



# Heidelberg Center for American Studies

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

### SPECIAL FEATURE

Manfred Berg:

"He Never Wanted War.

Woodrow Wilson and America's Entry into World War I"



Ruprecht-Karls-Universität  
Heidelberg, est. 1386



**ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**

# IMPRINT

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## RECTOR'S WELCOME

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

Dear Reader,

In 2017, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) entered a new phase of its development. In May, Welf Werner, a Professor of International Economics at Jacobs University Bremen, accepted an offer to succeed Professor Detlef Junker as director of the HCA, effective February 1, 2018. Professor Werner is a distinguished economist whose research focuses on both U.S. foreign and domestic policies. His expertise will enrich the HCA's research agenda and add a new field to its interdisciplinary profile. As director he will carry on the successful efforts of Detlef Junker to strengthen the HCA as a public private partnership and an internationally recognized institution for the study of the United States. The rectorate will support his efforts and wishes him good luck.

Although Detlef Junker will retire as the HCA director in early 2018, he will continue to serve the HCA as a member of its board of trustees. Since 2003 Professor Junker has worked tirelessly to build and expand the HCA. Without his initiative and creativity the Center could never have become the unique place which scholars, students, and visitors from all over the world cherish as an academic home. We are grateful that we will be able to rely on his advice and experience in the future.

The year 2017 also saw the kick-off of the HCA's new interdisciplinary research training group (Graduiertenkolleg) on "Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History, and Politics" (GKAT) funded by the German Research Association. GKAT combines a topic of great interest for scholars and the general public with the comprehensive concept of graduate training our university has developed in recent years. The rectorate welcomes the young GKAT into the ranks of the Ruperto Carola.

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 Heidelberg University



## **PREFACE**

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

Dear Friends, Benefactors, Students, and Colleagues,

This annual report for 2016-2017 is the fourteenth and last summary of our activities that I will present as the director and founding father of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. On February 1, 2018, Welf Werner, Professor of International Economics in the Department of Business and Economics at Jacobs University in Bremen, will take over as my successor and simultaneously serve as a Professor of American Studies. Having been appointed chairman of the board of trustees by the rector of Heidelberg University, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Bernhard Eitel, and the board of directors of the HCA, from this point on, I will draw on my accumulated experience and the wisdom of my age in order to help guide our institute as we move forward.

Studying this fourteenth annual report, which is also available on our website, I once again realized what an amazing development the HCA has undergone in just a decade and a half. It is a success story that I would not even have dared to dream of at the beginning of this endeavor. For the fact that the HCA is now one of Europe's leading centers for American Studies, I have to thank the drive and enthusiasm of scholars, students, and administrators throughout the years as well as a Goddess that was on our side when we began setting up our institution: Fortuna.

Once again, this annual report is a testament to the vibrant activities of our multidisciplinary and international center in all its dimensions: research, education, forum and outreach, as well as transatlantic networking.

But especially the founding structure of the HCA has proven its worth. We are a central academic institution of the university and as such linked to its faculties. On the other hand, we do not owe our existence exclusively to state funding, but also to the resolute support of generous private donors. In this sense, the HCA was created as a public private partnership, and only in this way can the scope of its activities be maintained. Therefore, and once more, this annual report is also both testament to the salutary results of individual philanthropy and tantamount to a big thank you to our benefactors.

What has changed dramatically since 2004 is the position of the United States in world politics. Already in October 2005, our commencement speaker, David Calleo, a renowned scholar of transatlantic relations, shrewdly warned of a possible crisis in the transatlantic West in his discussion of "Unipolar Folly? Dysfunctional Divisions across the Atlantic." He pointed to a double hazard represented, on the one hand, by a fragmented Europe, whose rivaling nation states would not be capable of meeting the strategic and economic challenges of the future, and, on the other hand, by the U.S. as a hyperactive global power that might lose its sense of balance and proportion: "Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the American political imagination has been bemused by a 'unipolar' vision of world order – a global system of interrelated states with one clearly dominant 'superpower.' America's power is seen as radically superior to that of any other country, or combination of countries, and fated to remain so for the foreseeable future." Furthermore, Calleo cautioned that this hubris of a unipolar world order might come face to face with a divided Europe relegated to historical meaninglessness: "If we [the U.S. and Europe] fail, as we failed in the Iraq war, we shall end up defeating each other. Instead of a united and balanced West, there will be an overextended and hysterical America and a fragmented and embittered Europe."

From the point of view of a passionate proponent of the transatlantic relationship, which I have been since the beginning of the 1950s, this turn in world history is exceptionally dangerous. As a result, the HCA will have to continue to fulfill its academic and cultural mission – namely, to describe, explain, and understand the United States in all its dimensions – in a completely new situation. I am positive that this well-established institution will be up to the task of meeting this challenge.

And so, I bid you all farewell as the founding director of the HCA, looking back on an amazing fifteen years and looking forward to its future achievements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Detlef Junker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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







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 Engelhorn, 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 Dr. Thomas Peuntner of 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 page 26).

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; in 2017, the Kentner Prize went to Annika Elena Poppe of the Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, PRIF), who received her doctorate from the University of Frankfurt (see page 90).

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, Professor John Witte Jr. from Emory University in 2016, and Professor Harry Stout from Yale University in 2017.

During the academic year 2016-17, seven 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 2017 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.

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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 nine 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, Heidemarie Engelhorn, Rolf Kentner (BW-Bank, Mannheim), Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger (MLP Group, Heidelberg), 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 ODDO BHF Group. 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

Kurt Bock is Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE, a position he assumed in May 2011. Bock is currently responsible for Legal, Taxes, Insurance & Intellectual Property, Corporate Development, Corporate Communications & Government Relations, Senior Executive Human Resources, Investor Relations and Compliance. From 2003 until 2011, he was Chief Financial Officer of BASF SE, and during that time, from 2007, he was also Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BASF Corporation, based in the United States. In 1985, Bock started his career with BASF in finance. From 1992 until 1998, he held several management positions in Germany and Brazil for the automotive supplier and electronics company Robert Bosch. Bock returned to BASF in 1998. Kurt Bock was born in Rahden, Eastern Westphalia, Germany, in 1958. From 1977 he studied Business Administration at the Universities of Münster and Cologne as well as at Pennsylvania State University, United States, and received his diploma in 1982 from the University of Cologne. In 1985, he earned his doctorate (PhD) in Economics from the University of Bonn. Kurt Bock is married and has three children.

(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. DR. H.C. 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* for physical geography 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, particu-

larly 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.



## HEIDEMARIE ENGELHORN

Heidemarie Engelhorn was born in Munich and lived there during her youth. In 1995 she was married to Curt Engelhorn. She has since been instrumental in selecting and shaping many philanthropic projects of her late husband, especially the extraordinary support of sustainable and far-sighted projects at Heidelberg University. They have included a chair in American history, major donations to the Schurman Library for American History, the generous dedication of the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais, including the new annex, to the HCA as well as an annual donation of 400,000 EUR to the center. In 2008, Heidemarie Engelhorn was named Honorary Senator of the university for her unfailing commitment to and support for the promotion of American Studies in Heidelberg. 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."



## JOACHIM HÄGER

Joachim Häger is Member of the Management Board of ODDO BHF Group and member of the executive board of the French Bank 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 was 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, he 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 a 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 HCA's founding director 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 1967. 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. After his official retirement in 2004 he dedicated himself to founding and building the HCA and was instrumental in its institutional and academic success. 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. Rolf Kentner resigned as the chairman of the Schurman Foundation in the fall of 2017 and was appointed honorary chairman.



## 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 agricultural 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-Nuremberg. 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 *Geschichte der USA* (2013). His biography of Woodrow Wilson appeared 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 Anticomunism: The NAACP during the McCarthy Era." In 2016 he won the Distinguished Historian Award of the Society of Historians of the Gilded Age and the Progressive 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 of Heidelberg University.



## 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. In 2017, she edited two volumes with national and international contributions on urban inequalities (Palgrave MacMillan) and the cultural geography of the U.S. (Springer Spektrum). Professor Gerhard was a visiting professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from March to July 2015 and a Marsilius Fellow at Heidelberg University (2016-17). Since 2015, she is the director of the real world lab "Urban Office Heidelberg." 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. DR. DRES. H.C. MICHAEL WELKER

Michael Welker, Senior Professor of Systematic Theology at Heidelberg University 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 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 REFORMATATA: 48 Reformation Cities and Their Reformers* (2016). Michael Welker was invited to give the Gifford Lectures in Edinburgh in 2019.

## FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Initiated by Professor Detlef Junker, in January of 2002, a group of Heidelberg professors and administrators set up an interdisciplinary venture 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 over 1,300 applications from almost 70 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. In 2015, Heidelberg University created a new professorship in American Studies to ensure the succession of the HCA's founding director. In the fall of 2017, Professor Welf Werner received a dual appointment at the HCA and the Department of Economics. He will become the new director of the HCA as of February 1, 2018.

The earlier development of two "bridge professors" 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. The program nevertheless became an instant success; in the fall of 2017, a total of 86 B.A. students are enrolled at the HCA; to date, more than 1,200 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 hosted a post-doc in the academic year 2016-17.

In the fall of 2016, the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) approved a grant application worth EUR 3.5 million for a new research training group based at the HCA. The projects of the group focus on "Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History and Politics." It rests on the shoulders of ten researchers from different disciplines including geography, history, linguistics, literature, political science, and cultural and religious studies. In addition, associate scholars from Germany, Europe, and North America are to be involved in the new research training group. The emergence and transformation of authority in state and civil

The Lounge of the Curt und  
Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais.





The HCA's Annex.

society, social institutions, urban spaces, culture and religion, are at the center of the group's research program, as well as the shifting trust relationships inside the United States and in the transatlantic world. Professor Manfred Berg (Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History) serves as spokesperson of the research training group, Professor Günter Leypoldt (Department of English) is the deputy spokesperson. The first four-and-a-half-year funding period began in October 2017 and involves ten doctoral students, four research students, and one postdoctoral scholar. The research training group will make important scholarly contributions to this field and at the same time offer an innovative qualification program that will help young scholars to launch their careers inside and outside academia. The Grand Opening of GKAT took place in November 2017 (see p. 93).

## 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.

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 2016-2017



### **DR. RIDVAN ASKIN** VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW

Ridvan Askin is Postdoctoral Teaching and Research Fellow in American and General Literatures at the University of Basel, Switzerland. He is the author of *Narrative and Becoming* (2016) and co-editor of *Aesthetics in the 21st Century* (2014), a special issue of *Speculations, and Literature, Ethics, Morality: American Studies Perspectives* (2015). Funded by the University of Basel's Research Fund Junior Researchers, he conducted research on his second book, tentatively titled *Transcendental Poetics and the Futures of American Romanticism*, during his stay at the HCA in the academic year 2016-2017. The book project traces the romantic project from its inception in the late eighteenth and early to mid-nineteenth centuries through the twentieth century to today.



### **IDA BAHMANN, B.A.** STUDENT ASSISTANT EVENT MANAGEMENT/PR

Ida Bahmann, a HCA graduate, spent the academic year 2015-16 as an Erasmus student at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. In August 2016, she started working as a student assistant at the HCA. She supports event management and public relations and writes the retrospect reports for the HCA Website. Ida Bahmann is currently pursuing an M.A. in English Literature at Heidelberg University.

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

(see p. 19)



## GREGG CULVER, PH.D. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Gregg Culver received his Ph.D. in human geography from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. His regional focus lies in the geography of the United States with a special interest in the cities of the U.S. rust belt, and his thematic focus primarily involves the politics of urban transport, particularly regarding the role of discourses, ideologies, and normative values in shaping political struggles over mobility and urban space. His current research project "Mobility and the Making of the Creative City: Neoliberal Urban Restructuring and its Impacts on Mobility, Space and Social (In)Justice" is being funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). Aside from investigating how neoliberal creative city strategies impact the production and politics of local mobility regimes, a central concern of his current research deals with investigating the material and biophysical dimensions of social injustice in urban mobility. Some of his recent publications have appeared in *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*, *Geographische Rundschau*, *Journal of Transport Geography*, and *Mobilities*. At the HCA, he has taught various courses on the geography of North America and advises students with interests in human geography.



## 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). Tobias Endler regularly comments on U.S. politics and transatlantic relations in the national media, and he writes for the online blog Carta. 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.



**LUISA GAA, M.A.**  
RESEARCH/CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Luisa Gaa came to the HCA as a student of the first BAS class in 2010. She has been a research assistant at the HCA since 2011, served as a co-coordinator of the international conference "Religion and the Marketplace," and taught key skills in the BAS. Luisa Gaa received her B.A. in 2014 and her M.A. in global history in 2017.

**PROF. DR. ULRIKE GERHARD**  
PROFESSOR OF NORTH AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY

(see p. 20)



**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 establish-

ment 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.

## **PROF. DR. SEBASTIAN HARNISCH** PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

(see p. 21)



## **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.



## **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. 16)





**LAYLA KOCH**  
**STUDENT ASSISTANT RESEARCH**

Layla Koch has been a BAS student at the HCA since October 2016. In July 2017 she started to support HCA research as a student assistant.



**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. DR. GÜNTER LEYPOLDT**  
**PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN LITERATURE**

(see p. 22)



**JULIA LICHTENSTEIN, M.A.**  
**MAS COORDINATOR**

Julia Lichtenstein (née Merkel) studied American Studies, law, and political science at Frankfurt University where she received her M.A. She joined the HCA in 2009 as a Ph.D. student with her thesis on contemporary Southern fiction, titled "Persistent Tropology: Creating the Ultra-South in Postsouthern Times." She has taught American literature at Frankfurt University and Heidelberg University and has been teaching Methodology in the BAS program at the HCA since 2010. Since June 2017 she serves as coordinator for the MAS program.



## 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.



## MARIA MALT

### STUDENT ASSISTENT

Maria Malt has been a law student at Heidelberg University since the winter term 2014-15. She came to the HCA from the university's Mathematikum in January 2017. She has interned at a law firm and the district court in Heilbronn as well as the crime museum in Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Maria Malt supports the HCA main office.



## DR. WILFRIED MAUSBACH

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wilfried Mausbach received his Ph.D. from the University of Cologne where he studied history, political science, and philosophy. From 1995 to 2000 Dr. Mausbach was a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. Subsequently, he taught both in Heidelberg and at the Free University's John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies in Berlin. Dr. Mausbach has also been a Volkswagen Foundation fellow, a Marshall-Monnet Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a visiting fellow at Carleton University in Ottawa. His dissertation on American economic postwar policy toward Germany has been published as *Zwischen Morgenthau und Marshall: Das wirtschaftspolitische Deutschlandkonzept der USA 1944-1947* (1996). Next to authoring numerous articles, he has co-edited seven books, including *The Nuclear Crisis: The Arms Race, Cold War Anxiety, and the German Peace Movement of the 1980s* (2016); *The American Presidency* (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). He is also an adjunct editor of the two-volume handbook *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War*,

1945-1990 (2004). Since 2005, Dr. Mausbach has been executive director of the HCA.



## **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. Gino Meier received his Ph.D. in October 2017.



## **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 also taught key skills in the BAS. Johanna Müller 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. She is currently a DAAD exchange student at Yale 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 Stievermann'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

Franziska Pentz has been a student in the HCA's BAS program since fall 2014. She received her B.A. in American Studies in September 2017 and is now pursuing a Master of Arts in Modern Literature, Media, and Culture at Mannheim University. Franziska Pentz became part of the HCA Spring Academy team in August 2016 and is now the Spring Academy Coordinator.



## **KATIA ROSTETTER, M.A.**

### MAS/SPRING ACADEMY

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) and the co-editor of *Social Justice Feminists in the United States and Germany: A Dialogue in Documents, 1885-1933* (1997), of *Politische Netzwerkerinnen: Internationale Zusammenarbeit von Frauen 1830-1960* (2007), and of *Forging Bonds Across Borders: Transatlantic Collaborations for Women's Rights and Social Justice in the Long Nineteenth Century* (2017). 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 Forum events, including the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, and is responsible for public relations.



## **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 fall 2016 and spent the academic year 2016-17 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 Simsek returned to Heidelberg and joined the Ph.D. program of the HCA. Erhan Simsek completed his dissertation "Changing Images of Business and Businessmen in American Fiction and Social Thought, 1880-1929" in 2017.



## **LARA SMAIL** SPRING ACADEMY

Lara Smail has been studying at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies since the fall of 2015 as a student in the BAS program. In August 2017 she started working at the HCA as a student assistant, supporting the Spring Academy Team.



## **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-WürttembergSeminar. 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 pro-



gram "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. Anne Sommer is currently on temporary leave.



**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 (Schoeningh, 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* (Oxford UP, 2014). His most recent publications are the edition of vol. 5 of Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana* (Mohr Siebeck, 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* (Mohr Siebeck, 2016). For the *Biblia*-project as a whole (10 vols.) he also serves as the executive editor.



**PROF. HARRY S. STOUT, PH.D.**  
JAMES W.C. PENNINGTON DISTINGUISHED  
FELLOW 2017

Harry S. Stout is the Jonathan Edwards Professor of American Christianity at Yale Divinity School and the sixth recipient of the James W.C. Pennington Distinguished Fellowship. He is the author of several books, including *Upon the Altar of the Nation: A Moral History of the Civil War* (2006); *The Divine Dramatist: George Whitefield and the Rise of Modern Evangelicalism* (1991); *The New England Soul: Preaching and Religious Culture in Colonial New England* (1986) and co-edited several volumes, among them *Jonathan Edwards at 300: Essays on the Tercentenary of His Birth* (2005); *Religion and the American Civil War* (1998) *Readings in American Religious History* (1997); *Dictionary of Christianity in America* (1990) and is currently coediting *Religion in American Life*, a seventeen-volume study of the impact of religion on American history for adolescent readers and public schools. Professor Stout is

general editor of both *The Works of Jonathan Edwards* and the "Religion in America" series for Oxford University Press. He has written articles for the *Journal of Social History*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Journal of American History*, *Theological Education*, *Computers and the Humanities*, and *Christian Scholar's Review*. He is a contributor to the *Concise Encyclopedia of Preaching*, *Biographical Dictionary of Christian Missions*, and the *Reader's Encyclopedia of the American West*. In 2003 Professor Stout was awarded the Robert Cherry Award for Great Teaching. In 2011-12 Professor Stout held the Rogers Distinguished Senior Fellowship at the Huntington Library. He currently serves as general editor and director of the Jonathan Edwards Center and is working with Tony Blair in the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, an organization designed to promote interfaith dialogue around the world.



## **JAMES STRASBURG**

### **VISITING SCHOLAR**

James Strasburg is a doctoral candidate at the University of Notre Dame's Department of History. During the 2017 Summer Semester, he served as a Visiting Scholar at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies as part of the Heidelberg-Notre Dame exchange program. In the 2017-2018 academic year, he will continue on at the HCA as a Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter, working with Jan Stievermann. His academic work concentrates on twentieth century American history, with specializations in American religion and foreign policy. His dissertation, "God's Marshall Plan: American Protestantism and the Democratization of Germany," explores the role of American Protestant groups in the reconstruction of German religious life and civil society after World War II. His work has been supported by the Fulbright Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Nanovic Center for European Studies, and the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.



## **BARRY SWITAY**

### **STUDENT ASSISTANT**

Barry Switay is originally from Atlanta, Georgia. He studied philosophy and English literature at Georgia State University in Atlanta and came to Heidelberg as an exchange student during his senior year 2016-17. At the HCA, he supported Dr. Tobias Endler and completed his Bachelor degree. He now teaches English in Heidelberg.



## **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.



## **MARTINA WAGNER**

### **RESEARCH/CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

Martina Wagner has been a student in the HCA's BAS program since fall 2015 and started working at the HCA as a student assistant in 2017. She is primarily working with the HCA's Founding Director, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker, supporting research and publications.



## **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. DAVID WILSON, PH.D.** **MAX KADE VISITING PROFESSOR**

David Wilson held a Max Kade Visiting Professorship at the Geography Department and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies in the winter term 2016-17. He is professor for human geography at the Department of Geography & Geographic Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He also holds the Chair of Cities and Metropolitan Areas and is affiliate professor for African American Studies and Urban & Regional Planning as well as at the Unit for Criticism and Interpretative Theory. David Wilson received his Ph.D. from the Department of Geography at Rutgers University and holds a master's degree from Temple University. His research focuses on cities of the rust belt and their political and economic developments as well as on cities and urbanization in the United States and the Global West. His publications include *Cities and Race: America's New Black Ghettos* (2007), *The Politics of the Urban Sustainability Concept* (2015), and *Urban Inequalities Across the Globe* (2015, Routledge). He is currently completing a book on Chicago's new gentrification frontier and its invasion of blues clubs on the city's South Side. Other current projects analyze urban growth regimes and the racializing of contemporary issues such as crime. David Wilson has sat on the editorial boards of *Urban Geography*, *Social and Cultural Geography*, *Professional Geographer*, *Acme: the Radical Geographical Journal*, *International Journal of Spaces and Flows*, and *Syracuse University Press Series*.

## ADJUNCT FACULTY

Millie Baker, M.A.  
"Presentation and Media Skills"

Henning Jansen, B.A.  
Teaching Assistant History

Steven Less, J.D.  
Lecturer Law

Everett Messamore, M.A.  
Teaching Assistant History

Natalie Rauscher, M.A.  
Teaching Assistant Political Science

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

Tim Sommer, M.A.  
Teaching Assistant Literature

Christiane Vinck, B.A.  
Teaching Assistant Geography

Cosima Werner, M.A.  
Teaching Assistant Geography

Klaus Wiedmann, B.A.  
Teaching Assistant Literature

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

Dr. Mischa Honeck  
Research Fellow, German Historical Institute,  
Washington. D.C.

Professor Jeannette Jones, Ph.D.  
Professor of History, University of Nebraska-  
Lincoln

Prof. Dr. Martin Klimke  
Professor of History, New York University Abu  
Dhabi

Dr. Felix Philipp Lutz  
Minda de Gunzburg Center for European  
Studies, Harvard University

Professor Charles Postel, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of History, San Francisco  
State University

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

## **HCA INTERNS 2016-2017**

In 2016-17, the HCA successfully continued its internship program, which began in the fall of 2005. We were very fortunate to host excellent interns during the year who provided valuable support for our work. We would like to thank Kathryn E. DeWeese, an exchange student from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, who supported the Spring Academy team and the event management before and during the HCA Commencement.

