began in the fall of 2005. We were very fortunate to host excellent interns over the years who have provided valuable support for our work. We would like to thank Jennifer Majunke from the BAS class of 2016 supported the Spring Academy team before and during the conference.

If you are interested in applying for an HCA internship or in further information please contact Dr. Anne Sommer at asommer@hca.uni-heidelberg.de.

COOPERATION AND SUPPORT

The HCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following institutions in facilitating its programs:

The American Academy in Berlin; the Max Kade Foundation; Alliiertenmuseum Berlin; Street Art Berlin; the Hans Böckler Foundation; Deutscher Bundestag; Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik; Deutsche Bank; the Enjoy Jazz Festival, Heidelberg; the Forum für internationale Sicherheit (FiS), Heidelberg; Andreas Henn Kunsthandel Galerie Stuttgart; Hoffman & Campe; Rowohlt; the Hertie School of Governance; the Institute for International Studies, Charles University, Prague; the Institute of North American Studies, King's College, London; the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora, Jagiellonian University, Krakow; the Franklin Institute at the University of Alcalá, Spain; the Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, The Netherlands; the Heidelberg Program of Pepperdine University; the University of Notre Dame; Yale Divinity School; the American Studies Program, Columbia University; the American Studies Program, New York University; the German Culture Center, University of Missouri, St. Louis; the History Department, Washington University, St. Louis; the Education Abroad Office and the History Department, University of Nebraska at Lincoln; the San Francisco State University; the American Studies Department, University of California at Berkeley; Duane Morris LLP, San Francisco; the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin; Bürger für Heidelberg, the German American Institute Heidelberg (DAI); the Carl-Schurz-Haus/German American Institute Freiburg; the Literaturbüro Freiburg; the Theater Freiburg; the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin; the Chair for Contemporary History at the University of Mannheim; the English Department, Heidelberg University; the Zentrum für Europäische Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften (ZEGK), Heidelberg University; the Department of Religious Studies, Heidelberg University; the Institute for Geography, Heidelberg University; the Faculty of Theology, Heidelberg University; the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien in Heidelberg; the American Council on Germany; the Heidelberg University Association, New York, and its executive director Irmintraud Jost; Heidelberg Alumni International and its director Silke Rodenberg; the American German Business Club, Heidelberg; the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); the German-American Fulbright Commission; the German Historical Institute (GHI), Washington, D.C.; the Goethe Institut, New York; the German Center for Research and Innovation, New York; the Government of the State of Baden-Württemberg; the Canadian Embassy in Berlin; and especially the United States Embassy in Berlin and the United States Consulate General in Frankfurt/Main.

Additionally, the HCA would like to thank the following institutions of Heidelberg University for their support: The Rector and the Rector's Office; Communications and Marketing (KuM); the Zentrale Universitätsverwaltung (ZUV); the International Office; the Office for Equal Opportunity; the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy; the Computing Center (URZ); the University Guest Houses; the Studentenwerk Heidelberg; and the University Library. Furthermore, special thanks go out to the administrative staff of the Schurman Foundation (Christina Larenz) and the FHCA (Irina Padejeke-Enke and Lucy Whitehead), to the office of the Engelhorn family (Gunda Baumgartner), and to attorneys at law Klaus-Dieter Freund and Jan Breckenfelder.



AN INSTITUTE FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION

AN INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

MISSION STATEMENT

As an institute for higher education, the HCA trains American Studies specialists in response to an increasing demand in academia, the public sector, and the business community. The HCA provides interdisciplinary academic and cultural teaching on the United States for students from around the world.

Having offered a Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) program (see pages 59-64) from its inception and a three year Ph.D. in American Studies program (see pages 74-75) starting in 2006, the HCA completed its educational portfolio by adding a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies (BAS) in October 2010.

BACHELOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES (BAS)

The Bachelor of Arts in American Studies at Heidelberg University is unique in its broad range of subjects. The program is offered by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) in cooperation with the English Department, the Institute of Geography, the History Department, the Institute for Political Science (IPW), the Law Faculty, and the Faculty of Theology, including its Research Center for International and Interdisciplinary Theology (FIIT). The option to specialize in geography or theological and religious studies as well as to obtain an additional jurisprudential certificate makes this program unique even beyond Germany and Europe.

The American Studies program is a one of a kind multi- and interdisciplinary program designed to understand a complex subject matter: the United States of America. Students receive a thorough education in literature, cultural studies, history, political science, American religion, and geography and have the additional opportunity to study U.S. constitutional and procedural law.

The B.A. in American Studies admits a small group of highly motivated students, approximately 25 freshmen annually. It places a strong emphasis on intense one-to-one support and mentoring as well as on student responsibility within a research-oriented teaching program.

The BAS is a full-time program lasting six semesters. Students are admitted once a year at the beginning of the winter semester. Applications are accepted by Heidelberg University until July 15 of the respective year.

The program wants to attract German as well as international applicants holding a General Qualification for University Entrance ("Allgemeine Hochschulreife" or equivalent) with a special interest in the history, politics, society, and culture of North America. The Bachelor in American Studies program at Heidelberg University lets students choose their individual focus, allowing them to specialize in the areas they are most interested in. The course of study comprises both

subject-specific and practical parts. For more information, please visit the BAS website at www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/ba/index.html.

THE BAS CLASS OF 2019

In 2016, the program admitted 21 students from all over Germany. Most of them have already had some experience abroad, be it a year during high school or as an au-pair after graduation. The new BAS students were welcomed at the HCA at the beginning of October with a three day orientation session and took up their course work afterwards.



The new students of the BAS Class of 2019 (front to back and left to right):

1st row: Laura Kerstan, Corbin Brucker, Antonia Haas, Chiara Saltaformaggio, Sira Berkhan, Laura Eisenbeißer, Laura Eckstein, Viktoria Leng, Oleg Schulenburg

2nd row: Julian Kramer, Betty Schaumburg, Lena Kruzycki, Layla Koch, Debora Artemeier, Laura Garbe, Linda Scheffel, Felix Brändlin, Mathilde Puret

Not pictured: Vanessa Veith, Julia Wycital, Tina Wittek.

BAS STUDENT TRIP TO BERLIN 2016

On Monday, July 11, 2016, the HCA's Debating Club II—eighteen students of the BAS program, Dr. Martin Thunert and Dr. Tobias Endler—headed to the German capital to examine the American influence on Berlin during a five day excursion. They arrived at their hotel located near Berlin's busy Alexanderplatz in late afternoon and, after a short break, went to conclude their first day with a boat trip on the river Spree. On Tuesday, the group had an early appointment in the United States embassy. There, they were able to meet and talk to Jeremy Fowler, the cultural



BAS Students in Berlin

attaché, who gave them a short tour of the building and its garden. After spending some free time, the group reassembled at the Auswärtiges Amt in the afternoon. Here, they were welcomed by Dr. Holger Klitzing, a former doctoral student of the HCA's founding director Professor Detlef Junker, who took time to talk about the work and mission of the Auswärtiges Amt. The evening was spent at the W. E. B. Du Bois lecture of the Humboldt University that had invited U.S. ambassador John B. Emerson to talk about the upcoming presidential elections. On Wednesday, the group defied rain and cold and made their way to the AlliiertenMuseum where they even got a chance to see the inside of an original American bomber. After a short visit to Checkpoint Charlie, the students were free to spend the rest of the day on their own. Next to museum visits, sightseeing, and shopping, some decided to visit either the Schiller Theater, which presented the opera *Luci Mie Traditrici*, or the Monbijou Theater, which hosted a performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, in the evening. On Thursday, sadly the bad weather continued as the group started the day with a visit to the Mauerpark and the East Side Gallery. After lunch, the students reassembled at the Canadian embassy where they visited the Marshall McLuhan Salon and its

multi-media research options. Afterwards, the students went to visit the Bundestag where they participated in a tour of the visitors' gallery and went to the roof of the Reichstag. To celebrate the last evening of the excursion, the group met at the American diner The Sixties where they were joined by former HCA students and indulged in American food and entertaining conversations. Due to current events, the first visit on Friday took the group to the French embassy where people had laid down flowers for the victims of the terror attack in Nice. The last official trip took them to the museum The Kennedys where they were able to get insights on the life of John F., Jacky, Robert, and other Kennedys. Eventually the group headed back to Heidelberg, leaving Berlin late in the afternoon. The students are grateful for the opportunities granted to them during the excursion and want to thank both Dr. Endler and Dr. Thunert for organizing this trip.

EXCURSION: "THE CHANGING AMERICAN RUSTBELT"

In September 2016, students of the Institute for Geography at Heidelberg University and the HCA toured the so-called rustbelt of the United States—a region that turned out to be decisive in the 2016 presidential elections. This excursion allowed them a close look at urban and cultural change as well as historical and political issues as they traveled from Chicago to Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, and Connellsville, Pa., then on to Washington, D.C., all by train and school bus. Students and faculty wrote about encounters and impressions for the HCA website. In a prosperous



In Throop Park on Chicago's Lower West Side, excursion participants listen to a presentation about the city's historic Pilsen neighborhood.

Chicago suburb, they talked to middle-aged voters in a pizza parlor but, a few days later, also got a sense of Chicago's infamous South Side, as well as a taste of Chinatown, both expertly introduced by professor David Wilson of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. In a gentrified neighborhood of Milwaukee they noticed an unusual election poll based on Clinton and Trump cookie sales at C. Adam's Bakery—it turned out to be not much wider off the mark than more sophisticated polls; they visited "Growing Power," a non-profit organization that grows organic food for the poorer districts of Milwaukee, and took a day to explore Milwaukee's many breweries—large ones (Coors-Miller), small ones (Lakefront), and abandoned ones (Pabst), now

being redeveloped to become a mix of tourist sites, science centers, and apartment complexes. In Pittsburgh, "Team Heidelberg" took part in the "Great Race" (5 or 10K) and stepped into the world's most energy efficient skyscraper but—for a contrast—also explored vacant homes in the struggling suburb of Wilksburg, then traveled up the Monongahela River into coal and steel country, visiting the defunct Carrie Blast Furnace steel plant, now a national historic landmark. The group also visited Small Town USA, Connellsville, Pennsylvania, where a local church graciously accommodated the students and the *Daily Courier* reported extensively on the guests from Germany, who had a chance to watch the first presidential debate in Bud's Pizza Place and, on their last evening in town, were treated to an all-American cookout hosted by the extended Culver family. The excursion ended in Washington D.C., where students explored Business Improvement Districts, including the once ill-reputed Anacostia neighborhood, as well as posh Georgetown. Dr. David Morris, German area specialist at the Library of Congress, provided a fascinating tour of not only the galleries but also the bowels of the world's largest library. On K Street, Bastian Hermisson, Executive Director of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America, and his colleague Mackenzie Nelson provided insights into Washington's world of political consulting, think tanks, and lobbyists. Last but not least, some students took the opportunity to watch a game of the local baseball team, the Nationals. Using mostly public transportation, participants met many ordinary Americans and learned about their everyday lives and the different problems Global Cities and Small Towns face in one and the same country. Read all the posts of students and faculty at <http://www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/ba/exkursion2016.html>.

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAS STUDENTS

Like the year before, a sizable portion of our BAS students seized the unique opportunity provided by Heidelberg University's exchange programs to spend a year studying abroad. These international exchanges strengthened the students' intercultural expertise and allowed them to obtain skills for their further studies and their future professions. The BAS students who went to the United States spent their year at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks; University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant; University of Washington, Seattle; Connecticut College, New London; Willamette University, Salem, Oregon, Illinois College in Jacksonville, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. One student opted for an exchange via the ERASMUS program and went to study at Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece.

MASTER OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES (MAS)

The Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) at the HCA is an exclusive interdisciplinary program taught in English. It is aimed at qualified graduate students from around the world. The MAS program offers exemplary and interdisciplinary teaching that provides students with in-depth cultural knowledge about the United States of America. The three semester program provides training in academic and practical skills and offers inside knowledge with an outside perspective. A performance-related fast track option (two semesters) is available.

The HCA admits up to twenty students to the MAS annually. To date, eleven graduating classes totaling 172 students have earned the master's degree. These 172 students came from 44 countries on five continents. Admission is competitive and depends on the quality and academic merits of the candidates. Most candidates will have studied humanities, social sciences, media and communication studies, or law at the undergraduate or graduate level.

The MAS begins in October of each year and is directed towards students who have already completed a four-year undergraduate studies program. The tuition fee for the MAS program is 2,500 EUR per semester. Curricula include a selection of courses from geography, history, law, literature, political science, religious studies, and sociology. The MAS curriculum is designed to give the participating students both a sound scholarly grounding and opportunities for the professional application of what they have learned.

The winter semester 2015-16 began with a one-week orientation period in early October followed by a weekly curriculum of four lectures with their accompanying tutorials in geography, American history, law, and political science, one interdisciplinary colloquium, and two additional methodology courses. The summer semester, which started in April 2016, consisted of two lectures in religious studies and literature, two tutorials, two interdisciplinary seminars, one presentation skills course, and the continuation of the methodology courses and the interdisciplinary colloquium. Over the two semesters, students had to choose three majors with mandatory attendance in the tutorials, oral exams, and term papers. In their chosen minors students also had to take oral exams.

The third and final semester is reserved for writing the M.A. thesis that has to be handed in by February 28, 2017. On November 11 and 18, the M.A. thesis workshop took place where 13 M.A. students presented their theses outlines. The graduation ceremony will take place on April 28, 2017.

For more information, including course outlines of the classes offered, please visit the MAS website at www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/ma/index_en.html.

THE MAS CLASS OF 2016

Özcan Altay (Turkey)

Özcan was born in Kirikkale, Turkey, in 1982. He received his B.A. in law from Ankara University in 2005. Since then, he has been working in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey as a legislative expert where he, among other things, took part in the meetings of the Committee on Conciliation on the Constitution. At the HCA, he majored in law, religion, and political science and wrote his master's thesis on "Obama and the Imperial Presidency."

Xin Huang (China)

Huang Xin was born in China and graduated from the Civil Aviation University of China with a B.A. in English in 2014. At the HCA, she majored in literature, law, and political science. She wrote her master's thesis on "America's Soft Power in the Middle East after the Iraq War."

Tingyu Liu (China)

Tingyu was born in 1992 in Sichuan, China. In 2010, she started her college life at Sun-Yat Sen University and received her B.A. in English language and literature there, specializing in translation and interpretation. At the HCA, she chose sociology, law, and political science as her majors. She wrote her master's thesis on "The Role of Media in the U.S.'s Policy Making."

Xing Liu (China)

Born in a small city, Zhumadian in Henan province, China, in 1986, Xing Liu had the opportunity to study at the Chengdu University of Information Technology and finished his B.A. in English in 2009. After graduation, he went back to his hometown and worked in a local chemical company. At the HCA, he majored in sociology, law, and political science. He wrote his master's thesis on "American Higher Education and the Chinese Elite in the Early 21st Century."

Michelle Maffucci (Peru/USA)

Michelle was born in Lima, Peru, in 1993. She graduated from the University of Tampa, cum laude, in May 2014. She received her B.A. in international and cultural studies with minors in history and Latin American Studies and completed a German language certificate. Michelle participated in two study abroad courses in Lima, Peru, and in Stuttgart, Germany. She volunteered at the United Services Organization and participated in the Republican National Convention during the U.S. presidential election in 2012. At the HCA, Michelle majored in sociology, history, and law. She wrote her master's thesis on "The Relationship between U.S. Humanitarian Assistance and Internal Stability in Africa: Case Studies of U.S. Operations Restore Hope and United Assistance."

Matthew Niebes (USA)

A native of Atlanta, Ga., Matthew graduated from Emory University in 2014, where he completed a B.A. in English and history as well as an honor's thesis analyzing the literature of William S. Burroughs within 1960s countercultural philosophy. At the HCA, he chose to major in religious studies, history, and literature. He wrote his master's thesis on "The Untouched Constituency: Recontextualizing the New Young Electorate in the 1972 Presidential Election."

Lijie Ruan (China)

Lijie was born in 1991 and studied English at Henan Normal University. She chose to major in religious studies, law, and history at the HCA. She wrote her master's thesis on "Turn Fame into Capital: Celebrity Branding and Social Status in the Age of Convergence Culture."



The MAS Class of 2016
(l. to r.): Nan Zhang, Emine Türkmen, Xin Huang, Lijie Ruan, Xing Li, Matthew Niebes, Maren Schäfer, Tingyu Liu, Jin Wu.

Maren Schäfer (Germany)

Maren was born near Bonn, Germany. After gaining a B.A. in international business, she worked as key account manager in an online marketing agency. After finishing her coursework in the HCA's MAS program, Maren spent a year as an exchange student at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. She returned in June 2015 and continued her studies, writing her M.A. thesis on "The American Presidency and the Power to Persuade." She graduated as the valedictorian of the MAS class of 2016.

Emine Türkmen (Turkey)

Emine was born in Trabzon, Turkey, in 1990. She graduated with a B.A. degree from the Department of History at Middle East Technical University in February 2014. At the HCA, she chose sociology, history, and religious studies as majors. She wrote her master's thesis on "Motives of the U.S.-Iraq Policy after the September 11 Attacks."

Jin Wu (China)

Jin was born in Chengdu City and studied at Xi'an Jiaotong University, China, graduating with a B.A. in English. During her studies, she participated in an academic exchange program at National Chengchi University in Taiwan. She started the MAS program in 2013. After taking a leave of absence to do an internship in Brussels, she resumed her studies in fall 2014. She wrote her master's thesis on "The Role of 'Soft Power' in Sino-American Relations after 1972."

Nan Zhang (China)

Nan was born and raised in Inner Mongolia, China. She graduated from Inner Mongolia Univer-

sity with a bachelor's degree. Although she majored in philosophy, she also studied literature and history during her four years at college. At the HCA, she chose law, political science, and history as her majors. She wrote her master's thesis on "Is Creative Class Theory a Cure for Industrial Cities? An International Comparison between Camden, United States, and Wuhan, China."

THE MAS CLASS OF 2017

Hacer Bahar (Turkey)

Hacer was born in Istanbul, Turkey. She received a B.A. in American culture and literature from Bilkent University, Ankara. At the HCA, she majored in political science, law, and religious studies. Her M.A. thesis is tentatively entitled "From Empire to Republic: The Impact of Imperial Edict and Constitution on American Missionary Schools in the late Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic."

Louis Butcher (UK/USA)

Louis was born and raised in London to an American mother and English father. He spent most of his childhood holidays with family in Detroit and Los Angeles. He graduated with a B.A. in modern European history from the University of Bradford in 2015. The program included a year abroad at Clarkson University in upstate N.Y. At the HCA, he focused on history, political science and law, and is writing his M.A. thesis on the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FACTA).

Iulia Caizer (Romania)

Born in Romania, Iulia received her Bachelor of Law from the West University of Timisoara in 2013. During her studies, she participated in international debate competitions and moot court competitions and interned at law firms. She also received an Erasmus scholarship and studied at the University of Genoa, Italy. At the HCA, she chose sociology, political science, and law as her majors. She wrote her M.A. thesis on "The World After Bin Laden: The U.S. War on Terror and Its Impact on International Law." For the academic year 2015-16, she took part in an exchange program studying at Georgia State University where she is now continuing her studies in a master's program in law.

Vincent Wai Shing Ha (Hong Kong, China)

Vincent was born in Hong Kong and received his B.A. in English literature along with a minor in history from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2012. During his studies, he also worked as an English tutor at the Wallstreet Institute. After graduation, he worked as an English teacher for a local school and a kindergarten for two years and also as a freelance writing assistant. At the HCA, he majored in literature, sociology, and history and wrote his M.A. thesis on the savior image of the U.S. and the Hong Kong umbrella movement.

Jessica Hagen (USA)

Jessica Hagen is from Linden, Michigan, and graduated from Michigan State University in 2009 with a B.A. in German; she was also active in German-language outreach activities. From 2010-

2011, she was a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Ludwigshafen, and in 2015, she completed a B.Ed. in English and German at the University of Mainz. At the HCA, she chose geography, law, and literature as her majors. In her M.A. thesis, she analyzes tourism as an urban renewal strategy in Flint, Michigan. She is currently a working student at SAP and will start full time there as a technical writer after the submission of her M.A. thesis in March 2017.

Zachary Holler (USA)

Zachary Holler was born in 1991 and lived in Boerne, Texas. He earned his B.A. in history from Hillsdale College. During his studies, he volunteered to teach Latin with the local grade school. After college, he tutored local grade school students while choosing a university to continue his own education. At the HCA, he focused on history, law, and religious studies and is writing his M.A. thesis on "T.S. Eliot at Harvard."

Frederick Janzen (Germany)

Frederick Maximilian Janzen, born and raised in Heidelberg, received his B.A. in international business with Spanish from the European Business School London in 2014. Having studied and worked in South America, the Middle East, and Europe, he decided to move back to his hometown to undertake his master's degree in American Studies. He focuses on history, geography, and literature.

Gayong Kwon (South Korea)

Gayong was born in Seoul, South Korea. She attended Sogang University where she received her B.A. in American culture along with a minor in business. During her college years, she was an exchange student in Helsinki, Finland. At the HCA, she majored in history, geography, and religious studies. Her M.A. thesis will be on "Diasporic Identities in Korean-American Novels."

Xingyan Liu (China)

Xingyan was born in China in 1992. She received her Bachelor of Law from South-Central University for Nationalities in 2015. During her studies, she participated in an English speech contest and won the second place. At the HCA, she chose geography, law, and literature as her majors. Her M.A. thesis is tentatively entitled "New Media and the United States Presidential Election."

Aljay Pascua (USA)

Born in the Philippines, Jay moved to the U.S. when he was 12 years old. He studied at the University of California, Davis, and received a B.A. in comparative literature. Afterwards, he received two M.A. degrees in comparative and world literature and in English language teaching from San Francisco State University. From July 2011 to December 2014, he lived and worked in Africa, teaching English for the Peace Corps in Cape Verde and in Mozambique. At the HCA, he chose political science, geography, and literature as his majors. In his M.A. thesis, he analyzes two Don DeLillo novels and focuses on the representations of radicalization.

Henry Prown (USA)

Henry was born in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1992. He graduated from University College London (UCL) with a B.A. in European Studies in 2015. He spent the third year of his studies as an

Erasmus exchange student in Italy, studying at the Università per Stranieri di Siena. He wrote his undergraduate dissertation on the varying responses of national governments to hostage crises. During his time at the HCA, Henry focused on political science, geography, and law. For his M.A. thesis, he turned to the historical topic of "Americans in the Gulag."

Tony Royle (USA)

Tony graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2015. He completed a B.A. in history with a concentration in United States history and a B.A. in Romance languages focusing on Italian. Throughout university he worked with prospective and current students as an admissions ambassador, orientation leader, and a resident advisor. At the HCA, Tony majored in history, political science, and geography. He is now writing his M.A. thesis on the #BlackLives-Matter movement.

Johnathan Schlaefter (USA)

Jonathan was born in Sacramento, California, in 1990. In 2015, he graduated from California State University Long Beach with a B.A. in comparative literature. He spent a semester abroad at Åbo Akademi in Finland. At the HCA, he chose history, geography, and law as his majors. His M.A. thesis deals with Hawaii and its conceptions of land.

Nao Tomabechi (Japan)

After her B.A. in English literature, Nao graduated from Sophia University in Tokyo with an M.A. in American literature in 2015. During her studies, she spent a semester abroad at the University of San Francisco. At the HCA, she majored in history, political science, and literature. In her M.A. thesis, she focuses on "The Neglected Sexuality: Bisexuality in American Mainstream Superhero Comics."

Nahia Uribe (Brazil)

Nahia Uribe was born and raised in Brazil. She moved to the Basque Country in Spain in 2010 to attend the University of the Basque Country, from which she received her B.A. in history in 2015. At the HCA, she focused on history, political science, and literature, writing her M.A. thesis on "American Cold War Rhetoric Critiqued: Invasion Narratives in 1950s SciFi-Films."

THE MAS CLASS OF 2018

This year we welcome fifteen new students from twelve different countries: Kelsey Becker (USA), Katharine Blakey (New Zealand), Tamás Deák-Bárdos (Hungary), Nina El Menschawi (Germany), Ilkin Huseynli (Azerbaijan), Libin Li (China), Hien-Le Pham (Vietnam), Léa Pitschmann (France), Natascha Schiel (Germany), Sarah Shammaa (Syria), Sena Sipahiolu (Turkey), Supawadee Srip-utorn (Thailand), Calum Andrew Thomson (UK), Sirui Wang (China), and Yanping Wei (China).

HCA COMMENCEMENT 2016

On April 22, students, staff, family, and friends of the HCA gathered in the old lecture hall of Heidelberg University to celebrate the graduation of 38 of the HCA's B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. students.

(see page 61 for MAS and page 76 for Ph.D. graduation pictures)



BAS graduates 2016
(l to r): Laura Rühl, Stella Müller, Violetta Schleicher, Tanja Grothe, Laura Mischke, Catharina Köhnen, Victoria Radó, Stefan Wasmer, Johanna Müller, Sebastian Mayer, Pia Lampert, Maria Rentmeister, Annika Geisler, Laura Schoppe, Natascha Schiel, Wanda Brandt, Eva-Maria Weber, Fabienne Damasch.:

The commencement festivities opened with the Papermoon Orchestra, a musical duo consisting of Johannes Alisch on the contrabass and Alexander Schindler on the piano, whose intimate yet entertaining jazz music wonderfully accentuated the event. Inspired by the historic location, Rector Bernhard Eitel praised the long tradition of international academic exchange embraced by the Ruperto Carola. He was proud to see such a diverse group of graduates participating in the traditional commencement ceremony and congratulated all of them on their academic achievements. Reminding the graduates of their responsibility to shape the global future, he encouraged them to remain positive, curious, and engaged and invited them to return to Heidelberg University on their future career paths. Rector Eitel's remarks were followed by Professor Detlef Junker, the HCA's founding director, who was not only proud to welcome such a great number of graduates but also delighted to see students from all three programs of the HCA coming together at commencement for the first time. He extended his good wishes to the nineteen BAS graduates who had had the opportunity to participate in the HCA's multidisciplinary program and gather experiences worldwide. He was glad to see eleven MAS graduates from different backgrounds, who came together at the HCA to experience and study new cultures. Moreover, he congratulated eight Ph.D. graduates on completing their demanding journey and praised them for their exceptional and original research projects. Professor Junker stressed that even though the HCA's multidisciplinary study programs were challenging, all of the graduates completed them successfully. Thanks to the generosity of the Schurman Verein and the Friends of the HCA, the institute was able to offer such a unique study opportunity to a variety of different aspiring scholars. Professor Junker's good wishes resonated with Steven Hill's keynote address.

As a rigorous advocate for social, environmental, and governmental change, Steven Hill, who is a Senior Fellow with the New America Foundation and was at the time a Holtzbrinck Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin, used the opportunity to raise awareness for the changing employment market, which he discussed in his recent book *Raw Deal: How the "Uber Economy" and Runaway Capitalism are Screwing American Workers*. His talk demonstrated vividly how technological progress already has and will continue to change the labor market dramatically. As temporary labor becomes increasingly popular, Hill said, employees struggle to create financial security or attain sufficient health care. Steven Hill advised the graduates to take responsible action to counter this trend and, referring to the story of the Good Samaritan, create a more tolerant and equitable capitalist society.

Steven Hill



After the diplomas had been handed to the graduates by Professor Junker, Maren Schäfer of the MAS Class of 2016 was awarded this year's book prize. In her valedictorian speech, she praised the HCA's master's program as a unique opportunity to engage with people from different cultural backgrounds and, as a result, to become more familiar with one's own as well as the American culture. Going abroad as well as participating in the multidisciplinary approach of the HCA had broadened her horizon significantly, for which she extended her gratitude to the professors, advisors, staff, and students of the HCA, as well as to their families and friends. After a musical interlude the celebration moved to the Atrium and the Bel Etage of the HCA. Accompanied by the Papermoon Orchestra, students, faculty, and family celebrated the occasion with food, drink, and good conversation for the rest of the night. We congratulate all graduates of the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. classes of 2016!

VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH

Dear esteemed guests, Rector of Heidelberg University, Professor Eitel, Professor Junker, our esteemed speaker Mr. Hill, dear educators, learners, family, friends, and fellow students,

Now that I—hopefully—have greeted everyone present, I can proceed to say how happy and proud I am to graduate with a master’s degree from the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. At the same time, I’m sad to say farewell to my time at the HCA.

For my thesis, I read and analyzed presidential rhetoric and, by now, know the strategies successful presidents use in their speeches. I know the theory. Yet, writing a speech is very different. So, I looked at my predecessors’ words for inspiration. Some valedictorians compared the master’s program to climbing a mountain, a task that requires both enthusiasm and determination. They compared it to a journey, encouraging us to create our own paths. They praised the abundance of food and drinks at HCA events as well as the new friendships formed during the program. As far as I’m concerned, all of them were right. We can be proud to have climbed that mountain, we can now create our own paths, equipped with our knowledge and supported by our new friends.



Maren Schäfer giving the valedictorian speech

We can set off on new journeys with a new perspective. The HCA provided us with inside knowledge of the United States while allowing us to see American culture from an outside perspective. But, thanks to our professors and TAs as well as our fellow students, we gained inside knowledge from both an outside and an inside perspective.

Throughout our studies, multiple hours spent in lectures and seminars, countless texts read for class, and numerous pages written for papers and the final thesis equipped us with information on and an understanding of American culture. Yet, we also learned things outside the classroom. During a trip to France, a classmate finally taught me to take, not to make, a photo. Another friend showed me how to make the most delicious cream cheese icing. And my fellow students changed my perspective on Germany and its culture. For example, I knew about our love for bread, but had never noticed how much Germans like gelato. As soon as the sun comes out, you can spot us walking around with an ice cream cone in our hands. It’s these little things — learning

from each other, getting to know different cultures, looking at things from a different viewpoint—that made our time at the HCA so special. We saw the United States from an outside perspective, and we gained a new perspective on our own countries and cultures.

To gain inside knowledge with an inside perspective, I extended my studies and spent a year in the United States, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. With classes on Native American culture or U.S. foreign relations, I deepened my knowledge and understanding of the American culture and, again, much of what I learned, I learned outside the classroom: From my roommates, from my friends, and from my fellow students. I can proudly claim to be able to make a proper breakfast burrito. I know how to pass the time during hour-long road trips. I went to Thanksgiving dinners, the harvest festival of a Native American tribe, or—very profanely—spring break in Cancun. And through all of this, I experienced the warmth and friendliness of the American people. The time in Albuquerque allowed me to get to know the diverse culture of the country many of us here are studying. I am grateful for the opportunity to have seen the American culture from an inside perspective as well.

With our time at the HCA coming to an end, we all see the United States in a different light. Also, the way we see our own countries might have changed, thanks to the variety of cultures represented at the HCA. We had the opportunity to learn not only about American culture, but also about each other's. We could learn about cultural differences as well as similarities and could reflect on our views of the world. As far as I'm concerned, I graduate today with a new perspective on American culture, on German culture, on Chinese and British and Vietnamese culture. In fact, with a new perspective on the world.

None of this would have been possible without the help and support we received. I would like to thank, on behalf of all the graduates, the HCA, its faculty and staff, for providing a unique studying environment and for supporting and guiding us throughout our programs. I would also like to thank our professors and advisors, who taught us so much and who equipped us with the knowledge necessary to climb this mountain. And my special thanks go to our families and friends, whose support helped us to get through the occasional hardships of obtaining a university degree. We are lucky and grateful to have you.

All of us can be proud today: The BAS class of 2016, the MAS class of 2016, and the students who graduate with a Ph.D. today. As my predecessors put it: We climbed this mountain, we finished this journey, and we made new friends along the way. Now, new adventures are lying ahead of us. Some might stay in Heidelberg, some might return to their home countries, and others might set out to new shores. Whatever the future holds for you, whatever plans you may have—or not have, I wish you all the best and good luck!

Maren Schäfer

STUDENTS' COMMITTEE

In the fall semester 2012, several BAS students started to loosely organize into a group that could represent the student body. With the founding of the general student council ("Studierendenrat/StuRa") at Heidelberg University in 2013, the American Studies Students' Committee ("Fachschaft") became officially recognized. Its responsibilities include organizing events, such



Lara Smail, Franziska Pentz, Michelle Widmann, Katja Florack, and Marie Steinmann at the Educational Fair, Fall 2016.

as the annual Christmas party and the summer barbecue, and supporting the orientation week for first-year students in the fall. The Students' Committee also arranges informational meetings for advanced students, for instance regarding thesis-writing and studying abroad. To the public, the Committee represented the American Studies major at Heidelberg University's 2016 fair for high school students. Within the HCA, the Students' Committee has acted as intermediary between the students and the staff and faculty whenever needed. The establishment of the HCA's Writing Center is one example of the Committee's success in communicating the students' ideas to the administration. Also, for the first time this year, the Student Committee invited former BAS students back to the HCA in order to show current students possible professional fields after their Bachelor in American Studies. The Committee's biweekly meetings, open to everyone, are a platform for students to voice their concerns and suggestions. The Committee furthermore presents dedicated students with the opportunity to become active in the political discourse of higher education. The Students' Committee welcomes new members at all times. For further information, please contact the 2016-17 Students' Committee chairs Franziska Pentz and Michelle Widmann at fachschaft@hca.uni-heidelberg.de.

HCA SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Thanksgiving 2015

Our festive Thanksgiving dinner is one of the most valued traditions at the HCA for both students and staff. Once more on the fourth Thursday in November, MAS students, faculty, and staff celebrated the occasion in the Atrium. Everybody contributed to a rich buffet made up of traditional dishes. After the ceremonial opening, we enjoyed delicious food along with conversation and laughter.

Tobias Endler Serves Thanksgiving Dinner to Xingyan Liu. Hacer Bahar Is in the Background.



Christmas Party

Organized by the Students' Committee, the annual student Christmas party has become another tradition at the HCA. On December 17, students from all HCA programs met in the festively decked-out Atrium for Christmas goodies, mulled wine, and a late night round of Karaoke.

Summer Barbecue

We celebrated the arrival of the well-earned summer break in good American tradition: with a barbecue. The HCA backyard offered an ideal atmosphere for a garden party. HCA staff and faculty, MAS, and BAS students brought delicious food, and some of the students showed their skills as barbecue chefs.



A CENTER FOR
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

A CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

As a center for interdisciplinary research, the HCA provides the intellectual and organizational setting for international and interdisciplinary research projects as well as for individual research. Besides serving as a home for its resident scholars and numerous visiting researchers, the HCA hosts and organizes international conferences, symposia, workshops, and seminars.

PH.D. IN AMERICAN STUDIES

Launched in 2006, the Ph.D. in American Studies program at the HCA continues to attract talented young scholars from around the world. Currently eighteen students from nine countries are enrolled in the program, conducting cutting-edge research that brings various perspectives from cultural studies, political science, history, economics, literature, religion, and geography into a fruitful dialogue. They come from Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Turkey, the United States, and Vietnam.

The HCA's Ph.D. in American Studies offers a three-year English-language program to students who wish to earn a research-oriented academic degree at Germany's oldest university. The program aids students in acquiring the skills to conduct major scholarly research in the fields of American geography, history, literature and culture, politics, and religion. It not only offers a modern multidisciplinary curriculum (for more information, visit http://www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/phd/index_en.html) but is committed to building a true community of scholars by fostering academic debate and continuous exchange among students and faculty members. Graduates are awarded either a "Doktor der Philosophie (Dr. phil.);" or a "Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)," according to their choice.

To apply successfully, candidates not only need to fulfill the general entrance requirements but must also present a meaningful proposal that sketches the guiding questions of the dissertation project while embedding them in the current academic debate. The project proposal should demonstrate that the dissertation will make an important and original contribution to the field. The proposal should also outline the source materials that will be used and provide a realistic timetable for the completion of the project.

Furthermore, applicants need a letter of intent from a professor at Heidelberg University, stating that she or he is willing to be their advisor for the envisaged project. In addition, candidates must provide two letters of recommendation that not only assess their academic qualifications but also evaluate the proposed dissertation project.

In October 2016, we welcomed another four doctoral candidates to our program: Andreas Balz, hailing from Mainz, Germany, studied English philology and biology at Heidelberg University before deciding to stay in Heidelberg in order to pursue his doctoral studies on authorship in contemporary American literature. In his dissertation project, Andreas examines the social and

cultural conditions of literary production, as well as related practices like publishing and literary reception in the United States. Chitra Sanam, originally from Hyderabad, India, served U.S. citizens for over seven years in her capacity as a senior foreign service national with the U.S. Diplomatic Mission in India. In her research Chitra aims to analyze how U.S. leadership through the lens of Obama's "smart power" has impacted U.S. diplomatic relations with the world. Natalie Rauscher is well-acquainted with the HCA: She joined the institute's MAS program, earned her master's degree in 2015, and has been working as a teaching and research assistant at the HCA ever since. Natalie's project, titled "The changing discourse on social inequality in the United States under the influence of the 'sharing economy' and digitization," focuses on the issue of social inequality rising all across American society. Cosima Werner joined Professor Ulrike Gerhard's team "Human Geography of North America" at the Institute of Geography at Heidelberg University in 2015 before becoming a participant in the HCA's Ph.D. program this fall. Cosima holds a master's degree in cultural geography from the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. Her dissertation aims to contribute new insights about convenience stores as social spaces, focusing on the perspective of the customers for whom convenience stores serve as reference points for their everyday lives. All of the above now form part of an ambitious—and constantly growing—intellectual community at the HCA. For more information on all current Ph.D. candidates, see the Ph.D. candidates section (see pages 76-94).

Ph.D. Retreat at Annweiler

On the last weekend in April 2016, the fifth Ph.D. summer retreat took place at its traditional venue, the Kurhaus Annweiler/Trifels, a beautifully renovated villa in the picturesque Palatinate. In a pleasant and inspiring atmosphere and in the presence of their fellow students and supervisors, doctoral candidates from the HCA as well as guests from Heidelberg University's Law Department discussed their research projects before receiving valuable feedback from a sizeable audience. A wide range of presentations included topics as diverse as the "Literary Ultra South," "Figurations of Violence in Contemporary American Fiction," "Euro-American and Native Women in the Early Moravian Movement (1740-1760)," "A Comparative Legal Analysis of Californian Drought Law," and a study on the "Shale Oil and Gas Revolution."

On Friday evening, Professor Lane Crothers from Illinois State University, at the time a Fulbright Bicentennial Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki, Finland, gave a talk on "Why Donald Trump? And Why He Won't Be Elected President of the United States," which in hindsight should prove to be overly optimistic. Professor Crothers engaged in a lively debate with the audience on the statistical and historical likelihood of why a Trump presidential bid was doomed to fail; even though his unshakable confidence about the outcome of the 2016 elections was not shared to the same degree by all members of the audience, an overwhelming majority was united in their hope for one of Trump's competitors to win the race. In any case, the topic of Crothers' talk serves as a prime example for how current issues pertinent to U.S. society are being discussed across disciplines in the HCA scholarly community.

PH.D. CANDIDATES

The past year has been extraordinary given the number of Ph.D. students who completed and successfully defended their dissertation: Hasan Adwan, Maria Diaconu, Michael Drescher, Heike Jablonski, Barbara Kujath, Eva Mayer, Styles Sass, Bryce Taylor, and Stefanie Weymann-Teschke (in alphabetical order) all braved the elements of bringing to a close the comprehensive research they had been engaged in for years. They thus contributed highly valuable research results in the field of American Studies to the academic community both in Heidelberg and around the globe.

(l. to r.): Marina Diaconou, Styles Sass, Heike Jablonski, Stefanie Wegemann Teschke, HCA Ph.D. coordinator Tobias Endler, Michael Prescher, Hasan Adwan, Stephen Ulrich, and Barbara Kujath.





ANDREAS BALZ (GERMANY)

Andreas Balz was born in Mainz, Germany in 1987. He studied English philology and biology at Heidelberg University as well as Scottish literature and British history at the University of Edinburgh. Besides a B.Sc. in biology, he holds a “Staatsexamen”—a German degree required for teaching in advanced secondary education—in English and biology. His final thesis accomplished to reconcile his two major subjects by approaching two works by Cormac McCarthy, *The Orchard Keeper* and *The Road*, from an ecocritical perspective. Since his graduation in December 2014, Andreas Balz has been working as an academic advisor at the International Relations Office of Heidelberg University while pursuing his doctoral studies on authorship in contemporary American literature. In 2016, he joined the HCA’s Ph.D. program.

In his dissertation project, Andreas Balz aims at providing a new perspective on contemporary authorship, examining the social and cultural conditions of literary production as well as related practices like publishing and literary reception in the United States. Employing aspects of Pierre Bourdieu’s field theory and performance-based approaches to culture rooted in theater and gender studies, the project conceives of authorship as a cultural concept defined by a variable set of activities within a literary field. The works of authors like Dave Eggers, Tao Lin, Sheila Heti, and Ben Lerner, which portray the daily routine of literary writers and exhibit a complex semi-autobiographical relationship with their real-life counterparts, serve as a starting point. Since literary production itself only represents one aspect of authorship, their analysis has to be complemented by a study of their authors’ other activities “on the literary scene.” Taking into consideration socio-cultural developments like the institutionalization of creative writing, the increasing importance of literary prizes, and the phenomenon of authorial celebrity, the project will explore how fictionalized and real-life “performances” of literary authors engage in shaping our contemporary concept of authorship.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt



DEBARCHANA BARUAH (INDIA) BASF SCHOLARSHIP

Debarchana Baruah was born in Guwahati in northeast India. In 2005, she moved to Delhi and later completed her B.A. (2008), M.A. (2010), and M.Phil. (2012) in English literature at the Department of English, University of Delhi. Some of her areas of interest are American cinema and television, consumer culture and representations of modernity, post-war American literature, whiteness studies, feminist theories, body politics, and ideologies of dissent. In July 2012, Baruah submitted her M.Phil. dissertation entitled "Elusive Dreams: Suburbia in Post World War II American Literature." During her M.Phil. she temporarily taught as a guest lecturer at Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi. After the completion of her M.Phil program, she moved to Heidelberg and started her doctoral studies at the HCA in October 2012. At present, Baruah teaches a course at the university's English Department on representations of the suburb in post-war American literature.

The working title of Baruah's dissertation is: "The Age of *Mad Men*: The 1960s in Twenty-First Century American Television." Her research focuses on contemporary America's negotiations with memories of the 1960s in the AMC television series *Mad Men*. She examines the factors that create and circulate contemporary desires to re-memorialize and return to the complex and paradoxical decade of the 1960s in television. She uses memory and culture theories to analyze this television series that activates and energizes perceptions of the 1960s embedded within contexts and ideas of "American-ness." In doing so, she outlines a framework of an ongoing retro boom and the ways in which retro representations reconstitute memories of the period. Finally, she engages with the peculiar ways in which retros in American television such as *Mad Men* configure and interpret the 1960s past in the present.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leyboldt



ANASTASSIA BIEDERSTAEDT (GERMANY) BASF SCHOLARSHIP

Anastassia Biederstaedt received her bachelor's degree in English philology and art history from the University of Stuttgart in 2011. Three years later, she graduated with an M.A. in English philology with distinction from the same university. Her M.A. thesis "Bodies in Escape: Performative Gender versus Gender as Institution in Jackie Kay's *Trumpet* and Jeffrey Eugenides' *Middlesex*" analyzed the construction and performance of masculinity in *Trumpet* and *Middlesex*. Within American Studies, Anastassia Biederstaedt mainly focuses on ethnic literatures and cultures. In this area, she is also interested in post-colonial questions that range beyond the borders of North America. Queer and gender studies belong to her earliest research emphases. Moreover, she is highly interested in posthumanism and theoretical questions which arise at the interfaces of human and animal or human and machine. A participant in both the Ph.D. in American Studies Program of the HCA and the research group Human Geography of North America, Anastassia Biederstaedt is writing an interdisciplinary dissertation with the working title "Animal Milk in Human Culture: A Critical Study of U.S. Milk Advertisements in the 20th Century," drawing from a broad variety of theoretical discourses for her project. Apart from this, she is a freelance teacher and multimedia artist.

Anastassia Biederstaedt's project examines milk advertisements as outcomes of a complex interplay of social and historical vectors of power. Her dissertation aims at investigating both the geopolitical and socio-cultural forces that helped to build milk as a cultural construct and the broad variety of myths and images intimately tied to this liquid. Given the persisting presence of milk overflow, how does milk continue to be promoted? Which changes did happen in milk advertising during the roughly hundred years since the beginnings of industrialization and urbanization? Which images are used and established to gain new consumers? How do these images inform and how are they informed by dominant discourses of race, class, gender, and species? These are some of the questions driving this dissertation project.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard



THI DIEM NGOC DAO (VIETNAM) **HEIDEMARIE ENGELHORN PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP**

Born in 1984, Thi Diem Ngoc graduated from the College of Foreign Languages, Vietnam National University, in 2006 with a B.A. degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL). In the HCA's MAS program, she chose history, international business culture, and political science as her majors. With her M.A. thesis about "Moving on to a Common Ground: Vietnam-U.S. Normalization of Relations, 1990-1997," she qualified for the HCA's Ph.D. program.

Her project focuses on the main themes of Vietnam-U.S. relations in the late twentieth century from historical and political perspectives. After the Vietnam War, the "continuation of war by other means" among American people and policymakers to codify the meaning of the war and cope with its legacy seemingly made normal relations between the two countries only a remote possibility. The freeze of Vietnam-U.S. relations dragged on, despite early efforts to improve relations and remove the U.S. economic sanctions on Vietnam. It was only in 1995 that President Clinton established normal diplomatic relations with Vietnam. Preceded by the lifting of the U.S. trade embargo on Vietnam in 1993, establishing diplomatic relations was a critical move to thaw relations between the two countries. There has been a wealth of literature on the Vietnam War; however, little has been done to shed light on how the U.S. and Vietnam have come to achieve reconciliation and "move on to common ground." Therefore, the project intends to explore the complexities of the normalization process and to specify the most important factors contributing to normalized relations in the 1990s. Thi Diem draws on the following points in her research: 1) the significance of the prisoners of war and missing-in-action (POW/MIA) resolution in the Vietnamese and U.S. political contexts; 2) the weight of mutual economic and security interests in moving towards normalization of relations; and 3) state and non-state actors' roles in the establishment of normal relations. Hopefully, the significance of this project will illustrate a turning point in Vietnam-U.S. relations against a haunting past of war memories and ideological conflicts.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg



GORDON FRIEDRICHS (GERMANY)

Gordon Friedrichs was born in Heppenheim, Germany, in 1984. He studied political science and South-Asian Studies, first as an undergraduate at the Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main from 2005 to 2007 and later as a graduate student at Heidelberg University from 2007 to 2012. In addition, he spent a year at Arizona State University in 2009-2010. He graduated in 2012 with a Magister Artium, specializing in international relations, U.S. foreign policy, South-Asian security studies, as well as international organizations. After his graduation, Gordon Friedrichs worked at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin before he joined the HCA's Ph.D. program in 2013. In his dissertation, Gordon Friedrichs focuses on the quality and direction of the U.S. leadership role in the twenty-first century.

The U.S. role as a leader in the international system is rooted in the country's ability to generate trust and authority (both domestically and internationally). Despite the still undisputed supremacy of the United States, these two foundations of its leadership role have become increasingly contested over the last decade. While scholars predominantly focus on a relative material U.S. decline compared to the rise of other nations, Gordon Friedrichs argues instead that U.S. power is mainly contested domestically, owing to political struggles about the function and configuration of U.S. leadership. In order to understand different conceptions of the U.S. leadership role among domestic actors, Gordon Friedrichs applies role theory in his analysis. He aims to develop an ideal type of leadership role in order to measure the domestic contestation process and to determine whether it benefits, inhibits, or stymies leadership.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Harnisch



MELANIE GISH (GERMANY) **CURT ENGELHORN PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP**

Melanie Gish graduated from the University of Mannheim with a B.A. in German and geography in 2003 and from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, with an M.A. in German in 2004. From 2005 until 2007, Melanie lived in Tennessee and Colorado and held several non-academic jobs. Overall, her experiences in the U.S. triggered the wish to engage in a more disciplined and systematic American Studies effort, and in 2007 she received the HCA Director's Fellowship to participate in the MAS program.

Melanie Gish's dissertation "Caught in the Middle? Creation Care Activism and the Intersection of Contemporary American Evangelicalism and Environmentalism" explores the organizational and ideological space evangelical environmentalists occupy in the contemporary United States. The primary goal of her research, which is based on qualitative interview data with creation care movement leaders, is to present a holistic yet nuanced portrait of organized evangelical environmentalism and to better understand its position/ing on the "battlefield map" of the culture wars. While pursuing this primarily hermeneutic task, Melanie Gish's thesis adds sociologically relevant knowledge to the literature on American evangelicalism, environmentalism, and "citizen lobbying" and contributes to the ongoing debate on the interplay of religion and politics in the public sphere.

Primary supervisors: Prof. Dr. Günter Leyboldt, Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



IRIS HAHN-SANTORO (GERMANY)

Iris Hahn-Santoro received her M.A. in linguistics, Scandinavian Studies, and philosophy from the University of Cologne in 2002. She wrote her thesis on anglicisms and neologisms in contemporary Icelandic, focusing on computer terminology. As part of her research, she spent a year at the University of Iceland as the recipient of scholarships from the German-Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Icelandic Ministry of Culture and Education. After receiving her M.A., Iris Hahn-Santoro served as a research assistant in the Arctic Studies Center at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.

Iris Hahn-Santoro's dissertation examines the sociolinguistic factors that play major roles in Native American language revitalization efforts. She spent several months in the United States conducting her field research with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe in Michigan. Utilizing a multi-methodological approach consisting of participant observation, questionnaires, and interviews, she will identify the different sociolinguistic factors that influence the tribal members' decisions on whether or not to participate in language revitalization efforts. She will also take different levels of language setting into consideration, for example domestic versus public use. This is a particularly contested area in this case study since, although the Ojibwe language is considered extinct in this region, an immersion school has been established for tribal members. This bottom-up process is a reversal of the more common top-down language death process, which typically takes place in public settings first and survives in the domestic domain.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Joern Albrecht



RYAN HOSELTON (USA)

HEIDEMARIE ENGELHORN PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP

Ryan Hoselton was born in New Mexico. He earned a B.A. in history from the University of New Mexico and an M.Div. and Th.M. from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He wrote his undergraduate thesis on the history of religious studies in America and his master's thesis on the Baptist theologian Andrew Fuller's theology of virtue. His doctoral dissertation focuses on the history of biblical interpretation in early American theology. Ryan also works as a research assistant to Professor Jan Stievermann on the Biblia Americana Project.

Ryan Hoselton's dissertation examines how eighteenth-century New England theologians employed experiential piety in biblical interpretation. Historians have documented the ways that many conservative theologians adopted evidentialist reasoning to defend and interpret Scripture in response to pressures from deism, empiricism, and historical criticism. Alongside these changes, however, religious thinkers like Cotton Mather (1663–1728) and Jonathan Edwards (1703–58) ascribed increasing authority to experiential piety in their hermeneutics. Drawing chiefly from their biblical commentaries, sermons, diaries, and other writings, this project seeks to understand the elevated role of experiential piety in hermeneutics and its significance in the intellectual and cultural context of eighteenth-century New England.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann



JULIA K. LICHTENSTEIN (GERMANY) CURT ENGELHORN PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP

Julia Lichtenstein studied at the J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt, where she received her B.A. and M.A. in American Studies, political science, and law in 2008. During her studies she was awarded a DAAD internship scholarship and was nominated for the best M.A. thesis of the American Studies Department at Frankfurt University. Julia Lichtenstein joined the HCA's Ph.D. program in October 2009.

Julia Lichtenstein's dissertation with the working title "Inner and Outer Space: Literary Negotiations of Southern Identity in Post-southern Times" investigates how contemporary Southern authors Barry Hannah, Larry Brown, and Harry Crews create and perpetuate a distinctive Southern literary space she calls the Ultra South. At first glance, contemporary Southern storytelling still reproduces and perpetuates traditional literary Southern tropes, but a closer investigation reveals their alienating role as empty signifiers. The equivalents of the Southern Gothic rotting mansion are in today's suburbs or trailer parks, residences with bad substance built with dirty or loaned money. William Faulkner's history-ridden cast is distortedly mirrored in Hannah's catfish-frying, cheap porn-bootlegging country folks who sneer at mainstream America or in Brown's white trash who term Oxford, Miss., "up north" and ironically have never heard about the Civil War. In the works investigated, Julia Lichtenstein argues, the readers are lured into the Ultra South by familiar markers and known defining features just to find themselves surrounded by surprisingly unfamiliar territory, but a territory still well-defined and with sometimes still seemingly impenetrable borders. Within the portrayed version of the South, a space Julia Lichtenstein calls the inner space is constituted by cultural practices and brings forth the imagined region. A strong and resilient regional identity is constituted and communicated, both in the protagonists and in the reader, and embedded in the outer space of the United States as a whole.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leyboldt



ANTHONY LIVANIOS (GREECE)

Anthony Livanios graduated in 1988 from the School of International Service, The American University, Washington, D.C., with a B.A. in economics and in 1991 from the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, with a master's of international affairs in international political economy. He has over twenty years of experience in structuring, negotiating, and implementing oil and gas projects, intergovernmental agreements, geopolitical risk assessments, and market intelligence. He has delivered consulting projects for the upstream and midstream petroleum industry in Eurasia and the Caspian region, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, Europe, and the United States. He has been a fellow at prominent Washington D.C.-based think tanks, such as the Atlas Economic Research Foundation (1994-1997), the American Enterprise Institute (1998), and the Leadership Institute (1999-2004). In 2006 he was honored in the United States with two International Templeton Awards for his active role and "outstanding work in the field of international development and cooperation in the region of East Mediterranean." He is often quoted as an analyst in the *Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. He frequently appears as a commentator on CNN, Reuters, and Associated Press.

Anthony Livanios' dissertation "The Geo-strategy of the United States and the Role of the U.S. Oil Majors in the New Great Game of Oil and Gas in Eurasia after the End of Cold War" explores the influence of U.S. policy and the challenges the U.S. oil industry faces in the exploration and production of the Eurasian oil and gas resources. The Caspian Sea is at the heart of Eurasia, and after the end of the Cold War the U.S. geo-strategy was unfolding on the stage of geopolitics and petroleum industry. The U.S. geo-strategy is analyzed in relation to the role of the U.S. oil majors in the new Great Game in Eurasia. In his dissertation, Anthony Livanios uses the methodology of qualitative primary research while performing and analyzing in-depth interviews with oil industry leaders and public policy decision makers.

Primary supervisors: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker, Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



AGNESE MARINO (ITALY)

Agnese Marino was born in Naples, Italy. In 2008, she received her B.A. in English and Spanish languages and literatures from the University of Naples L'Orientale with a dissertation in North-American history. In 2011, she completed her M.A. Her thesis, entitled "Performative Identities and Premises of Post-Ethnicism in contemporary USA: An Analysis of Two Novels by Gish Jen and Rebecca Walker," provided insights into the history of the American national identity and a critical analysis of multicultural ethno-racial identities from a post-ethnic point of view. The following year her work was awarded a prize by the Italian Association for North-American Studies (AISNA). Now, as a Ph.D. student at the HCA, she is working on a project that analyzes mixed-race memoirs and the way they can contribute to the shape of a new cosmopolitan identity in contemporary America.

Through the analysis of mixed-race memoirs produced over the past twenty years, Agnese Marino's project explores the contemporary conceptualization of ethnic identity in relation to Multiculturalism and New Cosmopolitanism. The reflection starts from the assumption that speaking of cosmopolitanism is to refer to a transformation in self-understanding as a result of the engagement with others over issues of global significance. This study adopts an interdisciplinary, transnational, and post-structural approach, trying to move outside of the gravitational force of exceptionalism, which has characterized much of the American debate on cosmopolitanism so far. Therefore, her literary analysis moves within the theoretical framework offered by Homi Bhabha's, Kwame Anthony Appiah's, and Martha Nussbaum's views about individual identity and cultural cosmopolitanism. On the other hand, Agnes Marino makes use of Judith Butler's performative theory and David Hollinger's post-ethnic theory in order to introduce the concept of "performative cosmopolitanism." This specific form of cosmopolitanism denies any relation between the body and its cultural significations and favors practices of free affiliation over descent ties. Moreover, it represents a way to go beyond not only national boundaries, but also communitarian ones, being based on the idea that hybridity, and not the binary opposition of ontological categories, is the future of American society.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss



HANNES NAGL (GERMANY)

Hannes Nagl studied English literature and political science at Heidelberg University. After graduating in 2009, he joined the HCA's Ph.D. program working on a thesis on "Figurations of Violence: Contemporary American Fiction and the Sociology of Modernization." Between August 2010 and July 2011 he worked as a research assistant at the English Department as part of the research project "Violence and the Hidden Constraints of Democracy: A New Civilization Studies Approach to American Literature and Culture."

In his thesis, Hannes Nagl will analyze different contemporary American novels which are notorious for their depictions of violence. By doing so, he will especially focus on the following questions: What motivates the fascination with violence in contemporary American literature? How do these representations of violence square with the notion of a "pacified" and "civilized" society? The basic assumption that underlies the project is that such novels offer not only entertainment and thrill but can be read as socio-analytical novels which present a quasi-sociological analysis of the role violence plays in postmodern American society. From this perspective, the main aim of the thesis will be to make these socio-analytical and, to a certain extent, socio-critical aspects of contemporary "novels of violence" transparent. In order to do so, Hannes Nagl will draw on rather uncommon theoretical sources: Besides more recent sociological research on violence, he will use Norbert Elias' "theory of civilization" and other sociological theories of modernization as a theoretical background for the interpretations of the novels. Although Elias' theory is rather uncommon for literary studies and has been applied only rarely to an American context, his approach of modernization and modern society as well as his writings on the sociology of modern sport are considered as a promising and a fruitful theoretical model for analyzing both the sociological and aesthetical aspects of contemporary novels of violence. From an Eliasian perspective, the literary and cultural fascination with violence and the reality of "pacified" modern societies are not contradictory but rather complementary facts. Beyond the individual "worlds" of the novels, the Eliasian approach will thus also help to shed new light on the various restraints and self-restraints that establish social discipline and peaceful cooperation in "civilized" Western societies as well as on the cultural role of real and imaginary violence in this context.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss



MAARTEN PAULUSSE (THE NETHERLANDS)

Maarten Paulusse received his bachelor's degree in history at Utrecht University in 2007 and completed his master's degree in American Studies at the same university in 2009. During his studies he did an internship in New York City with the U.S. correspondent of the leading Dutch current affairs television program *Nova* and undertook several other ventures into journalism. In the summer months of the years 2010-2013 he taught courses on Dutch history and culture to international students at bachelor level at the Summer School of Utrecht University. In the spring semester of 2011 Maarten Paulusse enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

In his doctoral study Maarten Paulusse explores the ways in which politicized forms of "contemporary spirituality" have an impact in the American public sphere. The project aims to make a contribution to the contemporary discussion on the role of religion in American politics. In this far from settled debate among historians, political scientists, sociologists, theologians, and other analysts of public life in the United States, the primary focus in the past two decades has been on the interaction of forms of Evangelicalism, particularly those related to the "Christian Right," with American politics. In this project the matter will instead be explored from the angle of "contemporary spirituality," using the recent Occupy Movement as a case study. The extensive theoretical toolbox offered by the academic field of religious studies will be used in this endeavor. In 2012 and 2013 Maarten completed two research trips to the U.S. during which he interviewed participants of the Occupy Movement.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Inken Prohl



NATALIE RAUSCHER (GERMANY)

Natalie Rauscher began studying in Heidelberg in 2009. She received her B.A. in 2013 in English literature, linguistics, and cultural studies as well as political science. She spent one year in the U.S. at St. Mary's College of Maryland, taking courses in literature, American history, and political science. After her B.A. she wanted to pursue her interest in the U.S. further and joined the MAS program at the HCA in Heidelberg where she earned her master's degree in 2015. In her master's project she looked into the influences of social movements on political decision-making with her thesis "The Occupy Movement and its Influence on the Political Discourse in the United States." She has worked as a teaching and research assistant at the HCA since the fall of 2015 and was admitted to the Ph.D. program in the fall of 2016. She is currently working on the issue of social inequality and the rise of the "sharing economy" in the United States.

Natalie Rauscher's project under the title "The Changing Discourse on Social Inequality in the United States Under the Influence of the 'Sharing Economy' and Digitization" focuses on the issue of social inequality rising all across American society. The once overwhelming majority who defined itself as middle-class is shrinking fast. Hit hard by the recession of 2008, many people could not find stable jobs or work their way back up the social ladder. Profound changes in business and the economy are also doing their part. The rise of digital technology is reshaping private and public lives, culture, politics, the workplace, and the economy as a whole. In the wake of this profound transformation, politicians need to find ways to respond, being themselves held accountable online but also taking into consideration the downsides of the digitization trend. The so-called sharing economy has become a catalyst for economic growth, yet it is also the source of new forms of inequality and precarious conditions. In her dissertation Natalie Rauscher will address the issues arising through social inequality under the influence of digitization in the United States, focusing especially on the political discourse among Democratic stakeholders. By introducing original corpus data, the dissertation will be able to focus on political communication and on how (digital) inequality is affecting it.

Primary supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



CHITRA SANAM (INDIA)

Chitra Sanam served U.S. citizens for over seven years in her capacity as a senior foreign service national with the U.S. Diplomatic Mission in India. She helped open the new U.S. Consulate in Hyderabad and build its American Citizen Services Unit from the ground up. Highlights of her career include temporary duty during crises at the U.S. Embassies in Yemen and Djibouti and collaborating with the U.S. Mission to encourage the Indian Government to accede to the Hague Abductions Convention. Prior to joining the Consulate, she enjoyed being a feature writer with India's national newspaper, *The Times of India*. She holds a Master of Science Degree in Journalism from Ohio University. She was born and raised in Hyderabad, India, but enjoys traveling to new places and seeing the world with a new pair of eyes.

"American leadership has been wanting, but is still wanted," stated Hillary Clinton in the Secretary of State nomination hearing at the start of the Obama presidency in 2009. "We must use what has been called 'smart power'... with smart power, diplomacy will be the vanguard of foreign policy," she further stated, after describing a range of smart power tools—military, diplomatic or cultural—that the Obama administration adopted. "Smart power," to that end, promised great potential for the U.S. to build stronger ties with nation states, to cooperate, and to address various worrisome global issues such as terrorism, pandemics, climate change, and energy. It led to a shift in U.S. diplomacy practices. Chitra Sanam's research aims to analyze how U.S. leadership through the lens of Obama's "smart power" has impacted U.S. diplomatic relations with the world in the area of addressing transnational issues. A better understanding of "smart power" as a diplomatic tool of this era would certainly contribute to the growing dialogue on assessing the true value of "smart power" in addressing world issues specific to this time and age.

Primary supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



JUSTE ŠIMELYTE (LITHUANIA)

HCA PH.D. IN AMERICAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTED BY THE LANDESGRADUIERTENFÖRDERUNG

Juste Šimelyte studied law at the University of Vilnius (Lithuania) where she specialized in commercial law. In 2007, she received her master's degree in law. In Lithuania, she also worked as a legal consultant in the law clinic of Vilnius University where she offered pro bono legal advice. In October 2007, she began her studies at the HCA, majoring in law, political science, and international business cultures. In 2008, Juste Šimelyte received her M.A. in American Studies with a thesis entitled "Cultural Globalization: 'Made in the USA' or 'Made in Europe'?"

Currently Juste Šimelyte is working on her thesis "Americanization and Europeanization: Two Forms of Cultural Globalization in Lithuania." It deals with social processes of the last twenty years in Lithuania, which has undergone dramatic changes in the political, economic, and cultural realm. After regaining its independence, Lithuania had to build new state institutions, create national laws, and determine new political and economic as well as cultural strategies. In 2004 Lithuania became a member of NATO and the European Union. The accession to the single European market and the free movement of goods, capital, and people facilitated transnational cultural contacts that brought new possibilities and challenges for Lithuanian culture. This empirical study focuses on the changes that occurred in Lithuania since the 1990s (after it became independent from the Soviet Union) and refers to the research areas that can be summarized in such key-words as space and place, identity, consumption, and cultural values. From the perspective of Americanization and Europeanization this thesis analyzes the transformation of Lithuanian cultural places and spaces, the building of a new identity, the perception of European values as "imposed from above," the consumption of popular culture, western artefacts, and (N)ostalgia remaining in a post-communist Lithuania. The thesis reveals the perception of Americanization and Europeanization as well as the relationship between these two multidimensional processes.

Primary supervisors: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker, Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



ERHAN SIMSEK (TURKEY)

Born in Ankara, Turkey, Erhan Simsek received his B.A. in English language teaching from Middle East Technical University with a minor degree in European Studies. Following that, in 2009 he received his M.A. from the HCA, writing his M.A. thesis on American literature. After his M.A., he continued his studies at the Free University of Berlin. In 2010 Erhan Simsek returned to Heidelberg, this time as a Ph.D. student at the HCA. The working title of his dissertation is "Changing Images of Business and Businessmen in American Fiction and Social Thought, 1880-1929."

Erhan Simsek's dissertation analyzes the changes in the image of businessmen from 1880 to 1929 by looking at the relationship between fiction and social thought of the period. Although business was one of the important components of American society, the novels concerned mainly with business and businessmen appeared only with the rise of realism in the late nineteenth century. Some of the novels he analyze are *The Rise of Silas Lapham* by William Dean Howells, *The Financier* by Theodore Dreiser, and *Babbitt* by Sinclair Lewis. In this period, both business novels and social thought flourished, analyzing the economic processes in society. Erhan Simsek also explores William Graham Sumner and Thorstein Veblen and locates business and businessmen in their social theories. His research aims to answer and raise further debates about the following questions: How does the image of business and businessmen change in fiction and social thought of the period? How do the fiction and social thought on business interact throughout the period? What is the relationship between social prominence and wealth in the works of thinkers and selected novels?

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss



COSIMA WERNER (GERMANY)

Cosima Werner graduated from the University of Göttingen with a B.Sc. in geography and a B.A. in sociology in 2011. She then continued to the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg for her master's studies in cultural geography. In 2012 she spent one term at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and then completed her studies with her master's thesis entitled "The Variety of Urban Farming Practices: A Case Study from Detroit." In 2015 she joined Professor Ulrike Gerhard's team "Human Geography of North America" at the Institute of Geography of Heidelberg University as a research assistant as well as the HCA's Ph.D. program.

For her dissertation research, Cosima Werner shifted from urban farms to convenience stores—stores that do not provide any fresh goods or produce—in distressed and underserved neighborhoods of North American cities. Since the turn of the century, inequality in American cities has also affected the food supply, resulting in so-called "food deserts"—urban areas with little or no access to fresh foods. The lower purchasing power of urban inhabitants has caused many supermarkets to move to suburban areas, opening the market for convenience stores, especially in underserved neighborhoods with a high share of ethnic populations. The poor nutritional value of foods available at convenience stores is often tied to the prevalence of obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related diseases in these neighborhoods. Cosima Werner's dissertation contributes new insights about convenience stores as social spaces, which also means focusing on the perspective of the customers, for whom convenience stores serve as reference points for their everyday lives. The empirical research is embedded in a theoretical framework about space and everyday practices. The preliminary assumption is that relational space concepts are conducive to analyzing how convenience stores are perceived by their customers. In particular, this approach uses qualitative methods such as participant observation, interviews, and analysis of visual material.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard

ROLF KENTNER DISSERTATION PRIZE

For the seventh time, this award, sponsored by one of the most active benefactors of the HCA, recognized an outstanding dissertation in the field of American Studies. In 2016, the prize was awarded to Birte Wege, who is currently the acting junior professor for American Literature at the John F. Kennedy Institute in Berlin. She studied English literature and linguistics, political science and Islamic Studies at the University of Freiburg and received an M.A. degree in English literature. At Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, she received an M.A. in Business Administration. In the summer of 2015 she finished her Ph.D. at the Graduate School of North American Studies (GSNAS) at the John F. Kennedy Institute with a doctoral thesis entitled "Drawing on the Past: The Graphic Narrative Documentaries of Emanuel Guibert, Ho Che Anderson, Art Spiegelman, and Joe Sacco."

Detlef Junker and Gerhard Vogel
Award the 2016 Kentner Prize to
Birte Wege



After a welcome by Founding Director Detlef Junker, Wilfried Mausbach, executive director of the HCA, quoted from the laudation of Professor Günter Leypoldt, member of the award committee, who stressed that "Ms. Wege's dissertation gives a quite thorough overview of the historical development of graphic narrative documentary and charts the possibilities of the new genre as well as the ongoing differentiations of the genre; furthermore, she locates the particular place that the graphic documentary is occupying at this moment within the broader field of the graphic novel. She brings out the potential of this genre and produces valuable insights into the historical, the genre-specific, and the cultural conditions that are relevant to the graphic documentary narrative."

Birte Wege's talk focused on one of the graphic narrative documentaries that her dissertation builds on, Ho Che Anderson's *King: A Comics Biography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Anderson's

work, a report on King's life in the years 1935 and 1936, is based on photographs. One of the panels Dr. Wege used as an illustration is a drawn version of the most iconic photograph of lynching in America, the lynching of Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith in Marion, Indiana on August 6, 1930. Birte Wege pointed out that it was this photograph that brought Abel Meeropol to write a poem about this horrific event: "Strange Fruit," which came to fame through Billie Holiday's musical interpretation. Meeropol was to brush history again, when at a Christmas party at the home of W.E.B. Du Bois, he and his wife met the sons of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who had been executed for nuclear espionage some time before. Another story behind the Indiana photograph is that of the third person the crowd attempted to kill, James Cameron. A crowd broke into the jail and dragged out three teenagers; the mob assaulted them, beat Abram Smith to death and hung Thomas Shipp from a window. The picture was taken after the bodies were hung from a tree for display. James Cameron was about to be killed when someone in the crowd talked the murderers out of hanging him, and he was brought back to his cell. Dr. Wege also pointed out that "only comics can" add color to a picture; in one version of the drawing of the Indiana lynching, the bodies are painted red—they become colored bodies in more than one sense. Ms. Wege argued that this and other African American graphic narratives also comment on the debates of justification of police violence against African Americans. She claims that with



Birte Wege Delivers Her Lecture to a Full House.

a new medium like graphic narrative documentary, there is a new chance for minorities and specifically for African Americans to tell their story and to add to the historical discourse from an original point of view. The audience in the HCA atrium was captured by this fascinating talk and had lots to discuss during a post-award reception in the HCA's Bel Etage.

HCA RESEARCH

The following pages give an overview of the interdisciplinary research that comes together at the HCA.

Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History, and Politics

In November 2016, the German Research Foundation (DFG) approved a grant application amounting to 3.5 million euros for a research training group (RTG) based at the HCA. It will focus on questions of "Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History and Politics" and involve ten scholars from different disciplines represented at the HCA, including geography, history, linguistics, literature, political science, and cultural and religious studies. In addition, a number of scholars from Germany, Europe, and North America will be associated with this new RTG. The first four-and-a-half-year funding period, beginning in October 2017, will involve two cohorts of grantees, each including ten doctoral students, six research students, and one postdoctoral scholar. Professor Manfred Berg will serve as the speaker, and Professor Günter Leypoldt as the co-speaker of this new undertaking.

The emergence and transformation of authority in state and civil society, social institutions, urban spaces, culture, and religion since the nineteenth century as well as the shifting trust relationships in the United States and in the transatlantic world will be at the center of this RTG. Due to its early democratization, its egalitarian and libertarian political culture, its ethno-cultural heterogeneity, and its international predominance, the United States is a particularly interesting case study of authority and trust in the modern world. In addition, this topic is of great current interest, not only for the humanities and social sciences but also for the general public. The thematic scope of the project encompasses state and private actors, social and economic structures, institutions and discourses as well as spatial dimensions and transnational interconnections. In the coming years, "Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History and Politics" will form a key pillar of the HCA's research agenda.