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](mailto: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 Alexander von Humboldt Foundation; the Enjoy Jazz Festival, Heidelberg; the Forum für internationale Sicherheit (FiS), Heidelberg; Andreas Henn Kunsthandel Galerie Stuttgart; Kehrer Verlag Heidelberg Berlin; The Museum im Prediger, Schwäbisch-Gmünd; 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 Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin; Bürger für Heidelberg; the German American Institute Heidelberg (DAI); the Carl-Schurz-Haus/German American Institute Freiburg; the d.a.i. Tübingen; 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 Israel Institute, Washington, D.C.; 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 54) from its inception and a three year Ph.D. in American Studies program (see pages 68) starting in 2006, the HCA completed its educational portfolio by adding a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies (BAS) in October 2010.**

## **BACHELOR OF ARTS 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 history as well as to obtain an additional jurisprudential certificate makes this program unique even beyond Germany and Europe.

The BAS 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 religious history, 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](http://www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/ba/index.html).

## THE BAS CLASS OF 2020

In 2017, the program admitted 20 students from all over Germany. Some 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 2020 (front to back and left to right):

Julia Nohle, Hannah Drees, Ann Sophie Sadeghian, Lilly Schrank, Teresa Steinhoff, Markus Urban, Leo Kempe, Melville Wolf-Heger, Stefan Sali, Christina Pabst, Virginia Zentgraf, Lilian Reinhard, Valentin Ruschmeyer, Caroline Walter, Hardy Jürgens, Corinna Pfadt.

Not pictured: Senayt Ghidey, Jessica Bless.

## BAS STUDENT TRIP TO BERLIN 2017

After a problem-ridden start involving a bankrupt public transport corporation, the HCA students and teachers Iris Hahn-Santoro and Martin Thunert finally arrived in Berlin by car in the afternoon of Monday, July 10. Since the hotel was centrally located near Alexanderplatz, it only took the students about twenty minutes to get to Berlin Main Station, where they left for a not-very-academic, but certainly relaxing-boat tour on the river Spree. This was followed by a short visit of a local Biergarten. Later, the students were free to spend some time in the city, an option that



BAS Students in Berlin.

was used by some, but not everyone, given the long journey to the capital.

Another reason for the low attendance might have been the subsequent trip to the Kennedy-Museum on Tuesday, for which students had to leave the hotel fairly early in the morning. That week, the Kennedy-Museum did not only feature exhibits related to the famous president, but also an art exhibition on the Civil Rights Movement. Afterwards, the students left for a tour through the German Bundestag and also spent some time on the building's rooftop to take in the view of the German capital. At around 6 o'clock in the evening, the students then proceeded to attend a reading of Canadian author Omar El Akkad's book *American War*, which was held in the Canadian embassy. After some drinks and delicious appetizers, the students were once more free to explore the city on their own.

The next day, the students met in front of the American embassy and were greeted by thick rain clouds as well as HCA intern Marisa Oschmann, who familiarized the students with the strict

security measures. After a short tour, U.S.-diplomat Scott Roberts gave a small presentation and was open to answering the students' most burning questions. Some of the students then went on to a performance of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at the Monbijou Theatre, others used the time to get a taste of the famous Berlin nightlife.

On Thursday, students once more had to get up early to take a commuter train to the American Academy at Wannsee. Fortunately, the Academy did not disappoint, and its staff received the HCA students with open arms, Oreos and hot coffee. There, HCA students were introduced to current projects supported by the Academy. In the afternoon, students were ready for some history in the Allied Museum, after which they headed for the former airport Tempelhof, which sadly did not offer any tours on that day. In the evening, the students got together for a bite at an American diner.

The excursion program's final point was another visit of the Canadian embassy, this time with a presentation about economics and scholarships in Canada. After this conclusion to a wonderful excursion, the group was headed home again, and everybody arrived safely on Friday evening. Thanks to the HCA for making this possible!

## EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAS STUDENTS

Like the year before, a sizable portion of our B.A. 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 B.A. students who went to the United States spent their year at the Southern Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon; Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon; University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Three students opted for an exchange via the ERASMUS program and went to study at the Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic and Volda University in Norway, respectively.

## 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 thirty students to the MAS annually. To date, twelve graduating classes totaling 186 students have earned the master's degree. These 186 students came from 47 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 2016-17 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 2017, 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, 2018. On November 10 and 17, the M.A. thesis workshop took place where 12 M.A. students presented their theses outlines. The graduation ceremony will take place on April 27, 2018.

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](http://www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/ma/index_en.html).

## 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 entitled "From Empire to Republic: The Role of American Missionaries in U.S.-Ottoman Empire Relations and Their Educational Legacy."

### **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 New York. At the HCA, he focused on history, political science, and law and wrote his M.A. thesis on "The U.S. Government's Effort to Curb Tax Evasion through the Implementation of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA): Its Legal and Political Implications."

### **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 "Painting the Savior Image of the United States: Perception versus Reality in Relation to 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 analyzed the topic: "Decline and Renewal in Flint, Michigan: From Industrial Park to Theme Park in the 1970s and 1980s."



### **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 wrote his M.A. thesis on "T.S. Eliot at Harvard: Unitarianism, Poetics, and the Philosophical Transformation."

### **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 and wrote his thesis on: "The U.S. Military and the Emergence of Hip-Hop in Heidelberg – How Hip-Hop Overran Germany after the 80s."

### **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 was entitled "Diasporic Identities in Korean-American Novels: Using Chang-Rae Lee's *A Gesture Life* and Don Lee's *Yellow* as Examples."

### **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. She wrote her M.A. thesis on "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 analyzed the "Representations of Radicalization: Masculinity and its Discontents in Don DeLillo's *Cosmopolis* (2003) and *Falling Man* (2007)." He graduated as the valedictorian of the MAS class of 2017.

### **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: Narratives of Survival in the Soviet Concentration Camps."



The MAS Class of 2017  
(l. to r.): Aljay Pascua, Jacqueline Theresa Purification, Vincent Wai Shing Ha, Louis Butcher, Jessica Hagen, Nahia Uribe, Gayong Kwon, Xingyan Liu. Not pictured: Hacer Bahar, Iulia Caizer, Zachary Holler, Frederick Janzen, Henry Prown, Tony Royle, Jonathan Schaefer, Nao Tomabechi.

### **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 wrote his M.A. Thesis on "#BlackLivesMatter: Where Protest and Popular Culture Collide."

### **Johnathan Schlaefel (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 "Land, Maps, and Ritual in the Kingdom of Hawai'i."

### **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 focused 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. She wrote her M.A. thesis on "American Cold War Rhetoric Critiqued: Invasion Narratives in 1950s Sci-Fi-Films."

## THE MAS CLASS OF 2018

### **Kelsey Becker (USA)**

Kelsey grew up in a small town in northern Illinois. She moved to Chicago to pursue a B.A. in Philosophy at DePaul University. She focused closely on twentieth-century French philosophy. Her research areas included phenomenology and ethics. After graduating in 2015, Kelsey spent some time traveling and working while applying to graduate school. Her goal is to earn a Ph.D. in political science, conduct research and teach.

### **Katie Blakey (New Zealand)**

Katie is originally from Oamaru, a rural town in the South Island of New Zealand. In 2015 she completed her B.A. (Hons) in history at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch.

### **Tamás Deák-Bárdos (Hungary)**

Tamás was born in Budapest, Hungary. He gained his M.A. degree in political science at Corvinus University of Budapest where he chose political theory as his field of specialization. He is interested in the Anglo-Saxon theories of liberalism and their contemporary critiques. During his studies, he was working at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in the research group on political realism. His long term aspiration is to pursue a Ph.D. and to become an academic.

### **Nina El Menschawi (Germany)**

Nina was born in Heidelberg. However, at the age of 3, her father's career required her family to leave Germany and move to Belgium. Ever since then, she has had the opportunity to live in 7 different countries around the world. This influenced her decision to pursue a B.A. in international relations and political science at the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.

### **Ilkin Huseynli (Azerbaijan)**

Ilkin was born in Baku. He received a B.A. in American Studies from Baku State University and a M.A. in political science from Central European University, Budapest.

### **Libin Li (China)**

Libin was born in Hubei, China. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Dalian University of Foreign Languages in 2010. After graduation, he was engaged in international trade for two years. In 2012, he started to work in Ghana as an administrator and HR officer. During the four years' business practices with local counterparts and companies, he became interested in the Western culture in how to work out the problems that result from cultural misunderstanding.

### **Hien-Le Pham (Vietnam)**

Le was born in Da Nang, a beautiful city in central Vietnam. She graduated from Foreign Trade University, Ho Chi Minh City Campus with a major in international economics. Le worked for HSBC Bank Vietnam for over one year after graduation and started to collaborate with some publishing companies as a freelance book translator. Before moving to Germany for her graduate study, she had been a fulltime corporate trainer at a U.S. software company for over three years.

**Lèa Pitschmann (France)**

Léa was born in Charpenton-Le-Pont, France, in 1994. After completing a 3-year long CPGE course in Versailles, she received a French master's degree in English from the Sorbonne University with a specialization in research and American Studies.

**Natascha Schiel (Germany)**

Natascha was born in Baden-Baden, Germany, and completed her B.A. in American Studies at the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg in spring 2016. She spent the academic year 2014-15 at Smith College in Massachusetts, where she earned a diploma in American Studies with the support of a scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (Jahresstipendium des DAAD). In addition, she has been studying German law at Heidelberg University since 2012.

**Sarah Shammaa (Syria)**

Sarah was born and raised in Aleppo, Syria. She received a B.A. in English and American Studies from Aleppo University. She was interested in learning languages as an access to new cultures. Therefore she learned Japanese and attained a certificate of completing seven levels from Japan Center for Academic Cooperation, Aleppo University. After graduation, she worked as an English Teacher for four years before the war in Syria. The terrible circumstances in her city forced her to leave her country for Germany.

**Sena Sipahioglu (Turkey)**

Sena received her B.A. in American culture and literature from Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey. She is very interested in her B.A. subject, which is why she wants to continue in Germany. Since her graduation, she has been teaching English in various language institutions.

**Supawadee Sriputorn (Thailand)**

Supawadee is from Thailand. She studied mass communications as her undergraduate degree and received her first master's in English. She has worked as a translator and a university lecturer in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Her academic interests include popular culture and media.

**Calum Andrew Thomson (United Kingdom)**

Calum was born and raised in Northumberland, United Kingdom. He studied for his Bachelor of Arts in European Studies at Maastricht University from 2013 to 2016. He spent the fifth semester of his degree studying abroad at Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich.

**Sirui Wang (China)**

Sirui was born in Sichuan, China in 1991. She majored in English at Sichuan Agricultural University and graduated with honors in 2014. After graduation, she was an English teacher in her hometown.

## Yanping Wei (China)

Yanping was born in 1993 in Hangzhou, a city in Southeast China. She earned her B.A. in English language and literature from Hangzhou Normal University. During her studies, she worked as a part time Chinese teacher to non-Chinese speakers. She spent her second year of university as an exchange student in Shanghai International Studies University. She is interested in American films and television series which reflect contemporary American society and values.

## THE MAS CLASS OF 2019

This year we welcome fifteen new students from eleven different countries: Laura Alcántara Duque (Mexico), Gülhan Arklan (Germany/Turkey), Cansu Aydin (Turkey), Erkam Calik (Turkey), Chau Pham Tran Bao (Vietnam), Holly Clayman (USA), Douglas Favero (USA), Alexandra Katkinová (Slovakia), Shasha Lin (China), Victoria Madsen (USA), Andjela Micanovic (Montenegro), Marco Morales Mendez (USA), Johs Rasmussen (Denmark), Andreea Rus (Romania), and Benedict Scantlebury (United Kingdom).

## HCA COMMENCEMENT 2017

On April 28, the HCA once more celebrated the commencement of the BAS, MAS and Ph.D. classes of 2017 in the lecture hall of the Old University. The ceremony opened with greetings by the rector of Heidelberg University, Professor Bernhard Eitel. He conveyed the best wishes of the Ruperto Carola to the newly-minted graduates and wished them luck for all they endeavored, acknowledging the university's motto "semper apertus" ("always open"). Professor Detlef Junker, the founding director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, then welcomed the gradu-

BAS graduates 2017:  
(l to r, front row)  
Karin Sledge, Franziska Linden,  
Leilani Trivisonno, Gesa Musiol,  
Hanna Konradt, Mona Beisel,  
Caroline Geser, Franziska Weis,  
Jennifer Majunke  
(l to r, 2nd row)  
Leonie Maier, Clarissa Ryan,  
Elena Volz, Simone Riegel,  
Isabella Mittelbach, Janette  
Yamanian, Melina Neis, Ida  
Bahmann, Alexander Marx.  
(l to r, 3rd row)  
Eric Marlow, Sandra Queißer,  
Cosima Schmidhammer, Michael  
Johnson, Hanna Thiele.



ates and their families as well as the friends of the HCA. He emphasized the interdisciplinary and intercultural aspects of the HCA programs and encouraged the graduates to put their expertise about the United States to good use.

Subsequently, Professor Junker introduced the commencement speaker, Heidi Crebo-Rediker, who is an adjunct senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the CEO of International Capital Strategies. She previously served as chief of international finance and economics for the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, advising then chairmen John Kerry, and as the State Department's first chief economist under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The 2017 commencement speech on "Multilateral Ties That Bind" started out with a look back at the 2016 U.S. presi-



Heidi Crebo-Rediker.

dential elections, which have raised questions about the future role of the United States in the world. Heidi Crebo-Rediker emphasized something HCA students have certainly experienced – as long as the ties that bind us are stronger than the forces that try to tear us apart, everything will be fine. The multilateral ties at the HCA bind students together and ties among countries work the same way: For common purposes and challenges, countries work together and communicate with each other, even though each has its own interests. Heidi Crebo-Rediker hopes that this will hold true for the current U.S. administration because problems such as climate change, energy security, migration, or economic crises can only be solved by international cooperation. Yet, multilateralism could be at a crossroads. While the U.S. has a multilateral tradition, the new administration seems openly opposed to it. However, Heidi Crebo-Rediker thinks that after a certain period, the U.S. will realize that by cooperating with other countries it can exercise more power than by acting on its own. If not, other countries could assume leadership roles and promote multilateralism. She illustrated this by pointing to the role of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, two institutions that depend on multilateralism. U.S. support for both institution has waned, and other countries seem to be ready to take on responsibility. China, for instance, has proposed the foundation of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. Overall, Heidi Crebo-Rediker thinks that the U.S. should embrace and maintain its tradition of multilateralism.

After the presentation of the diplomas and a fabulous rendition of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" by the Papermoon Orchestra, the valedictorian of the MAS Class of 2017, Aljay Pascua, shared some of his memories of the HCA. Following the ceremony, the graduates and their family and friends joined the other guests for a reception at the HCA, where they reminisced and made future plans. Congratulations to all 2017 graduates!

## VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH

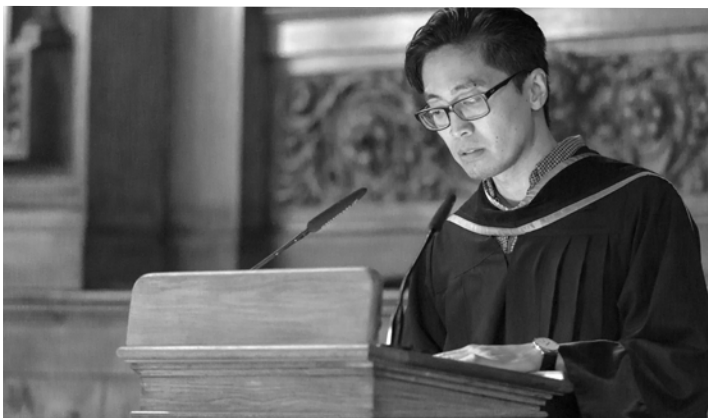
Good Evening. This is the first time ever that I'm giving a speech to such a large and diverse audience. And for it to be livestreamed as well, I'm so old school I didn't expect the audience would be even larger, beyond the grandeur of these halls through cyberspace, reaching many sites all over the world outside of Heidelberg. In preparing for this brief talk, I read through past speeches published in the HCA annual report. One thing that all the speeches I perused did not mention is how in the U.S., "graduation ceremony" is the more typical term than "commencement ceremony." I actually found myself translating "commencement" as "graduation" when I was inviting friends and family. In the U.S. perhaps the emphasis is more on the steps and hurdles you've had to gradually overcome, on the graduates emerging from an academic program, reaching a finish line. Whereas here with "commencement," perhaps the emphasis is on beginnings, on celebrating the opening of new days and new paths. I found this difference fascinating and thought I would set my speech apart from past speeches by centering it on this sort of transatlantic difference.

But then I didn't want this talk to be a response to previous speeches. Don't get me wrong: many of my predecessors' talks were good, some very good, funny and witty, full of wise words. Actually, in order to prepare, I've even watched a few YouTube videos of commencements speeches (thanks, Robin). But I realized rather late last night that this speech is not a research paper. It's not another essay in which I respond to what others have said; there's no argument to build up, no need for points and counterpoints, evidence and examples. Late last night I had to go back to basics and ask who are in my audience and what do I really want to say to them?

And then as I tried to imagine you, my audience; I had to step back again and face my own insecurities and my own ego. I would keep reminding myself that even though I'm excited for today's celebration and about receiving this honor of speaking to you today, much of the work of academics happens in the solitude of our studies and in conversation with others. It helps to remember what's happening in Budapest, the restrictions on academic independence at the Central European University, to remember that it is not just a right but also a privilege to pursue this academic work. If there's anything I've learned over the years of travels and studies, with all the false starts and career detours, it is that if I'm truly interested in an intellectual life, if I really want to pursue the life of the mind, then the road ahead is probably going to be a tough one.

But I'm starting to digress, even using hackneyed ideas and phrases like "the road ahead" and the lessons I learned over the years. I need to focus on you, my esteemed and varied audience. I need to somehow negotiate who I am with who you are, because isn't that the message? Isn't truth, or truths, or truthiness, always somewhere in between?

So let me re-start and be less abstract, be more concrete. I'd like to address specific people in the audience, but in the interest of time, please allow me the liberty of abridging your academic titles. Since we're in the field of American Studies, I'm sure you would be flexible enough to allow me this informality or slight indiscretion. To the HCA and of course to Professor Detlef Junker, thank you for establishing the center and being the grand-daddy of the program. To my thesis advisers, Professor Dietmar Schloss and Dr. Anne Sommer, thank you for your patience and guiding questions. Thank you to Professor Martin Thunert, in whose poli-sci course I discovered the beginnings of my thesis – I thought it was going to be about the Peace Corps, but then it morphed into violence and radicalization. To Professor Ulrike Gerhard and Professor Günter Leypoldt, in whose seminar on race and ethnicity we tackled concepts that I'm still to this day trying to grapple with. And to all our other professors and teachers, most notably Professor Jan Stievermann and Dr. Cynthia Wilke, whose courses on religious history and law I only took as



The MAS 2017 Valedictorian, Aljay Pascua.

electives, but their passion for teaching their respective subjects I wish to take with me in my own teaching. Thank you to Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, again for your patience and understanding with our endless emails and queries. Thank you to Professor Dane Johnson of San Francisco State, whose academic support over the last fourteen years I could not have done without. Surrounded by such expansive intellect and feeling, with humility, I am deeply grateful.

To the MAS class of 2017, what can I say? We were a contentious, even at times cantankerous group, but how else could we have been, given our diverse backgrounds, from Brazil and the Basque Country, from the U.S. to the U.K., Japan and Germany, Turkey, South Korea, China, and even the Philippines. Special thanks to Tony Royle and Jessica Hagen. I miss our volleyball games, Tony. And Jessica, you've helped all of us in so many ways, we can all agree you were our MAS mom. I'll miss our talks over coffee.



To the GKAT applicants and discussants here today, I got a chance to have dinner and drinks with some of you last night and breakfast this morning, and I must say I'm more than a little intimidated. The caliber of knowledge and experience you bring would reward any graduate program. As I spoke with David, Andrew, Liah, and Chris, I remember that no matter what happens, we each will find our way, whether in Germany or in the States.

To the Bachelor Class of 2017, congratulations! I do regret that we scarcely had much interaction, though I have fond memories of your karaoke nights.

Congratulations as well to the Ph.D. candidates who have finished their dissertations. Let's talk after; I'd like to hear any advice for applying and surviving.

To my friends in Heidelberg: Sara Altenfelder, for putting me up AND for putting up with me this past week, thank you. To Robin Wanjiru Njenga, the best flatmate and travel buddy ever: our talks on ethnicity and gender helped not just in working through my academic papers but also in managing my own cross-cultural struggles. To my friend Paul Kerslake – even after all the beers, we both know how rare it is to make meaningful connections. I appreciate your being here today.

To my friends and family in the States, in the Philippines, in Portugal, and in Cabo Verde: I would be in permanent exile from these countries if I failed to mention some of them. To Freddie Cabral and Francisco Brito, *sodade mos*. To Wendy Maya and Steven Ramirez, *também saudades*. I hope to visit you all soon. And finally to my parents. Even though I still question the wisdom of my conception, thank you, Nay and Tay, for everything. I'll see you in June.

## 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 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. Just like every year, the Committee represented the American Studies major at Heidelberg University's 2017 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. This year, the Committee also organized two movie nights. 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' Com-

mittee welcomes new members at all times. For further information, please contact the 2017-18 Students' Committee chairs Felix Brändlin and Sarah Joeris at [fachschaft@hca.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:fachschaft@hca.uni-heidelberg.de).



The 2017-18 Students' Committee Chairs, Felix Brändlin and Sarah Joeris.

## HCA SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

### Thanksgiving

Our festive Thanksgiving dinner is one of the most valued traditions at the HCA for both students and staff. Every year on the fourth Thursday in November, M.A. 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.

### 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, M.A., and B.A. 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 nineteen students from ten 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 Kingdom, 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](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 date, the HCA can boast a total of nineteen graduates from eight countries who have built a successful career in and outside academia.

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 2017, yet another three Ph.D. students completed and successfully defended their dissertation: Eva Mayer (Germany), Erhan Simsek (Turkey), and Bryce Taylor (USA). All of them braved the elements of bringing to a close the comprehensive research they had been engaged in for

years. Thus these ambitious young scholars took another big step in their careers, contributing highly valuable research results in the field of American Studies to the academic community both in Heidelberg and around the globe.



HCA Ph.D. Coordinator Dr. Tobias Endler with 2017 Ph.D. Graduates Eva Mayer and Erhan Simsek.

In October 2017, we welcomed yet another three doctoral candidates to our program: Louis Butcher has worked in a variety of fields and travelled extensively across Europe, the Americas, and Asia before returning to academia. Louis completed the HCA's MAS program in 2017, majoring in political science, history, and law. His dissertation project is titled "Analyzing the Impact of Police Body Cameras in America: Has Increased Surveillance of Police Behavior Reduced Incidences of Excessive Force?"