With this project, the HCA hopes to inspire innovative doctoral dissertations in the field of American Studies, flanked by an innovative qualification concept tailored to academic as well as professional career paths. This endeavor ties in with the comprehensive concept of graduate training that Heidelberg University has developed in recent years. It is the goal of this program to combine clear-cut institutional structures and cooperative research with a maximum of intellectual freedom for junior researchers.

Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana*: A Critical Edition of America's First Bible Commentary

Professor Jan Stievermann and a team of young scholars from American Studies and theology are now working on volume ten (Hebrews to Revelation) in the ongoing edition of the *Biblia Americana* by Cotton Mather. Together with general editor Reiner Smolinski (Atlanta), Jan

Stievermann also serves as executive editor of the entire ten-volume edition of the *Biblia* to be realized by a team of seven international scholars. The original handwritten manuscript, never before transcribed or published, is a comprehensive English-speaking Bible commentary from colonial British North America, produced by the famed Puritan theologian Cotton Mather (1663-1728) between 1693 and 1728. Since 2010 this work—of great significance for both religious and intellectual history—is being made available for the first time by academic publishers Mohr Siebeck in what will ultimately be ten annotated volumes. In 2015 Stievermann and his team completed volume five that includes Mather's commentaries on the biblical books of the Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Solomon, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Editing the *Biblia Americana* in its entirety is unquestionably one of the most important and promising interdisciplinary projects now underway in early North American Studies. Researchers examining the cultural, religious, or literary history of America as well as Europe can equally profit from this academic edition of the *Biblia*. In addition, Jan Stievermann's new monograph *Prophecy, Piety, and the Problem of Historicity: Interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures in Cotton Mather's Biblia Americana* (2016) offers the first comprehensive study of Mather's Old Testament exegesis.

The descendant of an important Puritan clergy family of New England, Cotton Mather was one of the most influential and productive theologians in Colonial North America. He published more than four hundred writings, including a series of extensive and well-known works in various academic fields. Yet, he always regarded the *Biblia* as his most important endeavor and the summation of his lifework but failed to find either a wealthy patron or sufficient subscribers for the publication of his magnum opus. Today the 4,561 handwritten folio pages of the *Biblia* reside in the archives of the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS). While the *Biblia* manuscript is in good overall condition, its contents have not generally been accessible even to scholars using the MHS library in Boston, given its form. Challenges include the early modern handwriting used, which is difficult to decipher; frequent comments on loose pages of paper inserted into the manuscript; the extensive number of citations in classical languages provided without a translation; or a lack of identification for the innumerable literary references. Over the past few years leading Mather expert Reiner Smolinski has brought together a seven-person team of scholars from the fields of American Studies, American history, church history, and religious studies who will now finally realize this mammoth undertaking. The target for completion of the entire edition is 2020.

For more information, please visit matherproject.org

Urban Inequality in the Creative City: A Comparative Analysis of Emerging New Disparities in the Knowledge Society

In the context of the knowledge society, knowledge-intensive industries are seen as a chance for urban economic prosperity and development. However, many of these claims have not yet been tested thoroughly or have even been refuted. Moreover, it might be that the strong focus on education, creativity, and social networks adds to increased cleavages between different social groups instead of opening up opportunities for disadvantaged inhabitants. The project

therefore takes a closer look at the impact of the knowledge-based industries on disparities in cities. The project analyzed social inequalities in seven different cities and how they relate to these so-called creative cities. All cities investigated are in different countries, all have large and prestigious universities, and all share a strong focus on the knowledge-intensive industries. By comparing them, the participating scholars assessed differences and similarities in inequalities and related them to recent trends in the context of the knowledge society. Associated partners are: Professor Ulrike Gerhard (Heidelberg), Dr. Michael Hölscher (Heidelberg), Professor David Wilson (Urbana-Champaign), Professor Thomas Hutton (UBC Vancouver), Professor Linda McDowell (Oxford), Professor David Giband (Montpellier), Dr. Ferenc Gyuris (Budapest), and Dr. Justin Beaumont (Groningen). The findings of this project were published in 2016 as *Inequalities in Creative Cities: Issues, Approaches, Comparisons*.

Mobile Spaces: Urban Practices in Transcultural Perspective

The project "Mobile Spaces" focuses on the study of urban everyday practices. It is grounded in three disciplines—human geography, linguistics, and media anthropology—and aims to develop and promote new angles and methods for interdisciplinary urban studies. The project is based on the members' different regional expertise. Conceptualizing the specific urban spaces of the individual research fields in Asia, Europe, and North America as genuinely transcultural phenomena, the project explores in which ways experiences and understandings of cities of the "global South" and the "global North" can be brought together. It probes whether transculturality as concept and method allows for new ways to critically examine everyday practices in different regional contexts under the influences of globalization and neoliberalization. The research focus on everyday practices will be approached through the three analytical fields of migration, language and media as well as gender. Project partners of Professor Ulrike Gerhard are Professor Christiane Brosius (visual media and anthropology), Professor Beatrix Busse (linguistics), Dr. Marie Sander (ethnology), and Dr. Editha Marquardt (geography).

Global Urban Society: Doing Global Urban Research Beyond the Global North and South

"Planetary Urbanization" is the new term to study recent urbanization processes throughout the globe. It criticizes the classic dichotomy between rural and urban and extends urban research beyond the traditional urban boundaries. There is "no outside to the urban" since we live in a complete urbanized society (Lefevbre). Thus we have to think the city not as a form or function but as a new theoretical concept. This opens possibilities to study cities throughout the world from different angles, diverse scales, and critical perspectives. The mega city should not stand as a metonym for the city in the global south, whereas the global city is not just a phenomenon of the global north. Neoliberalism is not the only quintessential narrative of urban development in the twentieth century but just one way to understand increasing inequalities within and between cities. This new epistemology of the urban provides new grounds to study North American cities from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Mobility and the Making of the Creative City: Neoliberal Urban Restructuring and its Impacts on Mobility, Space and Social (In)Justice

The neoliberal creative city discourse has been one of the most significant urban discourses driving public policy interventions and urban restructuring in cities across the globe. However, the notion of everyday mobility practices, on the one hand, and the (re)production of mobility in cities and the politics this produces, on the other hand, have been largely overlooked in research on the creative city, even as (the reshaping of) mobility and its spaces appear to play significant roles in the making of the creative city. Thus, in this Habilitation project Gregg Culver is investigating whether and how neoliberal creative city strategies impact the production and politics of local mobility regimes and what this means for concerns over ever-increasing social inequality. Using the empirical example of the surprising, and as of yet largely unexplained re-emergence of streetcar development projects in dozens of cities throughout the United States, this research aspires to make substantive theoretical and empirical contributions to urban, transport, and mobilities geographies.

African American History: National and Transnational Vistas

The HCA's research focus on African American history unites several endeavors. In 2008, the HCA joined a research initiative with the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. and Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.) on "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany." Initiated by Professors Maria Höhn (Vassar) and Martin Klimke (New York University/Abu Dhabi), this research project and digital archive explores the connection between the establishment of American military bases abroad and the advancement of civil rights in the United States. It investigates the role African American GIs played in carrying the demands of the civil rights movement abroad beginning with World War II. In July 2009, the project was awarded the Julius E. Williams Distinguished Community Service Award by the prestigious civil rights organization National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at its Centennial Convention in New York City. As the NAACP explained, "By giving voice to their experience and to that of the people who interacted with them over civil rights demands and racial discrimination on both sides of the Atlantic, Höhn and Klimke are preserving and expanding the history of the African American civil rights movement beyond the boundaries of the U.S." As part of this research initiative, an exhibition on "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany," including more than 50 black and white photographs as well as other exhibition samples, has been shown in numerous cities across both Germany and the United States, including Augsburg, Berlin, Hamburg, Heidelberg, Mainz, Munich, Ramstein, and Tübingen, as well as in Washington, D.C., Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Berkeley, Calif., Oxford, Miss., San Francisco, Athens, Ga., Chapel Hill, N.C., and London, England. By illustrating the untold story of African American GIs and the transnational implications of the civil rights movement, the exhibit aims at advancing a more nuanced and multilayered sense of how America's struggle for democracy reverberated across the globe. The accompanying book *A Breath of Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany* by Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke was published by Palgrave Macmillan in October

2010 (www.breathoffreedom.org). The documentary "Breath of Freedom: Black Soldiers and the Struggle for Civil Rights," directed by Dag Freyer and originating from the project, premiered February 17, 2014, on the Smithsonian Channel in the U.S. and was broadcast on Arte on December 16, 2014. A German edition of the book was published by transcript Verlag in 2016. For further information on the project as well as access to its digital archive, please visit: www.aacvr-germany.org.

Two projects at the Curt Engelhorn Chair in American History have explored the history of slavery, race, abolitionism, black political integration, and the civil rights movements from a perspective that encompasses intersections with social, political, and cultural developments outside the United States. They seek to contribute to a deeper understanding not only of the enduring relevance of African-American history at a national level but also to place questions of ethnicity, race, and racism in a larger global and transnational framework. Publications from these projects include *Globalizing Lynching History: Vigilantism and Extralegal Punishment from an International Perspective* (eds. Manfred Berg and Simon Wendt, 2011) and *Racism in the Modern World: Historical Perspectives on Cultural Transfer and Adaption* (eds. Manfred Berg and Simon Wendt, 2011).

In 2009, Martin Klimke and then-HCA research fellow Mischa Honeck co-convened a conference on Germany and the black diaspora at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. The conference volume *Germany and the Black Diaspora: Points of Contact, 1250-1914*, edited by Mischa Honeck, Martin Klimke and Anne Kuhlmann-Smirnov, came out in 2013.

HCA research associate Anja Schüler has started work on a biography of the African-American biographer Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955), the preeminent figure of the African-American women's movement in the first third of the twentieth century. Utilizing one of the few roads for African American women to gain professional status, Bethune established and presided over what would in 1941 become the first fully accredited four-year college for African Americans in Florida; advised four presidents on child welfare, education, and civil rights; served two terms as president of the National Association of Colored Women; founded the National Council of Colored Women; and became a member of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet" and arguably the most influential African American woman in the New Deal administration.

The Nuclear Crisis: Cold War Cultures and the Politics of Peace and Security 1975-1990

On December 12, 1979, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) implemented the so-called Double-Track Decision: In case arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union failed, the West would station intermediate nuclear forces to provide a counterweight to the new Soviet SS-20 missiles. This momentous decision, alongside the almost simultaneous Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, directly affected international politics as well as domestic developments in Europe and North America. The world moved from an era of reduced tension to a newly heightened East-West confrontation during the "Second Cold War." East-West tensions and the threat of nuclear war provoked sustained political protest. This was further augmented by domestic political turmoil, which in Western societies was heightened by the arrival of a new brand of Western

leaders, such as Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan, and Helmut Kohl. The early 1980s thus saw the biggest protest mobilization of the Cold War. This research project seeks to establish a transnational history of this "Nuclear Crisis," which engulfed both Western Europe and North America, yet transcended the European and global East/West divide as well. The "Nuclear Crisis" explores this discourse from three distinct but interrelated angles:

(1) It looks at the diplomatic, political, and strategic debates surrounding the nuclear armament issue. Only recently have historians started to look at this most salient political issue of the 1970s and 1980s. "Traditional" actors such as the political, diplomatic, and military elites carried this debate forward. Yet "anti-establishment" forces as well as other domestic and transnational actors, such as the churches and intellectuals, were equally important.

(2) By merging an "establishment" perspective with an analysis of protest cultures, this project aims to transcend the narrow boundaries of traditional diplomatic history: It seeks to bring non-state actors, intellectual discourses, and the role of culture into the study of international relations. It also looks at manifestations of "nuclear death" in popular culture, as well as in "high art," including—but not limited to—music, film, and novels.

(3) The project transcends the traditional East/West divide in postwar European history in a number of ways: It explores the "nuclear crisis" on both sides of the Iron Curtain; it looks at the connections between establishment and anti-establishment forces across national borders; it places them in a transatlantic and pan-European setting (one that is potentially global, given the impact of nuclear testing in the South Pacific); and it asks how and to what extent people envisioned themselves as part of larger transnational communities and spaces.

The accompanying digital archive has three main goals: First, it gathers and preserves materials on this important chapter of transatlantic and European history. Second, it makes these materials available worldwide and free of charge to scholars and teachers. Third, it fosters the growth of a community of scholars, teachers, and students engaged in teaching and learning about the nuclear crisis of the 1980s. For more information please visit www.nuclearcrisis.org/.

"Nuclear Crisis" is a collaborative project of the German Historical Institute (GHI), Washington, D.C.; the Institute for Contemporary History (IfZ), Munich-Berlin; the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA), Heidelberg University; and the History Department, University of Mannheim. It is directed by Professor Philipp Gassert, University of Mannheim, Professor Martin Klimke, New York University/Abu Dhabi, and Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, HCA in cooperation with: Archive Green Memory (Archiv Grünes Gedächtnis), Berlin; Das Bundesarchiv, Koblenz; International Center for Protest Research (ICP); and Volda University College, Volda, Norway.

Recent publications that grew out of this project include: Wilfried Mausbach, "Vereint marschieren, getrennt schlagen? Die amerikanische Friedensbewegung und der Widerstand gegen den NATO-Doppelbeschluss," in: Philipp Gassert, Tim Geiger, and Hermann Wentker, eds., [Zweiter](#)

Kalter Krieg und Friedensbewegung: Der NATO-Doppelbeschluss in deutsch-deutscher und internationaler Perspektive (2011); Philipp Gassert, "Die Popularität der Apokalypse: Überlegungen zu einer Kulturgeschichte der Nuklearangst seit 1945," *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 46 (2011); Philipp Gassert, "Arbeit am Konsens im Streit um den Frieden: Die Nuklearkrise der 1980er Jahre als Medium gesellschaftlicher Selbstverständigung," *Archiv für Sozialgeschichte* 52 (2012): 489-514; and Christoph Becker-Schaum, Philipp Gassert, Martin Klimke, Wilfried Mausbach and Marianne Zepp (with the assistance of Laura Stapane), eds., "*Entrüstet Euch!*" *Nuklearkrise, NATO-Doppelbeschluss und Friedensbewegung* (2012), an English-language edition of which has been published in 2016 as *The Nuclear Crisis: The Arms Race, Cold War Anxiety, and the German Peace Movement of the 1980s* with Berghahn Books, New York. Yet another publication related to this project will hit the bookshelves as this annual report goes into print: *Nuclear Threats, Nuclear Fear, and the Cold War of the 1980s*, edited by Eckart Conze, Martin Klimke, and Jeremy Varon, is published by Cambridge University Press and includes an essay by HCA Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach on "Nuclear Winter: Prophecies of Doom and Images of Desolation during the Second Cold War."

Sustainable Governance Indicators 2014 and 2015: Regional Coordination – United States, Canada, Chile and Mexico

HCA faculty member Dr. Martin Thunert continues to serve as regional coordinator (since 2007) for the OECD member states in the Americas (Canada, Chile, Mexico, United States) and affiliated member of the board of an ongoing international and comparative research project which is conducted and sponsored by the Bertelsmann Foundation in Gütersloh—the Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI). The SGI is a platform built on a cross-national survey of governance that identifies reform needs in 41 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and European Union (EU) countries. The SGI brings together a broad network of experts and practitioners aiming to understand what works best in sustainable governance. The SGI project offers full access to its data set and thus enables the comparisons that generate innovation in governance.

Some seventy international experts participate in this broad-based study. Based on 150 qualitative and quantitative indicators, the SGI provide a detailed picture of the countries' strengths and limitations in order to advance the debate on good governance and sustainable policymaking among OECD members. The SGI thus provide considerably more information than conventional economic data since social progress and sustainability cannot be expressed by growth rates or material prosperity alone. They also shed light on the success of OECD member states in additional policymaking fields crucial for ensuring the ongoing performance and long-term stability of economic, political, social, and ecological systems and for guaranteeing a high level of social participation. These fields include education, employment, healthcare, integration, innovation, and the environment. In addition to these traditional policymaking fields, the SGI also examine the quality of democracy and rule of law as well as each government's executive capacity in practice. The SGI and its sub-indexes are calculated using quantitative data from international

organizations and then supplemented by qualitative assessments from recognized country experts. As a result, the SGI shed light on how capable each country is of using governance processes to identify pressing problems, formulate strategic solutions, and, consequently, ensure sustainable policymaking outcomes. Over the past nine years the project has helped to create a comprehensive data pool on government-related activities in the world's developed market democracies—among them the United States, Canada, Chile, and Mexico. The role of the regional coordinator for the Americas is to edit, amend, and consolidate expert assessments written by eight recognized country specialists—two for each country, representing at least two academic disciplines (for example economics and political science) or two nationalities, including the subject nation. The results are four separate country reports of 30-40 pages each on reform capacities of the United States, Canada, Chile, and Mexico, incorporating quantitative data interpreted through the lenses of the qualitative expert assessments.

The results of the latest SGI round were released as Sustainable Governance Indicators 2016 in the summer of 2016. As always, the entire data, rankings, and sub-rankings for each policy area as well as the country reports are accessible online free of charge on the project's website at www.sgi-network.org. At the moment, this address is the home of SGI 2016 as well as earlier rounds. Based on its highly interactive functionality, the SGI website offers users easy access to every level of information, including a short version of key findings. For a direct link to the U.S. country data and report (SGI 2016) go to http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2016/country/SGI2016_USA.pdf.

The USA 2016 country report written by PD Dr. Martin Thunert (HCA), Professor Christian Lammer (Free University of Berlin, JFK-Institute), and Professor Paul J. Quirk (University of British Columbia, Vancouver) can be downloaded at http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2016/country/SGI2016_USA.pdf. Here are some of the results:

With its low-tax, low-regulation, trade-focused regime, the United States falls into the upper-middle ranks internationally (rank 15) with regard to economic policies. Its score on this measure has increased by 0.5 points since 2014. With significant weaknesses, the United States falls into the lower-middle ranks (rank 25) in the area of social policies. Its score on this measure has declined by 0.2 points relative to 2014. Severe educational inequalities in high- and low-income areas are evident, with outcomes disappointing generally. Rising university costs have created severe access issues. Income inequality has increased dramatically. Poverty rates are comparatively high. Anti-poverty policies rely on tax instruments, which reduces their effect for the non-working poor. President Barack Obama's health care policy has expanded coverage, but remains highly controversial. Families with children receive significant tax benefits, but direct family policy is minimal. The employment rate for women is high, but is slipping behind other OECD countries. Ideological stalemate has prevented pension-system sustainability reforms. Despite a history of ambitious environmental protections, the United States scores relatively poorly (rank 33) with regard to environmental policies. Its score in this area has improved by 0.3 points relative to 2014.

Despite persistent electoral and civil-rights concerns, the United States falls into the upper-middle ranks internationally (rank 10) regarding democracy quality. After a sharp drop last year, its score on this measure has marginally recovered, now representing a 0.3-point decline relative to 2014. Media access is formally fair, but paid advertising dominates political campaigns. Many states have implemented measures, making it harder for some groups to register and vote. Campaign-contribution limits have increasingly been overturned, leading to vast, often unaccountable private spending on elections. Civil rights are generally protected, but government wiretapping and Internet surveillance has been broad. Speech codes are a contentious issue on university campuses. National attention has been focused on police violence against blacks. Anti-discrimination laws are generally robust. Same-sex marriage has been legalized in all 50 states. Congressional deadlocks have led to increased use of unilateral executive orders. Anti-corruption mechanisms are typically effective, though imperfect. Climate change has proven a major stumbling block, with many Americans rejecting large-scale emissions-control strategies. However, piecemeal efforts by individual states, increased fuel-economy standards and coal-plant regulations, and increased use of natural gas have resulted in emissions reductions consistent with international expectations. Efforts to pass immigration reforms have failed. Large-city homicide rates and gun violence in general are serious problems, and the phenomenon of excessive police violence against blacks has drawn increasing attention.

Regarding governance, the United States with its powerful presidency receives high rankings in international comparison (rank 7) with respect to executive capacity. Its score on this measure is unchanged relative to 2014. Strategic-planning capacity is strong. The vast presidential bureaucracy increasingly dominates policy development, leaving departments with a subordinate role. Informal coordination is important. Despite concerns over the implications of an uninformed public, the United States receives a high overall score (rank 11) in the area of executive accountability. Its score in this area has declined by 0.1 point relative to 2014. Citizens' policy knowledge is on average quite low. Serious, in-depth policy reporting exists, but a decline in journalistic standards is evident, particularly in the right-leaning media. Congressional resources are quite substantial, and formal executive-oversight powers are strong. The General Accountability Office is independent and influential, with other offices performing additional audit functions. Party candidates are chosen democratically. Economic and noneconomic interest associations are often sophisticated and media-savvy. The full SGI 2016 indicator scores for the United States can be accessed at http://www.sgi-network.org/2016/United_States.

SGI was covered extensively, for example in a series of the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* in the summer of 2012 entitled "The Craft of Governing" ("Das Handwerk des Herrschens"). The series singled out "good governance" as the central topic for policymakers and civil servants in time of economic and financial crisis. In its introductory article, *Der Spiegel* described the Sustainable Governance Indicators and its sister project BTI as the "most ambitious experience in comparative politics since Aristotle's time." Current SGI News is available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/SGI-Sustainable-Governance-Indicators/92146590185. For the foreseeable future it is planned to update the SGI every year, that is, in shorter intervals than in the past. Therefore, the next round of SGI 2017 expert assessments was launched in fall 2016.

Patterns of Economic Policy Advice in Germany and the United States: Organizational Models, Cultural Influences, and Advisory Discourses, with a Particular Emphasis on the World of Work

In times of economic uncertainty and financial crisis, economic advice is in high demand across the industrialized world. The United States and Germany represent two very different models of making economic expertise available to policymakers and society at large. Dr. Martin Thunert, together with Professor Andrea Römmele of the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, received a substantial grant to research economic policy advice in the United States and Germany from a comparative perspective. The project started in late 2013 and will terminate in late 2016/early 2017. Funding comes from the Hans-Böckler-Foundation, affiliated with the DGB, the Confederation of German Trade Unions. The project analyzes the rules, mandates, and procedures and then evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of selected advisory bodies in both countries—from in-house policy units to expert committees and think tanks. In line with the Hans-Böckler-Foundation's support for research linked to the world of work, the project pays special attention to the question of how the perspective of workers can inform actors, institutions, and processes of economic policy advice in both countries. Dr. Martin Thunert's work was supported by Michael Kühlen, M.A., who served as his research associate between February and November 2014, when he left for a position at the Hans-Böckler-Foundation. Gordon Friedrichs, M.A., who has been with the HCA since 2012, took over this position as research associate between December 1, 2014 and September 30, 2016. In late 2015 Hanna Thiele, a student in the HCA's BAS program, joined the project as a student research assistant, while Natalie Rauscher, M.A., a graduate of the MAS program and a new doctoral student at the HCA, came on board as a graduate student research assistant in February 2016. In Berlin, Professor Andrea Römmele at the Hertie School of Governance works with Dorota Stasiak, Ph.D. and Eva Savinova, M.A.

During the first year of the project, the research team compiled an extensive database of the various players on both sides of the Atlantic. The staff at the HCA focused on institutions in the United States, drawing on a wealth of material, for example IRS data (990 forms), annual reports, Web sites, studies and op-ed pieces, media coverage, and scholarly articles. The resulting database contains both hard facts (like figures on financing, staffing, and publication output) and summative assessments, for example with regard to an institution's ideological bent, history, and position in the world of policy advice. This database is already being used as a major source for a number of papers and lectures by members of the research team. The database also helped to identify players that were interviewed in 2015 in Germany and in the US via questionnaire in an online survey. It has been enriched by personal interviews in the first quarter and the fall of 2016 in both the United States and Germany. Interviewees include both practitioners from advisory bodies and those with a meta-perspective like scholars, journalists, and veteran observers.

In 2016 the research team has analyzed results from this online survey and from the interviews from both the United States and Germany to be published as a major study of the Böckler-Stif-

tung in 2017. The collected data promises to offer insights regarding instruments and form of the advisory activities of think tanks and other consultants, as well as national perspectives on supply and demand of economic policy advice, including its perceived impact on actual policy-making and their representation of the world of work. In addition, the research team presented parts of its research results in December 2015 at the workshop "Think Tanks in the Knowledge Society" in Speyer. Martin Thunert presented results of the online survey in September 2016 at the conference "Think Tanks and Chinese-German Relations" at the Beijing Foreign Studies University in Beijing, China.

The research project "Patterns of Economic Policy Advice" is monitored by an interdisciplinary advisory council appointed by the Hans-Böckler-Foundation in cooperation with the project directors. The advisory council includes members from academia, politics, federal ministries, think tanks, and unions. The research project will be completed in the first quarter of 2017 with several publications, which will be introduced in next year's annual report.

HCA SPRING ACADEMY 2016

The HCA's thirteenth annual Spring Academy started on March 14 with a reception in the Atrium of the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. Twenty Ph.D. students affiliated with institutions in eleven countries and representing thirteen different nationalities were welcomed by the HCA's founding director Professor Detlef Junker, who pointed out the special opportunity the Spring Academy offers as a place for networking and early cohort formation.

Following Professor Junker's address on behalf of the HCA, the university's Vice Dean for International Relations, Professor Dieter Heermann, welcomed the conference participants on behalf of Heidelberg University. Highlighting the internationality of the participants, Professor Heermann pointed out how the group was a perfect example of the university's aim to continue and expand its international orientation. Touching upon the importance of the Spring Academy as an intellectually stimulating occasion for collaboration across disciplines, he encouraged the participants to not just reach across disciplinary boundaries within the humanities and social sciences but to widen their scope to include the natural sciences. In light of the beautiful spring weather, he suggested that a first step in this direction could be taken by physically crossing the bridge to the other side of the Neckar river, where Heidelberg University's science campus is located. Professor Heermann concluded his address by encouraging the conference participants to not just make the most of their time during the panels, but to use the time in-between the sessions to network with their peers.

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, the HCA's executive director and one of the two facilitators of the Spring Academy, then briefly introduced the HCA, pointing out the institution's three pillars of education, research, and public outreach. Following a brief reception that afforded everyone the chance to mingle and meet, the warm-up session commenced. Brief introductions by all participants were followed by an ice breaker: rapid-fire summaries of their Ph.D. projects. The discussion then turned to exploring the uniting/connecting issues in American Studies to use as umbrella terms for all the projects presented throughout the week. Suggestions included "Race & Ethnicity," "From Margin to Center," "Representation 'What is American?'" and "Past and Present." The discussion eventually focused on the future of the field and tried to grasp new developments within the humanities, be it new ways of doing research or new subjects. Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung also pointed out a general trend toward dismantling rather than establishing American Studies departments, and Dr. Wilfried Mausbach added that especially in Germany the field of American Studies is usually attached to English departments. The question about the future of American Studies thus remained. Several participants pointed towards general trends and changes within academia. Martina Koegeler-Abdi (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) argued that gender and race studies have shifted to cultural studies that are now becoming transnational. She thus emphasized the decline of the nation state itself and stressed the internationality of scholarly approaches, especially in the field of American Studies. Dragos Manea (University of Bucharest, Romania) observed that many scholars have now moved out of old-school literary studies. This leaves more room for the expansion of other subjects that are also now considered legitimate, such as film studies or graphic novels. Even though the discussion did not end with a conclusion as to where the field is heading, the participants agreed on the importance of the international

and interdisciplinary focus of American Studies.

The first panel of the conference, "Comics and Graphic Novels," was chaired by Dr. Fischer-Hornung and addressed one of the new trends in American Studies that was discussed during the opening session. Malgorzata Olsza (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland) focused in her presentation "The Reader/Viewer in the Graphic Novel: Reading Through Sequentiality" on the verbal visual gap within graphic novels and stressed the role of the reader/viewer who is, through sequentiality, more involved in comics than in films. In comics the reader does not have to follow the already prepared road but can individually decide when to move on from one page to another. Ranthild Salzer (University of Vienna, Austria) followed Olsza with a presentation on "Superhero Comics: (Re)Negotiating American Masculine Identities since 1938," in which she focused on the representations of manhood versus masculinity. Her research is grounded in Michael Kimmel's statement that the hegemonic definition of manhood is "a man in power, a man with power, and a man of power." Salzer determined that the posterchild of hegemonic masculinity in American comics was the superhero. Her talk also contrasted masculine characteristics with biological factors; both contribute to the creation of manhood and masculinity.

Tuesday's session began with "Trauma and War," chaired by Dr. Tobias Endler. First to speak was Loredana Bercuci (University de Vest Timisoara, Romania) on "Graphic Trauma: The Demands of Visuality on the Representation of Trauma in Graphic Memoirs." In her dissertation Bercuci claims that representations of trauma in the twenty-first century tend to be autobiographical and have created a new trauma aesthetics. During her presentation she focused on the example of *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic* by Alison Bechdel to describe the two existing types of trauma, namely insidious trauma (the everyday trauma) and punctual trauma (for example a blast). She concluded that the trauma always happens somewhere "in the gutter"; if it is represented visually, it is allegorical. The day's second speaker was James Clark (York University, Canada), with a presentation on 9/11: "From Historic Event to Global Discourse: The Impact of 9/11 on Canadian

Spring Academy Participants at the Old Bridge, Ready to Embark on a Tour of the City.



War Writing.” Due to the global cultural and political reach of the U.S., the country has influenced the discourse concerning 9/11 around the world. Yet, the U.S. narrative has to be adapted to other cultures. Clark’s work identifies several features in the Canadian discourse that link it to the American: In Canada the perception was that Canada was also attacked on 9/11, and, because of its significance as a key ally to the U.S., was part of the response to 9/11. Based on these assumptions he analyzed captivity narratives, news sources, letters, and emails as well as



Warm Up Session in Front of the Stucco with All the Participants of the Spring Academy.

governmental documents in order to demonstrate that the shift in Canadian identification after 9/11 is visible in a wide range of cultural artefacts, no matter the medium.

Mishio Yamanaka (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA), started off the third panel on “Creole Culture” with a paper on “Racial Desegregation, Social Equality, and Creoles of Color in Post-Civil War New Orleans: A Case Study of Public Schools.” Yamanaka aims to show that desegregation was not strictly a twentieth-century idea, but developed as a new racial vision among African Americans during Reconstruction. She identifies schools and education as a means to establish racial equality and calls it the key to racial harmony. With several legislative steps, New Orleans started desegregating schools in the 1870s; the number of desegregated schools rose steadily from only 4 in 1871 to 29 in 1877. Yamanaka claimed that numerous case studies on the Jim Crow era show that desegregation existed but had not been legalized yet. She pointed out that the ethnic community of creoles might have had an advantage over blacks in demanding desegregation. Marie Demars (University Paul Valéry-Montpellier III, France) followed Yamanaka with a presentation on “At the Crossroads: South Louisiana Creoles, Music, and Technology.” She emphasized the importance of preserving Creole culture with a special focus on zydeco, an accordion-driven musical genre that combines traditional French music and blues. She also analyzes the role played by new technologies and social media in the preservation of Creole culture and identity. This process, she argued, challenges the dichotomies between rural

and urban as well tradition and modernity by systematically deconstructing stereotypes.

The final session on Tuesday revolved around the theme of “religion” and was chaired by Professor Jan Stievermann. The session’s first speaker, Ryan Hoselton (Heidelberg University), introduced the audience to Cotton Mather’s and Jonathan Edwards’ experiential interpretive approach in defining their exegetical emphases and conclusions and showed how this shaped the identity of the evangelical movement in the United States. In his presentation, “Religious Experience and Early Evangelical Biblical Interpretation: A Case Study” Hoselton stressed the importance of reason and the need for religious and spiritual knowledge in order to understand and interpret the scriptures, going along with Jonathan Edwards, who viewed scripture as a spiritual narrative. The final speaker of the day was Jennifer Callaghan (Northwestern University, USA) who presented on “‘Our Pulpits Propose It for Them’: The Politics of Language in Chicago’s Liturgical Reforms, 1963-1969.” Callaghan stressed the importance of problematic translations in liturgy and the policing of the conversation between religious and political speech. She used an interdisciplinary approach from the disciplines of religious studies, American religious history, and American catholic studies to explore her topic more thoroughly.

The second day concluded with a traditional German meal at a historic restaurant in Old Town Heidelberg, followed by a walking tour with a “Night Watchman” as a guide.

Wednesday’s first session, “Native Americans,” was chaired by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach. Augustin Habran (Paris Diderot University, France) gave a presentation on “Redefining Indianness in the 1820s: The Southeastern Nation’s Re-Activation of ‘Strategic Mimesis.’” Coining the term of “strategic mimesis” as an adoption of American, maybe even Southern, core values and thus redefining Indianness, Habran claimed that Indians took on Southern and republican traits and through this “resistance through acculturation” managed to become central participants in the making of the Early American Republic and the West in the Antebellum Period. Habran explained that by re-activating the strategic mimesis, Indians strategically changed their role to be regarded as “civilized.” The second presentation of the panel by Baligh Ben Taleb (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA) focused on the dialectic between settler colonialism and truth and reconciliation. His talk, “The Awards of the Indian Claims Commission and the Grievances of American Settler Colonialism in the Great Plains,” examined the impact of the Indian Claims Commission (ICC) on the Plains Indians and concluded that the ICC offered a more substantive reconciliation effort than more recent initiatives in other countries. It also looked at historic land cessions, the crucible of American settler colonialism.

The third day of the conference concluded with a workshop on “Academic Writing and Publishing,” led by Dr. Fischer-Hornung and Dr. Sherry Föhr. Participants were given tips and motivational instructions on writing their theses by Dr. Föhr from the Writing Resources Center at Heidelberg University’s English Department. Dr. Fischer-Hornung shared her expertise in the publishing world as a co-editor of a scholarly journal. The workshop proved effective and instructive to participants. Afterwards they were offered the opportunity to make an appointment for an individual consultation on either writing or publishing.

In the evening, the Spring Academy participants were then treated to a private tour of the John Deere Europe factory in Mannheim. John Deere has supported the Spring Academy since its inception. Following a warm welcome and introduction by Public Relations and Brand Management Manager Dr. Oliver Neumann, the group enjoyed a walking tour of the main factory to see the extensive operations of this American company in Germany. Back in the visitor's center, the



Nora Krinitsky Presenting at the Spring Academy.

group was treated to light snacks, and Spring Academy participants took many pictures taken standing next to or sitting in a large trademark tractor.

Dr. Fischer Hornung introduced Thursday's first session, "Gender and the Immigrant Experience." The day's first presentation was Martina Koegeler-Abdi's (University of Copenhagen, Denmark) talk on "Rediscovering Rosemary Hakim: The Adaptive Agency of Miss Lebanon-America 1955," in which she exemplified one of the six case studies concerning Arab American Womanhood she outlines in her dissertation. Koegler-Abdi's main sources for this case study were Hakim's unpublished memoirs that—between the lines—reveal a lot about transnational history. Hakim, Miss Lebanon-America 1955, used her status to engage in transnational Arab American politics when she was invited by the Lebanese government after her nomination. The sixth panel also featured Eva Pelayo Sanudo (University of Oviedo, Spain) and her presentation entitled, "Herstory Sagas: Cultural Memory and Pictorial Genealogies," focusing on female Italian American productions within the genre of the saga. With feminist intersectional narratology, she aims to explore aspects of immigration that have been missing in Italian historiography. Sanudo plans to analyze if memory, and especially memory linked to immigration, is important in these narratives.

The seventh panel, "Germany and the U.S.," chaired by Dr. Tobias Endler, started off with a presentation by Lara-Zuzan Golesorkhi (The New School for Social Research, USA) on "State-Islam Relations in Contemporary Germany and the U.S.: When Muslim Immigration and Secularization Meet." Golesorkhi's work aims at exploring two different Muslim practices, namely prayer in the

public education sector and clothing in the public employment sector. By adapting a comparative approach between Germany and the U.S., Golesorkhi wants to find out how Muslim immigration has affected the relationship between religion and the state in both countries, how the state has organized state-religion relations concerning Islam and what the effects of these issues are on secularization. The second speaker of this panel, Kaete O'Connell (Temple University, USA) gave a presentation on "Hungry for Democracy: Humanitarianism and the U.S. Occupation of Germany," which analyzed the impact of U.S. food relief in Germany after World War II. In the post-war period, the U.S. soon acknowledged the hunger crisis in Germany as a serious obstacle to peace and realized that food relief could become a powerful diplomatic tool in occupied Germany. To support her argument, O'Connell mainly focused on imagery of food relief with an emphasis on children as recipients of food aid.