Amra Odobasic studied English and Spanish philology at the University of Heidelberg and the Universidad de Buenos Aires. She graduated in 2015 with a Staatsexamen and has worked as a phonetics and phonology tutor for five semesters at Heidelberg University's English Department. In her dissertation, Amra aims at investigating the causes for the ambiguity regarding "vocal fry's" social perception and potential negative evaluation when used by women.

Maren Schäfer is well-acquainted with the HCA: She joined the institute's MAS program, earned her master's degree in 2016, and has been working as a program coordinator at SRH University Heidelberg before joining the HCA's Ph.D. program in 2017. In her dissertation, Maren focuses on the issue of contemporary populist rhetoric and framing in the United States. She aims at understanding how and why framing can influence audiences by focusing on the political discourse among stakeholders of different ideological backgrounds.

All of the above now form part of a constantly growing intellectual community at the HCA, which currently features nineteen participants from ten different countries. For more information on these ambitious young scholars and their fellow Ph.D. students, see pages 71.

## **Ph.D. Retreat at Annweiler**

On a weekend in mid-May 2017, the sixth 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 the university's Theology Department and Notre Dame University (USA) discussed their research projects before receiving valuable feedback from a sizeable audience.

A wide range of presentations included topics as diverse as "Performative Cosmopolitanism and the Post-Civil Rights Mixed-Race Generation," "God's Marshall Plan: American Protestant Internationalism and the Democratization of Germany, 1933-1961," "Lithuania Riding a Trojan Horse of Globalization," and "Restoring Trust in the Authority of Diplomacy through Smart Power."

On Friday evening, Melinda Jackson, an Associate Professor of Political Science at San José State University (USA), at the time a Fulbright Scholar at University College West (Sweden), gave a talk on "American Exceptionalism? Exploring the Meaning(s) of the Trump Presidency for the U.S. and the World." The issues surrounding the Trump presidency served as a prime example of the HCA's ongoing conversation concerning contemporary developments in U.S. politics and society. Professor Jackson's talk proved especially illuminating given that last year's speaker at the colloquium had made a forceful argument why a Trump presidency was not going to become reality.

## PH.D. CANDIDATES



### ANDREAS BALZ (GERMANY) LANDESGRADUIERTENFÖRDERUNG

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 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. After his graduation in December 2014, Andreas Balz first started to work 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 received a scholarship from the Landesgraduiertenförderung of Baden-Württemberg and 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 the northeast of 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. While at the University of Heidelberg, Baruah offered courses on twentieth-century African-American literature and representations of the suburb in post-war American literature in the English Department.

The working title of Baruah's dissertation is: "Retro, Memory, and 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 revisit the influential and complex decade of the 1960s in cinema and television. She uses discourses from memory studies (nostalgia, memory boom, post-memory) and television studies (intertextuality, paratexts, and seriality) to analyze *Mad Men's* use of televisual archives attuned to contemporary tastes and technologies. Her project outlines a framework for retro – a product of the present that re-presents the past sans sentimentality. She argues retros continually interpret, interrogate, and reconstitute memories in and for the present.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt



## 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 regarding these developments? 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



## **LOUIS BUTCHER (UNITED KINGDOM)** **CURT ENGELHORN PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP**

Louis Butcher 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, which included a year abroad at Clarkson University in upstate New York. Louis spent a further seven months backpacking across Latin America in an effort to improve his Spanish before returning to the U.K. to work in Bath for a year. In 2015, he moved to Heidelberg to enroll in the HCA's MAS program. While there, he majored in political science, history, and law, and graduated in early 2017. Since then, Louis has occupied his time in Heidelberg by starting up an online business.

Louis Butcher's project is titled "Analyzing the Impact of Police Body Cameras in America: Has Increased Surveillance of Police Behavior Reduced Incidences of Excessive Force?" It will seek to determine whether the growing use of police body-worn cameras (BWCs) in the United States has reduced the police's use-of-force – and excessive force, in particular – thus positively impacting relations between the police and the public at large.

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 the 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 Leypoldt, 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, USA. 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, Kentucky. 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 Johann-Wolfgang 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, Mississippi, "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 is an energy economist with experience in the U.S. shale gas industry and the U.S. - Eurasian energy relations of natural gas pipelines. Anthony holds a Master of International Affairs with focus on international political economy from Columbia University (1991) and a B.A. in Economics from the American University, Washington, D.C., (1988). He founded U.S. Energy Stream with a mission to deliver cutting-edge energy intelligence and to promote American and European energy investments. With twenty-five years of experience in working alongside oil majors and oil independents, on pipeline negotiations, LNG projects, and geopolitical risk assessments, he has been facilitating CEO business relationships across the United States and Europe. He is committed to pro-bono and voluntary work, and he has been cooperating with prominent American non-profit think tanks like the Atlas Network, the Leadership Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, and the Americans for Tax Reform.

Anthony Livanios' dissertation "The Origins and the Impact of the American Shale Gas Revolution" explores the influence of American oil culture and the challenges of independent American oil entrepreneurs faced in the exploration and production of the American oil and gas fields. Focus is given to Texas, Oklahoma, and North Dakota, states that are at the heart of the American oil and gas unconventional production. The shale gas revolution is analyzed in relation to the culture of the wildcatters and the American business culture of innovative entrepreneurs. In this dissertation, Anthony Livanios utilizes the methodology of qualitative primary research while performing and analyzing in-depth interviews with American oil and gas industry leaders.

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



## **AGNESE MARINO (ITALY)**

### **BASF SCHOLARSHIP**

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. The thesis was about the contribution of Chicanas to the shaping of a Chicano identity and to the development of the Chicano movement. 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 three post-civil rights mixed-race memoirs, her project explores the contemporary conceptualization of ethnic identity in relation to Multiculturalism and New Cosmopolitanism. Cosmopolitanism is conceived of as a form of trans-cultural self-understanding and an attempt to free oneself from the categories of race, community, tribe, and ethnicity, which hinder the natural process of self-identification in mixed-race subjects. Adopting a "performative cosmopolitanism," therefore, means to deny any relation between the body and its cultural significations and to favor practices of free affiliation over physical appearance or 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. The 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 identity so far. Her literary analysis ranges from Homi Bhabha's hybridity theory, to Kwame Anthony Appiah's, James Clifford's, and David Hollinger's New Cosmopolitanism, to Judith Butler's performative theory.

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. 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



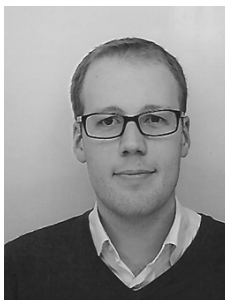
## **AMRA ODOBASIC (GERMANY)**

### **FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG**

Born in Karlsruhe in 1990, Amra Odobasic studied English and Spanish philology at the University of Heidelberg and the Universidad de Buenos Aires. She graduated in Heidelberg in 2015 with a Staatsexamen and also holds a qualification for teaching German as a Foreign Language from the Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg. Since her very first semester, linguistics – particularly phonetics and phonology – has remained her passion, which is why she worked as a phonetics and phonology tutor for five semesters in the Heidelberg English Department. Her final thesis entitled "Politeness in Parliament: A Study in Contrastive Pragmatics" dealt with the question of whether parliamentary discourse in Great Britain and Germany is polite or merely "politic."

Amra Odobasic's doctoral research topic is entitled "Vocal Fry: A Sociophonetic Study in Women's Speech" and aims at investigating the causes for the ambiguity regarding vocal fry's social perception and potential negative evaluation when used by women. Vocal fry is a phonation that is characterized by a combination of rapid and short glottal pulses and a low frequency. Ms. Odobasic's two main hypotheses are that it is not vocal fry causing the negative evaluation per se but a) an excessive use of vocal fry manifesting itself in a high ratio between vocal fry and word number and/or b) a combination of vocal fry and other (non-)linguistic features. Aside from the study of relevant research literature and the work with various spoken corpora, Ms. Odobasic's main work will focus on analyzing test persons' reactions to vocal fry via questionnaires and via picture and audio recordings.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Beatrix Busse



## MAARTEN PAULUSSE (THE NETHERLANDS) BASIS SCHOLARSHIP

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. This project, however, explores the matter from the angle of "contemporary spirituality," using the Occupy Movement as a case study and employing the extensive theoretical toolbox offered by the academic field of religious studies. In 2012 and 2013 Maarten completed two research trips to the U.S. during which he interviewed members of the Occupy Movement.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Inken Prohl



## **NATALIE RAUSCHER (GERMANY)** **HEIDEMARIE ENGELHORN SCHOLARSHIP**

Natalie Rauscher began studying in Heidelberg in 2009. She received her B.A. in English literature, linguistics, and cultural studies as well as political science in 2013. Following her interest in American culture and language, 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." After a few months away from Heidelberg, she returned in the fall of 2015, working as a teaching assistant and a research assistant at the HCA while applying for the Ph.D. program where she was admitted 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 that 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 discussed, 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, cooperate, and 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 transnational issues. A focus on better understanding "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





## **MAREN SCHÄFER (GERMANY)**

### **BASF SCHOLARSHIP**

Maren Schäfer studied International Business in cooperation with ALDI SÜD, graduating from the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University in 2008. After receiving her B.A., she managed key accounts and international projects in an online marketing agency before she joined the MAS program at the HCA in Heidelberg. As part of her studies, she spent a year at the University of New Mexico as a recipient of the Baden-Württemberg-Stipendium. In 2016, she graduated with a M.A. in American Studies. Her master's project reflected her interest in political rhetoric, dealing with "The American Presidency and the 'Power to Persuade.'" While working as a program coordinator at the SRH University in Heidelberg, Maren joined the HCA's PhD program in 2017 to further pursue her interest in political rhetoric.

In her dissertation project, Maren focuses on the impact of contemporary populist rhetoric and framing on people's attitudes in the United States. Despite being a recurring feature of American politics, populism has perhaps reached an all-time high. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, increasing inequality and distrust of elites seem to have contributed to this development while the mass proliferation of digital media outlets and mobile devices has facilitated direct communication with a mass audience. Trump's victory in 2016 is seen by many as the manifestation of this trend. In the contemporary United States, more and more mainstream actors of all ideological persuasions seem to be employing populist rhetoric to shape people's attitudes and beliefs in their favor. In particular, framing has become a popular strategy to alter the ways in which information is being presented, in the hopes of influencing people's attitudes. In her project, Maren Schäfer will address the issue of contemporary populist rhetoric. She aims at understanding how and why framing, especially with an underlying populist notion, can influence audiences by focusing on the political discourse among stakeholders of different ideological backgrounds.

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

## AWARDING OF THE ROLF KENTNER DISSERTATION PRIZE

For the eighth time, the Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize recognized an outstanding dissertation in the field of American Studies. In 2017, the prize was awarded to Annika Elena Poppe, Project Director and Research Fellow at the Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (HSFK) for her dissertation "U.S. Democracy Promotion after the Cold War: Stability, Basic Premises, and Policy towards Egypt."

Detlef Junker, founding director of the HCA, heartily welcomed Annika Poppe, the sponsor of the prize, Rolf Kentner, and Dr. Gerhard Vogel in the HCA's Atrium on the evening of October 19. Professor Junker took a moment to thank the two long-time benefactors of the HCA without whom neither the Schurman Library for American History nor the HCA would have come into existence. On this evening, the two heads of the executive committee had both retired

Awarding of the 2017 Kentner Prize: Back Row (l.-r.): Hanno Kersten, Gerhard Vogel; Front Row (l.-r.): Detlef Junker, Annika Elena Poppe, Rolf Kentner.



from their official positions in the Schurman Society. Their work was honored by a great round of applause and their appointments to honorary members of the Schurman Society. Professor Junker also welcomed the new and seasoned Ph.D., M.A., and B.A. students who epitomize the HCA's development over the past years. Martin Thunert, senior lecturer at the HCA for political science, then gave the laudatory speech. He started with a brief overview of the seven prizes awarded since 2010. This year's award – for the first time – went to an alumni of Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt and for the third time to a woman. Annika Poppe received her Magistra Artium "with distinction" in 2009. She spent two years abroad in the United States, one as a student of U.S. history at American University in Washington, D.C., and the other as a visiting scholar at Georgetown University. Annika Poppe enjoyed support and funding from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes and the Fulbright Commission. Her academic home is an institution loosely affiliated with the university, the Leibniz institute Hessische Stiftung für Frie-

dens- und Konfliktforschung, said Dr. Thunert. Annika Poppe's research focuses on international democracy promotion, the global phenomenon of "closing space" for civil society, U.S. foreign policy, and the U.S.-Egyptian relationship. Her dissertation starts with the observation that U.S. democracy promotion since the end of the Cold War has been characterized much more by continuity than by change – even though many experts did not expect this. Her investigation covers the presidencies of Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. Dr. Thunert agreed with the members of the jury that Dr. Poppe succeeded "where others often struggle," in applying both American Studies and political science to her work. Dr. Thunert warmly congratulated Dr. Poppe for her achievements and turned over the floor.

In her key note, Dr. Poppe thanked the jury and the HCA, stating that she felt "smaller and larger at the same time." She then gave a captivating talk on her subject and shared some insights on U.S.-American policies concerning democracy promotion in Egypt since the end of the Cold War. Democracy promotion was one of George W. Bush's favorite but severely criticized projects and thus a particularly tainted legacy of his administration. Yet, Barack Obama did not abandon democracy promotion altogether, because the notion that the United States has a special role to play among the nations of the world is deeply ingrained in the country's national identity. With



Annika Poppe.

Donald Trump, this "soft power" component of U.S. diplomacy is endangered. He, for example, has voiced and displayed sympathy for aristocratic leaders. However, it was important to note, Dr. Poppe added, that Trump had deepened the problem of shrinking civic spaces, but had not started it. This really is a global phenomenon. Poppe ended her talk by pointing to her current work on a project about democracy in the times of Erdogan, Putin, and Trump.

After a final round of applause, the award recipient and the audience were invited to celebrate at the reception in the HCA's Bel Etage.

## GRADUIERTENKOLLEG AUTHORITY AND TRUST (GKAT)

The most recent addition to the HCA's research and study programs, the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History, and Politics" (GKAT), brought a number of promising young scholars to the HCA and the Ruperto Carola in Oktober 2017. GKAT was initiated by an interdisciplinary group of ten Heidelberg professors and researchers led by Manfred Berg (speaker) and Günter Leypoldt (co-speaker). It is generously funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG), which approved a grant application worth three and a half million euros in the fall of 2016. During the first four-and-a-half-year funding period, the new research training group is comprised of ten doctoral candidates, four research students, and one postdoctoral researcher. In addition, GKAT profits from the support of renowned associated scholars from Germany, Europe, and the United States.

Within the broad field of American Studies, the GKAT research program was designed to inspire innovative research and doctoral dissertations focusing specifically on questions of authority and trust. These two central concepts have come under scrutiny in recent decades, during which American society and culture have become increasingly polarized. Studies show that American institutions and elites are suffering from a dramatic loss of authority and trust. Economic inequality, social and spatial segregation, and a decaying infrastructure have undermined trust in the fairness and efficiency of political processes. Anti-establishment populism and conspiracy theories resonate widely among the general public. Police brutality has reinforced a deep-seated distrust of authorities among minorities. Commentators and scholars agree that the crisis of authority and trust has been developing for decades and reflects the dissolution of social cohesion and consensus. Many Americans lament the end of the American Dream, the prospect of upward social mobility through hard work and educational achievement. The crisis of authority and trust has also affected U.S. leadership in world politics and the global economy.

Against this background, the GKAT research group aims at a systematic and interdisciplinary inquiry into the emergence and transformation of authority and trust in the U.S. from the nineteenth century to the present. The doctoral candidates funded by GKAT will conduct research in three broad areas: "The Authority of the Modern State and Trust in Public and Social Institutions," "The Urban Dimension of Authority and Trust," and "Authority and Trust in Culture, Literature, and Religion." These research areas not only offer platforms for cooperation between diverse fields (such as geography, history, linguistics, literary studies/cultural studies, political science/social science, and religious studies/theology), but will also allow the project to go beyond popular notions of crisis and decline and probe the complexities and contradictions of authority and trust in American life.

With personal and academic backgrounds in Europe and the United States, the GKAT researchers will approach these topics in the HCA's interdisciplinary tradition and will bring inter- and transnational perspectives to their projects. Throughout the entire funding period, they will profit from a multi-level mentoring and qualification program, which combines clear-cut structures and cooperative research with a maximum of intellectual freedom. Innovative elements such as thesis

advisory committees, peer mentoring, and interdisciplinary courses and workshops are designed to support junior researchers in the successful completion of their individual projects as well as to provide them with a set of theoretical and methodological skills in the interdisciplinary foundations of American Studies and the basic concepts of authority and trust. In cooperation with the Graduate Academy and other institutions at Heidelberg University, GKAT also aims at facilitating qualifications and experiences that will help junior researchers to develop their career prospects both within and outside academia.

The group successfully launched their program in early October 2017 with a Welcome Week, introducing the incoming researchers to GKAT and the HCA and offering workshops on interdisciplinarity and "good academic practice." During the winter term, GKAT also offers two regular seminars for junior researchers on "American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Endeavour" and "Authority and Trust" as well as a series of public lectures by scholars working on related topics, among them Juliet Kaarbo (University of Edinburgh), Donald E. Pease (Dartmouth College), David Alworth (Harvard University) and Darren Dochuk (University of Notre Dame).

## GKAT GRAND OPENING

The festive highlight of GKAT's first semester took place at the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais on November 30, 2017, with the Grand Opening of the Graduiertenkolleg that welcomed the new group of researchers to the HCA. After introductory remarks by HCA Founding Director Detlef Junker, and greetings from the university's rectorate, represented by Vice-President for Student Affairs and Teaching, Beatrix Busse, and a welcome by GKAT speaker Manfred Berg, the evening featured a keynote address on "Trust in Comparative Perspectives: The United States and Europe" by Helmut Anheier (President and Dean, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, and Professor of Sociology, Heidelberg University).

Then Professor Anheier from the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin presented his keynote address in which he reflected upon the term trust from different academic perspectives. He emphasized that this interdisciplinary approach did not only align with the premises of GKAT but worked especially well with abstract concepts such as trust. Scholars of sociology and political science had produced numerous works regarding different aspects of trust, applying categories like institutions, professions, or persons and looking at the different ways people put their trust in them. Studies based on the work of Pierre Bourdieu and Robert Putnam, among others, had collected data about how much trust societies invest into different sectors of their respective countries and had found that there were significant differences between liberal market economies with a democratic system and autocracies with a regulated economy. Surprisingly, this data is relatively stable over time. Even though current social phenomena such as increasing anti-elitism or populist movements have created a widespread feeling of an overall erosion of trust, empirical studies do not reflect this erosion. While U.S. society appears to trust government and other institutions least, its overall level of trust is as consistent as that of other nations. Professor Anheier closed on the notion that trust might not be such a fragile commodity after all and that

it was necessary to further evolve the conceptualization of this term in order to enable a clearer understanding of trust and its socio-political implications..

The evening was capped with a reception in the HCA's beautiful Bel Etage that gave everybody a chance to mingle over a glass of champagne and other refreshments.

Helmut Anheier Gives the Key-note Address at the GKAT Grand Opening.



## GKAT FACULTY

Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg (GKAT Speaker), Curt Engelhorn Professor of American History, see p. 19

Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt (GKAT Co-Speaker), Professor of American Literature, see p. 22

Prof. Dr. Beatrix Busse, Professor of English Linguistics, see below

Dr. Tobias Endler, HCA Research & Ph.D. Coordinator, see p. 29

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard, Professor for Human Geography of North America, see p. 20

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Harnisch, Professor for International Relations and Comparative Foreign Policy, see p 21

PD Dr. Margit Peterfy, Senior Lecturer American Literature, see below

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss, Professor of American Literature, see p. 37

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann, Professor of the History of Christianity in the U.S., see p. 40

PD Dr. Martin Thunert, Senior Lecturer Political Science, see p. 42.





## **PROF. DR. BEATRIX BUSSE** PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LINGUISTICS

Beatrix Busse is professor of linguistics and language change at Heidelberg University, Germany. She received her first degree from Osnabrück University and her Ph.D. from Münster University and then moved on to completing her Habilitation on speech, writing, and thought presentation in nineteenth-century English narrative fiction at Bern University (Switzerland) in 2010. She has taught English (historical) linguistics at the universities of Osnabrück, Mainz, Hannover, and Bern and spent time as a visiting researcher in Birmingham (U.K.), Stratford (U.K.), and Lancaster (U.K.). Beatrix Busse's scholarly interests include the history of English, (historical) pragmatics and sociolinguistics, Shakespeare studies, stylistics, (historical) textlinguistics, systemic functional grammar, narratology, corpus linguistics, cognitive linguistics, ecolinguistics as well as e-learning and e-teaching. Her current research projects include the linguistic analysis of urban place in Brooklyn, a corpus of nineteenth century grammars, and an interdisciplinary investigation of the notion of "patterns." Beatrix Busse is review editor of the *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics*, a member of the committee of the Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA), and on the editorial board of the Continuum series *Advances in Stylistics*. Since 2013, she has also held the position of Vice-President for Student Affairs and Teaching at Heidelberg University.



## **PD DR. MARGIT PETERFY**

### **SENIOR LECTURER AMERICAN LITERATURE**

Margit Peterfy teaches American Literature and Culture at the English Department of Heidelberg University. She studied comparative literature, English and American Studies in Germany, Wales, and the U.S. (University of Maryland) and received her doctorate from the University of the Saarland (Germany) "summa cum laude" with a dissertation on William Carlos Williams' poetry. Between 1999 and 2013, she taught at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, and, as a substitute professor, at the universities of Tübingen and Göttingen. She finished her Habilitation on "Utility and Aesthetics in American Popular Poetry" in January 2008. She is currently preparing a book for publication on the poems of John Greenleaf Whittier and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Since 2013, she has held the position of Senior Lecturer in American Studies at the Ruperto Carola. Her research interests include early American literature and culture, literary and visual American iconography, theory of images and imagery, intermediality, and the popular culture of nineteenth-century and early modern U.S., in particular theater and literary performative practices.

## GKAT RESEARCHERS



### **DR. FLORIAN BÖLLER** POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Florian Böller studied political science, history and economics at the universities of Heidelberg and Copenhagen. From 2008 to 2017, he was a research associate and lecturer at the University of Kaiserslautern, where he taught courses on U.S. politics and transatlantic relations. In 2014, he earned his Ph.D. in political science at Kaiserslautern University with a thesis on the democratic control of U.S. foreign policy after the Cold War. Florian Böller held a visiting fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2013) and was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (2017). His research interests include the politics of U.S. foreign policy and transatlantic relations. He is also involved in an international project comparing the parliamentary control of security policies ("Deploymentvotewatch"). At the HCA's GKAT, Florian Böller pursues his Habilitation project on the role of trust within the transatlantic security community.

Florian Böller's post-doctoral project investigates what role trust plays during crises of U.S. authority within the transatlantic security community. The project thus links the two central concepts of GKAT and opens up the transatlantic and international dimensions of authority and trust. The aim is to develop a dynamic concept of intra-alliance conflict management which goes beyond static depictions of crisis and persistence of transatlantic relations. While politicians, pundits, and scholars regularly point to the role of trust during periods of contestation, the interactions of trust-building, loss of trust, and trust-repair between Europe and the United States are yet to be examined in a systematic fashion. Empirically, the project looks at three critical junctures in post WW-II transatlantic history: the "Gaullist" challenge of U.S. authority during the 1960s, the delegitimization of U.S. authority in the wake of the war in Iraq, and the Ukraine crisis as an external challenge to the security community.



## KRISTIN BERBERICH (GERMANY)

Kristin Berberich studied English and German philology as well as German as a Foreign Language with a focus on linguistics at Heidelberg University. After working at the University of Auckland and teaching German at the University of Otago, New Zealand, and Mannheim University, she returned to the English Department at Heidelberg University where, in 2014, she joined Professor Busse's team that works on compiling and building a multimodal corpus to analyze place-making strategies in Brooklyn, New York. Following her growing interest in urban linguistics, she worked on the discursive reclamation of the Boston Marathon in 2013-2014 for her master's thesis, which she completed in 2016. Her research interests lie in the realm of sociolinguistics, urban linguistics, corpus linguistics, and gender studies.

In her Ph.D. project, she investigates normative assumptions and their influence on the linguistic creation of "good" places along Brooklyn's longest street, Bedford Avenue. As processes of urbanization are affecting Brooklyn on many levels, linguistic representations and social actors' perceptions of the "good" place are naturally varied and contested. When social actors define themselves, they do so in relation to their spatial surroundings. Their underlying normative attitudes, which are adopted in the socialization process, are mediated by relations of authority and trust and thus also negotiated linguistically. Due to the dialectic relationship between discourse and extra-linguistic reality, these instantiations affect both the social and spatial sphere. Using a corpus of several types of linguistic data collected along Bedford Avenue, Kristin Berberich analyzes the linguistic strategies used in the construction of the "good" place; more specifically, she looks at how social beings position themselves based on the norms that they have internalized and how this is reflected in their linguistic portrayal of a "good" city.



## ELIZABETH CORRAO-BILLETER (USA)

Elizabeth Corrao-Billeter studied psychology, art, and English literature at Ursuline College, Ohio, (B.A.) and English literature and composition at the University of Akron, Ohio, (M.A.) before earning a certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from INTESOL and relocating to Heidelberg in 2013. Since 2008, she has held various editorial roles at research institutions as well as private publishers including Cleveland Clinic, Wolters Kluwer, EMBO Press, and Heidelberg University Clinic. She has also taught English conversation and academic writing, and was a writing consultant at the University of Heidelberg's Academic Writing Support office from 2013 to 2016. She was a member of the founding editorial team at Heidelberg University Publishing (heiUP), where she edited two volumes for the open access book series "Heidelberg Studies on Transculturality" and numerous works for the Cluster of Excellence: Asia and Europe in a Global Context's e-journal *Transcultural Studies* as well as its ongoing book series, "Transcultural Research" (Springer). An article she co-wrote on the experience of founding heiUP appeared in *The Journal of Scholarly Publishing* in January 2017.

Her dissertation identifies voluntary simplicity as an emerging subgenre in contemporary American memoir and explores how the works that comprise this discourse advocate what might be called a "new traditionalism." In this context, voluntary simplicity refers to the deliberate adoption of a lifestyle that is materially simpler than that which contemporary American culture typically encourages. While the extent and modes of adoption vary, these memoirs argue the need for a quiet form of subversion against mainstream authority by calling the value of consumerism and globalization into question. Voluntary simplicity does not, however, negate the value of authority or disdain contemporary culture in general: it instead shifts the placement of trust to alternative forms of authority by focusing on collaboration, community, and the revival of traditional skills. These memoirs provide a backdrop for the cultural history of voluntary simplicity as well as its ongoing shift from fringe status to acceptance by mainstream culture. In recent years, this acceptance has becoming so widespread that the movement itself is now subject to commoditization—a development that may well negate its original function. Finally, this project examines the impact that this mainstreaming effect has had on American consumption patterns in recent years, as well as public perceptions of what constitutes "the good life."



## DAVID EISLER (USA)

David Eisler grew up in Florida before attending Cornell University and earning a bachelor's degree in astrophysics in 2007. He then served five years in the United States Army, earning the rank of captain and completing overseas tours in Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan. After leaving the military in 2012, he moved back to the United States and attended graduate school at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, earning a master's degree in 2014. He then spent the next three years as a research analyst at the Institute for Defense Analyses in Alexandria, Virginia, before coming to Heidelberg to begin his doctoral studies.

David Eisler's dissertation project is tentatively titled "Unburdened: American Civil-Military Relations and Literary Authority in Contemporary War Fiction." From the war in Vietnam to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, David intends to examine the dynamic between the military and American society and understand how that relationship has influenced the literary fiction written about the wars. By analyzing the portrayal of soldiers coming home from war in civilian- and veteran-authored fiction within the context of the surrounding cultural conditions, he hopes to address questions like: Who has the authority to tell a war story? How has the balance of that authority changed since the end of conscription and the shift to an all-volunteer force? With American society drifting further away from its military, is war literature a place to find common ground and build trust? Or is civilian appropriation of the veteran's war story just another example of a cultural divide?



## CLAUDIA JETTER (GERMANY)

Claudia Jetter was born in Stuttgart, Germany. She studied English and Protestant theology at Heidelberg University and graduated with a "Staatsexamen." In addition, she spent a year teaching German as a language assistant at a British boarding school in Cumbria, United Kingdom. During her studies, her main fields of interest were new religious movements in America as well as antebellum literature. Her final thesis examined different responses to the crisis of religious authority in mid-nineteenth century America.

Claudia Jetter's dissertation focuses on the dynamic transformation processes of religious authority in mid-nineteenth century America. During democratization processes of the religious realm, traditional scriptural and ecclesiastical authority had been increasingly challenged by several new prophets who emerged in the first half of the nineteenth century. Drawing chiefly on the new sacred writings of prophetic voices such as Joseph Smith Jr., Ralph Waldo Emerson, or Philemon Stewart, this project seeks to examine and describe a new, democratized form of charismatic authority by disentangling the dynamic interrelations between prophets, their new sacred writings, and their adhering communities.



## ALEKSANDRA POLINSKA (POLAND)

Aleksandra Polinska was born in Warsaw, Poland. In 2013, she earned her B.A. in English philology from the Warsaw School of Applied Linguistics. Her thesis focused on the translation of culture-specific items and the assessment of the understanding between American and Polish cultures such renderings offer. In 2015, she received her M.A. in American Studies from the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw. In her thesis, she analyzed the process of gentrification of two Brooklyn neighborhoods with the focus on the powerful role of real estate developers and, most notably, the media.

Her doctoral project aims at investigating the transformation of authority and trust in American politics and society in the context of the 2016 presidential election and its aftermath. The United States has been shaped by a distrust of authorities and power since its inception, but the excessive lack of public confidence in national institutions, including the news media, over the last years has confirmed how essential authority and trust are for the modern democratic state. This research is expected to contribute to the studies of authority and trust in the context of the rapidly evolving news media landscape of the United States in times of the country's political and social upheaval. It intends to identify reliable and trustworthy news providers as well as determine their funding patterns and features of their journalistic practice. The results are expected to improve the understanding of what characterizes and constitutes news sources that can be trusted with providing a platform for an informative, healthy, and constructive democratic conversation. This is of special importance in the face of the current uncontrolled proliferation of conspiracy theories and "fake news," increasing political polarization, anti-establishment populism, and historically low American public confidence in the news media. As media's performance both influences and is impacted by politics and society, the research will also address the fields of political and social sciences, which guarantees the project's interdisciplinary character.





## ALINE SCHMIDT (GERMANY)

Aline Schmidt majored in English Studies with a minor in political science at the University of Heidelberg. She graduated with a B.A. in 2014 and an M.A. in English Linguistics in 2017. As she focused on American politics and sociolinguistics throughout her studies, her master's thesis examined the performative authenticity of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump during the 2016 primaries. Other research interests include forensic linguistics and urban linguistics. In this research area, she has been supporting Professor Beatrix Busse's team in the compilation of a multimodal corpus to investigate discursive place-making in Brooklyn, N.Y., since 2015.

In her dissertation, Aline Schmidt investigates the construction of a charismatic relationship between Donald Trump, his followers, and the media from a linguistic angle. She draws on social-constructionist perspectives of Max Weber's charisma concept, integrating language as a meaning-making resource that constructs and construes social reality and Weber's classic framework of political authority. Charisma is conceptualized as a social relationship between leader, followers, and media, which is ultimately negotiated in discourse. She uses quantitative and qualitative methods from corpus linguistics and critical discourse studies to identify discursive strategies, linguistic and other semiotic practices used by Trump, the charismatic community of practice, and traditional media outlets involved in the construction and deconstruction of charismatic authority. Her dataset is comprised of a number of ad hoc specialized corpora, spanning genres from, e.g., political speeches, televised debates, and Trump's tweets, to reddit posts and newspaper articles. Furthermore, she takes on a diachronic perspective by including a corpus of twentieth century American presidential texts. She thus intends to integrate various dimensions of authority and trust in the Trump era that currently dominate American political and social life, and to contribute to the understanding of charisma in the postmodern United States.



## TIM SOMMER (GERMANY)

Tim Sommer studied English, American, and German literature and culture at Heidelberg University and the University of Edinburgh. Research brought him to the Universities of Cambridge (King's College) and Oxford (Bodleian Library), and he has delivered conference papers at Oxford, Harvard, Yale, and San Francisco, among others. He is the recipient of the 2016 Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Graduate Student Paper Award and holds the 2017-18 Ralph Waldo Emerson Visiting Fellowship at Harvard's Houghton Library. His research interests include British Romanticism, New England Transcendentalism, and nineteenth-century Anglo-American literary relations. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in journals such as *The Wordsworth Circle*, *Romanticism*, and *The New England Quarterly*.

Tim Sommer's dissertation project examines the transatlantic origins of authority and trust in nineteenth-century American literature and culture by retracing the many ways in which the emergence and subsequent trajectory of both concepts in the American context were shaped in response to European discourses, British ones in particular. Focusing on Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–82) and Thomas Carlyle (1795–1881) as two representative figures and drawing on recent approaches in transatlantic studies, transnational theory, and cultural sociology to account for their cosmopolitan careers and writings, the project asks how literature in the nineteenth-century Anglo-American cultural sphere became a key arena for defining and debating authority and trust. It seeks to refine our understanding of the extent to which this development was intertwined with phenomena such as the rise of literary nationalism, the sacralization of culture, and the professionalization of authorship.



## SEBASTIAN TANTS (GERMANY)

Sebastian Tants was born in Lower Saxony, Germany, in 1990. He began studying philosophy and English literature, language and culture at Heidelberg University in 2009. In the academic year 2013-2014, he was an exchange student at Cardiff University (U.K.), where he was enrolled in the European Studies program. He received his "Staatsexamen" from Heidelberg University in 2016. In his final thesis, he conducted a critical reading of Dave Eggers' 2013 novel *The Circle*, establishing an intellectual link between Eggers' novel and philosophical critiques of modernity. Between his graduation and joining GKAT, Sebastian Tants worked, among other things, as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for Philosophy at Heidelberg University.

In his dissertation project, Sebastian Tants examines the writings of some of the key figures of the so-called American Renaissance with regard to questions of trust and state authority. Working from an understanding of literary texts as vehicles for – and mirrors of – social and political change, he studies selected writings by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Henry David Thoreau, reading these authors as analysts, or theorists, of trust and political authority. The aim is to establish the intellectual positions of these writers in the trust discourse of nineteenth-century America, in order to arrive at a clear picture of the critical as well as the invigorating potential for democracy that the literary period of the American Renaissance holds. To this aim, his dissertation will draw on pertinent sociological theories of trust, in particular the one outlined by Anthony Giddens in *The Consequences of Modernity* (1990). Focusing on an interpretative reading of the Renaissance writers, informed by historical context and present-day theory, the project thus seeks to shed new light on the cultural discourse about questions of trust and authority during the formative period of a modern society.



## 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 at 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 access 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.



## GEORG WOLFF (GERMANY)

Georg Wolff studied history and political science at Heidelberg University, where he received his B.A. degree in 2014. His bachelor thesis examined the conception of history inherent in the strategy game series Civilization and Total War. In 2017, he graduated with a M.A. degree. His thesis, entitled "Sock it to the Left!" outlined key positions of the conservative youth group Young Americans for Freedom during the 1960s. From 2014 to 2016, he worked at the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities as a student assistant in the project "Edition of Cuneiform Literary Texts from Assur."

Georg Wolff's dissertation, which bears the working title "American Conservatism and the Struggle against Federal Authority," aims to show how grassroots organizations partook in a coordinated effort to drastically reduce the impact of governmental action on the federal level. He examines the contradictions inherent in the ideological backgrounds of these groups, whose members shared their conservative identity, but were split mainly in traditionalists and libertarians, who had vastly different outlooks on topics such as civil rights or counterculture. Drawing mainly from archival material and interviews, he aims to paint a more balanced picture of these crucial processes in American history and to challenge prevailing narratives such as the conservative pied piper.

## ASSOCIATED DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Louis Butcher, see p. 74 (HCA Ph.D. program)

Gordon Friedrichs, see p. 76 (HCA Ph.D. program)

Maren Schäfer, see p. 88 (HCA Ph.D. program)

## RESEARCH STUDENTS

Judith Keller, Johanna Mast, Oliver Nothdurft, Thanushiyah Tharmadevan

## ASSOCIATED SCHOLARS

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## HCA RESEARCH

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

### **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. 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; 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](http://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. It analyzes 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 assess differences and similarities in inequalities and relate 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). Findings of this project were published in 2016 as *Inequalities in Creative Cities: Issues, Approaches, Comparisons*.

## **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 completely urbanized society (Lefebvre). 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 fifty 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](http://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](http://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/](http://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.

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

was 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. The year 2017 saw the publication of *Nuclear Threats, Nuclear Fear, and the Cold War of the 1980s*, edited by Eckart Conze, Martin Klimke, and Jeremy Varon. Published by Cambridge University Press, it 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 2017: 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 ten 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 2017 in the early fall of 2017. 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](http://www.sgi-network.org). At the moment, this address is the home of SGI 2017 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 2017) go to [http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2017/country/SGI2017\\_USA.pdf](http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2017/country/SGI2017_USA.pdf). The USA 2017 country report covers the period between November 2015 through November 2016 and was written by Dr. Martin Thunert (HCA), Professor Christian Lammer (Free University of Berlin, JFK-Institute), and Professor Paul J. Quirk (University of British Columbia, Vancouver). The first year of the new Trump administration will be covered in next year's report. Here are some of the results of the 2017 US report:

With its low-tax, low-regulation, trade-focused regime, the United States falls into the upper-middle ranks internationally (rank 16) with regard to economic policies. Its score on this measure has increased by 0.6 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 0.3 points relative to 2014. Severe educational inequalities in high- and low-income areas are evident, with performance 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 Obama's health care program expanded coverage, but partisan opposition remains intense. Sharp premium increases and some insurance-company dropouts signaled the need for restructuring. Despite tax benefits for families with children, direct family policy is minimal. The employment rate for women is high. Ideological stalemate has prevented pension-system sustainability reforms. An Obama policy halting many illegal-immigrant deportations was deemed unconstitutional, while Donald Trump's campaign rhetoric inflamed racial tensions. Large-city homicide rates and gun violence in general are serious problems, and the phenomenon of police violence against blacks has drawn increasing attention. Despite a history of ambitious environmental protections, the United States scores in the bottom ranks internationally (rank 39) with regard to environmental policies. Its score in this area has improved by 0.3 points relative to 2014. Climate change has proven a major stumbling block, with many Americans rejecting large-scale emissions-control strategies. The country joined the Paris agreement on climate change, but Congress blocked Obama's proposed climate-change rules. Under Obama, new fuel-economy standards and other piecemeal efforts kept the country on track to reach emissions reductions consistent with international expectations by 2020. However, as a candidate, Donald Trump embraced an extreme version of climate-change denial and promised to roll back environmental regulations.

Despite the increasing depth of political stalemate, the United States scores well overall (rank 12) with regard to democracy quality. Its score on this measure has fallen by 0.5 points relative to 2014. Media access is formally fair, but paid advertising dominates political campaigns. Donald Trump's celebrity status gave him vastly disproportionate free air time in the 2016 election. A majority of states have implemented measures making it harder for some groups to register and vote. Loose campaign-finance laws lead to vast, often unaccountable private spending on elections. Civil rights are generally protected, but government wiretapping and Internet surveillance has been broad. National attention has been focused on discriminatory conduct by local police and criminal justice systems. Anti-discrimination laws are generally robust, and same-sex marriage has been legalized in all fifty states. Congressional deadlocks have led to increased use of unilateral executive orders, some of which were overturned by courts. Departing from past practice, Congress refused to take action to confirm a Supreme Court vacancy, intensifying the partisan nature of appointments.

With its powerful presidency, the United States 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. Political polarization prevented Obama from securing enactment of most of his legislative priorities, and undermined implementation of key programs such as health care reform. Despite concerns over the implications of an uninformed public, the United States receives a high overall score (rank 9) in the area of executive accountability. Its score in this area has declined by 0.1 point relative to 2014. Congressional resources are quite substantial, and formal executive-oversight powers are strong, although legislative staff cuts reflect increasing reliance on ideological think tanks for policy advice. The General Accountability Office is independent and influential, with other offices performing additional audit functions.

Party candidates are chosen democratically. Party platforms are produced at conventions every four years, but have little influence. Economic and noneconomic interest associations are often sophisticated and media-savvy.

SGL was covered extensively, for example in a series of the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* in the summer of 2012 (editions 26/2012-29/2012) 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 SGL News is available on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/SGL-Sustainable-Governance-Indicators/92146590185](http://www.facebook.com/pages/SGL-Sustainable-Governance-Indicators/92146590185). For the foreseeable future it is planned to update the SGL every year, that is, in shorter intervals than in the past. Therefore, the next round of SGL 2018 expert assessments was launched in fall 2017.

## **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 is being terminated as this annual report goes to press. Funding came from the Hans-Böckler-Foundation, affiliated with the DGB, the Confederation of German Trade Unions. The project analyzed the rules, mandates, and procedures and then evaluated 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 paid 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 and now works at the Institute of Political Science (IPW) of Heidelberg University, took over this position as research associate between December 1, 2014 and September 30, 2016. In late 2015 Hanna Thiele, a former student in the HCA's BAS program who is now a master's student in International Relations at Frankfurt University, joined the project as a student research assistant until December 31, 2016. Natalie Rauscher, M.A., a graduate of the MAS program and currently doctoral student at the HCA, came on board as a graduate student research assistant in February 2016 through December 31, 2016. In Berlin, Professor Andrea Römmele at the Hertie School of Governance worked 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 U.S. 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 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-Stiftung in 2018. 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 policymaking 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. Dr. 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.

At the end of 2016 the first German draft of a major research report ("Study"), containing the results of two major surveys among economic policy advisers in the U.S. and Germany plus selected background interviews, was completed. In 2017 this draft went through several revisions and is now in the copy-editing stage. It will be published by the Hans-Böckler-Foundation in the first half of 2018. In addition, a major research paper in English on the "Mediatization of Expertise" as well as further interviews with economic policy advisors, review articles on the role of economic policy advice dealing with issues such as the minimum wage will be published, also in early 2018, as a thematic edition of the *Zeitschrift für Politikberatung (ZPB)* (Journal for Policy Advice and Political Consulting), published by Nomos Verlag, Baden-Baden.

The research project "Patterns of Economic Policy Advice" has been 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.



## HCA SPRING ACADEMY 2017

The fourteenth annual Spring Academy started on March 20 with a reception in the Atrium of the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. The HCA's founding director Professor Junker welcomed twenty Ph.D. students affiliated with institutions in six countries and representing eight different nationalities and pointed out the special opportunity the Spring Academy offers as a place for networking and early cohort formation. Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, the HCA's executive director and one of the two Spring Academy facilitators followed Professor Junker with a brief introduction of the HCA. Pointing out the center's three pillars – education, research, and dialogue with the public – he located the Spring Academy within these fields.

Following a brief reception that afforded everyone the chance to mingle and meet Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Dr. Mausbach, the warm-up session commenced. Brief introductions by all participants were followed by rapid-fire summaries of their Ph.D. projects as part of an ice-breaker. Afterwards, an extended discussion of American Studies explored the uniting and connecting issues for all projects presented throughout the week. Suggestions included "interdisciplinary," "opportunity," "critical," and "expansive." The discussion soon centered on the issue of interdisciplinarity, which Helen Gibson identified as a clear theme in every dissertation; a discussion of the different levels of interdisciplinarity ensued. Jack Davy pointed out the need of the right tools to achieve this interdisciplinarity. The importance of place was introduced to the discussion, when it turned to "opportunity," with Wilfried Mausbach and Helen Kilburn naming the American Dream and its connection to place. The term "expansive" was connoted with a spatial component, for example, as Thomas Cobb explained, when discussing the expansion of Manifest Destiny. Lena Mattheis applies "expansion" to cultural art, as she often notices paintings to be vast or expansive. In the geographical context, Finola Prendergast pointed out that the

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



concept of the nation-state is often a limiting factor. What was missing in this collection were the terms "gender," "race," or "ethnicity".



Héloïse Thomas-Cambione and Helen Kilburn Continue the Conversation after the Warm-Up Session.

The first panel, entitled "Englishness and Otherness in Early America," was chaired by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach. Helen Kilburn (University of Manchester, U.K.) focused in her presentation "Religion, Empire, and 'Sorts of People', in Maryland 1634-1689" on the influence of English Catholics on the formation of slavery in Maryland, comparing them with English Protestants in terms of property ownership, land access, and wealth. She pointed out that most land owners in Maryland were Catholic, because they often had better access to credit and thus slaves as a means of social prestige. Aynur Erdogan (University of Groningen, Netherlands) followed Kilburn with a presentation on "The Imagined Turk in Early America" in which she focused on the portrayal of Turks in eighteenth-century America and tried to categorize western representations of the Orient. Oriental tales were very popular during that time, and she argued that there was an oriental equivalent to the noble savage: the grateful Turk. Erdogan introduced the analytical tools she plans to use: polygenic parallelism (everything is related to everything), adaptation (with the example of Aladdin) and derivation (philosophical messages are secularized and moved into the oriental context).