In the afternoon, Dr. Fischer-Hornung introduced Ivy Wilson, associate professor of English at Northwestern University. Professor Wilson chaired the final panel for the day on "Race and State Power." Rosemary Pearce (University of Nottingham, UK) presented about "'The Movement on Wheels': Emotional Displays in Protesting Segregated Transport," focusing on the emotions displayed and felt by both blacks and whites during nonviolent challenges to segregated transportation. Pearce concluded that although the emotions that were hidden or expressed as part of these nonviolent challenges did not really change between 1947 and 1961, the intended audience or consumers of those emotions did shift focus, from passengers and segregationists to outside observers. The final presentation of the day was given by Nora Krinitsky (University of Michigan, USA) on "Fighting the Third Degree: Police Violence and Critique in Interwar Chicago." Her dissertation focuses on the building of the American coercive state from the end of World War I through the interwar decades; in her presentation she concentrated on Chicago as the site of analysis for the transformations in modern American history and crime control in particular. She also outlined the role of the NAACP in police brutality cases. Even though the Association tried to get as much money as possible for its clients, namely individual restitution, its lawyers faced considerable obstacles during the trials.

Friday morning began with the ninth panel, "Human Rights," chaired by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach. Rasmus Soendergaard (University of Southern Denmark) presented first on "The (Ab)Use of Human Rights: Executive-Legislative Struggles over U.S. Policy towards Nicaragua in the 1980s," pondering the question of whether Congress advocated for a larger role of human rights in U.S. foreign policy during that decade. In his presentation he focused on the Reagan administration and its Central America policy, arguing that the promotion of human rights in Nicaragua was a tool for the promotion of democracy and for gaining public and congressional support for U.S. foreign policy. Thus, Soendergaard argues, human rights became an important frame for the Reagan administration in seeking legitimacy for its Nicaragua policy. Sarah Earnshaw (Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Germany) followed Soendergaard with a presentation on "Humanising Security: The Constitution of Global Order." In her dissertation Earnshaw aims to open up a "history of the present" of U.S. post-Cold War foreign policy and security practices. She criticizes the fabrication of a vision of international order, created by a framework of rights that is defined as secure and peaceful, defining the opposite as barbarous and insecure.

Professor Wilson then facilitated a workshop on “Trans/Locality and Hip Hop; or The Roots and Routes of an American Culture,” in which he attempted to recover the genealogy of blackness by tracing it to West Africa and comparing images from Ethiopians and Egyptians to modern images of urbanized African-Americans in the United States. He stressed the importance of music, especially Hip Hop and Jazz, for the identity formation of blacks in Africa and the United States.

In the afternoon, the tenth and final panel on “Television,” chaired by Dr. Fischer-Hornung, began with a presentation by Oscar Winberg (Abo Akademi, Finland) on “Liberal Disruption: How *All in the Family* Became the Most Watched Show on Television.” Winberg argued that even though the show *All in the Family* was not an immediate success on television, it highlighted political arguments in a way television previously had shied away from. Winberg aims at exploring conservatism and its discourses on entertainment television and thus uses *All in the Family* to analyze the portrayal of economic politics and economic paradigm shifts of the 1970s. Dragos Manea (University of Bucharest, Romania) gave the final presentation of the conference. “The Afterlives of Ichabod Crane: *Sleepy Hollow* (NCB, 2013--) and American Cultural Memory” explored the ways in which historical fantasy can serve to reconcile audiences to pre-existing hegemonic narratives and practices. He outlined one of his case studies, namely the numerous adaptations



Kaete O'Connell Test Driving a Tractor at the John Deere Factory.

of *Sleepy Hollow*, implying that every adaptation is more than just a representation of the source text but an expression of the current society. Thus, the transformation of Crane through different adaptations of the story implies the historical evolution of his character and shows which character traits became more dominant over time. The adaptations of the show thus portray the evolution of Crane's identity, which reflects the image society has of him.

To conclude the conference, Friday's "Cool Down" session started out with a feedback section and prompted new questions about the direction of American Studies. New key words about what American Studies is were added to the ones collected in Monday's warm-up session: "Identity," "adaptation," "gender," "struggle," and "emotion" were among the many new concepts. The participants concentrated on new developments of the field, tying in ideas brought up in Monday's session. Many concluded that literature is losing its importance while visual cultures increase. They also outlined that many projects now focused on the unspoken or unportrayed, trying to fill in gaps in this field. After the cool down session, the HCA hosted a farewell dinner in honor of the participants, thereby concluding another successful Spring Academy.

CONFERENCES

Forging Bonds Across Borders: Mobilizing for Women's Rights and Social Justice in the Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic World, April 28 to 30, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

Historians have by now produced a rather extensive literature on national feminist movements as well as a number of bi-national and multi-national comparative studies of female mobilizations. But so far, few scholars have focused on the transnational, especially transatlantic, collaborations of women's rights activists throughout the long nineteenth century. This conference, convened by Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson (GHI Washington), Anja Schüler (HCA), and Sonya Michel (University of Maryland) looked at how female activists inside and outside of institutions and organizations exchanged ideas in the Atlantic world and collaborated across national borders and bodies of water and sometimes also across borders of race, class, and gender. It explored how, even without formal political rights, women were able to develop effective strategies and bases of power, working both within their own countries and through the personal transnational connections, alliances, and organizations they created. Their efforts eventually provided the foundations for worldwide organizations around issues as diverse as women's rights, protective labor legislation, and temperance.

The conference opened with a panel on "defining women's issues." Bonnie Anderson (New York) portrayed the life of freethinker Ernestine Rose, a life that developed transnationally and led her from her homeland, Poland, to Berlin, Paris, London, New York, and back to London. Rose's activism on both sides of the Atlantic ranged from advocating for women's property rights and a change in divorce laws to associating herself with freethinkers and pacifists. Marilyn Lake (Melbourne) then introduced another woman reformer whose work transcended national boundaries: the Scottish-born Australian journalist, feminist reformer, and Unitarian preacher Catherine Helen Spence. Spence traveled as an official delegate to the Conference on Charities at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 and then across the country, lecturing on women's suffrage, children's courts, boarding-out, education, and proportional representation. Assuming that women needed political rights to secure the welfare of women and children, Spence was amazed to find that American women were socially and economically advanced but politically relatively powerless. The panel concluded with a look at women's transnational work for peace. Wendy Chmielewski (Philadelphia) analyzed the so-called "Friendly Addresses" that men and women in the U.S. and Britain signed in 1846 in relation to a boundary dispute between Canada and the U.S. The addresses exchanged between the women of Exeter and Philadelphia reflected the emerging but contested roles of women in the transatlantic antiwar movement. On the one hand, women left the domestic sphere by engaging in international politics, while on the other, they remained within their traditional gender role by addressing only their female counterparts.

That evening, Margaret McFadden (Chapel Hill) presented the conference keynote on "Mothers of the Matrix." As McFadden explained, the "matrix" that laid the groundwork for women's transnational movements included opportunities for travel and education, participation in evan-

gelical religion, missionary work and/or social reform, and improved means of communication. Anna Doyle Wheeler emphasized women's individualism and asserted that women's rights were human rights. Influenced by early nineteenth-century socialism, she criticized marriage for "reducing women to a state of helplessness" and emphasized their need for suffrage. For Frederika Bremer, the bonds among women grew out of the familial ties between mothers, daughters, and sisters. A "relational feminist," she sought signs of international commonality among women. Ray Strachey served as a bridge between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, taking first radical and then more moderate positions on suffrage. Strachey, a prolific author, also ran for office and served as an assistant to Lady Astor, the first female member of the British Parliament.

The second day of the conference continued with a panel on women's transnational work for abolition and racial equality. Stephanie Richmond (Norfolk) presented on British and American abolitionist women who traveled to America, England, and France in the 1840s and 1850s to spread their antislavery message and strengthen international relations. Americans like Maria Weston Chapman, Sarah Pugh, and Sarah Parker Remond traveled alone or spoke to "mixed audiences" of men and women, thus challenging the social norms of their respective cultures, opening paths for women political activists, and establishing women as authority figures. British Quaker Anne Knight promoted the cause of antislavery throughout France after male abolitionists refused to take up the opportunity, again challenging the restrictive gender roles of the Atlantic world. Katharina Schmidt (Princeton/New Haven) then looked at a German woman who joined the American abolitionist movement: Otilie Assing. The Hamburg-born writer and activist is best known for her relationship with Frederick Douglass, but she also pursued independent political projects. Assing was influenced by other émigré intellectuals and her membership in German-American immigrant networks. Schmidt focused on Assing's involvement in these networks, rather than on her personal ties with Douglass, arguing that Assing's antislavery activism emerged primarily from her identity as a "freethinker" who favored feminism, atheism, and republicanism. In the final presentation of this panel, Noaquia Callahan (Washington, D.C.) explored the transnational career of African American feminist Mary Church Terrell. Callahan described the 1904 Berlin Congress of the International Council of Women as a moment in which black and white, American and European feminists came together to exchange ideas about issues of race, sexual violence, and woman suffrage. Published as part of the widely circulated proceedings of the Berlin congress, Terrell's address on the "Progress of Colored Women" in the United States since the end of the Civil War met with great interest.

The conference's third panel examined networks created through words and images. Carol Strauss Sotiropoulos (Marquette) looked at the connections between Margaret Fuller, one of the foremost American promoters of German literature, and author Bettina von Brentano-Arnim. While introducing her readers to Arnim's literary writings, Fuller remained silent about Arnim's social justice projects, creating the impression that Fuller was not interested in politics. Sotiropoulos showed, however, that Fuller was very familiar with the political system and power structures on the other side of the Atlantic but highly selective about the rhetoric strategies she deemed useful for her own purposes. Allison Lange (Boston) went on to examine how the visual

tactics of labor activists and suffragists in Britain informed parallel campaigns in the United States. Before World War I, strategies like parades, open-air meetings and lectures, picketing, and other publicity stunts imported from Britain generated popular support for woman suffrage and transformed women's relationship to politics; the imagery reveals much about the different tactics of the militant and moderate suffragists. The panel concluded with Christine Neejer's (East Lansing) paper on women's international bicycling networks and the suffrage press women cyclists turned to in the 1890s to find advice about dress, riding styles, cycling-based travel, and international races. Neejer explored the transnational coverage of women's bicycling in British and American suffrage periodicals, which served as an international forum for collaboration and inspiration and shifted the boundaries between politics, sports, and leisure by positioning women's cycling within transatlantic networks.

The conference's fourth panel took a look at transnational connections among professional women. Sara Kimble (Chicago) documented the transatlantic alliance of legally-oriented feminists in the belle époque that preceded women's right to practice law in France. Networks like the Women's International Bar Association developed along with the International Council of Women (ICW) and nurtured an international feminist lawyers' movement that worked simultaneously at the grass roots and the elite level. Marion Röwekamp (Berlin) then examined how the ideas and activism the Bund Deutscher Frauenvereine contributed to the campaign for transnational family law reform within the International Council of Women. She showed that the different ideas about legal reform in the national women's movements could translate into serious problems on the transnational level. At the same time, the legal debates in the ICW reveal the dynamics of trans- and international legislative work at the turn of the twentieth century. Finally, Margaret Vigil-Fowler (San Francisco) looked at the role of transatlantic networks in the Anglo-American medical women's movement. It re-examined the canonical nineteenth-century physicians Elizabeth Blackwell, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, and Sophia Jex-Blake within a transnational framework. These women were well aware that their work was setting an international precedent, especially for their counterparts in Britain. They met in person, maintained a prolific correspondence, and were well-connected to feminists, abolitionists, and suffragists on both sides of the Atlantic.

In the opening paper of the fifth panel on the global reach of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), Thomas Lappas (Rochester) outlined the WCTU's contradictory policies toward American Indians. While on the one hand pursuing a goal of "kill the Indian, save the man" and attempting to destroy the reservations, on the other hand it recognized the existence of a Native American nation with a distinct culture, one whose people had rights but also needed protection from the evils of drink. LORI OSBORNE (Evanston) followed with a paper on the WCTU in India, tracing the different paths three activists took there. Pandita Ramabai, concerned with the plight of child widows, established special schools for them. Frances Willard saw India as an opportunity to internationalize the WCTU and use temperance as a platform to strengthen women's position within the family and expand their rights. Mary Leavitt, who spent more time on the ground, formed numerous WCTU chapters and prevailed upon Indian men to create their own, facing opposition from British officials for speaking to mixed audiences. Concluding the panel,

Jessica Pliley (San Marcos) looked at the WCTU's role in the campaign against human trafficking, tracing the tensions between figures like Josephine Butler, who sought to repeal Britain's Contagious Diseases Act, which effectively legalized prostitution, and the WCTU's Kate Bushnell, who believed it was important to hear the voices of women in the sex trade and improve their conditions.

The final panel on protecting women and children began with a paper by Eva Payne (Cambridge) that intricately analyzed the three-way debate over age-of-consent laws in Britain, the United States, and India. She showed how the U.S. women physicians who were concerned with this issue played the three countries off against one another, using claims to "civilization" as a lever. Ann Taylor Allen (Louisville) then described how women reformers around the world, drawing on the ideas of German education pioneer Friedrich Froebel, promoted the establishment of kindergartens as a way of advancing themselves professionally. Finally, SONYA MICHEL (College Park) read a paper by Mineke Bosch (Groningen) which traced the international transfer of birth control knowledge by looking at how the "Dutch cap," an early contraceptive device, got its name. One of its chief advocates was the Dutch feminist Aletta Jacobs, who encountered opposition from colleagues who feared that birth control advocacy would taint the suffrage movement.

Bosch's point segued smoothly into the wrap-up discussion of themes that had emerged throughout the conference. The papers had shown that women's strategies changed over the course of the "long nineteenth century" as permanent organizations were formed, yet national political and legal contexts as well as cultures constrained efforts at reform. Participants emphasized the importance of considering philanthropy as well as government policies, comparing individual and organizational techniques, and noted the irony that international figures often drop out of national narratives. The papers had shown that women formed bonds across borders in different ways, as individuals, through organizations, and with the help of publications. In addition, participants identified several themes that connected the panels, like the aspiration of "universal sisterhood," which could culminate in social movements and the transfer of knowledge. They also agreed that many papers were contributions to the historiographic trend of "new biography." Given the coherence of the papers and their many original findings, the participants concluded that an edited volume should be feasible.

The U.S. Elections 2016: Why Should We Care? Political and Economic Issues, Rhein Neckar Forum III, June 24, 2016, Heidelberg Center for American Studies,

In the immediate run-up to the Republican and Democratic national conventions in the United States, the HCA together with Deutsche Bank organized this international conference, which brought together renowned experts from the fields of academia, economics, and politics to discuss the role that issues of economics and finance would play in the U.S. elections. The conference consisted of three panels, each one defined by a different thematic focus: (1) Candidates, Voters, and the Economy: What's In Store for Transatlantic Trade and Investment? (2) Dark Money: Are Corporations Subverting the American Political Process? (3) The 2016 Elections and the Future of Capitalism.

On the eve of the conference, Deutsche Bank hosted a dinner for conference participants in the Atrium of the HCA, where HCA Founding Director Detlef Junker and Deutsche Bank's Daniel Hoster, Managing Director, Head Strategic Clients Germany – Central, and Member of the Executive Committee, Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management, welcomed guests from both sides of the Atlantic, before William E. "Bill" Curry, Jr., a former White House counselor to President Bill Clinton, put participants in the right mood for the proceedings. As a two-time Democratic nominee for governor of Connecticut and a domestic strategist for the president who received national recognition for his work in helping to balance the budget, strengthen education, and increase healthcare for children, Bill Curry proved to be the perfect insider, both educating the audience on and entertaining it with witty tales of the political and electoral processes in the United States.



Detlef Junker and Laura von Daniels Confer.

The conference proceedings opened with a panel on "Candidates, Voters, and the Economy: What is in Store for Transatlantic Trade and Investment?" chaired by HCA Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach. Laura von Daniels, a research associate with the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP) laid out the rationale for transatlantic economic cooperation. She pointed out that the E.U. accounts for almost a fifth of total U.S. trade in goods and more than a third of trade in services. A Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) would thus help both the U.S. and the E.U. to enhance their impact on world trade. However, did Dr. von Daniels did not conceal the obstacles to such an agreement both on the negotiator side and with regard to public opinion, where a number of controversial subjects clearly represented "low-hanging fruit for populists" on both sides of the Atlantic. The second panelist was Claude Barfield, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), whose distinguished career in government service included stints as a professional staff member for the Senate Committee on Government Affairs; co-staff director of the President's Commis-

sion for a National Agenda for the Eighties; and as a consultant with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, during which time he also authored the Reagan Administration's "Statement of Trade Policy" (1983). Dr. Barfield analyzed political attitudes in the U.S., juxtaposing the heated anti-trade and anti-globalization rhetoric with opinion polls showing fifty-eight per cent of Americans favoring foreign trade with only thirty-nine per cent opposed. He felt that the votes for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) were there in Congress but that the frontrunners for both parties were less than helpful, with their positions ranging from outright hostile to apparently hypocritical. Even if President Obama were able to get TPP through a lame-duck Congress, it would be far from certain that his successor would be willing—much less able—to put TTIP on top of TPP. The European debate on TTIP reminded Dr. Barfield of the controversy over the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the U.S. during the 1990s, when churches and other social groups got involved to voice their skepticism. Pair that with the conventional wisdom in the U.S. that TTIP was first and foremost something that the Europeans wanted, and it becomes clear how much of an uphill struggle it would be to successfully conclude such a transatlantic partnership. Dr. Barfield regretted these gloomy prospects—not only because he strongly favors foreign trade but also because he felt that it was impossible to disentangle economic relations from political and security issues.

The second morning panel, chaired by the HCA's Anja Schüler, discussed "Dark Money: Are Corporations Subverting the Political Process?" Melissa M. Smith, assistant professor of communication at the Mississippi University for Women introduced the audience to the intricacies of U.S. campaign finance regulations and focused in particular on the recent rise of so-called Super

Colin Crouch, Martin Thunert, and Wolfgang Dörr (l. to r.) Discuss "The Future of American Capitalism."



PACs fueled by the 2010 Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. As a result, efforts to fund election campaigns now proceed three-pronged, encompassing not only the candidate and his or her party but also purportedly independent outside groups. Professor Smith cautioned, however, that the notion of elections being virtually bought in the

United States was much too simplistic and not borne out by the evidence. Bill Curry, former White House counselor to President Bill Clinton and two-time Democratic nominee for governor of Connecticut then enriched the picture by describing his own experiences as someone who had been repeatedly involved in political campaigns.

Taking a broader view, the afternoon session contemplated “The Future of American Capitalism” from two very different perspectives. Colin Crouch, British Academy Vice-President for Social Sciences, professor emeritus at the University of Warwick, and external scientific member at the Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, further developed insights first articulated in his influential books *Post-Democracy* (2004) and *The Strange Non-Death of Neoliberalism* (2011), whereas Wolfgang Dörr, Head German-American Business, Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, New York, reported on the present assessments and future expectations of his peers and clients in the United States. HCA senior lecturer Martin Thunert moderated the session.

The conference concluded with a well-attended panel discussion on “The U.S. and the World after Obama.” The conference conveners were delighted to have been able to win James M. Lindsay for this conversation. A senior vice president, director of studies, and Maurice R. Greenberg



Tobias Endler, James Lindsay, and Martin Thunert Take to the Podium in the HCA Atrium.

chair at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Dr. Lindsay oversees the work of the more than six dozen fellows in the David Rockefeller Studies Program. He is a leading authority on the American foreign policymaking process who has previously held positions at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs in Austin, Tex., the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., and as a staff expert for the United States Institute of Peace’s congressionally mandated Task Force on the United Nations. At the HCA, Dr. Lindsay engaged in a lively conversation with Tobias Endler

and Martin Thunert, which ran the gamut of American interests and responsibilities around the globe: from the transatlantic relationship to the Obama administration's much discussed pivot to Asia; the rise of China; to the seemingly untractable Middle Eastern situation. The sizable audience was given ample opportunity to raise their own questions to our distinguished guest.

After a day of stimulating discussions, conference participants and guests enjoyed a reception in the HCA's backyard.

Interdisciplinary Student Conference "Waking Up to Reality: America's Struggle to Realize the Promised Land," July 1-2, HCA

On July 1–2, 2016, a group of students from the HCA's B.A.in American Studies program (BAS) organized the first student conference at the HCA entitled "Waking Up to Reality: America's Struggle to Realize the Promised Land." B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. students discussed important issues in contemporary America and engaged in stimulating discussions. The conference served as their final project for the interdisciplinary seminar "Puzzling Interdisciplinarity: Experiencing and Participating in Academic Discourse" under the guidance of Dr. Tobias Endler, Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, and Dr. Anne Sommer, representing the three disciplines political science, history, and literary studies. As part of the Excellence Initiative, Heidelberg University pledged to expose its students to current issues in research as early as possible. Dr. Anne Sommer designed the two-semester class to give B.A. students the opportunity to learn through conducting their own research and presenting it at a student conference. The project was funded by the "Welcome to Research" program of the state of Baden-Württemberg that supports the development and implementation of research-oriented teaching. During the two semesters, the B.A. students chose the topic, developed guiding research questions, presented their own research ideas, and issued a call for papers; they also organized the conference, structured panels, invited guest speakers, and wrote the conference report. Next to attending two workshops on moderation and presentation, they focused on issues of the respective disciplines in class and brought them together during the conference .

On Friday, July 1, the conference "Waking Up to Reality" opened with a welcome speech by the HCA's Founding Director Professor Detlef Junker in the Atrium. Afterwards, two BAS students, Mona Beisel and Melina Neis, took over as conference moderators. After every presentation as well as after every panel, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions and to engage in discussions. The conference started with keynote speaker Susana Rocha Teixeira and her lecture on "Embodying the American Dream: Makeover, Beautification, and Bodies in the United States of America." Susana Rocha Teixeira is a doctoral candidate and lecturer at the English department and member of the Graduate School in the Humanities at Heidelberg University. She discussed the phenomenon of the "makeover culture" in connection with the American Dream. She argued that part of the success of the makeover culture is caused by its close ties to American values such as beauty, health, and the power to move beyond one's own starting conditions. According to her, uncertain and limited success paved the way for the rise of the twenty-first-century phenomenon of the "American Makeover Culture," which revives the belief

in the achievement of the American Dream, now turned to the body. However, she pointed out that this contemporary version of the American Dream has nightmarish elements, too, since it still excludes many from living their dream and pursuing their happiness.

Following the keynote, the first panel of the conference addressed gender and sexuality in the context of the American Dream. In this panel, three BAS students of the HCA presented their research. Hannah Borne opened the section with her talk “An Indispensable Support that Proves Elusive? Affirmative Action for the LGBTQ-Community.” She explained that affirmative action for the LGBTQ community is criticized for issues like reverse discrimination, doubted minority status, and self-identification. Hannah Borne emphasized the importance of legislative action as well as



Conference Organizers Charlotte Stöckmann, Marie Harnau, Marie Scheckeler, and Hannah Borne (l. to r.) Greet Their Guest Jessica Wädts in the HCA Hallway.

liberalization of society in order to achieve equality at institutions of higher education and workplaces and in order to reach the LGBTQ community as a whole. Afterwards, Marie Scheckeler presented her talk “Discriminated, Disowned, Disenfranchised: Homeless LGBTQ Youth in the U.S.,” addressing the disproportionately high number of LGBTQ community members within the young homeless population of the United States. She focused in particular on the problems that the LGBTQ youth faces in addition to the negative experiences they share with their straight cispeers on the path to or during periods of homelessness. Franziska Weis concluded the first panel with a presentation on sexual identity within the context of universities. She talked about how sexual identity influenced the student’s choice of university and gave examples how current and rapidly changing the topic of sexual diversity was. She concluded that the American Dream and social mobility are no longer limited in terms of race, social class, or male and female. The traditional gender image has to be rethought because the twenty-first century has brought diversity in gender and sexual identities, and U.S. universities have noticed this change. They now try to create equal opportunities for good education, developing LGBTQ friendly campuses and provid-



Participants of the First HCA Student Conference

ing gender-neutral environments. The first day of the conference concluded with a conference dinner for guest speakers and organizers, who got to know each other better and continued the discussions in a less formal atmosphere, enjoying a wonderful summer evening in Heidelberg.

The second day started with the panel “Class and the American Dream” that included four presentations. Eva Rüskaamp, a Ph.D. student from the University of Freiburg, opened the panel with her talk “What becomes of the Promised Land? Poverty, Class, and the Ecological Crisis of the American Dream.” As a student of environmental governance, she gave the audience the opportunity to approach the topic from an entirely different angle. She pointed out that in striving for the American Dream, the ecological consequences were often ignored. The constant pursuit of the American Dream and the urge for success result in the exploitation of nature, which in turn impacts humanity in the form of natural disasters. According to Eva Rüskaamp, this especially affects the “underserved communities.” Secondly, Jessica Wädte, a B.A. student of English, American, and German Studies from the University of Würzburg, gave a presentation with the title: “Selling the American Dream: A Price-Tagging Policy in the Run for the Presidency.” According to Jessica Wädte, the American Dream is such a deeply-rooted concept in the American culture that it is used especially in presidential campaigns. This has been noticeable in discussions concerning the two candidates Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump. In her talk, she examined questions such as “Can two white male candidates belonging to the upper class ever be true representatives of the fulfillment of the American Dream?” or “Is the American Dream rather some sort of prestige and tied to social status?” Victor Vloch, a Ph.D. student of English Studies at the University of Cologne, was the third presenter in this panel. His talk was about class struggle in the HBO crime drama series *The Wire*. Vloch explored the series’ depiction of the lower and middle classes in relation to the American Dream. He argued that although the American Dream exists as social phantasm, the overall goal of social justice and equality has long ago been abandoned by politics and is therefore ultimately no longer in reach. In her talk about Jonathan Franzen’s bestselling novel *The Corrections*, BAS student Emma Wolf then explored the connections between fiction and reality. By analyzing how the American Dream misled the middle class characters Alfred and Chip Lambert, she demonstrated how the current notions of success and

the prevailing image of the American Dream worked to delude American society. Applying strategies that the novel presented, she proposed a way to restructure and thus rebrand the American Dream in order to make it fit better to people's needs.

Following a short break, the third panel of the conference "Race and the American Dream" opened. The first speaker, BAS student Hanna Thiele, talked about affirmative action at U.S. universities, exploring its consequences as well as its advantages and disadvantages. Hanna Thiele put forth arguments for both sides, presented in three categories: advantages or disadvantages of affirmative action policies for society as a whole; arguments with a focus on the effects of affirmative action on the target group; and aspects involving the impact of affirmative action on campus. According to her, affirmative action can be an effective way to promote core values of American society, such as diversity and equality, by giving opportunities to disadvantaged groups. Anna Franziska Schulze, an M.A. student of American Studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin, approached the issue of discrimination by taking a closer look at Ta-Nehisi Coates' *Between the World and Me*. She argued that the book's form reflected the impact of a socioeconomic system which went back to settler colonialism and slavery. Furthermore, she pointed out that the system mentioned above displayed a force which still worked to privilege a tiny minority marked by both wealth and whiteness at the expense of marginalized others. Last but not least, we welcomed Caroline Schröter, a Ph.D. student at the English Department of the University College Cork, Ireland, who came all the way to Germany to give us a presentation on the media(tisa)tion of the slave experience. She explored the current media landscape and cultural consciousness regarding North American racism and its slavery past. She demonstrated that the mediatisation of the slave experience had left an indelible mark on the slave narrative genre's role in society's educational process and that it also served to reconcile deeply rooted cultural differences between people. Her presentation aimed to raise awareness about the lived experience and legacy of slavery and to help steer the process of comprehending its many social consequences.

After lunch, a panel discussion about the American Dream in the twenty-first century, hosted by BAS student Marie Harnau, closed the conference. The participants Christopher Gilliam, Zachary Holler, Clarissa Ryan, and Charlotte Stöckmann, all HCA students, engaged in a vivid discussion and tried to answer questions regarding the relevance of the concept of the American Dream in the United States of America today and the advancement of gender, social, and racial equality. After the participants of the panel discussion stated their different viewpoints, a lively debate with the audience followed. This endeavor demonstrated the ability of BAS students to organize and take part in an international and interdisciplinary conference, thus providing encouragement to carry on this new academic format organized by and for students. The HCA is looking forward to further student conferences emboldening students to share their own research on different topics.

Multiple Modernities? Confessional Cultures and the Many Legacies of the Reformation, September 22 to 25, 2016, Heidelberg Center for American Studies

In the framework of a multiyear project on the legacies of the Reformation, the conference “Multiple Modernities? Confessional Cultures and the Many Legacies of the Reformation” was the second event in a series of conferences based on the larger international and interdisciplinary project titled “Multiple Reformations? The Heidelberg-Notre Dame Dialog on the Legacies of the Reformation Age.” The Dialog was initiated on the occasion of the coming 500th anniversary of the Reformation (as dated by Martin Luther’s 95 theses from 1517). The Dialog brings together a group of theologians and historians from the Theological Faculty of Heidelberg University as well as the Department of Theology and the Department of History of the University of Notre Dame, the leading Catholic university in North America.

The first conference had been held in Rome from the March 6 to 10, 2016, titled “The Many Faces of the Reformation.” It was concerned primarily with historiographical questions regarding the Reformation from the perspectives of history, theology, and ecumenical studies. The Heidelberg conference, organized by Jan Stievermann and Paul S. Peterson, was focused on the long-term global legacies of the Reformation as manifest in the development of distinct Christian world religions and competing confessional cultures. The talks, held by scholars from Notre Dame, Heidelberg, and other special guests, compared different confessional modernities and showed how Catholic and Protestant theologies and lived religions interacted with the development of modern empires and nation-states. The participants also analyzed the divergent traditions in education, social welfare, and law from historical, sociological, theological, and legal perspectives. Some of the lectures also addressed the emergence of modern secularization and specifically the influence of post-Reformation developments, including religious and theological traditions, on modern secularization.

The first panel of the conference was concerned with the formation of Protestantism and Catholicism as modern world religions. Simon Ditchfield (University of York) gave a lecture on the emergence of Roman Catholicism in the non-European context of the early modern period. Jan Stievermann (Heidelberg) provided the contrasting picture for global Protestantism. The second panel focused on confessional empires, missions, and nations, with lectures from Patrick Griffin (Notre Dame) on the relationship between religion and national identity in the Seven Years’ War in America and Hartmut Lehmann (Kiel) on nationalism in Western Christianity in the modern period. The third and fourth panels were titled “The Reformation and the Origins of Secular Modernity,” with lectures from Brad Gregory (Notre Dame) and Volker Leppin (Tübingen), both on the legacy of the Reformation with view to modern Western secularization. The fourth panel was titled “Confessional Modernities, Enlightenment and Secularization,” with lectures from John Betz (Notre Dame) on the alternative Enlightenment of Johann Georg Hamann, Klaus Tanner (Heidelberg) on Ernst Troeltsch’s understanding of Protestantism and modernity, Wolfgang Schluchter (Heidelberg) on progress and disenchantment in the thought of Max Weber, and finally Paul Silas Peterson (Heidelberg) on the decline of established Christianity in the Western world (with view to Ernst Troeltsch’s Church-Sect-Mysticism Typology).

The sixth panel was on the subject of confessional cultures and the natural sciences, with lectures from Randall Zachman (Notre Dame) on John Calvin's understanding of the natural sciences and Matthew Ashley (Notre Dame) on B. B. Warfield and John Zahn's views of evolution. On Friday evening, the keynote conference lecture was held by Peter Harrison (University of Queensland) on the Protestant Reformation and the rise of modern science. The seventh and eighth panels were titled "Confessional Cultures and Legal, Educational and Diaconical Traditions," with lectures from Christoph Strohm (Heidelberg) and Neil Arner (Notre Dame) on confessional traditions, jurisprudence, and natural law, Elliott Visconsi (Notre Dame) on the emergence of civil religion in the early modern English world, and finally Johannes Eurich (Heidelberg) on the influence of religious traditions on modern social welfare. On Saturday evening, an ecumenical event was organized for the conference, including a keynote lecture from the Bishop of the Protestant Church in Baden, Professor Jochen Cornelius Bundschuh, on the commemoration of the Reformation in the coming year 2017. A response was then provided by Canon Dr. Peter Birkhofer, Ecumenical Representative of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Freiburg.

The next conference of the Heidelberg-Notre Dame Dialog, titled "Multiple Reformations and the Authority and Interpretation of Scripture," will be held in Chicago from March 12 to 15, 2017. The final conference, titled "The Legacies of the Reformation: Paths Forward," will be held from March 11 to 14, 2018, in Jerusalem.

JAMES W.C. PENNINGTON AWARD OF THE HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES AND THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY, HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

On June 14, the fifth celebration of the James W.C. Pennington Award took place at the HCA. In cooperation with the Faculty of Theology and supported by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation, the HCA awarded the prize to Professor John Witte Jr. for his outstanding scholarship in the field of international human rights and religious freedom. University Rector Bernhard Eitel opened the ceremony by referring to the premise of the Pennington Award, which honors exceptional scholars of African American religion, literature, history, and culture. Rector Eitel emphasized that the annual Pennington seminar hosted by Professor Stievermann and the respective Pennington laureate is a special contribution to the Ruperto Carola, since it allowed students of several faculties to explore the laureate's field of expertise in depth. Following the rector's introduction, Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger described the genesis of this award in more detail. In 1849, James W. C. Pennington received the first honorary doctorate ever awarded to an African American from the Theology Department of Heidelberg University. Pennington, who had escaped slavery more than once, had educated himself and eventually been admitted as a guest student to Yale University. Dr. Lautenschläger stressed that the Pennington Award was dedicated to scholarship which fostered social equality and understanding. In another short address, Professor Gregory Sterling, dean of the Yale Divinity School, agreed to this and emphasized how precious the rediscovered history of James W.C. Pennington was, not only to cultural history but also to his university. Moreover, it gave new incentives for closer cooperation between the universities of Yale and Heidelberg, not the least to shed more light on the history of both institutions in connection to the life of James W. C. Pennington.

In his laudatory speech, Professor Stievermann then pointed out the extensive scholarship Professor Witte has produced in the fields of law and religious history. By honoring him, the Faculty of Theology and the HCA were awarding this prize to someone who had worked in Pennington's spirit. As the director of the Center for Study of Law and Religion at Emory University, Professor Witte has long been active exploring the tensions between law and religion. With his scholarship on religious freedom, he has made an essential contribution to the general understanding of how Protestantism and Western culture are inherently linked. Professor Witte then commenced his talk "Religion and Human Rights: What James Pennington Still Teaches Us." It was dedicated to the Protestant origins of international human rights and to highlighting how religious freedom had been a driving force behind their creation. According to Professor Witte, rebelling against tyranny had been an innate tradition of Protestantism, most famously initiated by Martin Luther himself. Soon, however, Protestants were not only engaged in political rebellion but, moreover, concerned about spiritual tyranny, which affected many religious groups. Since the idea of rebellion was not in accordance with Protestant Bible reading, they began to change their understanding of the world surrounding them, resulting in the incorporation of a differentiated view of just and unjust sovereignty. By forsaking the latter any divine support, they created a Protestant law of self-defense, which, according to Witte, later was reformed by the social contract. Said

concept guaranteed all citizens protection in exchange for obedience, and it was protection from religious discrimination that the majority demanded. In addition to protection from discrimination, many Protestants soon began to demand freedom of conscience as well, another concept that James W. C. Pennington also advocated. As a pacifist, Pennington had demanded non-violent resistance to slavery and its tyranny that affected both slaves and preachers who attempted to grant them spiritual support. Pennington claimed that especially congregations had to be more active in integrating African Americans as equals into their communities. Thus, Pennington had been a passionate advocate for social change, solidarity, and communal support, paving the way for Martin Luther King, who was to follow a century later. Moreover, Pennington had been convinced that African Americans had an innate right to freedom, and, therefore, breaking dis-



Manfred Lautenschläger and Bernhard Eitel Present the James W.C. Pennington Award to John Witte Jr.

criminatory laws in order to gain this privilege was justified. However, Pennington himself never abandoned his pacifist convictions but, consequently, through his actions and words opened a new era of liberal Protestant theology and civil rights. He was certain that the church had to be at the heart of every rebellion against injustice. By this Pennington not only predicted the key role religion would play in shaping modern culture, but also its influence on the formation of international human rights. According to Professor Witte, Pennington's extraordinary concept of spiritual and physical tyranny continues to challenge many scholars to question their idea of legitimate and illegitimate sovereignty. Following the official award ceremony, the guests enjoyed drinks, food, and more intriguing conversation during a reception in the HCA's Bel Etage.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

The list below includes books, book chapters, journal articles, and entries in reference works published by HCA faculty and staff in 2015-16. Also listed are publications by scholars affiliated with the HCA that are relevant to the field of American Studies.

Jennifer Adams-Massmann (HCA and Faculty of Theology)

"Religious Press and Print Culture," *Amerikastudien*, 2015.

Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

"Schnappt Euch die Nigger!' Der 'blutige Sonntag' von Selma in Alabama wurde im März 1965 zu einem Wendepunkt der US-Bürgerrechtsbewegung," *DIE ZEIT*, February 19, 2015.

"Pulverfass mit kurzer Lunte. Die Unruhen in Ferguson und Baltimore haben eine bedrückende Tradition. Seit mehr als 150 Jahren erschüttern 'race riots' die amerikanische Gesellschaft," *DIE ZEIT*, May 13, 2015.

"Die USA und der Erste Weltkrieg," in *Der Erste Weltkrieg und die Folgen*. Ed. Óscar Loureda. Studium Generale Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2016), 77-105.

"Was ist aus Martin Luther Kings Traum geworden? Amerikas schwarze Minderheit seit der Bürgerrechtsbewegung," in *Von Selma bis Ferguson. Rasse und Rassismus in den USA*, Eds. Michael Butter, Astrid Franke, and Horst Tonn (Bielefeld: Transcript, 2016), 73-92.

"US-Präsident Woodrow Wilson und der liberale Internationalismus," in *Jahrbuch zur Liberalismus-Forschung* 28 (2016), 67-90.

"America, United States of: 3. 20th Century to the Present," in *Encyclopedia of Empire*, ed. John M. MacKenzie, (Malden, MA: Wiley, 2016), 88-99.

"Eine extreme Alternative: Barry Goldwater wollte vor rund 50 Jahren mit radikalen Parolen ins Weiße Haus einziehen. Er scheiterte – und veränderte doch sein Land," *DIE ZEIT* February 25, 2016.

"Selbst Clinton würde das Land nur noch weiter spalten," *Tagesspiegel. Causa. Argumente, Autoren. Zusammenhänge*. July 26 and 31, 2016.

"No, he couldn't! Mit Barack Obama verbanden die Afroamerikaner große Erwartungen. Er sollte sein Land aus dem Rassismus herausführen. Doch das historische Erbe war stärker," *DIE ZEIT* August 11, 2016.

Tobias Endler (HCA)

With Martin Thunert, *Entzauberung: Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama* (Opladen/Toronto: Barbara Budrich Publishers, 2015).

"Geld und Familien. Wahlkampf in den USA mit Bush, Clinton und Trump," *Huffington Post online*, September 10, 2015.

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Philipp Gassert (University of Mannheim)

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Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Institute for Geography)

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Sebastian Harnisch (Institute for Political Science)

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Mischa Honeck (German Historical Institute Washington, D.C.)

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Ryan P. Hoselton (HCA)

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Detlef Junker (HCA)

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Robert Lemon (University of Texas, Austin)

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Günter Leypoldt (HCA and English Department)

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Sophie Lorenz (History Department)

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Wilfried Mausbach (HCA)

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Margit Peterfy (English Department)

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Katia Rostetter (HCA and English Department)

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Anthony Santoro (HCA and History Department)

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Styles Sass (HCA)

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Dietmar Schloss (HCA and English Department)

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Adam Seipp (Texas A&M University)

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Daniel Silliman (HCA)

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Matthew Sutton (Washington State University)

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Martin Thunert (HCA)

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"Presidential Leadership: Barack Obama und das Problem transformativer politischer Führung," in *Die USA am Ende der Präsidentschaft Barack Obamas*, eds. Winand Gellner und Patrick Horst, (Wiesbaden: Springer VS 2016), 173-196.

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Simon Wendt (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Ed. with Pablo Dominguez Andersen, *Masculinities and the Nation in the Modern World: Between Hegemony and Marginalization* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

"White Elite Women, the Gendered Memory of Heroism, and American Nationalism, 1890-1939," in *Bewunderer, Verehrer, Zuschauer: Die Helden und ihr Publikum*, ed. Ronald G. Asch und Michael Butter (Würzburg: Ergon, 2015), 159-176.

With Pablo Dominguez Andersen, "Introduction: Masculinities and the Nation," in *Between Hegemony and Marginalization: Masculinities and the Nation in the Modern World*, ed. Pablo Dominguez Andersen, and Simon Wendt (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), 1-18.

SELECTED TALKS

During 2015-16, the following HCA staff members, students, and associates gave the talks listed below at conferences, workshops, and panel discussions.

Jennifer Adams-Massmann (HCA and Faculty of Theology)

"*Fraktur* and the Everyday Lives of Germans in Pennsylvania and the Atlantic World, 1683–1850." University of Pennsylvania, March 2015, Philadelphia.

"'A sister's heart is a true heart': Moravian women evangelists and Pennsylvania German women in the Great Awakening in America, 1740-1753." Philadelphia Museum of Art, MArch 2015, Philadelphia.

"Life, (Common) Property and the Search for Blessedness: European and Native Women in the early Moravian Movement." Society of Early Americanists, June 2016, College Park, Md.

Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

"The Dream Revisited: Racial Integration and Black Advancement since the Civil Rights Era." University of Bonn, January 2015, Bonn.

"We Shall Overcome: Die schwarze Bürgerrechtsbewegung und die Kampagne in Birmingham im Frühjahr 1963." Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, January 2015, Chemnitz.

"Ursprünge und Formen der Sklaverei in Nordamerika. Die Lynchjustiz im amerikanischen Süden. Free At Last?" Fridtjof-Nansen-Haus, February 2015, Ingelheim.

"Lynchjustiz und Staatsgewalt in den USA." Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung, March 2015, Hamburg.

"American Lynching and the State." Newcastle University, May 2015, Newcastle, U.K.

"Indescribable Barbarism: The Lynching of African Americans in the Age of Jim Crow." University of Kassel, May 2015, Kassel.

"The U.S. South in the World: Political Organizing Across the Black Atlantic." German Historical Institute, June 2015, Washington, D.C.

"Das Erbe der Lynchjustiz in den USA." Technical University Kaiserslautern, June 2015, Kaiserslautern.

"How Do We Write the History of Lynching in America? Some Reflections." University of Regensburg, July 2015, Regensburg.

"Why write another biography of Woodrow Wilson? The Challenges of Doing Biography." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2015, Heidelberg.

"Ongoing Divide: Obama und das Problem des Rassismus, Signed Sealed and Delivered?" Atlantische Akademie, August 2015, Lamprecht.

"Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History, and Politics." Notre Dame University, September 2015, South Bend, Indiana.

"Woodrow Wilson und der liberale Internationalismus. Liberale zwischen Ideal- und Realpolitik." Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, November 2015, Stuttgart.

"Was ist aus Martin Luther Kings Traum geworden? Amerikas schwarze Minderheit seit der Bürgerrechtsbewegung." University of Tübingen, November 2015, Tübingen.

"Obama und das Problem des Rassismus. Die Ära Obama. A Transformational Presidency?" Akademie für Politische Bildung Tutzing, December 2015, Tutzing.

"Why write another biography of Woodrow Wilson?" Historians in the German Association of American Studies, February 2016, Tutzing.

"'He Kept Us out of War!' A Counterfactual Look at American History without the First World War." Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era, April 2016, Providence, RI.

"Religion in Amerika." Heinrich Böll Stiftung, April 2016, Achill Island, Ireland.

"Race, Crime, and Social Control." Max-Planck-Institut für Gesellschaftsforschung, July 2016, Cologne.

"Lynchjustiz in den USA." Heinrich Böll Stiftung, October 2016, Saarbrücken.

"Woodrow Wilson und der liberale Internationalismus." Universität Bielefeld, December 2016.

Tobias Endler (HCA)

Moderator, "Der Adler, der Stier und der Bär: Amerika, Europa und Russland auf Konfrontationsskurs?" panel debate, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2015, Heidelberg.

"Book Launch: Entzauberung: Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama," Heidelberg Center for American Studies, November 2015, Heidelberg.

"The U.S. and the World After Obama: A Conversation with James M. Lindsay," panel discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, June 2016, Heidelberg.

"Hold Your Own in the Marketplace of Ideas: Foreign Policy Intellectuals and the Relevancy of Political Science in the 21st Century." Georgia Political Science Association, November 2016, Savannah, Ga.

Kirsten Fischer (University of Minnesota)

"On Gender and Genius: John Stewart, Transatlantic Traveler." Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, July 2015, Raleigh, N.C.

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung (HCA)

"De/Colonizing the Image: Photography, Geronimo, and Resistance in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Almanac of the Dead*." American Studies Association, October 2015, Toronto, Ontario.

"What's race got to do with it—just a second-hand emotion? Michael Brown, Ferguson, Missouri, and #BlackLivesMatter." University of Navarra, January 2016, Pamplona, Spain.

"*Atlantic Studies*: Publishing in Global Currents and Recent Shifts in Publication Perspectives." University of Fiji in conjunction with the Institute of Interdisciplinary Inquiry, April 2016, Sydney, Australia.

"I would write with Mt. Fujiyama in View': Japan and the Writing of Katherine Dunham's Memoir *A Touch of Innocence*." The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas (ME-SEA), University of Warsaw, June 2016, Warsaw, Poland.

Gordon Friedrichs (HCA)

With Sebastian Harnisch, "The Pivot to Asia, a pivot getting nowhere? A role theoretical study of U.S. leadership and contestation at home and abroad." International Studies Association, February 2015, New Orleans, La.

"From Factions to Fractions: Indian foreign policy role-taking across different coalitional settings." British International Studies Association, June 2015, London.

With Sebastian Harnisch, "Rebalancing oder Counter-balancing? Der 'US Pivot to Asia' und seine unintendierten Folgen." Deutsche Vereinigung für Politische Wissenschaft, September 2015, Duisburg.

With Sebastian Harnisch, "The U.S., its Pivot to Asia, and allies in the Northeast Asia: convergence or divergence." November 2015, Frankfurt/Main.

With Martin Thunert, "Economic Policy Think Tanks in Germany and the United States: Supply, Demand, Instruments and Strategies of Policy Advice. Think Tanks in the Knowledge Society." University of Speyer, December 2015, Speyer.

"Pitfalls of Leadership? Die deutsche und amerikanische Außenpolitik vor und nach den Wahlen." Verband der deutsch-amerikanischen Clubs (VDAC), February 2016, Trier.

With Sebastian Harnisch, "From role to counter-role taking: The U.S. Pivot to Asia and the allies' responses in Northeast Asia." Annual convention of the International Studies Association, March 2016, Atlanta.

With Sebastian Harnisch, "Nordkoreas neue Strategie zur Stabilisierung dynastischer Herrschaft: Nuklearwaffen, Provokationen und innenpolitische Säuberungen?" Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, September 2016, Berlin.

"US-Wahlen 2016: Der Aufstieg Donald Trumps und das politische System der USA." Universität Heidelberg, November 2016, Heidelberg.

Philipp Gassert (University of Mannheim)

"Amerikas Kriege: Die Welt für die Demokratie sicher machen." Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Heidelberg, January 2015, Heidelberg.

"Auf die Straße gehen: Überlegungen zu einer Weltgeschichte der Demonstration seit 1848." Universität of Jena, January 2015, Jena.

"Die Welt im Lokalen suchen? Zeitgeschichte zwischen regionaler und globaler Orientierung." Inaugural lecture at the University of Mannheim, February 2015, Mannheim.

"Challenges and Constraints of Presidential Power: Domestic and Foreign Policy (during President Obama's Last Two Years of Presidency)." University of Mannheim, March 2015, Mannheim.

"Zeitenwende in Europa? Zwischen Krieg im Osten und Re-Nationalisierung im Westen." Mannheim Forum, March 2015, Mannheim.

"Der Weltuntergang in der Mediendemokratie: Zur Kulturgeschichte der nuklearen Katastrophe in den 1980er Jahren." Förderverein des Historischen Instituts der Universität Mannheim, March 2015, Mannheim.

"Amerika in Deutschland: Die deutsch-amerikanischen Beziehungen seit 1945." Point Alpha Akademie/Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, March 2015, Geisa/Rhön.

"Does Protest Have No Borders? Approaching Global History through Marches and Street Demonstrations." New York University Abu Dhabi, April 2015, Abu Dhabi.

"Warum Protest auch weiter konkreter Orte bedarf. Zu Geschichte und Gegenwart der Straßendemonstration." New Design University, May 2015, St. Pölten, Austria.

"Europa und Amerika: Streit, Vorurteil und die transatlantische Konfliktkultur." Presseclub Concordia, May 2015, Vienna, Austria.

"Thüringen 1945: Die amerikanische Besetzung von Deutschland und die Politik der Großmächte." Gedenk- und Bildungsstätte Andreasstraße, Mai 2015, Erfurt.

"Representing the Most Significant Other: German Historians View the United States." Fondazione Luigi Einaudi, September 2015, Torino, Italy.

"Aufstieg im Geist des Kapitalismus. Max Weber und die USA." D.A.I. Freiburg and Colloquium Politicum, University of Freiburg, October 2015, Freiburg/Br.

"Amerikas Kriege: Die Welt für die Demokratie sicher machen?" d.a.i. Tübingen, November 2015, Tübingen.

"Die Rolle der Friedensbewegung für die bundesdeutsche Außenpolitik der 1980er Jahre." Université Paris Sorbonne and GHI Paris, December 2015, Paris.

Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Geography Department)

"Metropolen Nordamerikas—aktuelle Entwicklungen, Muster und Diskurse." Fränkische Geographische Gesellschaft, January 2015, Erlangen.

"Cities as Places of Knowledge Production: A Creative Symbiosis?" Association of American Geographers, April 2015, Chicago, Illinois.

"Investigating Inequality in Creative Cities: A Global Comparative Perspective." International Conference Doing Global Urban Research, September 2015, Loughborough, U.K.

"Stadt & Natur: Urbane Infrastrukturen in Nordamerika im Kontext von Ressourcenknappheit und Klimawandel." Deutscher Kongress für Geographie, October 2015, Berlin.

"Mega City, Slumdog City, Global City—Relikte einer Stadtforschung in der Globalen Urbanen Gesellschaft? Oder: Zehn Thesen zur Globalen Urbanen Gesellschaft." Deutscher Kongress für Geographie, October 2015, Berlin.

"Städtischer Wandel durch neue Wissensorte: Eine interdisziplinäre Herausforderung für ein Urbanes Reallabor." Deutscher Kongress für Geographie, October 2015, Berlin.

"Urbane Visionen." November 2015, Heidelberg.

"Koproduktion: Bedeutung für Wissenschaft und Praxis." Schader Stiftung, November 2015, Darmstadt.

„Schafft Wissen Stadt? Heidelberg als Experimentierfeld für nachhaltige Stadtentwicklung in der Wissensgesellschaft.“ Leipziger Geographisches Kolloquium, December 2015, Leipzig.

"Rasse oder Klasse? Urbane Ungleichheiten in US-amerikanischen Städten." University of Freiburg, January 2016, Freiburg.

"Growing Apart: Urban Inequalities in the Creative City. A Global Comparative Approach." Gesellschaft für Kanada-Studien, February 2016, Grainau.

With David Wilson, "Making Cities Creative: New Trends and Directions." American Association of Geographers, March 2016, San Francisco.

"Mega City, Global City, Creative City – Remnants of Urban Research before the Global Urban Age?" American Association of Geographers, March 2016, San Francisco.

"Growing Apart? U.S.-amerikanische Stadtentwicklung im Kontext von Reurbanisierung, Globalisierung und Polarisierung." Geographische Gesellschaft, April 2016, Innsbruck.

"Growing Apart? U.S.-amerikanische Stadtentwicklung im Kontext von Reurbanisierung, Globalisierung und Polarisierung." Geographisches Kolloquium, April 2016, Mainz.

"Growing Apart? U.S.-amerikanische Stadtentwicklung im Kontext von Reurbanisierung, Globalisierung und Polarisierung." Marburger Geographische Gesellschaft, May 2016, Marburg.

"Jahresfeier: 1 Jahr Reallabor – Urban Office: Nachhaltige Stadtentwicklung in der Wissensgesellschaft." Urban Office & Akademie für Landeskunde und Raumordnung (ARL), June 2016, Heidelberg.

"Jenseits von Nord und Süd: Vergleichende Stadtforschung im Kontext natürlicher und sozialer Ressourcenkonflikte." Marsilius-Kolleg at Heidelberg University, July 2016, Heidelberg.

"Ein Recht auf Stadt Heidelberg – oder: Einblicke in die Wissenschaft in einem Reallabor Stadt." Poetry Slam, Heidelberg University, July 2016, Heidelberg.

With Günter Leyboldt, "I only became black when I came to America: Ethnische Differenz in Chimmamanda Ngozi Adichies Americanah." Vortragsreihe Gegenwartsliteratur und Zeitdiagnostik, Heidelberg University, November 2016, Heidelberg.

"Comparative Urbanism: Perspectives from the Global South and North." Marsilius-Kolleg at Heidelberg University, December 2016, Heidelberg.

Iris Hahn-Santoro (HCA)

"Common Mistakes in English by Non-Native Speakers." Sogang University, February 2016, Seoul, South Korea.

"How to Write a Convincing Statement of Purpose." Sogang University, February 2016, Seoul, South Korea.

"Tutoring Across the Disciplines." Sogang University, February 2016, Seoul, South Korea.

Sebastian Harnisch (Institute for Political Science)

Gordon Friedrichs, "From role to counter-role taking: The U.S. Pivot to Asia and the allies' responses in Northeast Asia." International Studies Association, March 2016, Atlanta.

With Gordon Friedrichs, "Nordkoreas neue Strategie zur Stabilisierung dynastischer Herrschaft: Nuklearwaffen, Provokationen und innenpolitische Säuberungen?" Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, September 2016, Berlin.

Mischa Honeck (German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.)

"Burying the Hatchet: The Boy Scouts and the Infantilization of Peace." American Historical Association, January 2015, New York.

"Are You a Crusader? Cold War Citizenship in the Boy Scouts of America." Society for the History of Youth and Childhood, University of British Columbia, June 2015, Vancouver, British Columbia.

"The Power of Innocence: The Boy Scouts of America and the Infantilization of Empire." University of Jena, May 2015, Jena.

"Boyification: How Scouting Fetishized Boys, Rejuvenated Men, and Infantilized Empire." Humboldt University, May 2015, Berlin.

Ryan P. Hoselton (HCA)

"Thomas Paine and Democratic Religion," Charles University, June 2015, Prague.

"Religious Experience and Early Evangelical Biblical Interpretation: A Case Study." HCA Spring Academy, March, 2016, Heidelberg.

"The Indwelling Spirit and Experiential Knowledge in Jonathan Edwards' Exegesis." American Academy of Religion, November, 2016, San Antonio, Tex.

Detlef Junker (HCA)

"Der Graben im Atlantik wird breiter. Marktlücke—Kriegslücke—Gotteslücke." Evangelische Akademie Tutzing, March 2015, Tutzing.

"Chosen People: The American Civil Religion." American Studies Network Europe, June 2015, Warsaw, Poland.

"Botschafter Jacob Gould Schurman und die Universität Heidelberg." Freundeskreis für Archiv und Museum der Universität Heidelberg e.V., June 2015, Heidelberg.

"The Widening Atlantic—Market Gap—War Gap—God Gap." University of Missouri, October 2015, St. Louis, USA,

"The Widening Atlantic—Market Gap—War Gap—God Gap." Washington University, October 2015, St. Louis, USA.

"The Widening Atlantic—Market Gap—War Gap—God Gap." University of Nebraska, November 2015, Lincoln, USA.

"The Widening Atlantic—Market Gap—War Gap—God Gap." San Francisco State University, November 2015, San Francisco, USA.

"The Widening Atlantic—Market Gap—War Gap—God Gap." American Council on Germany, Duane Morris LLP, November 2015, San Francisco, USA.

"Book Launch: Religion and the Marketplace in the United States." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, January 2016, Heidelberg.

"Die USA, der Anti-Nationalsozialismus, und der Anti-Kommunismus im frühen Kalten Krieg." panel discussion, Rosenberg Symposium, April 2016, Berlin.

"Die vermarktete Politik—Der Kampf ums Weiße Haus." Studium Generale, Heidelberg University, May 2016, Heidelberg.

"Heidelberg Center for American Studies—Development and Structure." Friends of the HCA, New York, November 2016, New York.

"President-elect Donald Trump: Was nun?" Heidelberger Kreis, December 2016, Heidelberg.

Robert Lemon (University of Texas, Austin)

"The Spatial Practices of Taco Trucks." University of Kassel, January 2015, Kassel.

Moderator, "Food and Immigration: Mobile People's Impact on Food Systems and Taste." panel discussion, September 2016, Turin, Italy.

"The Budding Aromas from Taco Trucks: Taste and Space in Austin, Texas." September 2016, Belgrade, Serbia.

"The Budding Aromas from Taco Trucks: Taste and Space in Austin, Texas." University of Gastronomic Sciences, October 2015, Pollenzo, Italy.

"The Spatial Practices of Taco Trucks." University of Erfurt, November 2015, Erfurt.

"The Spatial Practices of Taco Trucks." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, November 2015, Heidelberg.

"The Budding Aromas from Taco Trucks: Taste and Space in Austin, Texas." Chatham University, November 2015, Pittsburgh.

"The Spatial Practices of Taco Trucks." University of Bremen, December 2015, Bremen.

"Taco Truck Space." Universidad de Alcalá, March 2016, Madrid, Spain.

"Food is Spatial: A Geographic Approach to Food Studies." La Universidad de la Sabana, May 2016, Bogotá, Colombia.

"The Spatial Practices of Food Trucks." The Umbria Institute, June 2016, Perugia, Italy.

Günter Leypoldt (HCA and English Department)

"The Materiality of Charismatic Performance." Humanities Center, Stanford University, January 2015, Palo Alto, Calif.

"Quantifying Relevance." University of Washington, May 2015, Seattle, Washington.

"Herder Effects." Heidelberg University, June 2015, Heidelberg.

"Literature's Social Lives." University of Frankfurt, July 2015, Frankfurt/Main.

"Shifting Meridians: US Authorship in World-Literary Space." University of Notre Dame, September 2015, Notre Dame, Ind.

"Sacred Economies: Literature's Social Lives (The Question of Relevance)." University of Constance, November 2015, Constance.

"Specters of Feminization in Nineteenth-Century Literary Culture." University of Jena, February 2016, Jena.

"Sacred Economies: Literature's Social Lives (The Question of Relevance)." University of Cambridge, February 2016, Cambridge, U.K.

"Literary Authorship." University of Cambridge, April 2016, Cambridge, U.K.

"What Carrie Wants: Romantic Longing and Balzac's Upward-Mobility Novel in Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie*." University of Mainz, Germersheim, July 2016, Germersheim.

"Literature's Symbolic Economies." University of Mainz, September 2016, Mainz.

"Zur kulturellen Performanz des Authentischen." Academy of Sciences, October 2016, Heidelberg.

"Glaubwürdigkeits- und Authentizitätskrise der Medien?" Panel discussion. Academy of Sciences, October 2016, Heidelberg.

"Geschichtlichkeit in der Literaturwissenschaft." University of Frankfurt, November 2016, Frankfurt/Main.

"Charismatic Trust: The Symbolic Economies of Literary Authorship." University of Frankfurt, November 2016, Frankfurt/Main.

With Ulrike Gerhard, "'I only became black when I came to America': Ethnische Differenz in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichies Americanah." Vortragsreihe Gegenwartsliteratur und Zeitdiagnostik, Heidelberg University, November 2016, Heidelberg.

Wilfried Mausbach (HCA)

"Separatismus in den USA: Geschichte und Gegenwart." Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, April 2015, Kaiserslautern.

"One Nation Under Guns: Was steckt hinter Amerikas Vernarrtheit in Waffen?" University of Tübingen, July 2015, Tübingen.

"iSpy, you Spy, We All Spy: German-American Relations and the NSA Affair," Annual National HAUS Meeting, September 2015, Snowbird, Utah.

"Was verbindet Deutschland und die USA? The Task Force on the Future of German-American Relations." Roundtable, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa), December 2016, Stuttgart.

"Abstimmen per Mittelfinger? Amerika im Präsidentschaftswahlkampf 2016." York-Pennsylvania Club, April 2016, Leinfelden-Echterdingen.

"Transatlantische Ambivalenzen." Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, July 2016, Berlin.

"Wahlanalyse: And the Winner is..." DAI Stuttgart, November 2016, Stuttgart.

Margit Peterfy (English Department)

"Performance as Interpretation: Authors' Carnivals and the Aesthetic Preferences of American Readers in the Gilded Age." University of Graz, March 2015, Graz.

"Authors' Carnivals as Literature in a 'Tangible' Form." Columbia University, April 2015, New York.

"Nature into Real Estate: Commercial and Poetic Knowledge of American Landscapes." German Society for American Studies, May 2015, Bonn.

"Public and Poetic Use of 'Solitude' in the Works of J. G. Whittier." University of Würzburg, July 2015, Würzburg.

"Popular Poetry as Philosophy: The Case of the Fireside Poets and John Dewey." University of Augsburg, October 2015, Augsburg.

"Parody, Adaptation, and Material Culture in the Canonization (and De-Canonization) of American Popular Poetry." University of Regensburg, November 2015, Regensburg.

Styles Sass (HCA)

"Book launch: The United States as a Divided Nation." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, January 2016, Heidelberg.

"Words Apart: The Campaign Narratives in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." DAI Stuttgart, April 2016, Stuttgart.

"Words Apart: The Campaign Narratives in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." DAI Freiburg, April 2016, Freiburg.

"Words Apart: The Campaign Narratives in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." Atlantische Akademie Rheinland Pfalz and Technical University Kaiserslautern, June 2016, Lamprecht/Palatinate.

"Words Apart: The Campaign Narratives in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations, June 2016, Munich.

"Who's Afraid of Donald Trump?" Rotary Club, July 2016, Kirchheim unter Teck.

"Book Launch: Swaying the Nation: Campaign Narratives in the 2008 Presidential Election." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2016, Heidelberg.

"Presidential Campaigns—Best Of." panel discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, October 2016, Heidelberg.

"Mr. or Mrs. President—Who Goes to Washington?" DAI Stuttgart, November 2016, Stuttgart.

"The Election of a President—and why 2016 is so significant." DAI Stuttgart, November 2016, Stuttgart.

Dietmar Schloss (HCA and English Department)

"The Power of Secrets: Democracy and the Novel of the American Renaissance." University of Saarbrücken, June 2016, Saarbrücken.

"Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club* and the 'Quest for Excitement': Using Norbert Elias to Explain the Attraction of Fictional Violence." FU Berlin, July 2016, Berlin.

Anja Schüler (HCA)

"'An Opportunity is All They Need': Mary McLeod Bethune's Role in FDR's New Deal." European Social Science History Conference, April 2016, Valencia, Spain.

Adam Seipp (Texas A&M University)

"Liberation Day: Commemoration, Politics, and the Afterlife of a Death March, 1945-1995." Concordia University, March 10, 2015, Montreal, Canada.

"Liberation Day: History, Memory, and the Death Marches." Melbern G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, April 2015, College Station, Tex.

"Liberation Day: History, Memory, and the Afterlife of a Death March, 1945-1995." USC Shoah Foundation Institute, July 2015, Los Angeles.

"'What Have You Done to these People?' Bystanders in the End Phase of the Holocaust." Duit-sland Instituut, University of Amsterdam, September 2015, Amsterdam.

"The Main Role: History, Memory, and the Aftermath of a Death March." German Studies Association, October 2015, Arlington, Va.

"The Main Role: History, Memory, and the Aftermath of a Death March." Southern Historical Association, October 2015, Little Rock, Ark.

"In the Pipeline: Children, Families, and Europe's DP Crisis in the Wake of the Holocaust." University of Montana, November 2015, Missoula, Mont.

"In Sarajevo's Shadow: World War I and the Lessons of History." University of Arkansas, February 26, 2015, Fayetteville, Ark.

"Into the Whirlwind: The German-Soviet War in History and Memory." Society for Military History, April 2016, Ottawa, Canada.

"In Sarajevo's Shadow: World War I and the Making of the 20th Century." Angelo State University, April 2016, San Angelo, Tex.

"Mox Nix: The US Army, German Society, and the Making of the Federal Republic." FU Berlin, June 2016, Berlin.

"Mox Nix: The US Army, German Society, and the Making of the Federal Republic." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2016, Heidelberg.

"Donuts, Cab Drivers, and Communists: Germans Encounter the US Army, 1945-1952." Dale Center for the Study of War and Society, September 2016, New Orleans, La.

Moderator "The European Paradox: Reflections on Konrad Jarausch's *Out of Ashes: A New History of Europe in the 20th Century*." German Studies Association, September 2016, San Diego, Calif.

Daniel Silliman (HCA)

"Selling Sex at the Christian Bookstore: How Market Forces Shaped the Secular Fantasy of American Evangelicals." Hillsdale College, October 2016, Hillsdale, Mich.

"Reading Big Book Data." Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion, November 2016, San Antonio, Tex.

"The Secular Fantasy of the First Evangelical Romance Novel." University of Notre Dame, December 2016, South Bend, Ind.

Anne Sommer (HCA)

"Returning home? Differing Images of Italy in 21st Century Italian American Literature and Film." Università di Calabria, June 2015, Arcavacata, Italy.

"Review: *Transcending Borders, Bridging Gaps*. Italian Americana, Diasporic Studies, and the University Curriculum." Università di Calabria, July 2015, Arcavacata, Italy.

With Irmintraud Jost, "Programs Offered in English at German Universities." Career Day "Studying and Working in Germany." Goethe Institute, October 2015, New York.

"Inventing the Italian Patria: On Machiavelli, the Risorgimento, and Italian Diasporas." San Francisco State University, February 2016, San Francisco.

"Pirandello's Novella 'With Other Eyes.'" San Francisco State University, February 2016, San Francisco.

"'Here They Make It Real'—The Return of Italian Americans to Italy." Society for Italian Studies, April 2016, Dublin.

Jan Stievermann (HCA and Faculty of Theology)

"The German Lives of David Brainerd: The Beginnings of Pietist Interest in an American Evangelical Icon." McNeal Center for Early American Studies, March 2015, Philadelphia, Pa.

"David Brainerd, German Pietism and the Beginning of Protestant World Mission." Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, March 2015, Chicago, Ill.

"'Puritans and Prophecy': Cotton Mather and Biblia Americana." University of California, August 2015, Berkeley, Calif.

"Early American Protestantism and the Confessionalization Paradigm: A Critical Inquiry." March 2016, Rome.

"Imagining Global Protestantism in Colonial Boston, ca. 1700." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, September 2016, Heidelberg.

"James W.C. Pennington and his Heidelberg Doctorate in the Context of Transatlantic Reform." Yale Divinity School, October 2016, New Haven, Conn.

Matthew Sutton (HCA and Washington State University)

"American Apocalypse." Newcastle University, 2015, Newcastle, U.K.

"Religion and Modern American Politics." Charles University, 2015, Prague, Czech Republic.

"Bracing for Armageddon: The Origins of the American Christian Right." Universidad de Alcalá, 2015, Madrid, Spain.

"Political Rhetoric at the Grassroots: The Evangelical Right." Atlantische Akademie, 2015, Lambrecht.

"The Global Apocalypses of Billy Graham." American Historical Association, 2015, New York.

Martin Thunert (HCA)

"Presidential Leadership: Obamas Führungsstil im Vergleich zu seinen Vorgängern." University of Passau, January 2015, Passau.

"Immigration Matters?– Einwanderungspolitik in Deutschland/EU und den USA." Atlantische Akademie, February 2015, Mainz.

"Freihandel – wer profitiert, wer verliert?" DAI Saarbrücken, April 2015, Saarbrücken.

"TTIP – Vielfalt der Hoffnungen und Befürchtungen in den USA und Deutschland/Europa." Europa-Union Südpfalz, May 2015, Landau.

"Immigration and Demographic Change in Germany and the United States." Heidelberg University, Institut für Dolmetschen und Übersetzen, June 2015, Heidelberg.

"Wahlanalyse Unterhauswahlen Kanada," Canadian Embassy, October 2015, Berlin.

"Presidential Leadership: Obamas Führungsstil im Vergleich zu seinen Vorgängern." Universität Passau, January 2015, Passau.

"Immigration Matters?– Einwanderungspolitik in Deutschland/EU und den USA." Atlantische Akademie, February 2015, Mainz.

"Freihandel – wer profitiert, wer verliert?" Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut, April 2015, Saarbrücken.

"TTIP – Vielfalt der Hoffnungen und Befürchtungen in den USA und Deutschland/Europa." Europa-Union Südpfalz, May 2015, Landau.

"Immigration and Demographic Change in Germany and the United States." Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, June 2015, Heidelberg.

"Wahlanalyse Unterhauswahlen Kanada," Embassy of Canada, October 2015, Berlin.

With Tobias Endler, "Entzauberung – Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama." DAI, November 2015, Stuttgart.

With Gordon Friedrichs, "Economic Policy Think Tanks in Germany and the United States: Supply, Demand, Instruments and Strategies of Policy Advice." University of Administrative Sciences Speyer, December 2015, Speyer.

“From Pierre to Justin. Trudeau’s Vision of Canada as a Just Society Revisited and Evaluated.” Annual Meeting 2016 of the Association for Canadian Studies in the German-speaking Countries, February 2016, Grainau.

“Vorentscheidung ‚Super Tuesday‘? Die heiße Phase des US-Vorwahlkampfes 2016.” Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP/US-Generalkonsulat Frankfurt, February 2016, Frankfurt.

“Lobbyists and What They Really Want - Die Welt der Interessengruppen.” Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, March 2016, Kaiserslautern.

“Amerikanische Außen –und Sicherheitspolitik im frühen 21. Jahrhundert: Grundsätze und aktuelle Krisenbewältigung.” Bildungszentrum der Bundeswehr, March 2016, Mannheim.

“Entzauberung: Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama.” Schurman-Verein, March 2016, Heidelberg.

“Wissenschaftliche Politikberatung zur Einwanderung.” NRW School of Governance, May 2016, Duisburg.

With Tobias Endler, “Entzauberung: Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama.” DAI, May 2016, Freiburg.

“Der Kampf ums Weiße Haus: Analysen und Prognosen vor den Parteitag 2016.” HCA, July 2016, Heidelberg.

“Die USA ganz oben und ganz unten. Zur wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Lage der Bevölkerung— Armut, Reichtum und die Mittelklasse.” Akademie Frankenwarte, September 2016, Würzburg.

“Gedankenmacht? Selbstverständnis, Strategien, Zielgruppen und Wirkung/Einfluss von Think Tanks in Deutschland und den USA.” Beijing Foreign Studies University, September 2016, Beijing.

“‘Yes we can!’ Innen- und außenpolitische Bilanz der Obama-Administration.” Point Alpha Akademie, October 2016, Geisa.

“Decision USA 2016: There Can Only Be One—Nahaufnahme der Kandidaten.” Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, November 2016, Kaiserslautern.

“Wahlanalyse, 2016 Election-Brunch.” DAI Saarbrücken, November 2016, Saarbrücken.

“Equitable Growth, Mobility or Opportunities for All? How Progressive, Conservative, and Centrist Think Tanks and Research Groups Discuss Inequality in the US and Elsewhere.” FU Berlin, November 2016, Berlin.