After a brief coffee break, L. Sasha Gora (Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany) started the second panel on "Exploring Material Culture," chaired by Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung with a presentation on "Culinary Landclaims: A History of Indigenous Restaurants in Canada." Gora's presentation centered on food as a universal entity that brings people together and can also be used to study land. Gora focused on the First Nations who used to live on the land in question and the ways they used food to claim and reclaim land. In her dissertation she looks at food as cultural negotiation and analyzes cookbooks and restaurants which serve indigenous food. In this context, authenticity not defined by ingredients used but rather by who eats it. The panel's second speaker was John Davy (University College London, U.K.), who gave a presenta-

tion on "Miniaturization and Communication on the Northwest Coast." In his dissertation, Davy focuses on miniatures made by Native Americans along the coast of British Columbia and tries to look at the mimetic relationship between those miniature objects and their larger resemblants. He argues that miniatures are deliberately distributed to make people in museums or governments think or act a certain way. When the material culture of Native Americans was banned, miniatures were still allowed. This enabled the indigenous peoples to keep up the carving tradition and thus serves as a method of cultural resilience. Davy claims that he is the first to focus on miniaturization from this region in anthropologic terms.

Tuesday began with a panel on "Interventions: Cultural Representations of Post-Cold War U.S. Foreign Policy," chaired by Dr. Tobias Endler. First to speak was Thomas Cobb (University of Birmingham, U.K.) on "Decade of Ambivalence: How Hollywood Films from 1999-2009 Allegorized U.S. Foreign Policy." Cobb claims that foreign policy theories of hard and soft power often interact in Hollywood films. The movie *There Will Be Blood* can be interpreted multilayeredly. The relationship between the characters can be, on the one hand, interpreted as the relationship between the Bush administration and the evangelical Christians. During the occupation of Iraq, on the other hand, the Iraqi people can take the place of Evangelicals. According to Cobb, directors intentionally refer to political events to give their films a political reading. The day's second speaker was Tatiana Prorokova (Philipps University Marburg, Germany), whose presentation was entitled "From Fiction to (Semi-)History: U.S. Contemporary Interventions in Film and Literature." She as well focused on the fictional representations of U.S. interventions since 1990. She argued that war fiction is not exclusively fictional but presents a connection between history and fiction and thus can be named "docu-fiction." War-docu, in this regard, does not teach history but helps to understand it.

After a quick coffee break, Romain Gilibert (Université d'Aix-Marseille, France), began the fourth panel on "Claiming Citizenship – at the Ballot Box and on the Freeway" with a presentation on "Understanding the Latino Electorate in Texas." Gilibert's dissertation aims at analyzing the growing importance of the Latino vote for American politics. In Texas, Latino voters make up 38% of the electorate. It is a fairly young population with 4.8 million eligible voters (out of a total of 10.4 million), but only 2.3 million Latino voters are even registered. This "sleeping giant" has a relatively low voting turn-out compared to African-Americans or whites. Gilibert wants to trace why the turnout in Texas is so low and what political parties reach out to them. Helen Gibson (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany) followed Gilibert with a presentation on "Chauffeur Blues: Cars as Spaces of Social Transgression, 1895-1939." She emphasized the importance of the car in the early twentieth century as a method to change race relations. In her dissertation, Gibson analyzes the automotivity of black chauffeurs in the United States, meaning the personal agency inherent in the act of driving. According to her research, the car, in contrast to public transport, represented both public and private space and can thus be seen as another unique tool for black liberation in the Civil Rights Movement.

Tuesday 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 who used to facilitate the Writing Resources Center at the English



Romain Gilibert.

Department of Heidelberg University. 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.

Spring Academy participants then met for a guided walking tour through Heidelberg with Kristian Willenbacher which was moved to the historical student prison because of poor weather. The evening ended with a traditional German meal at a historic German restaurant in Heidelberg's Old Town.

Wednesday's first session, "Transnationalism, Cosmopolitanism, and Afropolitanism," was chaired by Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung. Lena Mattheis (University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany) gave a presentation on "'I don't rely on paint alone' – Palimpsestuous Street Art in Chris Abani's *The Virgin of Flames*." The novel Mattheis' work focuses on is set in East Los Angeles and deals with the protagonist's motivation to paint. She analyzes the palimpsestuous relationship – overwriting something with the original still visible – in this regard. Mattheis describes Street Art as translocal since it exists in an urban environment, centered on a wall but also connected to other places as it has an influence on the surrounding area. The panel concluded with Sandra Garcia Corte's (University of Oviedo, Spain) presentation on the issue of Afropolitanism. Her talk, "Afropolitanism: Solution or Restriction?" tried to grasp the new definition of the African in a context of spatial reorganization. The term, first introduced by Taiye Selasi, captures the fluidity and cosmopolitanism of a new generation. Garcia Corte also analyzes Anglophone narratives and their spatial importance in regard to this new context to test its applicability to narratives.

The second panel of the day, chaired by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, dealt with "The Screening and Greening of American Business" and started with Natasha Neary's (Northumbria University, U.K.) presentation on "*Fun and Facts About American Business: The Production of Harding College's Educational Film Series*." Focusing on the period from World War II until the 1960s, she analyzes

a TV series which aimed at combatting FDR's New Deal. Showcasing the importance of the free enterprise system, this series, with its curious mix of promoting both capitalism and religion, served as a fruitful method to explain the American economy to the broad public in an unprecedented way. Christian Gunkel followed with a presentation on "Rethinking Green Consumerism – How American Entrepreneurs Set out to Change the Market for the Better." He specifically concentrated on Green Consumerism and analyzed market actors who focus on one of the goals for sustainability defined by the United Nations in 2015. While governments are lagging behind in this regard, Gunkel's main focus is the role of lifestyle politics for said businesses and the critique thereof. One example he mentioned was Tom's campaign "One for One" – for every pair of shoes sold one pair will be given to a child in need in a developing country.

After the lunch break, the seventh panel on "Gendered Histories and Historiographies" was chaired by Dr. Patrick Miller and started with Rosie Knight's talk on "Thinking Intersectionally: Motherhood and Intra-gendered Exploitation in the Antebellum South." Through the lens of intersectionality, the talk focused on how motherhood in nineteenth-century American was,

Aynur Erdogan and Franziska Pentz Testing a Piece of John Deere Equipment.



among other things, shaped by exploitation. According to Knight, motherhood had different meanings shaped by race and class, something that affected black mothers in particular. They were usually referred to as mammies to white children or as absent and disinterested to their own. Knight pointed out that these processes of categorization had social and material consequences. This presentation was followed by Héloïse Thomas' (Université Bordeaux Montaigne, France) on "The Feminist Premise(s) of Reconstructive Historiographies," which argued that the works of feminist writers represent historiographic work that can be used to dismantle what was traditionally assembled by men. Thomas clarified that this tradition has been changing over the last sixty years, but has our approach to history changed as well? Thomas' goal is to reclaim authority and to open up a space for erased voices to speak on their own.

Following the final panel for the day, the Spring Academy participants were then escorted to Mannheim for a private tour of the John Deere Europe factory. As sponsor of the Spring Academy, John Deere supports the program financially because it considers its own endeavor as one of the great American-German partnerships in manufacturing. Following a warm welcome and introduction by Public Relations and Brand Management Manager Dr. Ralf Lenge the group was led on 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 group was treated to some light snacks and had pictures taken with the trademark machinery.

Dr. Tobias Endler introduced Thursday's first session, "Cultural Moments: From Poetry to SciFi." The day's first presentation was Finola Prendergast's (University of Notre Dame, USA) talk on "Dystopia and Deregulation: The Twenty-First Century's Minor Genre." Prendergast argued that the genre of science-fiction/fantasy is better suited to portray moral discourse about contemporary problems than more traditional genres. The tradition of American dystopia has changed from an oppressive state to a passive state that enables chaos. The neoliberal dystopia, as Prendergast refers to it, might have ended with Donald Trump's election and the resurgence of the twentieth-century dystopian tradition of authoritarian governments. The eighth panel ended with Amanda Licato (Stanford University, USA) and her presentation entitled, "'Out from Behind this Mask': Persona in African American Poetry, 1830-1930," focusing on black poets as a rich source to understand the lyric/ poetic persona. Licato's methodology draws on Greek and Roman drama in which every new speaker used a new mask to melt into the role. In this context, she defined persona as a measure of various constructions of identity, wearing a mask that is not only masking. Licato explained her focus on African American poets as their peculiar power in regard to history and a possibility to read the black identity as a hollow mask.

After a coffee break, the ninth panel, chaired by Dr. Ulrike Gerhard, "Urban Narratives in the Big Apple," was started by Nico Völker (Justus-Liebig-University Gießen, Germany) with his presentation on "A 'Park' Grows in Brooklyn: The Atlantic Yards Project and Narratives of Urban Redevelopment." Völker aims at analyzing the Atlantic Yards redevelopment program and its implications for Brooklyn. Among other things, he interprets the project as narratively constructed. The change of name from "Atlantic Yards" to "Pacific Park" exemplifies the nostalgic yearning for a greener living, even though the project does not encompass a park but seventeen high-rise towers with mixed use. The second speaker of this panel, Jessica Bird (Temple University, USA) gave a presentation on "For the Legal and Peaceful Enjoyment of Citizens: Street Vendors, Prostitution, and the Regulation of Public Space." She focused on vending as well as prostitution as two central themes that were discussed and regulated in the city in the 1970s. During this time, over 22,000 people were vending without a license and supposedly threatening small business. An increase of peddler restrictions resulted in pushing them to outer boroughs. Similar restrictions were applied to prostitution during several anti-prostitution drives on public spaces and private properties.

Friday morning began with a workshop on "Symbols Matter: Race and the Politics of Popular Memory" facilitated by Dr. Patrick Miller (Northeastern University, USA), in which he argued that accounts from the past are rendered and remembered to add to a long history of white

supremacy. The question that came up in his workshop was how to confront offensive symbols. After discussing some examples, such as the confederate flag controversy or symbols at American colleges that include slave pictures and Indian mascots, he opened the discussion, giving everyone the chance to share their stories and observations.

After lunch, the tenth and final panel on "Vision, Sight, and Blinding," chaired by Dr. Fischer-Hornung, began with a presentation by Maria Kaspirek (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany) on "The Battle for Authority: Literary and Scientific Configurations of Knowledge in Nineteenth-Century America." Looking at mental hygiene in Antebellum literature, Kaspirek argued that literature and science were more closely connected than today and contained their own source of knowledge. In this sense, "literature as an exposition of science" was used to test and expand medical theories. The last presentation of the day was given by Madeline Williams (Harvard University, USA) on "Visions of Belonging: The Politics of Blindness and Sight in the United States, 1884-1935"; it explored the history of blindness as disability. She explained that the term "disability" was a twentieth-century word that helped to grasp changing notions of

Spring Academy Participants at the Historic Heidelberg University Student Prison.



blindness as a social and cultural category in the nineteenth century. Williams' work also focuses on the retrolental fibroplasia epidemic in the 1940s and 50s among premature babies. She tries to recover the untold story of these children at Schools for the Blind and their parents' participation in scientific and medical discourse of more recent times.

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 the character of American Studies were added to the ones collected in Monday's warm-up session: "authenticity," "responsibility," "transnational," and "multi-faceted" were among the many new concepts. The participants expanded their initial focus on interdisciplinary and amplified previous terms. Based on the closeness of all the circles with ideas on the chart, they agreed that some ideas brought up in Monday's session were now strengthened while others were problematized. After the cool down session, the HCA invited the participants to a farewell dinner to celebrate another successful Spring Academy.

## CONFERENCES

### **The United States and World War I: Perspectives and Legacies (39th Annual Conference of Historians in the DGFA/GAAS), February 10-12, 2017, Heidelberg Center for American Studies**

The year 2017 marked the centennial of the United States' entry into World War I, the so-called Great War, which had a profound impact on the country. Domestically, the period between 1914 and 1918 represented both the climax and the turning point of the progressive reform movement. Internationally, the conflict shifted the global balance of power to set the stage for what has been called the "American century." The 39th Annual Conference of Historians in the German Association for American Studies (DGFA/GAAS) provided an opportunity to reassess the war's significance in American history. The three-day conference was hosted by Manfred Berg (Heidelberg) and Axel Jansen (German Historical Institute Washington, D.C.) at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

In their opening remarks, the conveners introduced the conference theme by drawing a parallel between World War I and current political events. Toward the beginning of their welcome, they addressed the elephant in the room – Donald J. Trump. Indeed, it seems only natural to keep in mind recent political developments when reflecting on the transformative years of early twentieth-century U.S. history. World War I usually is considered as the event that turned the U.S. into a world power, even if the country initially shied away from this role after the war. Warning against presentism, however, professors Berg and Jansen emphasized that the past should be studied on its own merits in order to make such analysis fruitful for questions of the present. The conference presentations picked up on this core idea and studied America's involvement in the "European War" from various fascinating angles, comparing developments during the period of U.S. neutrality to decisions taken when the U.S. had joined World War I.



The conference's first panel, titled "Preparing for War," focused on the American debate over proper defense measures that followed the outbreak of the European conflict in 1914. Dirk Bönker (Duke University) analyzed the U.S. naval leadership's vision for American global power that was reflected in the goal to create a navy "second to none." Bönker argued that World War I actualized the Navy's already existing ambitions for global mastery and reinforced its understanding of world politics as a struggle for supremacy. Having identified commercial strife as the most pressing issue of international relations, naval elites regarded the American fleet as an instrument of economic geopolitics. Their unilateral view of the United States as an imperial power in a competitive milieu of global empires, Bönker highlighted, stood in sharp contrast to the Wilsonian language of anti-geopolitics.

Manuel Franz (Heidelberg) explored the key role of civilian defense societies in the American preparedness movement. By surveying their activities, pamphlets, and lobby work, he highlighted how the groups shaped the public debate on national security and acted as principal agents of preparedness. As such, defense societies did not end their propaganda campaign once the United States entered the war or even after the Allies' victory but intensified their activities in 1917 and in 1918. Viewing the movement through the lens of its civilian branch, Franz argued against historiography's traditional periodization of the defense debate. The historiographic time frame of preparedness, he emphasized, cannot be limited chronologically to America's years of neutrality, but must include the period after 1917.

In his keynote lecture, Ross A. Kennedy (Illinois State University) analyzed the strategic calculations of Woodrow Wilson's neutrality policy following the sinking of the *Lusitania*. The president's harsh reaction toward Germany's submarine warfare, Kennedy argued, was highly influenced by his view of the war's impact on U.S. national security. Kennedy explained that the president's strategic calculations profoundly differed from those of his secretary of state, who would resign over this disagreement. William Jennings Bryan's approach of impartial neutrality toward the belligerents was based on the fundamental assumption that, regardless of who won the war, America's security would be assured due to its remote geographic location and its great military potential. Wilson, on the other hand, believed that a victorious Germany would pose a vital threat to the American way of life, though he deemed a German victory to be unlikely. Wilson concluded that the best policy was to keep up good relations with the British to ensure the Allies would agree to an American-mediated settlement once they began to prevail over the Central Powers. Wilson's strategic calculations in the submarine crisis, Kennedy outlined, led him to define American rights at stake in the most inflated way possible. The president's shift toward a more genuinely neutral position in mid-1916 came too late to avert the ultimate escalation in German-American relations in early 1917.

Opening Panel II, which centered on the topics of mobilization and propaganda, Elisabeth Piller (Trondheim) spoke about the impact of war relief campaigns during the neutrality period. She reflected upon the question whether American relief work could be considered a factor of war culture and repudiated the leading opinion that relief work was motivated by pure humanitarianism and, thus, apolitical. By focusing on two camps of humanitarian aid providers, who supported either German or Belgian victims of war and famine, she demonstrated that their



Boy Scouts Take to the Streets in New York City Shortly after the U.S. Went to War in 1917.

proponents held differing beliefs about the war in Europe and the belligerents. Notions about who was innocent and thus deserving of help played prominently into relief work, which was, as Piller elucidated, all but an impartial humanitarian effort. Thus, war relief campaigns directed emotional alliances and constituted an integral precursor of mobilization. Following Piller's talk, Katja Wüstenbecker (Jena/Hamburg) commented on the Committee for Public Information's strategy to brace the American public for war. Discussing George Creel's roots in progressive journalism, Wüstenbecker portrayed the CPI as an example of how government can make use of the media to influence public opinion. By demonstrating that the majority of Americans received material of the CPI, and that this same material fueled stereotypes about citizens of the Central Powers, Wüstenbecker made a strong case for the CPI's crucial role in American propaganda.

Focusing on the urban context of a Northern and Southern metropolis, the third panel dealt with the perspective of German-Americans during World War I. Jörg Nagler (Jena) reassessed their experience in New York City during the neutrality period. He outlined how the perception of German-Americans transformed, in less than three years, from a role model immigrant group into the enemy within – a process Nagler called "metamorphosis." As the sinking of the *Lusitania* in May 1915 and the Black Tom Explosion in July 1916 fueled the anti-hyphenated fever, German-Americans had to react to the challenge of dual loyalties. The war, Nagler argued, became an agent of change that forced immigrants to constantly negotiate their identities – often with ambiguous results. Andreas Hübner (Kassel) then explored the German-American community of New Orleans during the neutrality period. He illustrated how the war mobilized the immigrant community and created new networks of patronage. Often supported by state and city officials, German-Americans engaged in war relief activities and waged a campaign to reintroduce German language classes into the city's high schools. Spearheaded by the German Society of New Orleans, they vigorously challenged pro-Allied propaganda to support the fatherland. Their cultural and intellectual responses to the "European War," Hübner concluded, revitalized the

immigrant community and made New Orleans a stronghold of German-American filiopietists.

In the second keynote lecture of the conference, Jennifer Keene (Chapman University) explored the impact of World War I on social justice movements, focusing on civil liberties, female suffrage, and African-American civil rights. While acknowledging that actors for social change faced oppression in the war period, Keene argued that the situation also created moments of innovation and the impetus for many activists to reconsider organizational structure and strategies. The Civil Liberties Union, she pointed out, was born out of the movement against conscription. Keene directed her focus toward the question of how social movements prospered in the war. She illustrated that patriotic endeavors helped legitimate activists' positions. Members of the National Union of American Women, for instance, succeeded in making the women's vote appear respectable by getting involved in home front activities and thus improving their public image. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) had experienced a growth in members before the war. While African-Americans continued to face extreme violence and oppression during and after the war, civil rights activists gained valuable experience in local organizing and developed strategies to fight against lynching on a judicial level. The NAACP further profited from a rise in publicity that would, in the long run, contribute to its success as the chief organization in the fight for African-American civil rights. Keene concluded by reinforcing her thesis that the war created opportunities for social movements. A new sense of citizenship that grew out of the war marked a turning point in their history and a basis for successes later in the century.

The fourth panel explored new perspectives on the social impact of the war. Mischa Honeck (German Historical Institute Washington) discussed the demographic and symbolic capital that societies assign to children in wartime. While acknowledging the interdependence of class, race, gender, and regions, Honeck focused on the category of age in his analysis. He explored ideas about childhood in contemporary representations of children and adolescents and shed light upon their wartime experiences. These included a range of patriotic leisure activities, as well as opportunities, particularly for young people of color, to participate in protests for a safe America. Finally, Honeck made the case for viewing children as historical actors and for using childhood as an analytical framework. Matthias Voigt (Frankfurt) then presented a paper on Native American soldiers who fought in World War I. Analyzing their enlistment motives, wartime experiences, and veteran activities, he illustrated how their participation in the conflict made the men reinvent their masculine subjectivities. The Great War, Voigt argued, transplanted existing notions of tribal warriorhood into U.S. military service, thus syncretizing both Native and Western martial traditions. Subsequently, the conflict not only brought a cultural revitalization of Native Americans' martial heritage, but set a precedent of American Indian service in a white man's army.

The conference's final panel dealt with the legacy of World War I. Charlotte Lerg (Münster) reassessed the war's impact on interpretations of academic freedom. Focusing on collective actors such as the Association of American University Professors (AAUP), she argued that, although German influence was undeniable and *Lehr- und Lernfreiheit* had long been admired concepts, the war provided both a challenge and an opportunity to define a new social purpose, as well

as inciting unity, for American academia. While academics felt responsible for keeping the non-partisan nature of academic freedom alive, pressure on American universities to take a stand for their country increased during the war. Two distinct versions of academic freedom emerged that served as the basis for legal and public arguments, institutionalized academic freedom, emphasized the autonomy of the individual scholar, and, therefore, shaped American academia for decades to come. In the conference's final presentation, Helke Rausch (Freiburg) explored how World War I influenced the establishment of American philanthropy. Centering on the Rockefeller Foundation, Rausch identified philanthropic efforts during wartime, including funding for health campaigns and war relief, as hitherto unknown opportunities for science-led interventions abroad. She demonstrated that philanthropists challenged the idea of neutrality even before the beginning of hostilities and continued to strive for mobilization once the United States had entered the war. Furthermore, Rausch revealed that the experience philanthropists had gained under the particular conditions of war inspired their endeavors in the 1920s and onwards, thus building a foundation for global American philanthropy in the twentieth century.

Over the course of the conference, it became clear that World War I furthered a socializing process by mobilizing various segments of society: women and men, children and adults, native, hyphenated, and mainstream Americans, soldiers and civilians, nationalists and global philanthropists, and even academics. Thus, the war functioned as a catalyst for social change that shaped U.S. society for decades to come.

Manuel Franz and Lara Track, History Department, Heidelberg University

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

On May 17, 2017, the HCA and the Faculty of Theology bestowed the James W.C. Pennington Award on Harry S. Stout, the Jonathan Edwards Professor of American Christianity at Yale Divinity School. The award ceremony and a celebratory reception took place in the Atrium and garden of the HCA. The James W.C. Pennington Award honors distinguished scholars who explore fields that were important to the former slave and minister: slavery and emancipation, social reform, religion, peace, education, and intercultural communication. Endowed by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation for the sixth time, the award encompasses a substantial fellowship and lets Heidelberg students profit from a co-taught seminar with the awardee. The award ceremony opened with speeches by the HCA's founding director, Professor Detlef Junker, the benefactor, Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, and Jan Stievermann, professor for the history of Christianity in the United States.

Harry S. Stout received his Ph.D. from Kent State University in 1974, has published and edited numerous books on religious and cultural history, and is professor of American religious history at Yale University since 1986. In 1991, he became the Jonathan Edwards Professor of American Religious History. In his work, Professor Stout has explored Puritanism, Evangelicalism, and especially religion in the context of the American Civil War. Like Pennington, he is interested in the religious motifs behind the emancipation of slaves. In his talk at the HCA he focused on "Lincoln's God and the Emancipation Proclamation."

Unlike his Gettysburg Address and second inaugural speech, historians have not celebrated Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 as particularly inspirational. For a long time, it has been perceived as dry and merely rhetorical, lacking the substance and eloquence of other Lincoln speeches. The proclamation has also been criticized because it freed all slaves who resided in the Confederacy, but not those living in the border states. In his talk, Professor

Manfred Lautenschläger and Beatrix Busse Congratulate the 2017 Recipient of the J.W.C. Pennington Award, Harry Stout.



Stout presented arguments and evidence that probed the question whether God played any particular role in Lincoln's decision to emancipate the slaves. Lincoln, he said, was so caught up in this single proclamation that he waited for affirmation from God. Professor Stout also argued that in framing the argument for his proclamation, Lincoln strove for more than mere emancipation that manifested itself in racial equality and full citizenship. He wanted moral equality for all races, a demand that, according to Professor Stout, had a "revolutionary dimension." A similar moral and religious force had also inspired the Gettysburg Address and Lincoln's Second Inaugural. Lincoln's God was the Puritan God of the Hebrew Bible who engaged in relationships with chosen people and nations, who in turn had to act in a certain way to stay in his favor. His scorn was to be feared, and His embrace was glorious. Lincoln's God informed the Emancipation Proclamation and the following events from start to finish and is part of our history today. The Emancipation Proclamation, according to Professor Stout, is part of a revolution that is still alive. Yet, the divide between the ideas of equality as manifested in the American Constitution and today's reality of prejudice, self-interest, and violence prevails. How we deal with this divide is how we, like Lincoln, will be judged by future generations. Under fervent applause, Professor Stout received the award, and a merry reception ensued under blue skies in the HCA back yard.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

The list below includes books, book chapters, journal articles, and entries in reference works published by HCA faculty and staff in 2016-17. Also listed are publications by scholars affiliated with the HCA that are relevant to the field of American Studies.

### Ridvan Askin (University of Basel)

*Narrative and Becoming* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2016).

"Objects," in *Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Posthuman*, eds. Bruce Clarke and Manuela Rossini (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016).

### Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

"Die USA und der Erste Weltkrieg," in *Der Erste Weltkrieg und die Folgen*, ed. Óscar Loureda (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," *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, Mass.: Wiley, 2016), 88-99.

"Religion in den USA," in *Heinrich Böll Memorial Weekend - Achill Island 2016*, ed. Heinrich Böll Stiftung (Bremen: Heinrich Böll Stiftung, 2016), 33-62.

*Woodrow Wilson: Amerika und die Neuordnung der Welt. Eine Biografie* (München: C.H. Beck, 2017).

"Eine wilde und unordentliche Demokratie: Wahlen und Gewalt in der amerikanischen Geschichte," in *Kultur und Praxis der Wahlen*, eds. Hedwig Richter and Hubertus Buchstein (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2017), 123-40.

"'He kept us out of war!' A Counterfactual Look at American History without the First World War," *Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era* 16 (2017): 2-23.

"Begrenzter Handlungsspielraum: Obama und das Problem des Rassismus," *Zeitschrift für*

*Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik* 10:2 (2017): 97-109.

"Von Barack Obama zu Donald Trump: Martin Luther Kings Traum vor dem Ende?" *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 67:18 (2017): 22-28.

"Race, Crime, and the Rise of the Carceral State since the 1960s," in *American Mosaic: Festschrift in Honor of Cornelis van Minnen*, ed. William E. Leuchtenburg (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2017), 53-62.

### **Florian Böller (HCA)**

Ed. with Steffen Hagemann, Anja Opitz, and Jürgen Wilzewski, *Die Zukunft der transatlantischen Gemeinschaft: Externe und interne Herausforderungen* (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2017).

"Debating War and Peace: US Congress and the Domestic Legitimization of Military Interventions," *Democracy and Security* 13:3 (2017): 196-219.

With Markus B. Siewert, "100 Tage Donald J. Trump. Eine frühe Bewertung einer (außer)gewöhnlichen Präsidentschaft," *Zeitschrift für Parlamentsfragen* 48:2 (2017): 329-349.

"No Patience for 'Wars of Choice'? Der US-Kongress und die Auseinandersetzung über die militärische Interventionspolitik in der Ära Obama," *Sicherheit + Frieden* 35:2 (2017): 66-71.

With Steffen Hagemann, "Neuordnung der Sicherheitsgemeinschaft: Obama, die transatlantischen Beziehungen und die Bewältigung sicherheitspolitischer Herausforderungen," *Zeitschrift für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik* 10:S2 (2017): 227-244.

With Lukas D. Herr, "Auf Kollisionskurs: Die Weltordnungspolitik der USA nach der Wahl Donald Trumps," in *Friedensgutachten 2017*, eds. Bruno Schoch et al. (Berlin: LIT, 2017), 33-44.

With Sebastian Werle, "Fencing the Bear? Explaining U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Russian Interventions," *Contemporary Security Policy* 37:3 (2016): 319-340.

### **David Eisler (GKAT)**

"Different Kinds of Infinity," in *The Road Ahead: Fiction from the Forever War*, eds. Adrian Bonenberger and Brian Castner (New York: Pegasus Books, 2017), 145-153.



### **Tobias Endler (HCA)**

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With Till Karmann and Simon Wendt, "Begrifflichkeiten, Herangehensweisen und Themenfelder in transatlantischer Perspektive," in *Zeitenwende 9/11? Eine transatlantische Bilanz*, eds. Till Karmann, Simon Wendt, and Tobias Endler (Opladen/Toronto: Barbara Budrich Publishers, 2016), 9-28.

With Martin Thunert "Der Streit um Worte und das Ringen um Sinn: Der 11. September 2001 und seine Aufarbeitung im transatlantischen intellektuellen Diskurs," in *Zeitenwende 9/11? Eine transatlantische Bilanz*, eds. Till Karmann, Simon Wendt, Tobias Endler, and Martin Thunert (Opladen/Toronto: Barbara Budrich Publishers, 2016), 50-69.

### **Gordon Friedrichs (HCA)**

With Sebastian Harnisch, "Schwerpunktverlagerung, Richtung ungewiss? Der 'US-Pivot to Asia' und seine unintendierten Konsequenzen," *AS/EN* 139 (2016): 44-74.

With Sebastian Harnisch, "Alliances Rebalanced? The Social Meaning of the U.S. Pivot and Allies' Responses in Northeast Asia," *Korean Journal of International Studies*, 15:1 (2017): 1-39.

### **Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Institute for Geography)**

Ed. with Michael Hoelscher and David Wilson, *Inequalities in Creative Cities: Issues, Approaches, Comparisons* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

With Michael Hoelscher, "Education and Inequality. The Significance of Knowledge in 'Going Creative' in Heidelberg, Germany," in *Inequalities in Creative Cities: Issues, Approaches, Comparisons*, eds. Ulrike Gerhard, David Wilson, and Michael Hoelscher (New York: Palgrave-McMillan, 2016).

With Cristiane Brosius, "Natur in den Städten. Das apokalyptische Narrativ," *Ruperto Carola* 8 (2016): 89-97.

With Edith Marquardt, "The Greener, the Happier? Urban Sustainability in the Knowledge City: Policies, Programs and Practices in the German Context," in *The Politics of Urban and Regional Sustainability: Appraising the Concept and Process*, ed. David Wilson (Champaign, Ind.: Common Grounds Publishing, 2016), 65-86.

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With Werner Gamerith, "From New York to L.A.: Aufstieg, Blüte und Krise der US-amerikanischen Stadt," in *Kulturgeographie der USA*, ed. Werner Gamerith and Ulrike Gerhard (Heidelberg: Springer Spektrum, 2017), 127-135.

With Werner Gamerith, "Einleitung: Eine *Kulturgeographie der USA* – Wozu und für wen?" in *Kulturgeographie der USA*, ed. Werner Gamerith and Ulrike Gerhard (Heidelberg: Springer Spektrum, 2017), xx-xxiii.

With Christina West and Editha Marquardt, "Co-design und co-production von Wissen für die nachhaltige Stadt. Das Reallabor Urban Office in Heidelberg," *GAIA* 26:1 (2017): 58-59.

"Creative Class Culture," in *The International Encyclopedia of Geography*, ed. Douglas Richardson et al. (New York: Wiley, 2017).

### **Sebastian Harnisch (Institute for Political Science)**

With Gordon Friedrichs, "Schwerpunktverlagerung, Richtung ungewiss? Der 'US-Pivot to Asia' und seine unintendierten Konsequenzen," *ASIEN* 139 (2016): 44-74.

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### **Detlef Junker (HCA)**

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"The Widening Atlantic: Market Gap, War Gap, God Gap" in *American Mosaic, Festschrift in Honor of Cornelius A. van Minnen*, ed. William E. Leuchtenburg (Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2017), 93-102.

### **Günter Leypoldt (HCA and English Department)**

"T.S. Eliot," in *Handbook of Transatlantic North American Studies*, ed. Julia Straub (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016), 137-161.

"Degrees of Public Relevance: Walter Scott and Toni Morrison," *Modern Language Quarterly* 77:3 (Special Issue: Scale and Value: New and Digital Approaches to Literary History, eds. James F. English and Ted Underwood. 2016): 369-393.

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### **Wilfried Mausbach (HCA)**

Ed. with Christoph Becker-Schaum, Philipp Gassert, Martin Klimke, and Marianne Zepp, *The Nuclear Crisis: The Arms Race, Cold War Anxiety, and the German Peace Movement of the 1980s* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2016).

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### **Paul S. Peterson (Theology Department and University of Tübingen)**

"Die Ökumene nach der ökumenischen Bewegung," in *Rationalität im Gespräch: Philosophische und Theologische Perspektiven*, eds. C. Drobe, A. Kupsch, M. Mühling, P. S. Peterson, and M. Wendte (Leipzig: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt, 2016).

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### **Styles Sass (HCA)**

*Swaying the Nation: Campaign Narratives in the 2008 Presidential Election*. (Kirchheim unter Teck: GO Publishers, 2016).

### **Anja Schüler (HCA))**

"Eleanor Roosevelt" in *America in the World, 1776 to the Present: A Supplement to the Dictionary of American History* 2Vols., ed. Edward Blum (New York: Charles Scribner and Sons, 2016).

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*American History 2*Vols., ed. Edward Blum (New York: Charles Scribner and Sons, 2016).

Ed. with Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson, *Forging Bonds Across Borders: Transatlantic Collaborations for Women's Rights and Social Justice in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Bulletin of the German Historical Institute, Supplement 13 (Washington, D.C.: German Historical Institute, 2017).

### **Daniel Silliman (HCA)**

"The Marketplace and Religion in America," in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

"The Bible in the Evangelical Imagination," in *The Bible in American Life*, eds. Philip Goff, Arthur E. Farnsley III, and Peter Thuesen (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017).

### **Tim Sommer (GKAT)**

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### **Jan Stievermann (HCA and Faculty of Theology)**

*Prophecy, Piety, and the Problem of Historicity: Interpreting the Hebrew Bible in Cotton Mather's Biblia Americana* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2016).

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"The German Lives of David Brainerd: The Beginnings of Pietist Interest in an American Evangelical Icon," in *Zwischen Aufklärung und Moderne: Erweckungsbewegung als historiographische Herausforderung*, ed. Thomas Kuhn und Veronika Albrecht Birkner (Münster: LIT, 2017).

"German Pietism," in *The Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia*, ed. Harry S. Stout (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).

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### **James Strasburg (University of Notre Dame and HCA)**

"Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the St. Nicholas Church, and the 1989 Monday Demonstrations: A Case Study of Theo-Political Engagement in the German Democratic Republic," *Journal of Church and State* 59:3 (2017).

"Reviving the Heartland: American Lutherans, Postwar Internationalism, and the Crisis of Germany, 1940-1949," *Journal of the Lutheran Historical Conference* 5 (2017): 62-84.

"Creating, Practicing, and Researching a Global Faith: Conceptualizations of World Christianity in the American Protestant Pastorate and Seminary Classroom, 1893 to Present," *Journal of World Christianity* 6:2 (2016): 217-236.

### **Martin Thunert (HCA)**

Ed. with Till Karmann, Simon Wendt, and Tobias Endler, *Zeitenwende 9/11? Eine transatlantische Bilanz* (Opladen/Toronto: Barbara Budrich Publishers, 2016).

With Till Karmann, Simon Wendt, and Tobias Endler, "Begrifflichkeiten, Herangehensweisen und Themenfelder in transatlantischer Perspektive," in *Zeitenwende 9/11? Eine transatlantische Bilanz*, eds. Till Karmann, Simon Wendt, and Tobias Endler (Opladen/Toronto: Barbara Budrich Publishers, 2016), 9-28.

With Tobias Endler, "Der Streit um Worte und das Ringen um Sinn: Der 11. September 2001 und seine Aufarbeitung im transatlantischen intellektuellen Diskurs," in *Zeitenwende 9/11? Eine transatlantische Bilanz*, eds. Till Karmann, Simon Wendt, and Tobias Endler (Opladen/Toronto: Barbara Budrich Publishers, 2016), 50-69.

"Hyper-Pluralismus? Die Welt der Interessengruppen, Gewerkschaften, Lobbyisten und Think Tanks," in *Handbuch Politik USA*, eds. Christian Lammert, Markus B. Sievert, and Boris Vormann, (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2016), 285-304.

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

With Anke Kessler and Andrew Sharpe, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2016 Canada Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2016).

With Fabian Klein, Edgar von Knebel, and Claudia Zilla, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2016 Chile Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2016).

With George Philip and Jörg Faust, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2016 Mexico Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2016).

With Paul J. Quirk and Christian Lammert, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2016 United States Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2016).

"Heiße Herzen, eisige Realität, ungesicherte Wissensbestände. Politikberatung im Umfeld der Einwanderungspolitik," in *Regieren in der Einwanderungsgesellschaft*, eds. Christoph Bieber, Andreas Blätte, Karl-Rudolf Korte, and Niko Switek (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2016), 135-144.

With Anke Kessler and Andrew Sharpe, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2017 Canada Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2017).

With Fabian Klein, Edgar von Knebel, and Claudia Zilla, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2017 Chile Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2017).

With Jörg Faust, Imke Harbers, and Zaira Razu, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2017 Mexico Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2017).

With Paul J. Quirk and Christian Lammert, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2017 United States Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2017).

With Tobias Endler, "Hope and Change? Appraising the Obama-Era and Envisioning the Trump Presidency," in *Annual Report 2015-16*, (Heidelberg: Heidelberg Center for American Studies, 2017) 166-181.

"Präzedenzlos und unvorhersehbar? Hillary Clintons Wahlniederlage und der unwahrscheinliche Triumph Donald Trumps am 8. November 2016," *Gesellschaft. Wirtschaft. Politik (GWP)* 1 (2017): 83-94.

"Beispiellos: Die ersten sechs Monate der 'Amerika-zuerst-Präsidentschaft' Donald J. Trumps," *Gesellschaft. Wirtschaft. Politik (GWP)* 3 (2017): 327-338.

### **Cosima Werner (HCA)**

"Die wollen kein Gemüse – Über den Kampf um gesundes Essen in amerikanischen Armutsquartieren," in *Frauen in der Einen Welt; Museumsband ausgekocht, zu den Internationalen Gesprächen im Museum*, eds. Gudrun Cyprin and Gaby Franger (Museum Frauenkultur Regional-International: Nürnberg, 2017), 94-97.



## SELECTED TALKS

During 2016-17, the following HCA staff members, students, and associates gave talks at the conferences, workshops, and panel discussions listed below.

### **Ridvan Askin (University of Basel)**

"'How can I Think about my Brain when it is the Brain who is Doing the Thinking?': Andrew's Brain and Doctorow's 'Metaphysical Bullshit.'" University of Strasbourg, March 2016, Strasbourg.

"Deleuze und Beckett/Schneider's Film." eikones Forum, April 2016, Basel.

"S wie Stil." eikones Forum, May 2016, Basel.

"Deleuze's Virtual Romanticism." 9th International Deleuze Studies Conference, University of Roma Tre, July 2016, Rome.

"Emerson's Speculative Pragmatism." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, November 2016, Heidelberg.

"Enstrangement Revisited: From Shklovsky's Epistemology to Deleuze's Ontology." University of Erfurt, December 2016, Erfurt.

"Emerson's Politics." EUCOR Thursday Lunch Lecture Series, Université Haute-Alsace, January 2017, Mulhouse, France.

"Soccer Genius." The Beautiful Game Workshop, Wake Forest University, July 2017, Winston-Salem, N.C.

### **Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)**

"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, R.I.

"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, Bielefeld.

"Was ist aus Martin Luther Kings Traum geworden? Amerikas schwarze Minderheit seit der Bürgerrechtsbewegung." Universität Gießen, January 2017, Gießen.

"'Wir sind keine Internationalisten, wir sind amerikanische Nationalisten!' Das Scheitern des Wilsonianism in den USA." Historisches Kolleg München, January 2017, Munich.

"Ursprünge und Formen der Sklaverei in Nordamerika" and "Der Ku-Klux-Klan und die Lynchjustiz im amerikanischen Süden." Fridtjof-Nansen-Haus, February 2017, Ingelheim.

"Aufklärung, Republikanismus, Selbstregierung, geordnete Freiheit: Die historisch-politischen Grundlagen der amerikanischen Verfassung." Carl Schurz Haus/Universität Freiburg, May 2017, Freiburg.

"A Theocrat in the White House? President Woodrow Wilson and the Role of Religion in American Foreign Policy." Heidelberg University, May 2017, Heidelberg.

"Writing a Geschichte der USA." Université Strasbourg, June 2017, Strasbourg.

"'A Vitally Necessary War Measure': Woodrow Wilson and Woman Suffrage." Leucorea Wittenberg, September 2017, Wittenberg.

"'Die freieste Gelegenheit zur autonomen Entwicklung': US-Präsident Woodrow Wilson und die Zukunft Österreich-Ungarns." VHS Linz, October 2017, Linz, Austria.

"Safe for Democracy? US-Präsident Woodrow Wilson und der Eintritt der USA in den Ersten Weltkrieg." Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Nürnberg, November 2017, Nuremberg.

"Safe for Democracy? US-Präsident Woodrow Wilson und der Eintritt der USA in den Ersten Weltkrieg." Friedrich-Ebert-Gedenkstätte, November 2017, Heidelberg.

"'He Kept Us out of War!' A Counterfactual Look at American History Without the First World War" and "'We are not Internationalists, we are American Nationalists': The Domestic Failure of Wilsonian Internationalism." Centro Studi Americani, November 2017, Rome.

"Woodrow Wilson und die Russische Revolution." Zentrum für Europäische Geschichts- und Kul-

turwissenschaften, December 2017, Heidelberg.

### **Florian Böller (HCA)**

"National Security and the Rule of Law: The War on Terror and the Challenges for Democracy in the United States." Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien, May 2016, Osnabrück.

"Beyond War Powers: Patterns of Legislative Assertiveness in US Congress." ECPR General Conference, September 2016, Prague.

"EU Futures Project – EU Views." Boston University, February 2017, Boston, Mass.

"Partners in Leadership? Understanding Crises and Resilience in US-German Security Relations." Center for European Studies, Harvard University, May 2017, Cambridge, Mass.

"Zur Zukunft der transatlantischen Beziehungen." Akademie für politische Bildung, August 2017, Tutzing.

### **Tobias Endler (HCA)**

"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.

With Martin Thunert, "Middletown: The Lower Middle Class in the US." W.E.B. Du Bois Lectures: Populism and (New) Nationalism in the US and Europe, Humboldt University Berlin, February 2017, Berlin.

With Martin Thunert, "Die USA unter der Präsidentschaft Donald Trumps." Volkshochschule Calw, April 2017, Calw.

With Martin Thunert, "Von Obama zu Trump: Die transatlantischen Beziehungen im Wandel." Seniorenuni Calw, SRH Hochschule, April 2017, Calw.

"Trump's Welt – Eine Zwischenbilanz nach 200 Tagen." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2017, Heidelberg.

With Martin Thunert, "Eine Präsidentschaft wie keine zuvor? Zwischenbilanz zum einjährigen Amtsjubiläum von Donald Trump." Volkshochschule Calw, November 2017, Calw.

With Martin Thunert, "Die Lateinamerikapolitik der USA von Obama zu Trump anhand aus-

gewählter Beispiele." Senioren-Uni Calw, SRH Hochschule, November 2017, Calw.

### **Dorothea Fischer-Hornung (HCA)**

"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 (MESEA), University of Warsaw, June 2016, Warsaw, Poland.

### **Gordon Friedrichs (HCA)**

"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." Heidelberg University, November 2016, Heidelberg.

"Polarisierung in den USA: Trump und Populismus." Stiftung der deutschen Wirtschaft, January 2017, Heidelberg.

"Polarized at Home, Bound to Lead Abroad: Contestation and Role Contestation and Change of U.S. Global Leadership." Annual Convention of the International Studies Association 2017, February 2017, Baltimore.

"The Populist's New Clothes: Policy Preferences of the Trump Administration and Transatlantic Crises Management." Workshop "Crisis, the Politics of Resilience, and the Future of Transatlantic Relations", Heidelberg Center for American Studies, March 2017, Heidelberg.

"Amerikanischer Populismus und Außenpolitik unter Donald Trump." Ramsteiner Gespräche 2017, Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, April 2017, Ramstein.

"Die amerikanische Demokratie unter Donald Trump und die Folgen für die liberale Weltordnung." Atlantische Akademie - American Neighbors in Rheinland-Pfalz, September 2017, Baumholder.

"Die amerikanische Demokratie unter Donald Trump und die Folgen für die liberale Weltordnung." Atlantische Akademie - American Neighbors in Rheinland-Pfalz, September 2017, Spangdahlem.

With Sebastian Harnisch, "Polarizer, Populist, or Both? Donald Trump's Relationship with Congress and Changing Patterns of U.S. Foreign Policy." Tagung der DVPW-Sektion "Internationale Beziehungen", October 2017, Bremen.

### **Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Geography Department)**

"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, Calif.

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

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

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

"Growing Apart? US-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.

"Reallaborforschung – ein Format für den Transfer und Impact von Wissenschaft? Das Beispiel Urban Office Heidelberg." Hochschule Speyer, October 2017, Speyer.