With Tobias Endler, "Die USA am Ende der Ära Obama und vor neuen Herausforderungen." Volkshochschule Calw, November 2016, Calw.

"Trump oder Hillary? Die US-Präsidentschafts- und Kongresswahlen 2016. Wahlmodus, Wahlkampf und erste Ergebnisanalyse." Akademie für Wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung Karlsruhe/Institute of Technology, December 2016, Karlsruhe.

"President-elect Trump: How does the American political landscape change after his victory and what is the new energy policy?" Frankfurt Oil & Gas Forum, December 2016, Kronberg.

"The U.S. Welfare State: Challenges and Need for Reform." Politische Akademie Tutzing, December 2016, Tutzing.

Simon Wendt (Goethe University Frankfurt/Main)

"Black Military Heroism in World War II and the Vietnam War." University of Frankfurt, March 2015, Frankfurt/Main.

Mark Wilson (UNC Charlotte)

"Destructive Creation: American Business and the Winning of World War II." University of North Carolina at Charlotte, March 2015, Charlotte, N.C.

"The De-Militarization of the Military-Industrial Complex." Business History Conference, June 2015, Miami, Fla.

"The New Deal Order and the Military-Industrial Complex: A Reassessment." University of California at Santa Barbara, September 2015, Santa Barbara, Calif.



SPECIAL FEATURE

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"HOPE AND CHANGE? APPRAISING THE OBAMA ERA AND ENVISIONING THE TRUMP PRESIDENCY"

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On an ice-cold day in mid-January 2009 in Washington D.C., Barack Hussein Obama, a little-known senator from Illinois before he announced his candidacy for the U.S. presidency in 2007, is inaugurated into the most powerful office in the world. The new president of the United States is young, energetic, and visionary. With his sleek physique and dark black hair, Obama, in the eyes of his supporters, stands for hope and change as few others have. He promises to end the U.S. wars begun during the presidency of George W. Bush and announces fundamental changes both at home and abroad. Obama aspires to be a transformative president, “a Reagan of the Progressives,” who will change the direction of both American foreign and domestic policy—and who does not want to become entangled in the minutiae of daily politics.

Barack Obama Takes the Oath of Office at the Capitol, January 20, 2009.



Eight years later, Obama’s head of hair has grayed considerably. When measuring the erstwhile candidate of hope with the visionary rhetoric about his own transformative aspirations—often formulated in his own words and sometimes even cast in the form of concrete campaign promises—against the results today, one arrives at mixed results. But things look different again when one measures Obama against the performance of his predecessors and takes into account the broader context of his administration. What is undeniable, at any rate: on January 20, 2017, Obama—the herald of “Yes, we can”—will step out of office with a significantly above-average approval rating. Looking back at the middle of his second term, this was not something that

was to be expected. Back then, the approval rating of the forty-fourth president had fallen to around forty percent. Now, at the end of his presidency, this number has climbed to roughly sixty percent, which, were it allowed by the constitution, would surely have guaranteed his reelection—and this despite the fact that the majority of Americans still believe that the country is headed in the wrong direction. After several phases of relative unpopularity, this resurgence in the personal popularity of the president and his family can partially be credited to the fact that he can look back at two terms which were completely free of scandal—in marked contrast to his immediate Republican and Democratic predecessors.

Obama's Record on Domestic Affairs

The First Black President of the United States

Barack Obama's meteoric rise to the White House began in 2004 in the mainly white state of Illinois, where he won a seat in the U.S. Senate. In the same year, this rising star of the Democratic Party held a brilliant speech at the Democratic National Convention in Boston; Obama presented himself as a conciliator who wanted to heal the divides within American society. His final breakthrough came with the start of the primary season in January 2008 in the almost completely white agricultural state of Iowa.

Contrary to almost all other black politicians who ran for office in majority white states or at the national level, most of the white Americans that supported Obama did not think that he would pursue identity politics at the expense of their demographic group. While Obama did claim to fight for those portions of the multi-ethnic U.S. society who, as low-income earners, were being left behind, he did not want to and could not be seen as exclusively representing the interests of



Barack Obama as Senator from Illinois 2005

blacks in order to protect his high approval among white voters. As a result, the candidate of hope articulated broad social reforms and a policy of economic growth for all. His strong electoral victories in 2008 and 2012, in which he received a higher percentage of white voters than Hillary Clinton did in 2016, show that this strategy of making no specific policy promises to black members of the electorate—who voted for him by nearly one hundred percent—was a success.

But, of course, a certain amount of disenchantment was inevitable: the social conditions of those

blacks that did not rise into the middle class did not lastingly improve in the Obama era, even though the unemployment rate did drop. With regard to home-ownership, the poverty rate, or wealth distribution, African Americans lag behind the average rate of economic recovery. In no small part due to Obama's own visionary rhetoric, many people overestimated the abilities of a president within one or two terms to improve social conditions generally and educational opportunities more specifically—or, for that matter, to halt the sometimes racially motivated attacks of local police forces against young black men. Indeed, there was a deterioration of the relationship between local police and black youth—at least as perceived through the media—and a more general disillusionment about the chances of all black Americans to truly be treated equally. Thus, during the second term of the first black president, there arose a new radical movement, composed mainly of young blacks and students—Black Lives Matter (BLM). Obama sympathized with the BLM-movement's criticism of the especially high incarceration rates of young black men, which could be traced back to the draconian sentencing laws some states passed in the 1990s against repeat offenders—often targeting crimes that involved so-called "street drugs" like crack.

With regard to the relationships among citizens of varying skin colors in general, and between blacks and whites in particular, a certain perplexity is evident at the end of Obama's presidency, despite the undeniable progress that has been made since the 1960s. Even the president himself, who spoke openly of his ambition to unite people, cannot avoid a certain resignation when it comes to this issue. This spring, in an interview with the magazine *The Atlantic*, Obama conceded that his attempts to heal divisions within the nation had, to a large extent, failed.ⁱ And in his "farewell address" at the Democratic National Convention in July 2016, he admitted that he had overestimated the speed with which changes can be implemented within a complex democracy—and that he had started many initiatives without being able to finish them.

A Positive Economic Assessment With Some Small Blemishes

At the beginning of 2017, Obama will leave his country in substantially better economic shape than when he took over in 2009. Indeed, he himself sees one of his greatest accomplishments as "having stopped the world from falling into a deep economic depression."ⁱⁱ Obama's performance can only be properly appreciated when the sizable negative impacts of the current economic crisis are compared to the devastation of the Great Depression in the 1930s. The unemployment rate was cut in half during the Obama administration—from over ten percent to under five percent—and his policies managed to avert the complete demise of a key sector of the American economy: the automobile industry. Against the resistance of the financial sector, Obama managed to get a strict law (Dodd-Frank) dealing with bank regulation through Congress in 2011—an achievement that was long under-appreciated in Europe and Germany. Given the continuous long-term job growth, the recent slight rise in incomes, and the continued economic expansion, we agree with those who view Obama's economic record as predominantly positive. Yet the record is not entirely flawless. Economic growth is, for American standards, rather weak and too slow, while the national debt remains too high. More importantly, and partially responsible for the electoral success of Donald Trump in the critical "swing states," the perceived eco-

conomic situation of millions of Americans has remained poor, causing a large swath of the middle class to dread globalization as a recipe for downward social mobility. While the unemployment rate has dropped, the workforce participation rate has declined in the Obama era, which means that numerous people have dropped out of the statistics because they are not registered as unemployed or looking for work. Many people consider themselves underemployed, are forced to work part time, or are dissatisfied with the pay and benefits of their new employment. From a larger perspective, the Obama administration ultimately failed to stem the rampant inequality, even though states like New York and California and cities like Seattle or Los Angeles, undertook measures to drastically raise the minimum wage up to fifteen dollars an hour.

At least in one regard, Obama’s campaign slogan of “Change” has proven to be true: under his watch, the U.S. economy has undergone a fundamental change. Companies that at the beginning of his presidency were playing a mid-sized role in the economy are today global leaders and in some sectors quasi-monopolies, such as Google, Apple, Amazon, or Facebook. In the Obama era, the U.S. economy has established a digital dominance, and the government was and is striving to help convert this digital superiority into an overall economic dominance—also with regard to Europe. Whether or not this will continue during the Trump presidency or whether Trump perceives himself more as a representative of the traditional industries in the U.S. remains to be seen.



Barack Obama Signs the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act at the White House, March 23, 2010.

Health Insurance Reform as a Legacy Initiative

The best example of the contradictions that symbolize Obama’s record is the 2010 *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, commonly known as *Obamacare*. On the one hand, while his predecessors from Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton had failed, Obama managed a reform of the U.S. health insurance industry with an individual mandate at its center—an element upheld as

constitutional by the Supreme Court in 2012. Among other things, this led to the fact that today about twenty million Americans enjoy the security of health insurance, something they did not have at the beginning of Obama's first term. In addition, people with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage while children can stay on their parents' plan until the age of 26. These elements of the bill are popular and would be very difficult for Trump to dismantle. Several states, including solidly Republican ones—like Indiana under its governor and now vice president-elect Mike Pence—fully cooperated with the reform project by, for example, increasing the number of those eligible to enter the health insurance program for welfare recipients and the poor (Medicaid). But the healthcare reform package proved difficult to implement. Right out of the gate, there were massive technical problems with the newly-created online insurance exchanges. Many previously as well as newly insured individuals are being confronted with (sometimes extreme) increases to their premiums in 2017. The promise that Obamacare could not keep was that those who had (sometimes very good) insurance policies before the reform would be able to keep their plans if they wanted. Contrary to their intentions, the designers of the reform package were also unable to break the logic of a private sector insurance industry by including a government-run insurance policy known as the public option.

The LGBT Community

Probably the largest legal victory of the Obama era is the emancipation and equal treatment of the so-called LGBT Community, that is the group of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Especially important in this area was the nation-wide legalization of same-sex marriage in 2015. With a five to four decision, the Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples could not be prohibited from exercising the same constitutional rights that heterosexuals are granted. With that decision, the U.S. jumped to the forefront of more than a dozen countries which recognize same-sex marriage. But this development can be traced more to the Supreme Court decision and a profound change in public opinion than to policies of the Obama administration. To be sure, lesbian, gay, and transgender people have still not won the final battle. In some states they can still be fired based on their sexual orientation. In addition, for quite a while fights were raging as to whether or not restaurants and stores could refuse them services and whether individual states like North Carolina could forbid transsexuals the choice of which restroom to use.

The Fight Against Terrorism

In the area of national security, including the fight against terrorism, the Obama administration suffered a series of setbacks. The president did not manage to keep his campaign promise to close Guantánamo—something that, in the meantime, has become a burden for him. Obama cannot be blamed alone for not keeping his promise,

however, since to transfer prisoners to penitentiaries on U.S. soil he needs approval of Congress. Yet up to this day, Republicans and some members of Obama's own party in Congress continue to block the transfer of prisoners to penitentiaries on U.S. soil.ⁱⁱⁱ At the very least, Obama ended several interrogation tactics that were viewed as torture as well as the transfer of terror suspects to foreign governments for "enhanced interrogation" (*renditions*). On the other hand, the

expanded use of drone attacks to lethally target terror suspects made these practices entirely dispensable since in the fight against terrorism, there were hardly any prisoners of war left. Especially towards the end of the Obama era, the country was subject to a series of terror attacks carried out by radicalized Islamists who were U.S. residents. Against this form of internal threat, the country has still not found a way to protect itself.

Despite these attacks and several horrific mass shootings without any connection to Islamists but with similar numbers of casualties, Obama was not able to strengthen gun regulation. Especially the senators and representatives from rural states, backed by the highly influential National Rifle Association, were able to block every attempt to pass federal legislation making it more difficult to purchase weapons.

Immigration reform

There are about eleven million immigrants currently living in the United States that did not enter the country legally, with the vast majority coming from Mexico and Central America. The fight about what should happen to them played no small role in preventing the passage of a comprehensive immigration reform bill. In November 2014, President Obama granted up to five million “undocumented” workers a temporary resident status. Whoever had been living in the country for several years and had no criminal record would no longer need to live in fear of deportation. Obama went around Congress by using an executive order. The Republican majority in Congress was beside itself, and some conservatively governed states filed lawsuits against the action. The fight about these undocumented workers was naturally less about the fate of the migrants and more about presidential power. Obama argued that by rejecting the normal process of legislation, Republicans had forced him to act alone, for humanitarian as well as economic reasons. Did Obama really have the right to change the legal status of millions of people by executive order? In the late fall of 2015, a federal district court ruled that he did not; in June of 2016, the Supreme Court was unable to overturn that decision because of a 4-4 tie. A bitter defeat for the president: immigration reform by executive order has largely failed.

Environmental and climate policy

One can see a similar pattern with regard to environmental policy. As he took office in 2009, Obama promised that the U.S. would take a leading role in the effort to stop climate change. But in the summer of 2010, before Republicans won a majority, even the Democratic-controlled Congress stood in the way of change; in the Senate, Republicans—with the help of some of Obama’s own Democrats—eventually managed to kill a cap and trade bill. After his reelection in 2012, Obama began a new push with regard to climate policy. This time he leaned on his executive authority relating to the Clean Air Act, a law passed over four decades ago to fight air pollution regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). With the presentation of its “Clean Power Plan” in 2015, the Obama administration for the first time, aimed at setting binding nation-wide targets for the reduction of greenhouse gasses within the energy sector. According to the plan, by 2030 U.S. carbon dioxide emissions would see a thirty-two percent drop compared to 2005. To achieve this, several forms of renewable energy should replace fossil fuels—especially coal.

As before, lawsuits were filed by conservatively governed states and private companies affected by this plan. The plaintiffs accused the Obama administration of overstepping the bounds of its legal authority with regard to setting emission standards. Once again, in February of 2016, the Supreme Court blocked a central element of Obama's climate strategy and, at least temporarily, stopped the implementation of the plan.

Obama's Record on Foreign Affairs

The U.S.A. as Enterprise

Despite all his visionary rhetoric, Barack Obama was a manager of power from the beginning. Pragmatic and using a clearly defined cost-benefit analysis, the president governed the nation like a CEO whose goal is the gradual optimization of his company's performance. This naturally included a review of the "portfolio" as Obama found it when taking over the presidency—resulting in a global transfer of foreign policy and geostrategic "stocks" held by the American enterprise. The initial situation is complex: even before Obama's second term (and most likely permanently), the United States was (and for the foreseeable future probably will be) confronted by an explosive combination of non-state and state conflicts. While this administration identified fundamentalist terror as an extremely dangerous global phenomenon of the present day and—in contrast to the previous administration of George W. Bush—developed an adequate counter-strategy, the Ukraine question opened a new conflict scenario which seemingly belonged to the past: the war between the sovereign states of Ukraine and Russia threatened to conjure up the old fronts that existed between the U.S. and the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

From this first feature there immediately follows a second: an America that is increasingly cautious about foreign policy cannot distance itself from world events to the degree that the nation would like to at the moment—a sentiment that was also reflected in the support for the premises of Donald Trump's foreign policy. The global presence of the U.S. carries enormous costs with regard to both the dangers to American soldiers and the burden to tax payers back home. The calls for America's "constructive disengagement" became louder—especially with regard to the Greater Middle East. Signs of this can be seen in the fact that, already in the summer of 2014, a poll found that eight out of ten Americans supported a complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. In addition, support for continued involvement in Syria and Ukraine found fifteen and seventeen percent respectively. Almost seventy percent of Americans only want to see their country use military force when their own national security was eminently threatened. A related problem is that—independent of popular sentiments—there is a growing danger of getting drawn into conflicts through no action of one's own. For example, in case of an escalating Chinese-Japanese conflict, the United States would be legally bound to defend Japan. As a result, they would become involved in a nationalistically motivated struggle over a few uninhabited rocks in the East China Sea. On the other hand, America will not withdraw from the world too much for the simple reason that its own interests would suffer, such as access to oil in the Middle East or to the raw materials and markets of Asia. Indeed, at the moment, the United States has no choice: at the beginning of the new millennium, the world cannot live with a power vacuum. At the same time, there is no one in sight that could replace America in the

leadership role it plays.

The third aspect of American foreign policy in the twenty-first century is, at first glance, a paradox. The United States finds itself in the curious situation that, although it is still the most powerful nation, its influence on getting the outcome it desires and on the behavior of other states has nonetheless decreased. In terms of military and economic power, as well as cultural and political importance, America is still number one. Indeed, in certain areas, the superpower has raced even further ahead of others, such as dealing with the global financial and economic crisis from which America found a way to recover faster than Europe did. Its increasing energy independence (read fracking) also gives Americans some new elbowroom, while China's growth has slowed, making it less of a threat to the U.S.'s top economic position than was the case just a short while ago. At the United Nations, no resolution can be passed without America's support. And yet, the ability of the superpower to shape the global landscape according to its interests has declined. This is due to the fact that the nature of the challenges has changed. Against something like fundamentalist terrorism, with sleepers and radicalized citizens within one's own country, neither the most powerful military, nor a booming economy, are of much help.

Identity Crisis of the World's Leading Power

In the Obama era, the country has renegotiated its own (power) position in the world as well as its role as leader of the western world. For some observers, like the neoconservative thinker Robert Kagan, it is less about a renegotiation than a continuation of the self-reflexive debate on the role of a superpower acting on a world stage. Kagan's own position in this debate is very clear: in his opinion, superpowers do not "retire." Kagan mercilessly noted that, during Obama's second term, the United States seemed to want to do just that. But in doing so, it would relinquish the "idea of global responsibility," which, up to now, has "equated American interests with the interests of many other countries around the world."^{iv} At the same time, the "rise of the rest," as the Indian-American journalist Fareed Zakaria already formulated it in 2008, need not necessarily lead to a decline of the United States. On the contrary, due to its geographical location, America could not only be the biggest winner, but could act as a kind of "hinge for a Trans-Atlantic/Trans-Pacific zone of activity."^v This shift, which America undertakes based on its middle position, naturally raises the question about the superpower's supposed withdrawal from other parts of the world—above all, the Middle East.

Arduous Withdrawal from the Middle East

In the Middle East and North Africa the Obama administration was obviously aiming to initiate a *constructive disengagement* between the U.S. and this chronically conflicted region of the globe—a policy that the nation's increasing energy independence made plausible. But this plan only worked to a very limited degree. The administration did in fact manage to keep its promise to almost completely remove U.S. troops from Iraq and to withdraw large numbers of them from Afghanistan. But, so far, the Middle East remains the most urgent American project. The Iran agreement is the prerequisite for the withdrawal. But there were two major failings that linger until today: recognizing much too late the rise of the so-called Islamic State in 2014 and getting

caught off-guard by the Russian intervention in Syria in 2015. Thus, when fighting ISIS and the Assad regime, the U.S. under Obama’s leadership was merely leading from behind, just as it had in Libya, that is without ground troops. At this point in time, the U.S. seems to be trapped in the region, neither able to radically alter it as planned nor leave it anytime soon.

Expectations, Disappointments, New Expectations: America and Europe

If a solution to the conflict in the Middle East counts as America’s most pressing problem, its most important long-term strategic project is without a doubt located in the Asia-Pacific region. A strong, self-confident China poses a challenge for the United States and its Asian allies. With his now famous (or infamous) “*pivot to Asia*,” Obama gave a clear signal to friendly and not-so-friendly states that the U.S. wanted to expand its military, political, and economic presence in the Asia-Pacific region. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) showed the enormous chances for cooperation and trade offered by the Pacific region—even if this trade deal comes into effect without American participation, as President-elect Donald Trump has threatened.

Barack Obama Speaking on “A New Beginning” at Cairo University on June 4, 2009.



In the meantime, the U.S. architects of the Asia initiative speak about a “re-balancing” of American interests. To Trans-Atlantic ears, a pivot sounded all too much like a one-sided reorientation in which America turned its back on Europe. On the one hand, the superpower ascribed the European irritation over this policy to a rhetorical misunderstanding and emphasized to their Trans-Atlantic partners the enduring importance of the “Western World.” But, at home, the statements of leading U.S. foreign policy experts on the pivot to Asia sound unambiguous. Thus, already in the fall of 2011, then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was speaking about the twenty-first century as America’s Pacific century.^{vi} At the Munich Security Conference about half a year later,

she even offered the Europeans, and especially the Germans, that we would “remain friends” or that we could pivot to Asia together.^{vii} But in Europe, which believes it has economic interests in the (east-) Asian region but no strategic ones, this offer fell on deaf ears.

When looking closely, one can observe a growing disconcertment of the Americans towards how the Germans and Europeans have behaved on the world stage over the past decade. Strategists like the economist Clyde Prestowitz want Europe to be better structured, including a certain amount of hierarchy, in order to speak more clearly with a single voice and thereby be a full-fledged global player. Especially with regard to business: the economic capacity of the smallest continent is evident as long as it does not just focus on itself. In addition, from a pragmatic point of view, the U.S. would like Germany to be the leading political force in Europe. With this special political status, there come military responsibilities, which Germany should finally start to take seriously—as Obama’s Secretary of Defense Robert Gates already made clear in his 2011 speech to NATO in Brussels.^{viii} In the same vein, Obama’s Ex-NATO representative Ivo Daalder left no doubt that the administration’s policy planners were determined to make Germany their No.1 partner in Europe when discussing questions of global politics and the solution of concrete problems.^{ix} According to the U.S. government, Germany plays in a wholly different economic league than most of the other countries in Europe. In short, for the Obama Administration, Germany is the leading nation of Europe in the early twenty-first century. Anne-Marie Slaughter, formerly one of Hillary Clinton’s foreign policy advisors, formulated America’s intentions just as impressively, if perhaps more diplomatically: almost imploringly, she pointed to Europe’s great potential to serve as a political model for other parts of the world. From Slaughter’s point of view, many countries even prefer “European forms of democracy” to the American model because they are “easier to adopt.”^x In principle, here is one of the most respected voices in the American public debate saying that Europe is selling itself short.

The Struggle Over “Mega-Regional” Trade Agreements

With the new trade agreements that the Obama Administration wanted to negotiate with the Pacific Region (Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP) and the European Union (TTIP), the topic of free trade became a popular issue for the first time—as it looks now, to the disadvantage of the agreements. On the American side, the public discussion focused much more on TPP than it did on TTIP. This had to do primarily with the scheduling of the agreements. Obama wanted to complete the first one—which created a Pacific free trade zone composed of twelve countries, making up around forty percent of the global economic output—by the end of 2015, and, in any case, well before the U.S. presidential election campaign began to heat up. While he did manage this, the most successful candidates of both parties positioned themselves firmly against the agreement: Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton for the Democrats and Donald Trump for the Republicans. The frustrations over the effects of free trade on American jobs, especially the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), were and are high. This is true for large parts of the Democratic Party and the unions, especially in the region around the Great Lakes, which was marked by industrial decline, but also in the transportation sector. This was also something former member of the state senate and later U.S. Senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, had to

deal with. No matter how one evaluates the effects of NAFTA on growth, jobs, or economic modernization, the fact is that the American unions and their members in the Democratic Party lay the blame for the declining standard of living for workers and the middle class at the feet of older trade deals like NAFTA and at free trade more generally. Before he was elected president, Obama stressed several times that he would not sign any trade deals like NAFTA. But while TPP-/TTIP opponents are convinced that both these new trade deals are in the tradition of NAFTA and only benefit corporations, Obama sees a new dimension to the deals. The U.S. president believes these trade deals are setting innovative social and environmental standards for future trade deals worldwide, which economic giants like China will have to adhere to if they want to join them at a later date. TPP and TTIP are meant to bring the Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic relationships onto a new level a quarter of century after the end of the Cold War. This is also about geopolitical aspects and the capacity of the West to act. But, the ratification and signing of both agreements remain unfinished at the end of the Obama era. Their fate is very uncertain, and many observers are convinced that both agreements are dead. Although, the opponents of TPP and TTIP should not celebrate too early, since it is possible that both agreements will merely go into hibernation. America will continue to make bilateral agreements, such as with post-Brexit Great Britain, and mainly to America's advantage. In contrast, state-run capitalistic governments like China or Russia will aggressively push and perhaps achieve their standards for multilateral agreements in which ecology and worker's rights will surely not be at the forefront.

Outlook: Where Is America Headed Under Its New President, Donald J. Trump?

The Unlikely Victory of Donald Trump

The U.S. presidential election of November 8, 2016 will go down in the history books as a great surprise. Although Donald Trump lost the popular election by more than 2.8 million votes, he collected 306 electors (as opposed to 232 for Hillary Clinton) and thereby will become the forty-fifth president of the United States. One thing is clear: Donald Trump did not win the election; rather, Hillary Clinton, the first female presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, lost a very "winnable" election. Indeed, no one has ever lost the race for the White House while at the same time racking up such a lead in the popular vote.

So where did Team Hillary go wrong? The Clinton camp placed its hopes on once again turning out the Obama coalition, made up of women, the highly educated, minorities, and young voters. In fact, Clinton did do very well with Latinos and was thereby able to carry states like Colorado and Nevada for her party. But on average, blacks, women, and especially young voters in the crucial "swing states" did not turn out in big enough numbers for the supposedly inevitable candidate. According to exit polls, white women voted fifty-three to forty-five percent in favor of Trump, while the percentage of white women without a college degree who voted for him was even higher: sixty-two to thirty-four percent.. The bottom line is that the Obama coalition only existed in the last eight years when its namesake himself was at the top of the ticket. Thus, Republicans triumphed in almost every congressional election since 2010 as well as the 2016 presidential election. The demographic changes—especially recognizable in the growth of the

Hispanic and the Asian American populations and the shrinking percentage of the white population—did not automatically elect the Democratic candidate to the White House.

The Clinton campaign was so sure of itself that there were no plans for a defeat. Rather, they had already begun to distribute the spoils, thinking that they could help their party's Senate candidates to take back the majority in the upper chamber. Clinton spent a lot of time in North Carolina and even went to Arizona and Georgia, but did not spend a single minute in Wisconsin and only a few hours in Michigan, thus overlooking the obvious. The Democrats' "blue wall" in the old industrial belt around the Great Lakes crumbled because the candidate did not recognize that the concerns of many blue collar voters were so great that they were prepared to entrust their fate to a populist real-estate mogul and television star. This was the candidate that promised them to remove the rust from the rustbelt and to save or even bring back jobs in the manufacturing sector. While Clinton called on her voters to stand with her and to stand united ("Stronger Together"), Trump apparently gave the people at his mass rallies the feeling that he was with them and that he was looking out for them. It is a tragic irony for Hillary Clinton that Donald Trump's campaign in the American rustbelt was closer to the legendary campaign of Bill Clinton in 1992 than her own. Rather, by employing a strategy that made individual promises to every voting block within the Democratic Party, Hillary Clinton projected no clear and specific message.

In the eyes of many white working-class voters, the aloof arrogance of the power elites on the far-off East Coast could be seen in Clinton's lack of judgement: for quite a long time, the former Secretary of State did not consider it a problem to carry out her classified work correspondences over a private email server. While it was not a criminal offense, Clinton's reaction to the alienation of many American voters was inexcusably ignorant. So too was her answer to the question at the beginning of the year as to whether or not it was a mistake to accept a hefty speaker's fee of \$ 675,000 for three speeches at the Wall-Street giant Goldman Sachs. In response, the only thing the multi-millionaire could think to say about the amount was, "that's what they offered." This kind of lawyerly precision did not add to Clinton's trustworthiness among people who, shortly before election day, found out about a dramatic increase in the premiums of the health insurance plans for which they had just recently signed up. Clinton made it too easy for Trump. And while it is true that both candidates were more unpopular than any of their predecessors, in the end, this hurt her more than it hurt him.

Trump's contribution to his victory was negligible: He was the most undisciplined candidate ever, and, to the consternation of his advisors, provoked various media controversies that resulted in him diverging from the agreed upon message. But none of these controversies created a contradiction to his central campaign promise to "Make America Great Again." Trump's sense of the angst some Americans were experiencing remained spot on; he recognized these fears, magnified them, and converted them into votes. His base were white voters, whose support Trump predictably locked down. Yet, according to exit polls by Edison Research, Trump also managed to pick up a considerable share of support among minorities: a surprising twenty-nine percent of the Latino vote—although this high number has been challenged by other polling organizations—and the same among Asian Americans—the two fastest growing ethnic communities

in the country. Even thirteen percent of black males rallied behind Trump, while Mitt Romney, who was considered a moderate, received much less just four years earlier. In contrast, Clinton received less of the minority vote than Obama did in 2012.

In the end, the weal and woe of a nation, and thus the election, often results from the economic situation. "It's the economy, stupid!" and a couple of quick appearances in the rust belt would most likely have been enough to shore up the less than 100,000 votes in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania that Hillary Clinton was missing in order to be the first woman to move into the Oval Office. The FBI investigation, as well as the announcement of rising premiums for health insurance, surely did not help Clinton in the final stretch. According to exit polls, thirteen percent of voters made their decisions in the last week of the campaign. Within this group, Trump had a clear lead over Clinton, with forty-seven to forty-two percent.

What We Can Expect: America First

Within the Electoral College, Trump won with a significant lead, and Congress remained in Republican control. Thus, The Donald can govern with a majority for at least two years, maybe even four. What that signifies is very difficult to predict as this essay goes to print. Trump's most conspicuous quality is his unpredictability, which should be a warning for his foes and his supporters on both sides of the Atlantic. It would be very surprising if Trump governed like any president from the establishment of the Republican Party. His first appointments for high-level positions have not come out of this establishment's traditional personnel reservoirs. More often than not his cabinet nominees are either people that supported Trump early on, when this was still seen as risky for their careers, like Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions for Attorney General, people with extensive experience in the business world (for example Exxon-Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State or Goldman Sachs veteran Steven Mnuchin for Secretary of the Treasury) or in the military (generals Mattis and Kelly for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, respectively), and/or those that represent unconventional conservative policy approaches. Only occasionally has he chosen former opponents, like South Carolina governor Nikki Haley for U.N. Ambassador.

During his first post-election appearance in the country, a so-called "thank you tour," The Donald stayed true to form: he seems to prefer direct communication with voters through conventional as well as new channels like Twitter over the filters of the established media. One thing seems clear: "America First" will remain Trump's trademark in both domestic and foreign affairs. Trump's base expects that with regard to everything the U.S. does, he will make more of a short term cost-benefit analysis rather than a long term strategic choice. Trump is a transactional figure who believes that deals can be made about anything and with anyone. Therefore, we can assume that his politics will be driven by a form of economic nationalism. Should Trump really manage to convince U.S. companies not to move their production out of the country or to actually move them back in, his popularity with these newly-won voters would most likely increase. Conversely, people expect the most of him in this area, so that the Trump supporter in the rust belt will measure the new president against his promises and closely follow how he positions

himself in regard to NAFTA.

On the other hand, many of Obama's supporters fear that Trump will strive to completely erase the political legacy of the first black American president. These apprehensions are not at all unjustified, especially when one considers whom Trump has nominated to run, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency (Scott Pruitt) or the Departments for Energy (Rick Perry) or Labor (Andy Puzder) and with whom he surrounds himself in the White House—controversial anti-Obama figures like Trump's chief strategist Steve Bannon or designated National Security Advisor General Michael Flynn. But perhaps these apprehensions will only turn out to be partially true. It will be easy for Trump to make changes wherever Obama used executive orders, like with immigration, energy, and climate policies. It is also probable that there will be a noticeable break in questions of law and order, not only in the fight against crime. Here the future makeup of the Supreme Court stands out: several of the sitting justices are either old, or sick, or both. There is a good possibility that Trump will have the chance to replace at least one left-liberal Supreme Court justice with one that is conservative-traditionalist. Thus, there could emerge a conservative majority on the Court that overturns the right of women—interpreted from the Constitution in 1973—to terminate the pregnancy in their first trimester without having to give a reason. With reversing this decision (*Roe v. Wade*), abortion in the U.S. would not be universally forbidden, but its regulation, as with the death penalty, would be left to the political majorities in the states.

Trump obviously cannot wait to start a fight with the powerful teachers' unions, as can be seen by his nomination of Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education. There are plans to hand parents so-called "school vouchers" with which they can send their children anywhere they want. Thus, tax money would be funneled into private and denominational schools, which could force some public schools to close due to a lack of pupils and finances. On the other hand, private and denominational schools could expect a boom.

It is also to be expected that Trump's fiscal policy will differ greatly from Obama's. But it is questionable whether Trump will completely repeal Obama's signature reform: the Affordable Care Act. Indeed, there are signs that the new president—to the annoyance of some within his party—wants to keep the popular elements of the new health insurance system and dedicate himself primarily to the problems connected to its costs. The constellations of power and interest that emerge here will be interesting to watch. Several of Trump's economic and industrial policies, like his plans to invest in infrastructure, could find more support among some Democrats than within the business wing of his own party. The same could be said of his trade policies: Trump seems convinced that the U.S. was bamboozled by its trading partners in multilateral trade deals like TPP, TTIP, or even NAFTA. In contrast, he prefers bilateral deals through which, at least with weaker states, the U.S. can use the full force of its market power to force trade partners to agree to terms favored by America. But here Trump might be underestimating the fact that, in the Asian-Pacific region, China could jump into the gap left by the American withdrawal from the multilateral and mega-regional TPP trade deal.



President Barack Obama Meets with President-elect Donald Trump at the White House, November 10, 2016.

But one thing is already clear: the Trump administration will reject the role of the U.S. as the world's policeman. With this refusal to be the sole actor to take on emergency measures to support the global order, Trump's foreign policy strategy will probably be more in line with Obama's than with George W. Bush's. On the one hand, there are highly-visible and growing isolationist tendencies where America's interests are not directly affected as well as the trend for selective cooperation with opponents, like Putin's Russia. On the other hand, we can expect a bold show of American force wherever the new president sees American interests affected or threatened. This applies to the fight against terrorism in the Middle East, to the granting of visas and asylum for people from warzones, as well as to the relationship with China as an emerging world power.

There is still a lot of speculation going on. But one thing is clear: after the surprise presidential election of 2016, there are a lot more surprises waiting for the United States and for the world in the coming years. In 2009 Donald Trump wrote about the newly elected President Barack Obama: "The world is excited about Barack Obama and the new United States".^{xi} Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about Barack Obama's successor in the White House. The world, especially the western world, is anxious, not excited.

Translation: Styles Sass

Notes

- i Jeffrey Goldberg, "The Obama Doctrine," *The Atlantic*, April 2016, <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/04/the-obama-doctrine/471525/> (accessed on November 24, 2016).
- ii Spiegel conversation with President Barack Obama. *Der Spiegel* Nr. 47/2016 on November 19, 2016, 15.
- iii See Tobias Endler and Martin Thunert: *Entzauberung – Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama*, (Leverkusen: Barbara Budrich, 2015) 127-128.
- iv Robert Kagan, "Superpowers Don't Get to Retire," *The New Republic*, May 27, 2014, <https://newrepublic.com/article/117859/superpowers-dont-get-retire> (accessed November 15, 2016).
- v Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of the Rest". <https://fareedzakaria.com/2008/05/12/the-rise-of-the-rest/> (access on the homepage of the author on November 15, 2016).
- vi Hillary Clinton, "America's Pacific Century," *Foreign Policy*, 11. Oktober 2011.
- vii Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger, „Wir können doch Freunde bleiben“, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 5.2.2012. <http://www.faz.net/aktuell/politik/inland/vereinigte-staaten-und-europa-wir-koennen-doch-freunde-bleiben-11638642.html> (access on November 16, 2016).
- viii "Remarks by Secretary Gates at the Security and Defense Agenda, Brussels, Belgium," U.S. Department of Defense, <http://archive.defense.gov/Transcripts/Transcript.aspx?TranscriptID=4839> (accessed November 16, 2016).
- ix *Entzauberung*, 159.
- x Tobias Endler, *After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S. and Themselves*, (Leverkusen: Barbara Budrich, 2011), 150.
- xi Donald J. Trump (with Meredith McIver): *Think Like a Champion*, (Philadelphia and London: Running Press, 2009), p. 14.



A FORUM FOR PUBLIC DEBATE

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC DEBATE

As a forum for public debate, the HCA facilitates communication among academia and the general public as well as between the business community, the political sphere, and the media. Strongly believing that mutual respect and consideration can only be achieved through an open-minded but critical debate, the HCA seeks to establish a venue for dialogue and discussion about the United States, thus enhancing the understanding of the United States in Germany.

Events in the HCA Forum present new research and current issues in the field of American Studies, particularly in the HCA's signature lecture series, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar. In addition, the HCA invites the public to debates, panel discussions, book launches, and exhibits.

THE BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG SEMINAR

Each spring and fall, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies invites distinguished scholars, public policy experts, journalists, writers, and artists to its Baden-Württemberg Seminar. The program was initiated in the spring of 2007 as a lecture series with fellows of the American Academy in Berlin coordinated by the HCA and later extended to include other distinguished speakers. Participants present their current work, discuss issues of transatlantic interest, or read from their writings at selected institutions throughout the state.

Baden-Württemberg's profound interest in the United States is reflected in many of its cultural, political, and economic institutions, its corporations, museums, and libraries. This past year, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies was pleased to present the eighteenth and nineteenth semesters of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar. Our cooperation partners in 2015-16 were the Carl-Schurz-Haus/Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Freiburg, the Fulbright Commission, the University of Mannheim, the American Academy in Berlin, the Anglistisches Seminar at Heidelberg University, the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg, Hoffmann & Campe, Rowohlt Verlag, Literaturbüro Freiburg, Theater Freiburg, and the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University. We wish to thank this committed network of partners for their continued support.

FALL SEMINAR 2015

The eighteenth semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar presented distinguished scholars from Trinity College, the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, the University of California at Riverside, the University of Pennsylvania, the Northeastern University School of Law, and Reconstructionist Rabbinical College as well as authors Gary Shteyngart and Anthony Marra.

The fall semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar once more commenced in Freiburg where on October 6 Gary Shteyngart read from his hilarious and moving memoir *Little Failure*. The author of three acclaimed novels, Gary Shteyngart has now turned to autobiography and recounted his American immigrant experience; the asthmatic boy who grew up in Leningrad moved to Queens when he was seven and had to make sense of the contradiction of a Soviet home life and the American world around him.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued at the HCA on October 13 with a talk by Joan D. Hedrick, the Charles A. Dana Professor of History at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, and winner of the 1995 Pulitzer Prize. Professor Hedrick opened her lecture about “Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Holiness Movement” with a little anecdote about the husband of the famous nineteenth-century author, Calvin Stowe, a scholar and advocate for public education, who also worked as the literary agent for his wife. On a trip to Europe to purchase a library for Lane Theological Seminary, Stowe was impressed by the romantic atmosphere of Heidelberg, and so, Professor Hedrick emphasized, was she. In the 1840s, the United States were divided on the topic of slavery, as were the Christian churches. At the same time, a number of women became outspoken seers, speakers, and writers. Professor Hedrick’s talk focused on the roles of Ellen White and Harriet Beecher Stowe, the American author who is best-known for her anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, published in 1852, which became the best-selling novel of the nineteenth century. The novel was based on a vision Stowe had when she went to church. Instead of seeing Jesus Christ on the cross, she imagined a slave being whipped. She would later turn this vision into the



Joan D. Hedrick

most-discussed chapter of her novel. By seeing Jesus Christ in a slave, Stowe had found a way to mobilize her central prophetic powers for a book and to evoke a powerful response in her readers. Many visions behind the novel combined American folk culture and religion. The ideas of Harriet Beecher Stowe had an enormous effect on nineteenth-century culture and politics. Stowe was a very conservative woman with traditional beliefs. She emphasized that she did not write *Uncle Tom's Cabin* but that "God did." Professor Hedrick pointed out that Stowe's religious beliefs were fostered not by the Calvinism of her youth, but by the so-called "holiness movement" of the nineteenth century. It was based on the simplicity of classic and basic Christianity and embodied by small meetings in people's homes, where its members talked about religion and their visions and created their own entertainment, like poetry or religious stories. Professor Hedrick's talk then turned to another female protagonist in nineteenth-century American religion: Ellen White, a prophet and co-founder of the Seventh-Day-Adventist Church. She was not as well-known as Stowe in the early radical period of Adventism, but no less important for its history. Ellen White and her family had been Methodists until the family became followers of the Baptist preacher William Miller, who proclaimed that Jesus Christ would return to earth on October 22, 1844. The fact that Christ did not appear on that date or a rescheduled date became known as the "great disappointment." Throughout her life, Ellen White feared that Christ would return to earth and people would fail to recognize him. While White did not particularly like *Uncle Tom's Cabin* because she considered fiction the work of the devil, she saw that she and Stowe had a lot in common, for example their religious experience and the struggle to have their voices heard in a men's world. Both White and Stowe were very influential in American Christianity. Both women were inspired by their criticism of the complicity of organized religion in the perpetuation of slavery. Both are examples for the fact that the Civil War empowered women to speak about the topics of slavery and freedom even if the role of a prophet was hardly considered proper for women at the time. Stowe in particular hoped every woman who could write would speak out about slavery during the Civil War. She felt that the time had come when women were empowered to speak. Both Stowe and White had the ability to see, to picture, and to include others into their visions.

In November, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar turned from nineteenth to twentieth-century history. On November 12, Professor Edward Goetz from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota spoke about how and why public housing in the United States is "dismantled." Professor Goetz explained that the United States has seen a transition away from New Deal policies and large-scale government-built housing. Instead, the country is moving towards privatization by large management companies of what was once deemed a "public housing" facility. Originally, public housing was not conceived as a welfare program, as it is seen today. Professor Goetz pointed out four facts that explain why public housing is on its way down. First, the "neighborhood effect," which was discussed by the social science fields in the 1980s and 1990s. This theory tried to explain how a neighborhood can have certain negative and positive effects on its residents, for example that public housing affects children raised there negatively. These findings in turn influenced social and political discourses as well as some federal government decisions on public housing. Second, neo-liberal changes to public housing policy in the 1980s and 1990s tried to disperse disadvantaged segments of the population into

“mixed” housing in hopes of preventing people from feeling trapped in these neighborhoods. In “mixed” housing some tenants in the same building can afford to pay the full amount of rent; others depend on government vouchers to pay most or all of their rent. This was seen as a good way to get low-income families into “opportunity neighborhoods” where their children would be able to attend better schools and feel safer. Third, the process of gentrification in many urban areas has increased property values and made it more difficult for the poor to stay in that area. Cities like it when investors want to gentrify a neighborhood that had or still has public housing because the city will eventually make more money off the property tax. This is why many public housing sites are left to decay and are then torn down. However, the gentrification process displaces many residents. Finally, Professor Goetz found that race played a large role in the decision which public housing facilities were torn down and when. He found that on average predominantly black public housing facilities were torn down at a higher rate than those occupied by any other race. Many groups formed in opposition to this discrimination, but none of them were strong enough to fully fight back against the companies interested in gentrification and the government. Professor Goetz’s very informative and interesting talk illustrated current public housing policy and the reason behind its dismantling. A lively discussion ensued, not the least driven by those members of the audience who had observed this effect in or near their own neighborhoods.

The next event of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar took place on November 17 at the University of Mannheim, where Christina Schwenkel from the University of California at Riverside who was then the Bosch Fellow in Public Policy at the American Academy in Berlin, talked about “Transnational Cinema and Memory of the U.S. Air War in Vietnam.” She presented her findings from her fieldwork in Vietnamese cities and connected transnational practices of memory and representations of war and suffering in Vietnamese and American films in an attempt to define particular visions of historical truth, knowledge, and objectivity.



Edward Goetz



Heather Love

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar returned to the HCA on November 24, when the HCA and the Anglistisches Seminar welcomed Heather Love, the R. Jean Brownlee Term Associate Professor at the Department of English at the University of Pennsylvania. Her talk “Practices of Description: Reading the Social in the Post-War Period” commenced with a look at sociological research in the 1950s and 1960s, a period now strongly associated with microanalysis. During this time, new techniques and methods of research were developed, and researchers focused on concrete communication exercises to prepare detailed portraits of smaller societies. This research took place across the boundaries of disciplines, and interdisciplinary teams cooperated to create portraits of social interaction using a micro scale. This resulted in more comprehensive and more concrete findings. Professor Love’s book project introduces several of these projects in anthropology, biology, linguistics, psychology, sociology, and communication to understand the challenges of the time with specifically developed methods. She compares the projects of the social sciences with cultural developments, involving post-war novelistic realism and the temporal performance of observational cinema. Her work looks at post-war novelistic realism in the context of contemporary methodological debates in sociology. According to Professor Love, the turn towards post-hermeneutics and a descriptive manner of reading as well as the increase of empirical human sciences was a result of the employment of quantitative research methods and the insights of the neo sciences. Heather Love stressed that most critics dismiss the value of this new form of empirical research. She, on the contrary, thinks that older forms of empirical research offer abundant epistemological and methodological resources and ethics for today’s human sciences.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued on December 3, when Professor Martha Davis gave a talk on “Small Places, Close to Home: U.S. Cities and Human Rights.” Martha Davis is Professor of Law at the Northeastern University School of Law and at the time held the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, Lund University, Sweden. At Northeastern University, Professor Davis is the faculty director of the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy and the NuLawLab where she teaches constitutional law and professional responsibility. Professor Davis started her lecture by pointing out that a large part of the discussion about health as a human right concentrates on global

health initiatives and ignores the application of human rights principles on the socio-economic and racial questions that figure prominently in the United States. A look at the great gaps in the American insurance system and the access (or lack thereof) to quality preventative health for minorities makes it clear why human rights movements have focused on health care and its universal supply. A report of the Institute of Medicine points out that the health of Americans continues to deteriorate, and human rights strategies could be factors for better social health. Professor Davis then looked at the application of international human right principles to improve the situation of America's most vulnerable populations and analyzed the "right to health" in the U.S. by pointing out how already existing laws could be used to support health as a human right. The U.S. does not have any record of successfully applying human right principals nationally, especially when it comes to social rights. Yet, recent developments show that a broader health and human rights movement is under way. New studies that document the health status of Americans in an international context show that the health of the American people is regressing compared to other countries and that social factors are decisive for the supply of quality health care. To ensure access to health insurance and health care, a human rights agenda is necessary. It should include measures that counter negative social factors and promote useful environmental, economic, and social conditions for health. To develop an effective human rights strategy, however, disadvantaged populations and communities need to be heard. Only then will it be possible to identify the social conditions that have a negative effect on the health of underserved populations, support a broader engagement, and improve the situation.



Martha Davis

Professor Davis stressed that an effective strategy on health and human rights includes partnerships between health care providers, public health systems, and lawyers to identify violations of human rights and to mobilize the community for a policy change.

The last event of the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminars in 2015 was an evening with U.S. author Anthony Marra, who read from *The Czar of Love and Techno*, a collection of short stories. Anthony Marra graduated from the University of Southern California with a B.A. and the

Iowa Writers' Workshop with an MFA. From 2011-2013 he was a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. Anthony Marra is the winner of a Whiting Award, a Pushcart Prize, and the Narrative Prize. His work was anthologized in *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2012*. His first novel, *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*, was published in May 2013, received the inaugural John Leonard Prize of the National Book Critics Circle, and was translated in over a dozen languages.

Anthony Marra



The German translation, *Die niedrigen Himmel*, also received rave reviews. Anthony Marra is currently a Jones Lecturer in Fiction at Stanford University and spent the fall as the Mary Ellen von der Heyden Fellow in Fiction at the American Academy in Berlin. The evening started with some very entertaining anecdotes about the time Anthony Marra lived and studied in Eastern Europe. The people he met there and the situations he experienced inspired the characters of his short stories collection. In the opening story of the book, the reader encounters a 1930s Soviet art censor who removes images of people who have fallen in disgrace under Stalin, including a ballerina and his own brother, from a family photo. The next story jumps to Siberia in 2013, to the granddaughter of the ballerina from the opening story. In *The Czar of Love and Techno*, every short story stands for itself; yet, the stories are held together by the fact that characters keep appearing in successive stories, often slightly altered. The stories span the political and social landscape of the Soviet Union and Russia from the 1930s to the recent chaotic aftereffects of the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. During the lively discussion that followed the reading, Anthony Marra described his work as a long story about loss, relationships, love, and family as well as a story about art and liberty.

For the last event in the fall 2015 series of its Baden-Württemberg Seminar, the HCA and the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg welcomed Rabbi David Teutsch, director of the Center for Jewish Ethics of Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and a widely known author and organizational consultant. His most recent book is *A Guide to Jewish Practice: Shabbat and*

Holidays, the second volume in a proposed three-part series which inspires readers to shape their own approaches to each milestone of the Jewish calendar. In 2011, volume one of the series, *A Guide to Jewish Practice: Everyday Living*, won the Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award and the National Jewish Book Award for Contemporary Life and Practice. A graduate of Harvard University, Professor Teutsch received his Master of Hebrew Letters and Rabbinic Ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City and earned his Ph.D. at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where his work focused on organizational ethics. At the HCA, Rabbi Teutsch talked about the diversity of the Jewish community in the United States and about how it has changed over the past decades. After emphasizing that most humans have a need for living in a strong community surrounded by people who share the same beliefs, Rabbi Teutsch described the Jewish community in the U.S. as a strong spiritual community sustained by friendship and people who have been sharing their experiences for generations. It is a community built on familial solidarity. He pointed out that its history figures larger in the American Jewish community than in other religious communities in the country. The vast majority of American Jews live their lives within the framework of the American community in general and work in the American economy; yet, they focus on their religion to confirm their mores and demands. The strength of the Jewish community helps its members to concentrate on their Jewish roots and to continue to respect traditional Jewish values. However, over the decades, the Jewish community in the United States has changed. Many congregations have left traditional ways of living behind or changed their patterns and techniques to maintain Jewish life under American conditions. Yet, Jews have been able to generate many new aspects of religious life, which has helped the Jewish community to grow even stronger. Before opening the floor for discussion, Professor Teutsch explained the significance of charity work. To be part of the Jewish community in America often means being part of a charitable organization or doing some voluntary work. In the spirited discussion with the audience that followed, Rabbi Teutsch answered many questions about what moves the American Jewish community right now, for example in connection with the upcoming presidential elections.



David Teutsch

SPRING SEMINAR 2016

The nineteenth semester of the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar started off with the 2016 HCA commencement speech. This year, Steven Hill, senior fellow at the New America Foundation and then the Holtzbrinck Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin spoke to the graduates about "The Future of Work: Will the 'Uber-Economy' Eat Our Jobs?" (see pages 65-66).

For the second lecture of its Baden-Württemberg Seminar, on April 28, the HCA invited David Woolner, Senior Fellow and Resident Historian of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, New York. The lecture of this longtime friend of the HCA connected the history of American progressivism with this year's elections and explained why America is at a crossroads in 2016. Referring to political phenomena such as the Greenback Party, Professor Woolner emphasized that the origin of progressive tendencies in U.S. politics lie in nineteenth-century populist movements. Those populists were crucial to politicizing problems which were not much referenced in the politics of the day and laid the foundations for twentieth-century progressivism. According to Professor Woolner, the redistribution of wealth was a matter especially important to nineteenth-century populists and later influenced the policies of presidents such as Franklin D. Roosevelt. Since U.S. politics traditionally relied heavily on a conservative center, the consistent lack of an established social democratic party transferred the responsibility for social reforms to so-called political progressives. Professor Woolner argued that the populist roots of progressive reformers such as Franklin D. Roosevelt were still noticeable in his rhetoric, which

David Woolner



relied largely on emotional appeals. Yet, compared to nineteenth-century populists, progressivists eventually aimed at less radical reforms, which mainly demanded social equality and social change. By analyzing contemporary U.S. society Professor Woolner then led over to the second part of his lecture. Asking the question of why America was at a crossroads, he referred to several interlocking social mechanisms which gave rise to twenty-first-century populists such as Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders. Professor Woolner sees the gap between the two candidates as a fairly

good representation of the gap between their constituencies. While Trump addressed specifically middle-aged, male, white Americans who suffer from changes in the labor market, Sanders appealed mostly to young, male, white students facing tremendous amounts of student debts and thus advocating greater social justice. Yet, both candidates use highly emotional language to reach out to their voters and especially to the American middle class, which is frustrated by the prevailing insecurity of the labor market. Emphasizing the historic development of the American political landscape into the formation of two rigidly fixed, monolithic parties, Professor Woolner noted that the lack of a political center has led to a steady decrease of productive political discourses. This stagnation, in turn, affected especially the new populists who addressed the longing for change among the American people. Therefore, Professor Woolner concluded, America is at a crossroads, and the 2016 elections will be decisive. How American society will develop within the next years will be determined in November. With this survey of American progressive traditions, Professor Woolner opened a discussion that shed more light on the qualities of U.S. politics and on American society.

On May 12, the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar was enriched by a reading from Naomi Wood's second novel *Mrs. Hemingway*. The London-based writer and lecturer for creative writing at Goldsmith University published this work two years ago. Now, in the course of the publication of the German translation by Hoffmann & Campe, the author traveled through Germany for a reading tour. Concluding her tour at the HCA, Naomi Wood gave a short lecture on the life



Naomi Wood

of Ernest Hemingway, and the event then proceeded to a reading from both the German and the English version. Highlighting her prolonged love for the writer Ernest Hemingway, Naomi Wood began with a short account of what led her to write *Mrs. Hemingway*. The media had always presented this author, who had married four wives in the course of four decades, as the self-declared, masculine, "Uber"-American. This image, according to Naomi Wood, was barely reconcilable with Hemingway's many and often serious relationships. In order to uncover this private side of the Nobel Prize winner, Naomi Wood decided to highlight a persona not found in

the prevailing media images. Trailing the lives of Hemingway's wives, Naomi Wood begins her novel from the perspective of Hadley Richardson, daughter of a wealthy St. Louis family, who met Hemingway at a party. After their wedding, the couple moved to Paris, where Hemingway's first son was born and where the writer came across Pauline Pfeiffer, a *Vogue* journalist and Hemingway's second wife, whom Wood calls "Fife." Together with Hemingway, Fife moved to Key West after their wedding in 1927. There she gave birth to Hemingway's second and third sons and lived with him until he met his third wife, Martha Gellhorn, in 1936. The young war reporter impressed Hemingway greatly, but even though Gellhorn and Hemingway got married in 1940, the settled life in Key West soon became unbearable to Martha. After the couple split up, Hemingway married his fourth wife, Mary Welsh, who was a war reporter as well, in 1946. The two of them lived together until Hemingway's suicide in 1961. His alcoholism and the trauma he had suffered from a plane crash in 1950 turned him into a difficult personality, who Mary Welsh struggled to support. The following reading, which was supported by Marie Harnau and Maria-Claudia Scheckeler of the HCA's Performing Arts Club, demonstrated the care and attention to detail with which Naomi Wood gave the four women a voice. Alternately Naomi Wood, Marie Harnau, and Marie Scheckeler read from the English and the German version of the novel to give insights into all four characters. It was especially surprising to see that even though those four extraordinary women competed for the love of the same man, they all maintained a close relationship with each other even after Hemingway's death. Granting new perspectives on the life of Ernest Hemingway, Naomi Wood delivered a wonderful reading to the fans of the Nobel laureate. Throughout the concluding discussion, she also highlighted more detailed aspects of Hemingway's life, such as his relationship to his critics and other writers as well as of her research in the U.S., England, the Caribbean, and France.

On May 24, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued with a lecture by Mark Peterson, professor for American history at the University of California at Berkeley. He focused on the influence of German reformers on Bostonian culture in the nineteenth century. Back then, Boston, whose inhabitants were renowned for a peculiar self-centeredness in their provinciality, shifted its main source of economic income from trading with the West Indies towards the cotton trade and industry. A growing dislike towards the federal government, whose trade embargos had triggered said economic change, also resulted in an increased cultural focus on the urban areas and immediate surroundings of the city. Simultaneously, the interest in German education as a leading force for the international development of the humanities grew, and Bostonians soon recognized allies in the Germans, particularly because they resisted a Napoleonic Europe. Thus, four graduates of Harvard University decided to continue their post-graduate education in Göttingen and moved to Germany in 1815. While in Germany, they visited, among others, the cities of Hamburg, Berlin, Leipzig, and Jena and had the opportunity to meet important cultural figures such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. This experience made a strong impression on the young Bostonians, who, upon their return, established a new tradition that would encourage young American academics to pursue their post-graduate education in Germany. These Bostonians developed a strong bond with German culture, not only because of their university education, but also because they marveled at the independence of the German cities. Recognizing an example of their own vision of Boston, they regarded German urbanites as pious, community-oriented people, who favored a

republican constitution. Such ideas and impressions resulted in a strong affiliation with German traditions. Bostonians also followed the example of German students who aimed at preserving Athenian culture by participating in the Greek revolution against the Ottoman Empire. Thus, German culture and academic methods were imported to Boston, ranging from child education, university organization, and German gymnastics to ideas about public housing, mental asylums, and prison structures. Boston reformers demonstrated a variety of ideas which were largely based on the experience



Mark Peterson

of German culture and were aimed at establishing an “Athens in America.” This development also made Boston a place of refuge for German radicals such as Karl Follen, who tried to escape persecution in his homeland. These radicals soon recognized the German influences on the other side of the Atlantic and, to their surprise, found themselves intellectually firmly settled among Boston’s political and social mainstream. At least for some time, former radical social outcasts were able to participate and integrate into Boston’s elite and were only expelled from elite circles when they joined the abolitionist cause. In his conclusion, Professor Peterson emphasized that even though the awareness for the presence of German culture in Boston is today fairly unknown, this transatlantic bond was by no means unusual. Stating that many cities had these transatlantic bonds, Professor Peterson opened the floor for questions; in the following lively discussion, he explored further aspects of the topic with members of the audience, including Goethe’s relationship to Boston and the history of German influence in the U.S. in general.

On May 30, the HCA continued the spring term of its Baden-Württemberg Seminar with a lecture by Karen Hansen, Professor of Sociology, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University, and Distinguished Fulbright Chair at Uppsala University. In her lecture, Professor Hansen highlighted the history of Scandinavian settlement in the Dakota reservation. Since her grandmother had moved to the territory of the Dakota Indian reservation as a Norwegian homestead woman, the history of this settlement had always fascinated her. Just as the Indians used bone dowsers to rediscover unmarked graves of their ancestors, Hansen wanted to bring back

the unrecognized history of this community. The early coexistence of Dakotas and Scandinavians was marked by simple misunderstandings, such as the Indian custom of entering someone else's house without knocking on the door. These misunderstandings were the result of the different cultural upbringings of both ethnicities. According to Professor Hansen, both neighbors soon got used to the cultural habits of the other, and friendly relationships developed. Frequently, Dakotas asked Protestant ministers to baptize their newborn children, and Presbyterians even went so far as to publish a Bible translation into Dakota. However, conflicts surrounding the issue of landownership were not as easily overcome. After the Dakota War, Dakota Indians were forced to resettle in a reservation, and when this territory too was opened to Scandinavian settlers, Dakotas feared to be expropriated once again. The majority of them regarded the Scandinavian settlers as land-hungry farmers, bluntly ignoring their modern lifestyle and their attempts to assimilate. In return, the non-materialistic Dakotas did not understand the newcomers' eagerness to accumulate property. Even though Dakotas tried to repurchase former territory, Scandinavians soon became the biggest landowners within the reservation. Even more conflicts arose due to the personal attachment Scandinavians developed to their land, which they passed on to their children. Nevertheless, Professor Hansen argued, both ethnicities faced similar problems, like maintaining their ethnic heritage, building new communities, and making a living. Both had to become Americans and get accustomed to a new culture dominated by race and ethnicity. Even though communication was not easy, the two unfamiliar cultures managed to coexist. Finally, Professor Hansen stated that through personal actions Scandinavians continued to attempt to reconcile their guilt created by dispossessing Dakota Indians until today, and that these personal actions could help redefine the Dakota-Scandinavian relationship. Following Professor Hansen's fascinating insights into Scandinavian-Dakota history, the discussion was opened up to the audience, who asked additional questions about conflicts and events in the history of Scandinavian settlement.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar moved to Tübingen on June 6, where Stewart O'Nan read from his novel *West of Sunset* at the Freiburg theater. The novel deals with the last three years in the life of American novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald, which he spent as a Hollywood screenwriter, in "exile." While *West of Sunset* touches on the glitter and Fitzgerald's love affair with gossip columnist Sheilah Graham, it is mostly concerned with Fitzgerald's professional anxieties and depicts him as a tired but unyielding craftsman.

On June 14, the HCA awarded the James W. C. Pennington Award to John Witte, Jr., who gave a talk on "Religion and Human Rights: What James Pennington Still Teaches Us" (see pages 130).

On June 30, the HCA concluded the spring program of its Baden-Württemberg Seminar with a lecture by the Lillian Chavenson Saden Professor of Sociology at Yale University, Professor Jeffrey C. Alexander. In his talk, which was co-hosted by the Anglistisches Seminar, Professor Alexander highlighted the performative character of historic protest movements. He began by describing how Mao Zedong became the narrator of the Chinese Revolution. Due to their religion, Chinese peasantry had developed a tolerance towards poverty and injustice and had to be won over for the revolutionary cause first. The Chinese communists achieved this through *Suku*, which means



Jeffrey C. Alexander

as much as speaking bitterness. Suku was meant to teach the peasantry to hate the ruling class through narrating their suffering, and thus the CCP needed dramatic narrators with whom peasants could readily sympathize. In combination with carefully staged acts of symbolic violence, Suku developed into such a success that the CCP still used it after the revolution to consolidate its political power. According to Professor Alexander, the American civil rights struggle used a similar strategy. Thus, the civil rights movement often did not attempt to overcome oppression immediately but rather activated a powerful intervening force to accomplish this on its behalf. In order to be successful, the protest actions of the current #blacklivesmatter campaign have to follow a similar pattern. Through carefully staging victims' last words in different media channels and organizing public events, #blacklivesmatter has already drawn from the successful means of earlier protest movements. However, Professor Alexander criticized that #blacklivesmatter relies too much on police violence and too little on class struggle and thus has not been able to achieve similar results yet. The lack of a charismatic leader like Mao or King also makes it harder for #blacklivesmatter to push their agenda. Professor Alexander nevertheless pointed out that the interactive protest, an outstanding and new quality drawing on American protest traditions, would be powerful enough to enable such a leader to seize the stage fairly quickly. In a short comment by Barbara Mittler, Professor for Sinology and China Studies at Heidelberg University, the audience then was able to gain more insight into Mao Zedong's strategies; for example, Mao supported the civil rights movement as a class struggle against American imperialism. He used speaking and writing to reinforce his powers and thus created a field of force surrounding his person and cause. The various reproductions of his image and works became *mise en abyme*, reproducing performances of Mao's works within themselves. This made him into a powerful and frequently referenced icon of civil protest at the time and encouraged many participants of other movements to draw on his fame.

HCA BOOK LAUNCHES

In the past academic year, the HCA once again presented the work of its associates to the public in a number of book launches.

About a year before the 2016 presidential election, on November 10, 2015, Tobias Endler and Martin Thunert, HCA research associate and senior lecturer in political science, respectively, introduced their new book *Entzauberung: Skizzen und Ansichten zu den USA in der Ära Obama* (*Disenchantment: Sketches and Opinions of the United States in the Era of the Obama Presidency*). In it, they examine the state of the union as the Obama presidency draws to a close, especially the economic changes of that era. *Entzauberung* asks whether the U.S. is still a super power, looks at the global role of the country, especially its relationship to Germany, and discusses the imminent end of the Obama presidency as well as the upcoming election campaign. Interviews with experts from U.S. universities and think tanks, among them John Mearsheimer, Dali Yang, Deborah Larson, Robert O. Keohane, and Fay Hartog Levin, serve as the basis for the authors' lucid analysis of the domestic and foreign policy developments. The book discusses how leading intellectuals assess their country during Obama's second term and how they forecast its future path, both nationally and internationally. The authors consider domestic factors, like the highly polarized political landscape, and pivotal policy fields like energy, education, or immigration, as well as the role of the United States' global power and international authority. The opinions presented are as diverse as the interview partners. However, there is a broad agreement that the U.S. is not on the decline. Rather, most experts agree that the country needs to put together a new international portfolio, which, contrary to widespread expectations, will not mean a decline of the country's global role. Martin Thunert and Tobias Endler stress the considerable robustness of the one remaining super power. Even if the framework of the current international situation has changed, the consequences of the proposed new portfolio remain relevant for other states. Martin Thunert considers the task of getting the governmental system working on a federal level again as one of the greatest challenges for the new president of the U.S., who will also have to

Tobias Endler and Martin Thunert



make sure that the pay-off of globalization and digitalization is not limited to the upper class. On the international level, the authors emphasize the role of China as a great financial backer of the USA and are mindful of geopolitical movements, particularly in the eastern hemisphere. Regarding one of the most polarizing Republican candidates for the presidency, multi-billionaire Donald Trump, Tobias Endler stressed that Trump's leading role in national surveys stems from a prevailing populist mood among parts of the electorate. As a presidential candidate, Trump addresses the middle and lower classes and opposes the political as well as the media elites. Dr. Endler sees the antithesis to Trump in the self-professed democratic socialist Sanders, who in turn considers the economic and financial elites as his opponents and turns away from the political establishment by claiming independence and authenticity. Both candidates profit from stirring up and then addressing the fears of their respective electorates. Both authors predict that the issues of the campaigns will shift once the debates start in 2016, turning to tangible political questions and problems. Tobias Endler stressed the tradition of political dynasties in the United States, citing the Kennedys and the Roosevelts as two further examples. Yet, he does not think that these dynasties endanger American democracy. In fact, Dr. Endler sees the strong ideological polarization and the heavy influence of donations as factors that are quite dangerous. It is well known that it is virtually impossible to gain political office without a substantial campaign fund. According to Martin Thunert and Tobias Endler, the best chance for a Republican candidate to capture the White House in 2016 is the fact that the chances for a party to do so three times in a row are extremely slim. Yet, the Republicans have to win some key states that went "blue" four years ago. Hillary Clinton, on the other hand, needs to avoid to look like the "natural" candidate.



Daniel Silliman

For the first book launch of 2016 the HCA welcomed Detlef Junker, Jan Stievermann, and Daniel Silliman, two editors of and one contributor to the book *Religion and the Marketplace in the United States*. The book came out of a conference held at the HCA in 2011. Its chapters span from colonial American mercantilism over modern megachurches and literary markets to popular festivals and thus explore the mutual relationships between religious behavior and commer-

cial practices. Rejecting a straightforward narrative, the contributions of the volume show that the interaction between religious and commercial practices in U.S. history is manifold, mutual, and often highly contradictory. After two of the editors of the volume introduced some general themes of the conference and the book, Daniel Silliman shared some insights about his research on “Left Behind,” a series of 16 novels that deal with the Christian End Times. Rather than asking why faith fiction is so in demand, he looked at the supply-side, at how and where faith fiction is available. His work demonstrates that changes in the book market are critical to any understanding of the commercial and cultural impact of faith fiction. Other essays in this section also show how book commerce is tied up in religious experiences and practices, whether it is mass market fiction, spiritual self-improvement literature, or modernist experimentalism. The introduction of the overall framework and the more detailed studies sparked a lively discussion with the audience that was continued over a drink afterwards.

Rashida Braggs



The HCA celebrated the first book launch of the summer term with Rashida Braggs, Assistant Professor for African American Studies at Williams College Massachusetts, who had been the Ghaemian-Scholar at the HCA in 2009-10. She returned on July 7 to introduce her recent publication *Jazz Diasporas: Race, Music, and Migration in Post-World War II Paris*. Professor Braggs argued that the reality of African American diasporic life in Paris did not resemble the color-blind image that the general public and many scholars have assumed previously. Even though American Jazz artists were widely respected for their musical talents, their skin color and ethnic background determined their personal freedom to a large extent. To support this, Professor Braggs highlighted biographies of members of this Jazz diaspora, such as Hal Singer or Sidney Bechet, in her book. Sidney Bechet especially often used his talent in playing multiple instruments to construct different subjectivities of himself, which he then presented to the Parisian public. Thus, his success relied largely on his ability to reinvent his public persona and image as an artist. Such images then grew to tremendous public success and helped to create the myth of African American Jazz in Paris. Nonetheless, Rashida Braggs emphasized that often the relationships of these musicians to their community were more complicated than they appeared at first. It was

not uncommon among African Americans in Paris to remain silent on political issues regarding their home country since this would have had a tremendous impact on their opportunities to succeed in Parisian society. In order to explore the field of creating multiple subjectivities, in her teaching Professor Braggs combines her background in theatre and performance studies with her historical research in African American Jazz musicians. In the course of multiple classes, she has challenged her students to not only gain a deeper understanding of the subject they were researching, but also to come to realize how their own subjectivity influenced their perception. This performative research was then incorporated into her book and was crucial in aiding the reader to understand the full scope of African American life in post-World War II Paris.

The final book launch of the academic year took place on July 19 as part of the HCA's series on the 2016 presidential campaign. Styles Sass, a graduate of the HCA's master and doctoral



Styles Sass

programs, presented his recent publication on campaign narratives in the 2008 presidential election. Dr. Sass opened by explaining the necessity of narratives, which arrange single events into a logical order and thus create coherence. Therefore, narratives not only determine how a campaign is perceived from the outside but also serve as important tools for candidates to easily and attractively convey necessary information. However, as soon as the narrative is public, every other new event or information becomes either supportive, and thus a beneficial contribution readily incorporated, or critical, and consequently rebutting the narrative. As a result, it is important to know the qualities of a successful narrative, and to identify one, Styles Sass presented the analytical model he had developed in the course of his dissertation. He observed that successful narratives all fulfilled two criteria, namely coherence and fidelity, and that these had to apply to all four strands of the narrative. Therefore, the family strand, the national strand, the party strand, and the counter narrative all had to intertwine in order to create a working narrative. By analyzing the 2008 campaign narratives of Barack Obama and John McCain, Dr. Sass then proceeded to apply this model. John McCain, who largely drew on his military background, succeeded in creating a coherent narrative, yet the topic did not match the zeitgeist of the election year and therefore did not radiate enough fidelity. In contrast, Obama was able to

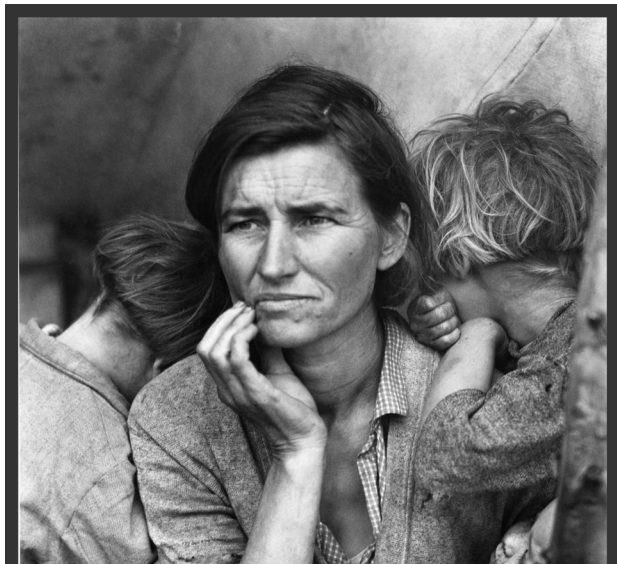
create a competing narrative under the slogan “Change We Can Believe In,” which was both coherent and suggested a high degree of fidelity. Therefore, Obama’s narrative embedded itself into a beneficial environment and turned out to be successful. Furthermore, Dr. Sass offered the audience a similar analysis of the current campaign narratives of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Trump, who did not have a coherent narrative, still succeeded in convincing people of its fidelity, which enabled him to be credible to some voters even though he did not present them with concrete ideas. Hillary Clinton, in contrast, offered the public a narrative which connected her to Barack Obama’s eight-year story of social progress. By advancing “Hillary for America,” this narrative was not only more coherent but also suggested continuity. However, Styles Sass criticized that Clinton has not drawn on the full potential of a strong counter narrative to Trump yet, which could push her campaign even further. In the following discussion, the audience addressed further hypothetical narratives and scenarios and benefited from Styles Sass’ profound knowledge of earlier campaigns.