"Reallabore als innovatives Forschungsformat zur Untersuchung nachhaltiger Stadtentwicklung." Deutscher Kongress für Geographie, October 2017, Tübingen.

"Educational Attainment in the Creative City. A Socio-spatial Perspective." Knowledge Space Symposium, September 2017, Heidelberg.

"Aktuelle Entwicklungstendenzen in der Nordamerikanischen Stadt." Fachtage Geographie, March 2017, Hannover.

"Jenseits von Nord und Süd: Vergleichende Stadtforschung im Kontext natürlicher und sozialer Ressourcenkonflikte." Marsilius-Kolleg at Heidelberg University, January 2017, Heidelberg.

"Growing Apart? Wachstum und Ungleichheit in US-amerikanischen Städten." Geographische Gesellschaft Trier, January 2017, Trier.

### **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 (IPW)**

With 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.

"Gute Gründe: Warum es nicht zum Krieg zwischen den USA und China kommen wird." Carl-Schurz-Haus/Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Freiburg e.V. in cooperation with Colloquium Politicum of the University of Freiburg, the Landeszentrale für politische Bildung and the Konfuzius Institute, January 2017, Freiburg.

"Falling into the Thucydides Trap? The United States and the People's Republic in the Trump Era." Graduate Institute of East Asian Studies, National Chengchi University, April 2017, Taipei.

With Gordon Friedrichs, "Polarizer, Populist, or Both? Donald Trump's Relationship with Congress and Changing Patterns of U.S. Foreign Policy." DVPW Conference, section "Internationale Beziehungen," October 2017, Bremen.

### **Ryan P. Hoselton (HCA)**

"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)**

"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.

"Ein Monat nach der US-Wahl – eine erste Bilanz." Heidelberger Kreis, December 2016, Heidelberg.

"Gedenkansprache für Curt Rudolf Glover Engelhorn." Trinitatiskirche Mannheim, December 2016, Mannheim.

"Donald Trump und die Krise des Westens." Lions Club Walldorf Astoria, January 2017, Berlin.

"Der Kampf um die Seele von Faust. Deutschlandpolitik und Deutschlandbilder der USA 1943-1955." Theater Münster, January 2017, Münster.

"Donald Trump, die Krise der USA und des Westens. Ein prognostischer Versuch auf historischer Grundlage." Deutsch-Atlantische Gesellschaft, February 2017, Heidelberg.

"Donald Trump, die Krise der USA und des Westens." Lions Club Heidelberg, May 2017, Heidelberg.

"Donald Trump: Eine Krise der USA? Eine Krise des Westens?" Rotary Club Heidelberg Schloss, June 2017, Heidelberg.

"The Structure of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies." American Studies Network, June 2017, Uppsala.

"Aktuelle wirtschaftspolitische Situation der USA." Falk Forum Heidelberg, October 2017, Heidelberg.

"Donald Trump und die Zukunft des Westens." 27th Resident Directors Conference 2017, Europa Universität Viadrina, November 2017, Frankfurt/Oder.

"Heidelberg Center for American Studies – Development and Structure." Friends of the HCA, November 2017, New York.

### **Günter Leyoldt (HCA and English Department)**

"Specters of Feminization in Nineteenth-Century Literary Culture." Friedrich-Schiller-Universität-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.

"Novel Institutions: Knausgaard and the Turn to Genre." Stanford University, May 2017, Stanford.

### **Wilfried Mausbach (HCA)**

"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.

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

"100 Tage Trump – Entwicklungen in der Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, May 2017, Heidelberg.

"100 Tage Trump – Eine erste Bilanz." Reinhold Maier Stiftung, May 2017, Bad Cannstatt.

"Donald Trump – die zweiten 100 Tage." Heidelberg University, June 2017, Heidelberg.

## 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-Palatinate & the 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.

"Inauguration Day: 2017." Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Tübingen, January 2017, Tübingen.

"Vor-Wahlsonntag: Fakten, Forschung, Fakes." Haus der Geschichte Stuttgart, September 2017, Stuttgart.

"Die politische Entwicklung der USA in den letzten 40 Jahren." Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Schorndorf, October 2017, Schorndorf.

### **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.

### **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.

"The Unknown Story of Billy Sunday's Circus Giant." Billy Sunday Home Museum, Winona Lake History Center, 2017, Winona Lake, Indiana.

"What Writing about Murder Taught Me about Writing (and Can Teach You about Sermons)," Church Vocations Symposium, Valparaiso University, 2017, Valparaiso, Indiana.

### **Anne Sommer (HCA)**

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

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

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

"Puzzling Interdisciplinarity. Wissenschaftlichen Diskurs erleben und gestalten." Hochschuldidaktik Zentrum Heidelberg, March 2017, Heidelberg.

"Spiritual Journeys: Myth and Religion in Italian American Narratives of Return." Utrecht University, May 2017, Utrecht, the Netherlands.

"Rückkehr nach Italien: Zwischen Idyll und Identitätskrise. Italoamerikanische Erzählungen des 21. Jahrhunderts." Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, May 2017, Mainz.

"In Search of 'Authenticity': Italian American Narratives of Return." Institut culturel italien de Paris/Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration, June 2017, Paris, France.

"Alternative Lehrformate – Studierendenkonferenz." Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, June 2017, Heidelberg.

### **Tim Sommer (GKAT)**

"Orestes Brownson and the World Republic of Letters." Yale University, April 2016, New Haven, Conn.

"Transatlantic Authorization: Emerson and English Literature." American Literature Association Annual Conference, May 2016, San Francisco, Calif.

"Transatlantic Literary Studies: Institutional Trajectories, Methodological Turns." Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, Spring Doctoral Meeting, March 2017, Bad Homburg.

"Friendly Fire: Struggles for Recognition in Thomas Carlyle's and Ralph Waldo Emerson's Anglo-American Cultural Criticism." Harvard University, May 2017, Cambridge, Mass.

"Nineteenth-Century Lecture Culture and Literary Historical Narratives of the 'Fall into Institutionalization.'" International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen, June 2017, Gießen.

"Shakespearean Negotiations: Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Literary Culture and the Poetics of (De-)Nationalized Authorship." Transatlantic Studies Association Annual Conference, University College Cork, July 2017, Cork, Ireland.

### **Jan Stievermann (HCA and Faculty of Theology)**

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

"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.

"Europa aus Sicht des neuenglischen Puritanismus, ca. 1620-1700." Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte Mainz, January 2017, Mainz.

"Podiumsdiskussion mit Josef Braml: Religion und Politik in den USA." Frank-Loeb Institut, Evangelische Akademie Pfalz, March 2017, Landau.

"Spiritual Meaning and Experimental Knowledge in 18th c. Evangelical-Pietist Exegesis: The Example of Cotton Mather and Jonathan Edwards." Conference: Multiple Reformations and the Authority and Interpretation of Scripture, University of Notre Dame, March 2017, Notre Dame, Ind.

### **Martin Thunert (HCA)**

"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." Heidelberg

Center for American Studies, 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, November 2016, Saarbrücken.

"Equitable Growth, Mobility or Opportunities for All? How Progressive, Conservative, and Centrist Think Tanks and Research Groups Discuss Inequality in the U.S. 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-Präsidentenwahl- 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.

"Quo Vadis, Amerika?" Heidelberg Center for American Studies, January 2017, Heidelberg.

"Der Demokratische Patient? The Democratic Party in a Post-Clinton World." Universität Passau, February 2017, Passau.

"Canada – Finding its Identity by Fighting for the Empire in the Trenches and Battles of World War I?" Master-Studierende American Studies der Universität Marburg, February 2017, Heidelberg.

With Tobias Endler, "Middletown: The Lower Middle Class in the US." W.E.B. Du Bois Lectures:

Populism and (New) Nationalism in the US and Europe, Humboldt University Berlin, February 2017, Berlin.

"Amerikanische Außen –und Sicherheitspolitik im frühen 21. Jahrhundert." Bildungszentrum der Bundeswehr, March 2017, Mannheim.

With Tobias Endler, "Die USA unter der Präsidentschaft Donald Trumps." Volkshochschule Calw, April 2017, Calw.

With Tobias Endler, "Von Obama zu Trump: Die transatlantischen Beziehungen im Wandel." Seniorenuni Calw, SRH Hochschule, April 2017, Calw.

"Präsidentenwahl – Manipuliertes Verfahren, populistischer Irrtum oder Festtage der Demokratie?" Universität Bonn, May 2017, Bonn.

"Was wird aus der Einwanderungsgesellschaft USA?" Universität Bonn, May 2017, Bonn.

"What does the Trump Era Mean for Canada?" Canada Day, University of Szczecin, May 2017, Szczecin/Stettin, Poland.

"Is America's Current 'Special Relationship' with Britain or rather with Germany?" 70th Anniversary of the Marshall-Plan, Charles University Prague, May 2017, Prague, Czech Republic.

"Triebkräfte der Ungleichheit in den USA: Globalisierung/Handel, Digitalisierung, gesellschaftliche Polarisierung und die politischen Folgen." Fridtjof-Nansen-Haus Ingelheim, June 2017, Ingelheim.

"John F. Kennedys kurze und unvollständige Präsidentschaft. Zwischen Kuba und Camelot, Berlin und Dallas." Karlsruhe Institute of Technology KIT, Akademie für Wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung, June 2017, Karlsruhe.

"Trump's Welt – Eine Zwischenbilanz nach 200 Tagen." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2017, Heidelberg.

"What's Left of the Obama Presidency?" Evangelische Akademie Loccum, September 2017, Loccum.

"Die Vereinigten Staaten als Vorreiter der Postfaktizität?" Netzwerk Public Affairs und Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, October 2017, Cadenabbia, Italy.

"Canada and Immigration – A Role Model for the EU?" Chances and Challenges. Immigration and International Relations, Akademie für politische Bildung, Tutzing, October 2017, Tutzing.

"Der Trump Effekt – Ein Jahr nach der Wahl." Forum für Internationale Sicherheit, Deutsch-Atlantische Gesellschaft, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, November 2017, Heidelberg.

"Eine Präsidentschaft wie keine zuvor? Zwischenbilanz zum einjährigen Amtsjubiläum von Donald Trump." Volkshochschule Calw, November 2017, Calw.

With Tobias Endler, "Die Lateinamerikapolitik der USA von Obama zu Trump anhand ausgewählter Beispiele." Senioren-Uni Calw, SRH-Hochschule, November 2017, Calw.

"The World Needs more Canada." Akademie für politische Bildung, Tutzing, November 2017, Tutzing.

### **Cosima Werner (HCA)**

"Die Moral der Geschichte – Essen unter Beschuss in 'amerikanischen Ghettos.'" Tagung Neue Kulturgeographie, Universität Bayreuth, January 2017, Bayreuth.

"The Inconvenience of Convenience Stores." Association of American Geographers, April 2017, Boston, Mass.

With Robert Lemon, "Space, Place, and the Landscape." Association of American Geographers, April 2017, Boston, Mass.

"Urban Gardening – Fastfood-Kioske und Stereotypen in der Beziehung von weißen und afro-amerikanischen Communities in den USA." Internationale Gespräche im Museum, May 2017, Fürth.

"Convenience Food in Convenience Stores in American Ghettos." Conference Food Systems: Production, Trade, Consumption, Universität Köln, October 2017, Köln.

"Position im Weg: Verhinderte Zugänglichkeit zum Sozialraum 'convenience store' in amerikanischen Ghettos." Deutscher Kongress der Geographie, Universität Tübingen, October 2017, Tübingen.







SPECIAL FEATURE

## SPECIAL FEATURE

# HE NEVER WANTED WAR: WOODROW WILSON AND AMERICA'S ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR I

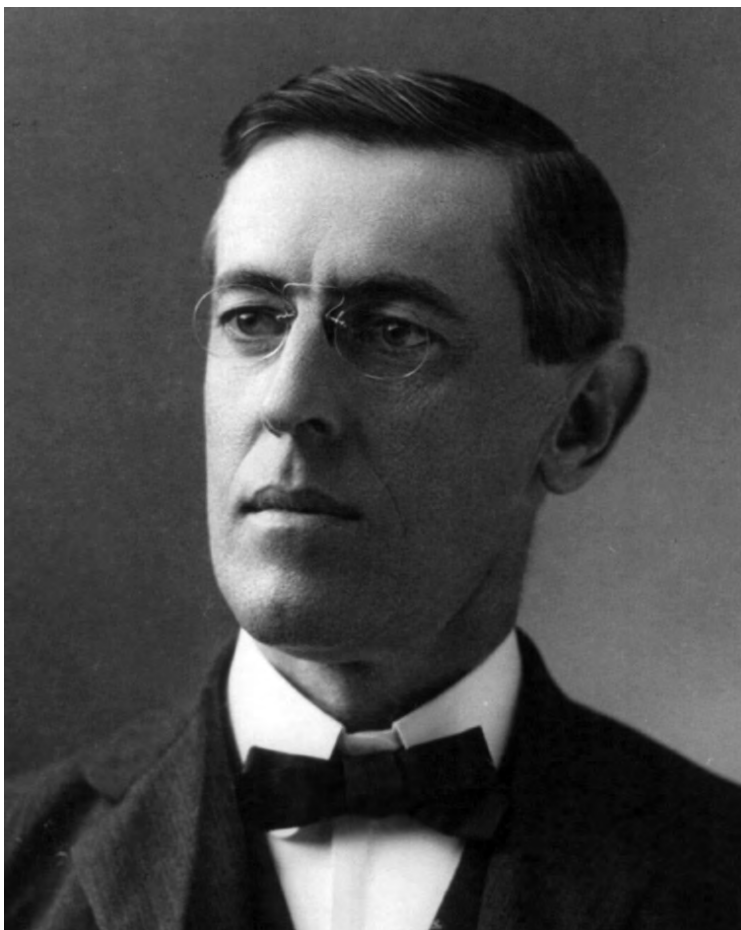
BY MANFRED BERG

The president was plagued by dark forebodings. On March 19, 1917, in a confidential conversation with the journalist Frank Cobb, Woodrow Wilson was adamant that “War would mean that we shall lose our heads . . . and stop weighing right and wrong . . . [and] quit thinking.” America would lapse into militarism, war fever would raze tolerance, and the freedom of speech and the Constitution would go to rack and ruin. At the end of the conversation, the deeply religious man exclaimed desperately, “If there is any alternative, for God's sake, let's take it.”

The German Reich had set Berlin and Washington on a collision course when it announced the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare against neutral shipping traffic in the North Atlantic at the end of January. Wilson broke off diplomatic relations with the Reich, but he did not want to believe that the Germans would deliberately attack U.S. vessels and kill American citizens. He stuck with America's policy of “armed neutrality” even on March 1, when the so-called Zimmermann telegram became known in the United States. In January, Arthur Zimmermann, the German foreign secretary, had offered Mexico the possibility of entering into a secret alliance against the United States. The telegram was intercepted by the English intelligence services and passed on to Wilson, who allowed the content to be published. The outrage within the U.S. public was unanimous. Then, in the middle of March, German submarines sank three American freighters. Wilson's cabinet came out in favor of war, but the president still remained reticent. It was not until April 2, 1917, that he went before Congress with his call for a declaration of war.

For almost three years, Wilson had managed to keep his country out of the Great War. From the very beginning, he called on his fellow citizens to be “neutral in fact as well as in name . . . impartial in thought as well as in action.” Especially with the German-American minority in mind, the president warned that sympathy for the land of one's birth could not be allowed to endanger the national unity of the United States. He knew the public supported him. Even though they leaned toward the Western powers, the overwhelming majority of Americans deemed participation in the war inconceivable. Since the presidency of George Washington (1789 to 1797), avoiding entanglements with European affairs had been a sacrosanct tenet of American foreign policy. In addition, neutrality was a precondition for the belligerents to accept America as a mediator—a role which Wilson had already secretly offered in September of 1914.

From the German perspective, however, America seemed anything but neutral: Wilson insisted on the “freedom of the seas,” including the right of neutral nations to carry on trade with the warring parties. This demand was sure to cause trouble on either side. Since the end of 1914, the British Royal Navy had implemented an extensive naval blockade, cutting Germany off from all imports coming out of the USA. In February 1915, the Kaiser’s navy declared unrestricted submarine warfare. In a zone around the British Isles, allied and neutral cargo ships would need to assume that they would be torpedoed without warning and without regard for their crews.



Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States.

Thus, both the British naval blockade and the German submarine war violated American neutrality rights. But while the U.S. government only mildly protested the British blockade, it criticized German submarine war as “an act unprecedented in naval warfare” and threatened to bring Germany to justice for the loss of American ships and lives. The sinking of the *Lusitania*, a British luxury liner, on May 7, 1915, which claimed around 1,200 lives (including those of 128 U.S. citizens) finally brought the German Reich and the United States to the brink of war. But since the German command put a de facto freeze on submarine warfare in the summer of 1915, there was no further escalation.

Even in the United States, there was controversy over Wilson's one-sided policy of neutrality. His most prominent critic was secretary of state William Jennings Bryan, who resigned after the sinking of the *Lusitania* because the president would neither commit to condemning the British naval blockade, nor to an official warning for U.S. citizens to avoid traveling on allied vessels.

By contrast, America's business interests supported a forceful defense of the "freedom of the seas" policy. Between 1914 and 1916 U.S. exports to the allied countries, comprising mostly armaments and foodstuffs, had increased fourfold. Around a third of these goods were bought on credit given out by American banks. From plain farmers to Wall Street financiers, everyone in the U.S. economy profited from the war boom. However, the notion that Wilson allowed himself to be pushed into war by the "merchants of death" belongs into the realm of conspiracy theory. There is no evidence for it.

Similarly, his contemporaries, as well as later historians, have time and again claimed that Wilson, whether out of missionary zeal or based on calculations of realpolitik, purposely led the U.S. into war. They were also mistaken: until the very end, the president clung to the hope of being able to end the war acting as an impartial arbitrator. As early as December 1914, he had hinted to a journalist that he was hoping for a stalemate that would make the adversaries receptive to American peace mediation.

What is accurate is that Wilson's aims went way beyond a swift ending of the war: he strove for no less than a new world order under U.S. leadership. Traditional European great power politics relying on a balance of power had plunged the world into catastrophe and were slated to be replaced by a league of democratic nation states. In May 1916, Wilson publicly manifested America's willingness "to become a partner in any feasible association of nations."

In order to achieve this, he was prepared to put pressure on the allies as well. In November 1916 – just after eking out reelection with the slogan "He kept us out of war!" – he ordered the Federal Reserve to warn domestic investors from buying more foreign bonds. This evoked utter horror in London as without U.S. credit England would quickly run out of money. In order to set peace talks in motion, Wilson pressed the warring parties to make their war aims public. But neither the Germans nor the allies were ready for a Pax Americana. Wilson did not let this discourage him, and on January 22, 1917, in a speech to Congress, he called for "peace without victory" based on the equality and self-determination of all nations, on disarmament, and free-trade. The new world order should be crowned with a "covenant of cooperative peace" to which the United States would also become a member.

The leadership of the German Reich ignored Wilson's overtures. At a privy council with Kaiser Wilhelm II on January 9, 1917, the Supreme Army Command and the naval staff had decided to resume unlimited submarine warfare, with Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg offering only lackadaisical opposition. The German strategists believed that America would flinch from war – otherwise, the German submarines would inhibit the transport of supplies and troops across the Atlantic. Before the U.S. would be able to throw its military and economic potential

onto the scale, England would already have been brought to its knees. Quartermaster General Erich Ludendorff, the strongman of the Supreme Command, arrogantly declared, “I don't give a damn about America!” On January 31, the U.S. government was informed about the imminent start of the submarine offensive. Despite its impressive initial successes, it would prove to be a miscalculation of epic proportions.

Wilson received the news with dismay but still hoped to preserve the nation's neutrality. Likewise, the American public only turned in favor of war when German submarines started to sink U.S. ships. Finally, on April 2, Wilson went before Congress. He spoke of a “fearful” step that he had to take.

Wilson was not a pacifist, but the deeply religious Calvinist saw war as a tragic entanglement in sin that could only be justified by a higher purpose. Therefore, he linked the national interest with universal principles, stating that “We are glad . . . to fight thus for the ultimate peace of the world and for the liberation of its peoples, the German peoples included: for the rights of nations great and small.” A prerequisite for future world peace was democracy. Democratically governed peoples, Wilson believed, would never initiate a war of aggression. No sentence from his war speech has been cited more often than his famous demand that “The world must be made safe for democracy.”



Woodrow Wilson's War Message to Congress on April 2, 1917.

At the end of his speech, the chamber erupted in thunderous applause. But four days later, when Congress went to vote on the Declaration of War, there were 56 nay votes – 50 in the House of Representatives and six in the Senate.

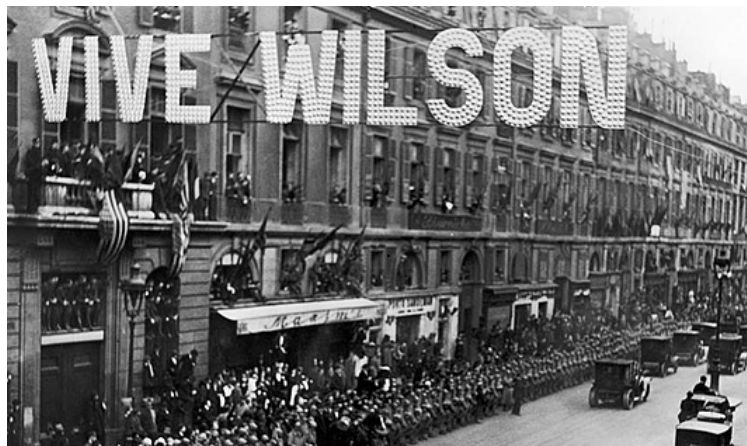
The strongest resistance was put up by progressive social reformers from states with a large percentage of German immigrants. Senator George Norris from Nebraska indignantly claimed that America was “going into war upon the command of gold” (i.e., Wall Street). Even some proponents of an armed engagement distanced themselves from Wilson – the president's goals seemed suspicious to them. As Senator William Borah from Idaho explained: “I make war alone for my countrymen and their rights, for my country and its honor.” In addition, a nay vote came from Jeannette Rankin, the only woman in Congress; she had been elected in 1916 to the House of Representatives from the state of Montana, where women already had active and passive voting rights. She quickly became a figurehead of the American peace movement. With a calm voice she said, “I wish to stand for my country, but I cannot vote for war.”