We are looking forward to continuing this great HCA tradition in the upcoming academic year.

EXHIBITION: "DOROTHEA LANGE: ICONIC AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHY"

March 10 to April 21, 2016

Dorothea Lange was a pioneer of American documentary photography. Eighty years ago, she joined her colleagues Walker Evans and Gordon Parks in documenting the plight of sharecroppers, displaced farm families, and migrant workers for the Resettlement Administration and the Farm Security Administration. In March 1936 Lange passed through a pea pickers camp in Nipomo Mesa, California and shot the iconic pictures of Florence Owens Thompson, the "Migrant Mother," who became the face of the uprooted women and men of the Great Depression. Some of Lange's pictures appeared in the *San Francisco News* on March 10. As a result, food was delivered to the camp to prevent starvation. Dorothea Lange's pictures had a lasting impact on documentary photography. Her pictures of marches and strikes, welfare recipients and migrant workers, people waiting in bread lines or at labor exchanges left their stamp on the collective memory of the Great Depression in America and became widely known. On occasion of the eightieth anniversary of "Migrant Mother," the HCA showed a selection of Dorothea Lange's iconic photography, curated by Reinhard



Dorothea Lange: Iconic American Photography 10. März - 21. April 2016

Kurator: Reinhard Schultz

Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais
Hauptstraße 120
69117 Heidelberg
www.hca.uni-hd.de

Öffnungszeiten
Mo - Fr, 9 - 17 Uhr
Eintritt frei
Eröffnung: 10.03. 18:00 Uhr

HCA
Heidelberg Center
for American Studies

Schultz: portraits of the unemployed and homeless, migrants and farm workers, but also little known pictures of big landowners and women factory workers. An unprecedented number of guests joined us for the opening night in the Atrium and continued to come during the following five weeks.

U.S. ELECTIONS 2016 AT THE HCA

From the beginning of summer semester right up to the elections, the HCA featured a number of events to keep the Heidelberg public informed about the issues surrounding the 2016 presidential elections in the United States.

The series got off to a great start with David Woolner's talk in the Baden-Württemberg Seminar: "America at a Crossroads? The Progressive Tradition and the Presidential Election of 2016" (see pages 192-193). On June 19, Styles Sass presented the findings of his dissertation "Swaying the Nation: Campaign Narratives in the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election" during an HCA book launch (see pages 201-202).

PANEL DISCUSSION: "THE RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE: ANALYSES AND PROGNOSSES PRECEDING THE PARTY CONVENTIONS"

The HCA series on the elections continued with a panel discussion on July fifth. Together with Laura von Daniels, research fellow at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Andreas Schwarzkopf, journalist with the Frankfurter Rundschau, and Martin Thunert, senior lecturer for political

(l. to r.): Laura von Daniels, Andreas Schwarzkopf, and Martin Thunert on the Podium in the HCA Atrium



science at the HCA, moderator Tobias Endler, the HCA research coordinator, analyzed how polarized American society actually is and how domestic and foreign policies might change during the upcoming year. Tobias Endler opened the discussion by asking the panel members to state their opinion regarding the current state of American society. Even though pluralism is not new to Americans, it is obvious that social polarization is growing, as are the gaps among different social groups, according to Andreas Schwarzkopf. The resulting differentiation of identity politics, which has become increasingly populist at heart, is, however, not solely an American

phenomenon, emphasized Martin Thunert. Similar trends can be observed throughout Europe, starting in recent years and culminating in the Brexit. Yet, the new social complexity initiated by polarization has paralyzed many American think tanks which, in an attempt to grasp the full dimensions of phenomena such as Donald Trump, have resigned to an observing position, remarked Laura von Daniels. At this point, Tobias Endler turned towards the role of the media in reinforcing this complex polarization. Even though Andreas Schwarzkopf saw the media's role as a neutral reporting organ, Laura von Daniels criticized that the majority of the domestic and international press helped to solidify prevailing stereotypes such as the "cold-hearted" politician Hillary Clinton. This selection bias played a crucial role in how voters perceived candidates and thus influenced their chances of winning the elections. Here Martin Thunert noted that Trump, who as an outsider was favored by the electoral system, could easily use such stereotypes to increase his own chances of winning. In the second part of the discussion, Tobias Endler shifted the main focus away from the domestic analysis towards aspects of transatlantic partnership and the current issues of TTIP. According to Laura von Daniels, a prevailing sense of uncertainty has dominated German politics and public opinions. Even though Trump was said to initiate a dramatic shift towards a protectionist market economy, there was a great amount of uncertainty about Hillary Clinton's handling of TTIP as well. In the end, whom each candidate will choose as their running mate might have a substantial influence on their political decisions. Furthermore, as Andreas Schwarzkopf highlighted, German politics and the public yet have to fully realize the U.S.' new "pivot to Asia," which had changed the significance of American politics on German issues. Martin Thunert reminded the audience and the panel members to be cautious in their judgements. Trump keeps emphasizing that he will analyze all foreign relations according to a strict cost-benefit-system, and since the president is the pivotal point determining all foreign relations, changes might occur suddenly. Laura von Daniels agreed and opposed hasty judgements, as especially Trump has not presented any distinct policy plans yet. In a closing note, Andreas Schwarzkopf remarked that, regarding current changes in the E.U., it will be very likely that Germany will remain the most important European partner for the U.S. in the future. Therefore, the German-American relationship will be of a continuing importance to both sides. Following this reminder, Tobias Endler opened up the discussion to questions from the audience, which in the remaining time discussed issues such as social polarization as well as current events.

PANEL DISCUSSION: "MAKING TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE GREAT AGAIN?"

On October 19, the eve of the third and last presidential debate, the "Forum für Internationale Sicherheit," the Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft e.V., and the HCA staged another panel discussion at the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. In his welcoming remarks the founding director of the HCA, Professor Detlef Junker recalled the transatlantic relations of the fifties, sixties, and seventies, specifically the NATO double-track decision of 1979. On the podium, Josef Braml, a political scientist and political adviser at the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, and Martin Thunert, senior lecturer for political science at the HCA, discussed the past, present, and future of transatlantic communication; Stefan Artmann (FiS) lead through the evening. While

Josef Braml, like in his most recent publication *Auf Kosten der Freiheit. Der Ausverkauf der amerikanischen Demokratie und die Folgen für Europa* painted a rather dark picture of America's near future, Martin Thunert highlighted the resilience of the country. The 2016 presidential campaign provided the red thread for the discussion; other topics were security policy, NATO, TTIP, and the position of the candidates regarding the conflict in Syria. What goals would a President Clinton or President Trump set for their country's future? What means would they choose to achieve those goals? Josef Braml and Martin Thunert agreed on Trump's notion on nuclear weapons. They declined the likelihood of an atomic war but thought the regional deployment of nuclear weapons possible. As commander-in-chief Trump would have a relatively free reign to do as he pleased, and both allies and opponents would have a hard time predicting his actions. Josef Braml saw this unpredictability as a virtue, arguing that "staged threat" is immensely important for the domestic and foreign politics of the United States. Without an enemy, keeping the defense budget of currently 600 billion dollars might be hard, and the economy would suffer. Martin Thunert called attention to the fact that Trump's critique of Obama's full disclosure of military strategies, for example the dates of withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, is justified. Oppositional forces as the Taliban only had to wait to regain power of certain territories. Part two of the discussion involved NATO, and here also the opinions diverged. The image of the U.S. as a liberal hegemon was breaking apart, argued Josef Braml; NATO turned against China, and Germany had closed its eyes for too long. Martin Thunert, on the other hand, emphasized that mercantilism would become the base for security policy under Trump. If financing proved inadequate, the U.S. under Trump would partially withdraw from the Western alliance. Clinton, however, had hinted at a completely different approach and was convinced that Vladimir Putin actively tried to prevent her from becoming president. The third part of the discussion turned to TTIP, first and foremost to the question whether the treaty was still alive. TTIP is dead, claimed Josef Braml, the business of America was business, and TTIP had only been a new name for old ideas. Free trade was caught in a downward spiral, and Europe had to pay attention and be cautious of protectionist ideas. Martin Thunert did not dare to predict the future of TTIP. If trade policies would remain an issue in the new administration, new treaties were feasible, TTIP could die and be resurrected as "TTIP light." Finally, Syria became a topic. Stefan Artmann posed the question whether Trump's election could prove to be beneficial for solving the conflict, because he was unprejudiced and had better connections to Putin than Clinton. Martin Thunert thought Putin played a rather minor role in this; the situation was challenging, Obama had been elected as a peacemaker, but since the Geneva Convention of 2013, the interim agreement with Iran concerning its nuclear program, the peace making had come to a halt; a no-flight-zone would only provoke Russia; there was no good way out of the conflict. Josef Braml agreed and added that he was skeptical that Clinton would be able to take the measures needed in Syria; in the end, Russia would benefit from the instability in the region. Upon this Stefan Artmann opened the discussion to the audience. Its main questions were about policy structures and the concern whether a Trump presidency would have a bigger effect on the domestic or the foreign policy of the United States. In the end, Martin Thunert asked what the true meaning of the election slogan "Make America great again!" was: which part of the past and history was idealized? With this thought, the audience was released into the crisp fall night.



(l. to r.): Josef Braml, Stefan Artmann, und Martin Thunert.

FILM CLIPS "CAMPAIGN COMMERCIALS – BEST OF"

Less than a week later, on October 25, two days after the release of Hillary Clinton's newest campaign video, "Mirrors," four specialists on presidential election campaigns convened in the HCA Atrium to talk about what happens when the medium film and presidential candidates mingle. In "Presidential Campaigns—Best of Film Clips," Raluca Cimpean, Styles Sass, Martin Thunert and Abraham de Wolf discussed the election campaigns of John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon, George H. W. Bush and Michael Dukakis, Barack Obama and John McCain as well as the ongoing race between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. The HCA's executive director Wilfried Mausbach moderated. The evening started out with historic campaign ads, including "Daisy Girl," according to Wilfried Mausbach "the mother of campaign commercials." Even if Twitter might be the greatest ad force by now, campaign commercials have kept their importance in the elections. The first talk was given by Raluca Cimpean from Romania, a graduate of both the HCA's M.A. and Ph.D. programs. In her dissertation *John F. Kennedy Through the Looking Glass: Docudramatic Representations of the JFK Image*, she emphasized how important the perception of the public is for a candidate. She claimed that the Kennedy campaign used this fact consciously and successfully for the first time in U.S. election history. JFK famously said, "it's not who you are, it's who people think you are." Dr. Cimpean illustrated this with excerpts from the 1960 documentary *Primary* and Kennedy's New Frontier campaign movie, in which the audience witnessed a war hero, a charismatic senator enchanting the crowds, and a loving family man coming home after work to his wife and children. Dr. Cimpean pointed out that the presentation of both the private and the public side of a candidate was replicated more or less successfully in every campaign thereafter. In the presentation that followed, Martin Thunert, senior lecturer in political science at the HCA, turned, as he put it, "away from Camelot and to the dark side" of presidential elections. The "Willie Horton Ad" from the 1988 George H.W. Bush campaign can be interpreted as the turning point in the Bush campaign. The Democratic candidate, Michael Dukakis, had voted for a furlough program for long-term inmates, including so-called weekend passes, to be extended to first degree murderers, such as Willie Horton, who did not return to prison after his furlough but



"Daisy Girl" - Still from the Iconic 1964 Campaign Ad.

brutally assaulted a man in Maryland and repeatedly raped his fiancée. The ad made Dukakis look soft on crime and reinforced the stereotype of black-against-white crime (Horton was African-American). Furthermore, the ad was a stern warning of what would happen if the electorate voted for a Democrat in the White House. Dukakis later said that he realized the importance of the case too late. The third participant of the evening, Styles Sass, is also a graduate of both the HCA's M.A. and Ph.D. programs. His presentation returned to Camelot again, "Camelot 2.0," as he termed it, and looked at the importance of foreign policy and the "change of brand" Barack Obama was after in his bid for the presidency in 2008. Obama's speech in Berlin on July 24, 2008, was the zenith of that change, an event that left its witnesses with the "poetic feeling of history in the making." An American politician admired abroad, a candidate who at that point had not received the democratic nomination yet, swayed over 200,000 people. This was a harsh contrast to the negative international image of George W. Bush, and the Obama campaign portrayed the Republican candidate, John McCain, as a continuation of the Bush regime. At one point McCain felt compelled to say: "I'm not Bush!" He stepped in with an ad, "Celebrity," which presented Obama as "all sizzle, no steak," not a politician, but a celebrity like the it-girls the ad showed. The punch line stuck: "I want a president in the White House, not a celebrity." Obama reacted promptly, reduced crowds and held gigs at night, so the press could not report simultaneously. The last speaker of the evening was Abraham de Wolf, who partly grew up in the US, is a lawyer and involved a local civic organization, "Citizens for Heidelberg." He is strongly connected to the USA and follows its political tidings closely. He showed several ads of the current election and pointed out the many differences between the two candidates' commercials. Many of Donald Trump's ads do not exceed 30 seconds and mostly show him at rallies. Hillary Clinton's commercials are up to four minutes long, expensively produced, and skillfully carry a positive undertone even in the negative ads. Two commercials stand out, both reactions to Trump campaign strategies. The first is "Captain Khan," an ad about the mourning father of Humayun Khan, a Muslim American soldier who died in Iraq because he protected his comrades during a suicide attack. Donald Trump had insulted the family after they had appeared at the Democratic conven-

tion. The second is the aforementioned “Mirrors” ad, which shows young girls eyeing themselves in mirrors and through their cellphone cameras. In the back ground Donald Trump’s comments on women at various occasions are audible. “Is this the president we want for our daughters?” the spot asks. After the screening of “Mirrors,” Wilfried Mausbach opened the discussion to the audience, which was mainly interested in the changes in campaign ads over time and the question if ads can do more for the candidates than mobilize their voters.

PANEL DISCUSSION: "THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS"

Some states were still counting, but the election results were clear on the evening of November 9: The Republican candidate Donald Trump is the new president-elect and will move into the White House on January 20, 2017. The HCA had invited three experts on the political and cultural landscape of the United States to discuss the U.S. election results: Alexandra Gleber, a German-American who is a B.A. student at the HCA and has been a member of the “Democrats Abroad” since 2013; Anthony Santoro, who was born and raised in Virginia, received both his M.A. and his Ph.D. degrees from Heidelberg University and taught seminars on American religion and American religious history at the Institute for Religious Studies and the HCA for several years. Currently he works as a Senior Information Developer at SAP. Martin Thunert is the senior lecturer in political science at the HCA. Anja Schüler, who coordinates Forum events at the HCA, moderated the discussion. All participants have lived in the U.S. for an extended time, but had to admit that none of them foresaw the outcome of this year’s election. Neither had most of the audience; the Atrium and the galleries were filled to the brim. So what factors came together for this political surprise? Martin Thunert gave a couple of reasons: Trump’s image and actions changed in the weeks before the election; he appeared to be more confident, started to address issues, and sprinkled his demeanor with a bit of self-deprecation; in short, he had become more likable. Democrats, on the other hand, seemed to have forgotten about their traditional voters in the rust belt and blue collar workers in general, who felt they lost out in an increasingly globalized world. Many suspiciously eyed the tidings of greener policies, when their livelihoods depended on oil. Alexandra Gleber mentioned the rural regions and the “invisible majority,” mainly consisting of white males with a basic education who felt empowered by Trump’s promises. Anthony Santoro added that most voters had known Hillary Clinton for twenty years but also had distrusted her for the same period of time. For decades, they had been appalled by “old broken Washington,” epitomized by the Democratic candidate. This had been an election campaign of white men and although the “invisible minority” seemed a joke at first, it did take over the election in the end. Pointing out that the new president would get to fill at least one seat on the Supreme Court Anja Schüler asked the panel whether the Obama administration would have a legacy — what would remain of “change”? Martin Thunert saw a clear defeat of the Obamas, who had so fervently fought for Clinton and very openly spoken out against Trump. It was now in Trump’s power to reduce Obama to a mere footnote in American history. Alexandra Gleber remarked that Trump had announced to leave most policy-related tasks to his vice-president and his advisors so he

could concentrate fully on “making America great again.” She quoted an online source that Trump thought being president somewhat equaled being a king. Ms. Gleber expressed concern over the ruthlessness of Trump’s voters and the hardening lines between liberals and conservatives. Anthony Santoro then voiced doubts that Trump had ever really intended to becoming president and might get bored quickly now that he had accomplished his goal. For Mr. Santoro, Mike Pence was the man to watch. His stance on treaties with countries as Korea and Japan was crucial for future policy-making.

(l. to r.):Anthony Santoro, Alexandra Gleber, and Martin Thurnert Discuss the Outcome of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Elections.



Was the world ready for Trump, asked the moderator. What would happen next in foreign policy? Every trade treaty, Martin Thunert said, would be examined closely. Trump would have to keep the promises he made to his blue-collar constituency. He would also realign the NATO budget. Yet, all of this could only happen once the staff issues were solved, a challenging task in itself. Alexandra Gleber also addressed the promises Trump made to blue-collar workers. Now he had to prove how much of a problem solver he really was. This would include putting an end to the Islamic State. Why did almost everybody in the media predict a Clinton victory? And why did opinion pollsters and forecasters at website like fivethirtyeight.com fail on such a large scale? Polls were mere snapshots in time, Martin Thunert said, not predictions of the future. The “Millennials” and the “Rainbow Coalition” probably participated less in polling than expected. Political scientists, experts, and journalists had some soul-searching to do, as had the German press, which had largely failed to report accurately about the campaign and mostly delivered a one-sided image of the current political landscape in the United States. So, would Bernie Sanders have been the better candidate for the Democrats after all? No one could say, all members of the panel agreed. Maybe it was not the right time for a liberal woman to be elected, both Santoro and Gleber speculated; the candidacy of an outsider who could distance himself from the political establishment and could have competed with Trump in this respect might have proven successful. Martin Thunert pointed out that Sanders had left out two important groups in his campaign, Hispanics and African Americans, a mistake that might not have been mended in time. Hereafter the discussion was opened to the audience. What would prevail, free trade or protectionism? What would change when workers found out the improvements Trump offered were not feasible? How can the Democratic Party rise from its ashes? The last question addressed worries about future developments in Europe that might lead to a rise of populism and right wing politicians. It was time, said Anthony Santoro, to realize people with a poor education were not inherently bad; rather, fear and anger can impede political judgement. A cooler and more rational electorate would not have demonized Hillary Clinton or forgiven Donald Trump. Anja Schüler then closed the discussion, wishing everybody who had stayed up until the wee hours a good night’s sleep.

Our series will conclude with a panel discussion on the evening of January 20, 2017, following a live broadcast of the inauguration of the 45th president of the United States.

MEDIA COVERAGE

During the past academic year, these reports on the HCA and its activities as well as contributions by its faculty have appeared in the media:

"Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America"

Interview with Manfred Berg

("The Root and Roots Show," *blogtalkradio.com*, October 11, 2015)

"Donald Trumps Äußerungen: Vielfach Angst und Entsetzen bei amerikanischen Muslimen"

Interview with Martin Thunert

(*deutschlandfunk.de*, December 10, 2015)

"'Als Versöhner hat er ganz klar versagt': Martin Thunert und Tobias Endler über Erfolge und Versäumnisse in der Amtszeit von Barack Obama"

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, Januar 20, 2016)

"This is the reason your insurance company calls blizzards an 'act of God'"

Article by Daniel Silliman

(*washingtonpost.com*, January 22, 2016)

"Der erste schwarze Präsident: Der Politologe Martin Thunert über Barack Obama und die Auswirkungen auf die schwarze Minderheit"

(SWR2 "Journal am Morgen", January 30, 2016)

"The 2016 Presidential Campaign: The Past and Present of American Tolerance and Intolerance"

Article by Charles Postel

(*religionandpolitics.org*, February 2, 2016)

"Meet the Atheist Who Quizzes Presidential Candidates about Their Faith"

Article by Daniel Silliman (*washingtonpost.com*, February 2, 2016)

"Amerika wählt: Die Präsidentschafts-Vorwahlen in Iowa"

Interview with Tobias Endler

("politur", Hochschulradio Düsseldorf, February 4, 2016)

"Donald Trump ist eine autoritäre Versuchung"

Article by Martin Thunert

(Xing.com "Klartext", February 10, 2016)

"Eine extreme Alternative – Er hat es Donald Trump vorgemacht: 1964 trat Barry Goldwater mit radikalen Parolen für die Republikaner an"

Article by Manfred Berg

(*DIE ZEIT*, February 25, 2016)

"Die USA nach dem 'Super-Tuesday' – ein gespaltenes Land?"

Interview with Manfred Berg

(SWR2 "Kontext", March 2, 2016)

"Trump ist dabei, die Republikanische Partei zu kidnappen"

Interview with Detlef Junker

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, March 3, 2016)

"Entscheidend ist die Performance der Regierung"

Interview with Francis Fukuyama by Tobias Endler

(*Carta*, March 19, 2016)

"Die andere Seite der USA: Ausstellung mit Fotos von Dorothea Lange im HCA"

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, March 26, 2016)

"Amerikas Mitte ist nüchterner als der überhitzte Medienbetrieb"

Interview with Klaus Scherer by Tobias Endler

(*Carta*, June 11, 2016)

"Die USA nach Obama: Tagung zu US-Wahlen am Center for American Studies"

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, June 23, 2016)

"In Yale nicht einmal Bachelor: In Heidelberg wurde James Pennington 1849 Ehrendoktor"

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, July 5, 2016)

"Die geistige Blindheit zerstreuen: Zum fünften Mal wurde der Pennington-Preis vergeben – Weltbekannte Yale University ist an Zusammenarbeit interessiert"

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, July 5, 2016)

"Polizistenmorde von Dallas: Bilder über Gewalttaten 'gießen Öl ins Feuer'"

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Deutschlandradio Kultur, July 9, 2016)

"Triumphator Trump: Die zehn wichtigsten Fragen zur Präsidentschaftskandidatur des Milliardärs"

Comments by Wilfried Mausbach

(*Express*, July 21, 2016)

"Der Parteitag der Demokraten"

Interview with Tobias Endler

(SWR 2 "Aktuell", July 26, 2016)

"Er bündelt die Wut weißer, männlicher Amerikaner"

Interview with Manfred Berg

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, August 11, 2016)

"No, he couldn't"

Article by Manfred Berg

(*DIE ZEIT*, August 11, 2016)

"Der Präsidentschaftskandidat Trump: Er ist ein klassischer Populist, der sich nach Stimmungen richtet"

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Deutschlandfunk, September 4, 2016)

"Terroranschläge vor 15 Jahren: 9/11 war ein Fanal für die globalen Gesellschaften"

Interview with Manfred Berg

(Deutschlandfunk, September 11, 2016)

"Die Amtszeit von Barack Obama: Ein widersprüchliches Erbe"

Comments by Martin Thunert

(Deutschlandfunk, September 16, 2016)

"Das Phänomen Donald Trump: Wie käme Europa mit Donald Trump als US-Präsidenten klar?"

Radio talk show with Tobias Endler

(NDR Info "Redezeit", September 27, 2016)

"German University Students Tour Connellsville"

(*The Daily Courier*, September 29, 2016)

"Trump ging richtig in den Schlamm"

Interview with Martin Thunert

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, October 11, 2016)

"Occupy Wall Street: The United States' First Post-Modern Movement"

Article by Natalie Rauscher

(Bretterblog, October 12, 2016)

"Hillary Clinton: Was es mit der E-Mail-Affäre auf sich hat"

Interview with Martin Thunert

(web.de Magazine, October 24, 2016)

"Das getrumpte Land"

Article by Tobias Endler

(*Frankfurter Rundschau*, October 25, 2016)

"Schlechter Charakter mit großem Entwurf"

Review by Detlef Junker

(*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, October 26, 2016)

"Die Republikaner müssen sich fragen, ob Trump nur ein Unfall war"

Interview with Martin Thunert

(ariva.de, October 27, 2016)

"Er hat tiefe Spuren hinterlassen: Der Unternehmer Curt Engelhorn starb mit 90 Jahren"

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, October 28, 2016)

"US-Wahl 2016: Hillary Clinton und Donald Trump und ihre Familien - Fluch oder Segen?"

Comments by Martin Thunert

(web.de Magazine, November 4, 2016)

"Obama wird uns noch fehlen"

Interview with Tobias Endler

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, November 5, 2016)

"'You're fired': Die Angst vor dem Politik-Novizen"

Interview with Manfred Berg

(3sat "nano", November 8, 2016)

"Das größte Problem ist ein soziales"

Interview with Detlef Junker

(SWR2, November 9, 2016)

"Trump und die Folgen"

Interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR2 November 9, 2016)

"Die Republikaner haben ihr eigenes Grab gegraben"

Interview with Detlef Junker

(*Aargauer Zeitung*, November 10, 2016)

"Trump: Der größte Alligator im Sumpf"

by Tobias Endler

(*Carta*, November 10, 2016)

"Die USA sind tief gespalten"

Radio Interview with Martin Thunert

(radio1.ch "Kompakt", November 10, 2016)

"Sicherheitsrisiko Trump? Wie ein Mann die Weltarchitektur verändern könnte"

Interview with Martin Thunert

(*Rhein-Zeitung*, November 11, 2016)

"Das Thema Einwanderung war die Geheimwaffe Trumps"

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Deutschlandfunk, November 13, 2016)



HCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Tobias Endler, Till Karmann,
Martin Thunert, Simon Wendt (Hrsg.)

Zeitenwende 9/11? Eine transatlantische Bilanz

Die Terrorangriffe vom 11. September reißen die USA aus ihrem scheinbaren Zustand der Unverwundbarkeit. Fünfzehn Jahre später zieht *Zeitenwende 9/11? Bilanz*: Stehen die Anschläge von 2001 wirklich für eine radikale Abkehr von allem, was bis dato galt, oder sind sie als Katalysator anzusehen, der Entwicklungen entscheidend verdichtet und beschleunigt hat? Die Auseinandersetzung um eine effektive Terror-Bekämpfung und die richtigen Lehren aus der Katastrophe reißt auf beiden Seiten des Atlantiks bis heute nicht ab und gewinnt vielmehr durch die jüngsten Ereignisse in Paris noch einmal an Brisanz.

Zeitenwende 9/11? bietet Hintergrundwissen und fundierte Erklärungsansätze aus der Geschichts-, Politik-, Religions- und Kommunikationswissenschaft, aber auch von Spitzenpolitikern wie Frank-Walter Steinmeier und Peter Struck.

Dr. Tobias Endler,
Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Research Associate American Studies, Universität Heidelberg
Till Karmann,
Doktorand am Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS), University of Cambridge
Dr. habil. Martin Thunert,
Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Senior Lecturer Political Science, Universität Heidelberg
Dr. Simon Wendt,
Junior Professor für American Studies, Goethe Universität Frankfurt/M.

[transcript]



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E-Book (PDF), 26,99 €
04/2016, 322 Seiten,
ISBN 978-3-8394-3492-5

Maria Höhn / Martin Klimke

Ein Hauch von Freiheit?

Afroamerikanische Soldaten, die US-Bürgerrechtsbewegung und Deutschland

Die Geschichte der in Deutschland stationierten, afroamerikanischen Soldaten ist bislang wenig beachtet worden. Maria Höhn und Martin Klimke zeichnen nach, wie sich das Land im Laufe des 20. Jahrhunderts als wichtiger Bezugspunkt im afroamerikanischen Kampf um die Gleichberechtigung und zur Beendigung der Segregation in den USA herausbildete. Von den beiden Weltkriegen und der Besatzungszeit bis in die späten 1970er Jahre schildern sie die Proteste in den US-Militärbasen und Garnisonsstädten in der Bundesrepublik, den Besuch von Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Berlin 1964, die Allianz der Studentenbewegung mit der Black-Power- und GI-Bewegung sowie die Angela-Davis-Solidaritätskampagnen in Ost- und Westdeutschland.

Maria Höhn ist Professorin für Geschichtswissenschaft am Vassar College, Poughkeepsie (USA), und Inhaberin des Marion Musser Lloyd '32 Lehrstuhls für Geschichte und Internationale Beziehungen.

Martin Klimke ist Professor für Geschichtswissenschaft und Associate Dean of Humanities an der New York University Abu Dhabi (USA).

Schlagworte: Afroamerikaner, Deutschland, Bürgerrechtsbewegung, Black Power, GIs, Martin Luther King, Angela Davis, W.E.B. Du Bois, Kulturgeschichte, Rassismus, Amerika, Amerikanische Geschichte, Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts, Sozialgeschichte, Deutsche Geschichte, Geschichtswissenschaft

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COLD WAR
OF THE 1980s

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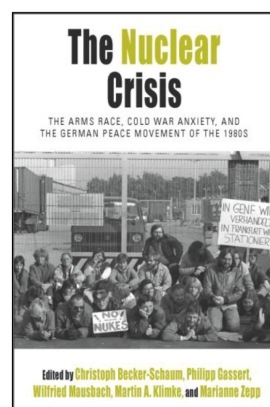
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In 1983, more than one million Germans joined together to protest NATO's deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe. International media overflowed with images of marches, rallies, and human chains as protesters blockaded depots and agitated for disarmament. Though they failed to halt the deployment, the episode was a decisive one for German society, revealing deep divisions in the nation's political culture while continuing to mobilize activists. This volume provides a comprehensive reference work on the "Euromissiles" crisis as experienced by its various protagonists, analyzing NATO's diplomatic and military maneuvering and tracing the political, cultural, and moral discourses that surrounded the missiles' deployment in East and West Germany.

Christoph Becker-Schaum is the Director of the Green Memory Archive at the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Berlin. **Philipp Gassert** is a Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Mannheim. **Martin Klimke** is Associate Dean of Humanities and Associate Professor of History at New York University Abu Dhabi. **Wilfried Mausbach** is the Executive Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) at Heidelberg University. **Marianne Zepp** is Program Director for Contemporary History at the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Berlin.

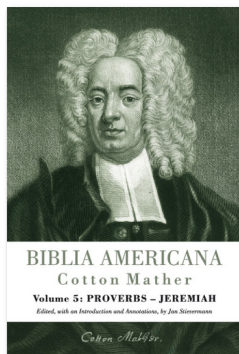


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[Biblia Americana. Der älteste amerikanische Bibelkommentar. Band 5: Buch der Sprüche – Jeremia.]



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This volume of the *Biblia Americana* contains Cotton Mather's annotations on the books of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Canticles, Jeremiah, and Isaiah. A mixture of historical-textual criticism and pious explications, the commentaries are a treasure-trove for scholars interested in the development of Reformed theology and biblical interpretation during a decisive period of intellectual change in the early modern Atlantic world. Mather, an apologetically oriented, pastoral yet deeply learned exegete, confronts the early Enlightenment challenges to the Bible's authority. He engages with issues of translation and the difficult questions about authorship, provenance, and genre being asked in his day, especially about the three books traditionally ascribed to King Solomon. Who wrote Proverbs and Ecclesiastes? How can the worldly wisdom of these books be reconciled with the Christian gospel? Is Canticles only a royal wedding song celebrating human love? In turn, the annotations on Isaiah and Jeremiah are crucially concerned with the relevance and evidential value of the Hebrew prophets for the claims of Christian theology. If seen in their original contexts, in what ways can the oracles of Isaiah and Jeremiah be understood to speak of Christ, the gospel and the second coming? The volume shows the struggle of exegetes in Mather's generation to adjust traditional interpretations of the Old Testament to a growing awareness of the Scriptures' historicity. The annotations shift between detailed attention to this historical dimension of the texts and typological and allegorical readings. Moreover, many of the entries reveal a new "Baconian" concern with demonstrating the factual realism of the scriptural narratives by recourse to empirical evidence and the natural sciences.

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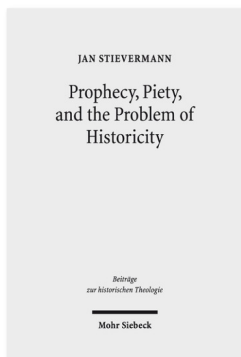
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Prophecy, Piety, and the Problem of Historicity

Interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures in Cotton Mather's 'Biblia Americana'

[Prophetie, Frömmigkeit und das Problem der Historizität. Deutungen der Hebräischen Bibel in Cotton Mathers *Biblia Americana* .]



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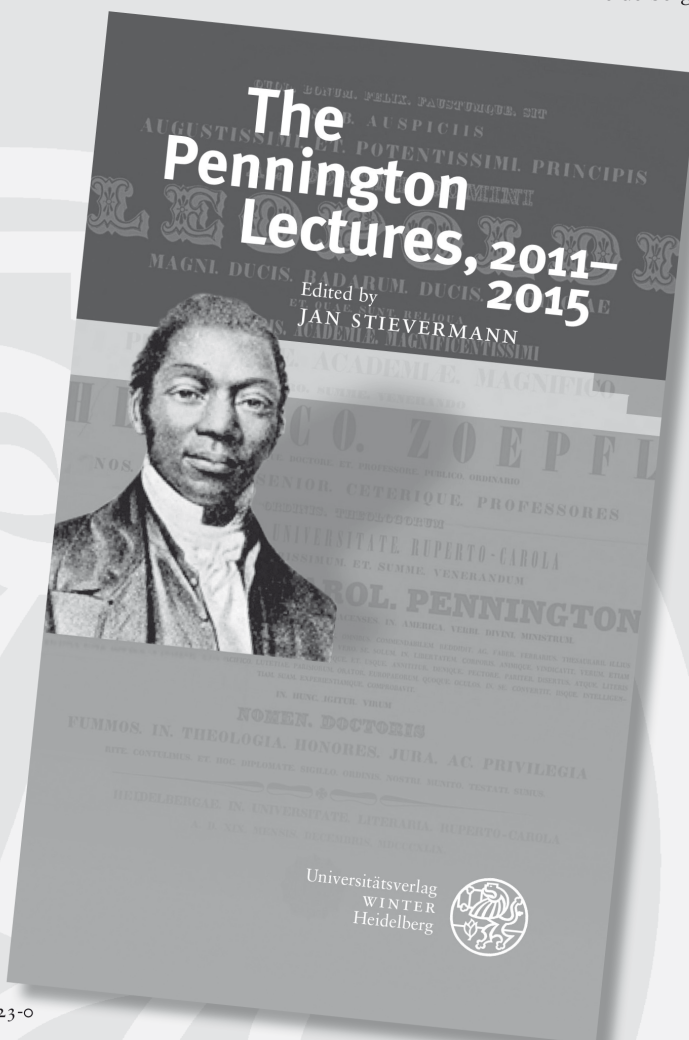
Jan Stievermann's pioneering study of Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana* examines this Puritan scholar's engagement with the Hebrew Bible as Old Testament. The author focuses specifically on Mather's struggle to uphold or modify traditional typological and allegorical readings in the face of a growing awareness of the historicity of Scriptures. Other key issues include Mather's interventions in the contemporary debates over the legitimacy of Christian interpretations of the prophets, as well as over the authorship, provenance, genre, and spiritual import of texts such as Ecclesiastes and Canticles. Stievermann's book yields fascinating insights into an underappreciated phase of exegesis that was at once traditionalist and innovative, apologetically oriented, pious, and open to new modes of historical-textual criticism. Moreover, it shows how Mather's biblical exegesis fits into the broader development of Puritan theology and identity.

Jan Stievermann: Born 1975; 2005 PhD in American Studies from the University of Tübingen; since 2011 Professor for the History of Christianity in the USA at the Ruprechts-Karls-University Heidelberg.

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The Pennington Lectures, 2011-2015

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This volume contains the speech given by Manisha Sinha at the inauguration of the Pennington Award in 2011 as well as the public lectures by the first four winners of the Award (2012-2015): Albert J. Raboteau, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Laurie Maffly-Kipp, and William L. Andrews. The Award commemorates the life and legacy of James William Charles Pennington (1807-1870), a pioneering abolitionist and influential African-American minister and writer during the antebellum period, who was given an honorary doctorate by Heidelberg University in 1849. The Award is bestowed on scholars who have done distinguished work on topics important to Pennington including: the history of slavery and emancipation; African-American history, religion, culture, and literature; black theology; education; international peace and human rights; and intercultural understanding.

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