Wilson's apprehensions that the war would lead to intolerance and repression in the U.S. would soon be borne out. And, tragically, the president and his administration were themselves mainly responsible. Since the support of the public seemed to be lukewarm, the newly founded Committee on Public Information initiated an unprecedented propaganda campaign. In addition, rabid nationalists tyrannized German-Americans, who were collectively suspected of being disloyal. The German language and culture were to be obliterated from American life; sauerkraut was henceforth to be called “liberty cabbage.”

Wilson tolerated the anti-German furor as well as censorship and state persecution aimed at progressives, pacifists, and others on the left, such as the socialist leader Eugene Debs, who in 1918 was sentenced to ten years in prison for promoting conscientious objection to military service. Paradoxically, progressive internationalists had just supported Wilson's reelection in 1916 – whereas he could not count on support for his liberal peace program from reactionary nationalists, for whom war hysteria provided a boost. Bewildered, one of his earlier supporters bitterly commented, “He puts his enemies in office and his friends in jail.”

As Wilson had predicted, the entry of the U.S. into the war proved decisive for allied victory. When the U.S. president toured Europe at the end of 1918, he was greeted as a messiah on the streets of Paris, London, and Rome. Even the Germans were hoping for a mild “Wilsonian Peace”

Woodrow Wilson Arrives in Paris in December 1918. The Presidential Motorcade Passes the Maxim's on Rue Royal.



based on the Fourteen Points program that the president had announced in January 1918. But when the peace settlement was finally presented at the beginning of May 1919, all illusions were instantly dispelled. The Germans accused the U.S. president of enticing them to surrender by promising a just peace, only to betray them afterwards with what they henceforth called the Versailles “Schanddiktat” (diktat of infamy).

Many of his supporters back home also accused Wilson of betraying his liberal principles. This indictment occasionally influences the image of the president until today. It was buttressed by a psychobiography of Wilson, which Sigmund Freud and the American diplomat William C. Bullitt co-authored in the 1930s. Disappointed by Wilson's politics, they disparaged him as a weak and ugly mama's boy spending all his life under the spell of a dominating father figure.

If such judgements seem unfair, the disenchantment of his contemporaries is nevertheless understandable. To be sure, Wilson had pushed through the founding of the League of Nations in Paris, which, as he was hoping, would secure the peace and correct the flaws of the peace treaty. But upon his return to America, the president was forced to realize that support for U.S. membership was quickly fading. Many Americans feared that the League of Nations would draw their country into future wars all around the world. That the U.S. Senate rejected the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles and thereby membership in the League of Nations was also due to the fact that Wilson was not willing to make any compromises with the Republican opposition. In 1920, Republicans won landslide victories in the presidential and congressional elections by promising a “Return to Normalcy!”

Until his death on February 3, 1924, Wilson exhibited the same stubbornness that had led him to reject any compromise with his opponents and remained convinced that the American people would eventually recognize their real interests and join the League of Nations. In reality, Wilsonian internationalism was discredited. While the Republican administrations of the 1920s did pursue the economic stabilization of Europe through private-sector loans, they also held tight to the tenets of non-alignment, freedom of action, and protectionism as the guiding principles of their foreign policy.

During the Great Depression, the reluctance of Americans to take on international responsibilities grew even stronger: the 1930s would become heydays of an isolationism that clearly distanced itself from Wilson's policies of war and peace. Many Americans now saw U.S. entry into the First World War as a conspiracy organized by greedy banks and armament manufacturers. On the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration of War in 1937, Congress honored those senators and representatives who had voted nay.

Shortly thereafter, as Hitler's Germany unleashed the Second World War, the majority of Americans rejected another intervention. In 1940, isolationists of all stripes founded a committee that touted the armament and sealing off of “Fortress America.” It was led by the famous aviator Charles Lindbergh, who not unfairly is accused of being an anti-Semite and Hitler sympathizer. The battle cry of the movement was “America first!” But in the shadow of the Second World War, it did not take long until views of Wilson and Wilsonianism experienced a renaissance. His



name would come to be associated with America's self-perception as the leading force for liberal democracy in the world.

Wilson's legacy is still contested. Liberal internationalists hold fast to the fundamental belief that U.S. national interests require an active advocacy for a democratic world order. In contrast, critics see a completely different inheritance from Wilson's war message of April 2, 1917: an ideological foreign policy that has repeatedly misled the United States into imperial hubris and blind interventionism.

The author holds the Curt Engelhorn Chair in American History at Heidelberg University.

His biography on Woodrow Wilson was published by C.H. Beck in the spring of 2017.







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. The Baden-Württemberg Seminar is the signature lecture series of the HCA. 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 2016-17 were the American Academy in Berlin; the University of Mannheim; the Museum im Prediger, Schwäbisch Gmünd; the History Department, Heidelberg University; the Office for Equal Opportunity, Heidelberg University; the Fulbright Commission, Germany; the Faculty of Theology, Heidelberg University; the Ben Gurion Chair for Israel and Middle East Studies at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg; the Israel Institute, Washington, D.C.; the d.a.i. Tübingen; and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. We wish to thank this committed network of partners for their continued support

## FALL SEMINAR 2016

The twentieth semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar presented distinguished scholars from Northeastern University, University of La Verne, the University of Maryland, the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Cambridge, the Johns Hopkins University, and Washington University in St. Louis, authors Beth Ann Fennelly and Tom Franklin as well as visual artist Regina Baumhauer.

The fall semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar took off at the University of Mannheim on October 26, 2016, where Timothy Brown, Professor of History at Northeastern University, talked about "The Greening of Cold War Germany: Environmentalism and Social Movements across the Wall and Beyond, 1969-1989." Professor Brown's talk situated the development of environmental politics in East and West Germany as part of a transnational and global movement and traced a sea-change in the nature of leftist politics in the 1970s and 1980s. Linking the emergence of Green politics to the participatory-democracy impulses of 1968, he explained how 1968's anti-authoritarianism merged with anti-hierarchical impulses from second-wave feminism, holistic New Age spirituality, and influences from systems trends in fields like ecology, biology, and physics.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued at the HCA on the following day when we welcomed two distinguished authors from Mississippi, Beth Ann Fennelly and Tom Franklin. Margit Peterfy, who is a Senior Lecturer in American Studies at the English Department of Heidelberg University, introduced the sizeable audience to their lives and works. Beth Ann Fennelly is the current Poet Laureate of Mississippi and teaches poetry and nonfiction writing at the University of Mississippi, where she also directs the MFA program. Her first poetry collection, *Open House*, was published in 2001 and won several awards. Two more collections, *Tender Hooks* (2004) and *Unmentionables* (2008), are also highly acclaimed. She received several fellowships and read her poetry at the Library of Congress at the invitation of the U.S. Poet Laureate. Tom Franklin writes novels,



Beth Ann Fennelly and  
Tom Franklin.

which are crime stories only at first glance, as he remarked. Among his publications are *Poachers* (1999), a collection of short stories, *Hell at the Breach* (2003), *Smonk* (2006), and *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter* (2010), which was awarded the Crime Writers' Association Gold Dagger and the LA Times Book Prize for Best Mystery/Thriller. He is an associate professor for fiction writing at the University of Mississippi. The evening consisted of vivid readings from books by the two individual authors as well as from their collaboration. Tom Franklin made the start with *Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*, a novel set in small town Mississippi of the 1970s. "M-I-crooked letter-crooked letter-I-crooked letter-crooked letter-I-humpback-humpback-I" goes the venerable chant that serves as mnemonic device for learning how to spell the state's name in elementary school. In the small town of Chabot lives Larry Ott, the hamlet's weirdo. Twenty-five years ago, a young woman who had dated Larry Ott vanished. There is no proof, but town people still think he abducted the girl; thus his nickname "Scary Larry." Pampered by his mother and bullied by his father, he wishes for nothing more than a friend. The childhood scenes depict the town's change after the collapse of the old class and race hierarchy; tension built up around the freshly desegregated school. Now, another young woman is missing, Larry Ott immediately becomes a suspect, and the town knows and acts on it. He is shot in the chest. The constable to both cases, the abduction and the assault, is Silas Jones, who after years has come back to Chabot and is confronted with the secrets he and Larry Ott share. The book's themes revolve around friendship, culpability, and shame and delves deeply into questions of history and psychology. Beth Ann Fennelly then read from *Heating and Cooling: 52 Micro-Memoirs*, which is hot off the press in October 2017. Micro memoirs are about the small and big events in life that come to one's mind once in a while, a kind of poetic truth-telling. One micro-memoir stood out: "Daughter, they'll use even your own gaze to wound you," in which Ms. Fennelly describes situations when, as a young girl, she imagined being sucked into male fantasies through her gaze. Another – funnier – micro memoir describes how her husband, in many of his stories, created a character named Colin, who always meets an untimely end – Colin was the name of a former boyfriend.

Both authors then performed the third reading, from *The Tilted World*, published in 2014 after over four years of research on the great Mississippi flood of 1926-27, the most destructive flooding in the history of the United States. The authors stated that more than 700,000 people were heavily affected by the disaster and more than 300,000 needed to be rescued, a vast majority of them African Americans. The authors set their story in those tidings: Two federal agents find a child in the middle of a murder scene, the county's most popular bootlegger takes little Willy in, and the story develops into murder and conspiracy. After this last reading, the audience engaged in a lively discussion with the two authors. How do you write together and stay married, was the general question. The two described the initial process, in which they split the text in two parts and then revised each other's drafts. Mr. Franklin claimed his texts had been "terribly ugly things" before Ms. Fennelly tended to them; Ms. Fennelly talked about how she, in the past, had refrained from writing about violence, but over the course of writing *The Tilted World* came to see that there are situations in which "violence comes to everybody" – indeed, most people do not choose to live with violence. The talk slowly turned into a book signing, many small conversations sprung from the discussion, and finally the sizeable audience left the HCA's Atrium, happily hugging their new books by these two great authors.

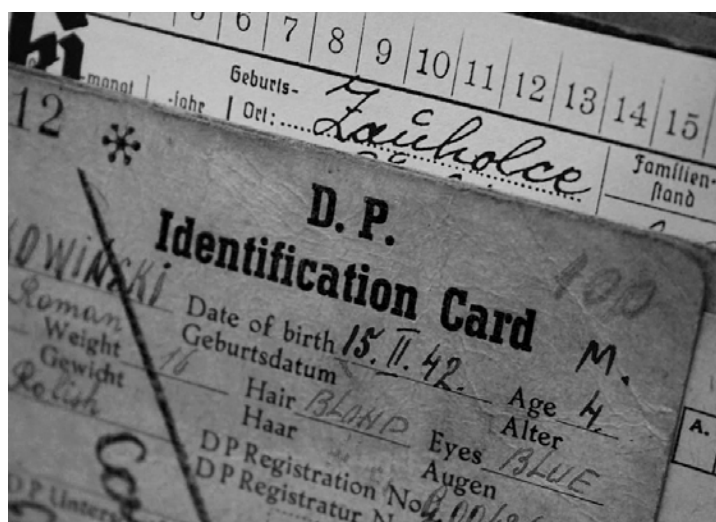
For the second event of the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar, the historian Kenneth H. Marcus came to Heidelberg on November 11 to talk about a culturally significant part of postwar Los Angeles: African American ballet. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, who used to be a Senior Lecturer in the English Department of Heidelberg University and at the HCA, welcomed the speaker, who received his education in the U.S., Germany, France, and the United Kingdom and started teaching history at the University of La Verne in California in 2001. Prof. Marcus' interests are diverse; his research stretches over centuries of both European and North American history and pedagogy. He also produced two projects with the Arias Troubadours, interpreting folk and dance music of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Professor Marcus' talk gave insights into the circumstances of the founding of The First Negro Classical Ballet. Most cultural historians are familiar with the Harlem Renaissance, African American writers, poets, as well as Jazz and Blues musicians, but, Professor Marcus argued, much fewer are aware of the role of African Americans in classical music and dance. In 1946, the white choreographer Joseph Rickard founded one of the first African American ballet companies. The company embodied multiethnic cooperation in the arts in a Jim Crow environment. Bernice Harrison, who later became the prima ballerina of Rickard's troupe, was turned away at a classical dance studio with her little daughter and forwarded to a tap dance studio. Rickard witnessed this and felt the need to create a space for African Americans who wanted training in classical ballet. A ballet company consisting of his most talented students ensued. For the first three years, the company was called Ballet Americana, and its first performance was held at the Danish Auditorium in Los Angeles in the fall of 1947. The Los Angeles Sentinel sponsored, advertised, and reviewed the performance, celebrating it as the opening "of an entire field of expression to Negroes." Over the more than ten years the company existed, it consisted of more than thirty dancers who needed to keep their day jobs throughout their dancing careers, always working on a shoestring budget when it came to the development of the plays and touring. Kenneth Marcus mentioned the costumes, which were different from other ballet companies, shortened and designed to show the dancers' figures to the best advantage, clinging to the bodyline. The troupe performed "dance dramas" which incorporated Jazz and Boogie Woogie and in which males performed as females. The ballet did not fit the cliché and excluded anything that might have referred to voodoo or Uncle Tom. The First Negro Classical Ballet faced harsh critiques replete with racism. One of the dancers said in an interview that the female dancers of the company were regularly reminded that they would not possess the bodily qualities, their bottoms being too large and their bodies in general not up to the task. Despite horrendous prejudice and the meager financial situation, the company fulfilled its dream of classical dance; also, the quality of the plays affirmed interethnic collaboration and the fact that there is no place in the arts for racism. However, due to diverging interests and the lack of money, the company merged with the Ward Flemmyng's New York Negro Ballet. After the talk, the audience and Professor Marcus discussed classical and modern ballet, impressed by the hurdles the company overtook and the devotion its members showed to dance.

For its December Baden-Württemberg Seminar, the HCA welcomed Rebecca Boehling, Professor of History at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Anja Schüler introduced the speaker and gave an overview of Professor Boehling's extensive work in the fields of modern



European history, German history, women history, and Judaic studies. In 2013, Professor Boehling was appointed the director of the International Archive and Documentation Center in Bad Arolsen. In her talk, she depicted the history of the International Tracing Service (ITS), founded in 1943, which turned into the International Archive and Documentation Center, thus offering "a uniquely American perspective." After the abandonment of the Nazi concentration camps, little documentation was left on the sites; yet, with the documentation of prisons, labor camps, the index catalogue of the Reichsvereinigung der Juden, forced labor and Gestapo materials, a huge archive took shape. The ITS collected all documents pertaining to victims of Nazi persecution which the World War II allies had confiscated. The service picked up the traces of displaced civilians, researched their personal histories, helped families reunite, and facilitated immigration to other countries. In 1945, the archive included vast arrays of documentation, including lists provided by the Child Search Branch, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and the International Refugee Organization, administration and care documents, medical records, registration cards, materials related to repatriation and emigration, and even personal effects. The victim relief services were in charge of administering measures for relief of war victims in areas under control of the United Nations. Displaced people had to register in order to receive basic necessities like food, shelter, and clothing; a "Sonderstandesamt" had to confirm deaths that had occurred in concentration camps; some victims wished neither to become citizens of the country they had escaped to, nor to stay German, but preferred to be registered as "stateless," congruent with their forced displacement. In recent years, the administration of the ITS faced many challenges, among them the digitization of documents, the preservation of those documents, and, most importantly, making the documents available to the public. Changes occurred in the staff as well, as the ITS needed academically-trained archivists and historians and the de-compartmentalizing of tasks became necessary. Since 2007 the ITS offers free access to the archives and free research, also for those who cannot or do not want to come personally to Bad Arolsen. It also facilitated access for genealogists and journalists. Professor Boehling reminded her audience that for some families documents were the only proof of existence or fate of a dead family member, the only means to gain personal closure. The uniqueness of the ITS lies in its international character, also legally; national privacy laws do not apply. It is under interna-

A Look into the Collection on Displaced Persons. (Copyright: International Tracing Service, ITS).



tional control, but it is paid for by one country: Germany. Its scope of documentation in order to gather information about victims of Nazi persecution is also unique. As of June 2013, the archive is recognized as part of the UNESCO Memory of the World Register. Since the 1970s, the ITS has facilitated eighty-one reunions between family members. Professor Boehling presented the case of a young woman who travelled to Bad Arolsen in order to find about her family and discovered that her grandfather had had a family before meeting her grandmother in Israel. The family had died in concentration camps. The granddaughter described feelings of loss but also of satisfaction. The audience in the HCA Atrium was very interested in the function of the archive in post-war trials; Professor Boehling confirmed that the archive had worked together closely with public offices concerning the persecution of Nazis and had offered conclusive files. She concluded that the archives proved to be both a treasure and a minefield, not the least because of the involvement in crimes of persons who had emerged as public figures in post-war Germany.

The second December event of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar took place at the Museum im Prediger in Schwäbisch Gmünd on December 18. A sizeable audience assembled on a wintery Sunday afternoon to listen to and participate in the conversation between New York artist Regina Baumhauer and Dr. Evamarie Blattner, an art curator and author from Tübingen. Part of the exhibition "Little Miss Liberty Crossing the Delaware," this talk with the artist explored Regina Baumhauer's engagement of themes related to social transformations, which she portrays in Klee-like compositions that are both playful and penetrating. Her work explores a wide range of techniques, materials and mediums often combining painting, drawing and printmaking in a single piece, and the audience gladly took the chance to view her art after the talk.

For the first Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the new year, Jamie O'Connell visited the HCA on January 19 in order to talk about international courts and whether they can actually put an end to atrocities. Jamie O'Connell is a senior fellow at the Honorable G. William and Ariadna Miller Institute for Global Challenges and the Law at the University of California, Berkeley. His teaching and research focuses on the fields of human rights and international law; he has worked on human rights and development in several countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. He is founding president of International Professional Partnerships for Sierra Leone, a non-governmental organization that works with the government of Sierra Leone to enhance public offices and agencies. Manfred Berg, the Curt Engelhorn Chair in American History at Heidelberg University, introduced Jamie O'Connell and contemplated on the perception of international courts in public and on events and trials that stood out. Professor Berg brought the Nuremberg Trials to mind, the Balkan wars, the Ruanda genocide, and their legal aftermath as well as the Rome Statute of 1998, which established the International Criminal Court (ICC). In a 2005 article, "Gambling with the Psyche: Does Prosecuting Human Rights Violators Console Their Victims," Jamie O'Connell had focused on the effect international court trials had on the victims of atrocities. In his talk at the HCA he shared his thoughts on whether and how international courts can actually stop atrocities from happening in the first place. There was a basic question when it came to ending atrocities, he said: "How did they start?" He offered two possible answers: They were either committed because of a "sickness in the heart" or a rational thought process. The first could not be helped, the latter could be explored. The ICC, which took up its work in 2002, has



At the International Court of Justice.

the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. There already is a European Court of Human Rights, an Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and an African Court of Human Rights. However, their jurisdiction is geographically limited; they act regionally, not globally. They exist to enforce particular human rights treaties and to evaluate the responsibility of states in individual cases. The human rights courts may decide over the responsibility of a state while the ICC may decide over individuals. The good relationship of human rights courts and the ICC with the domestic authorities of the respective countries is crucial. Domestic authorities are the primary generators of justice, and international institutions only become active when they fail. They have no jurisdiction until the domestic remedies are exhausted. Jamie O'Connell described the evaluation of the impact of international courts; for example, how it would change the causal dynamics of a case if the international courts were excluded? The existence of international courts influences individual perpetrators, it acknowledges legal versus illegal punishment, and it undermines social acceptance of crimes and perpetrators. The citizens' influence on regional courts and judges is tremendous, which might prevent a fair trial because local politics may play a role. In this sense, international courts can have an impact on the commission of atrocities or their nature. In his conclusion, Jamie O'Connell said that courts might never stop atrocities but that they can save lives and that the ICC has prevented crimes in the making; public announcements of persecution have deterred perpetrators and facilitated bargaining for peace; the courts have encouraged people and agencies to work against destructive powers in their countries. What would be the ICC's dream, asked a member of the audience in the following discussion. Ideally, human rights courts for Asia and the Middle East would be established, African countries would stop to withdraw, and domestic courts would improve. Victims' participation units would work in all courts and re-define who participates in justice. Also, Jamie O'Connell wished for wisdom for the ICC in its political operations – when to threaten, when to indict. The ensuing discussion was lively, and the opinions varied; the audience left the HCA's atrium both informed and inspired.

A full house welcomed historian Gary L. Gerstle, Paul Mellon Professor of American History at the University of Cambridge, on January 24. Professor Gerstle talked about a new chapter, "Race and Nation in the Age of Obama, 2000-2016," that he added to the latest edition of his 2001 book *American Crucible*. This chapter constitutes an analysis of the Obama presidency and connects the dots that led to the election of Donald Trump. As usual, the winner claimed it was fate. However, said the historian, sometimes it is very little that brings about change. Professor Gerstle then introduced two major concepts of nationalism: "Racial Nationalism," as experienced in Germany during the Nazi regime, and "Civic Nationalism," which is more of a tradition in the United States. In Civic Nationalism, common law and common political identity characterize a nation, one chooses membership by immigration, and the government succumbs to the rules of a pluralist democracy. In early America, a group sharing the same blood and skin color deemed itself solely capable of holding the nation together; thus the Naturalization Act of 1790 ensured full citizenship to immigrants that were free and white. Subsequent immigration legislation affirmed the desire of the U.S. to be white and European; if Eastern and Southern Europeans were welcome, they were considered second rate. The goal was for America to remain very white and very protestant. If American Civic Nationalism meant that everyone could become American, immigration laws often put restrictions on this. In the 1960s and 70s, other tensions rose and almost became unmanageable. Among those were the tensions between white supremacy and the civil rights movement; voices of feminists and people who demanded acceptance of their way of living outside of the mainstream also started to get louder. These groups critiqued and repudiated American nationalism, challenged the idea of manifest destiny, and held its subscribers accountable for the crimes of slavery, Native American genocides, and exploitative capitalism. With Bill Clinton, Professor Gerstle contended, American society "moved left," racism was out and civic nationalism prospered. He emphasized how extensive the exposure to black culture was at the time; writer Toni Morrison and comedian Chris Rock, among others, called Clinton the "first black president." This went beyond mending fences, and a part of America turned towards multiculturalism and away from nationalism altogether. George W. Bush had also encouraged this, Professor Gerstle argued, coming from Texas and being familiar with and appreciative of Latino culture. He also appointed the first black Secretary of State. Clinton and Bush thus paved the way for the Obama presidency. He had never believed that in his lifetime a black president would come into office, but neither had he believed in the fall of the Soviet Union, Professor Gerstle admitted. As a candidate Obama could not avoid addressing the racial problems of the country; indeed, he confronted them in a memorable speech in March 2008, in which he drew a connection between his personal dream and the constitutional dream. While many Americans rejoiced after his election and a million-strong crowd witnessed his inauguration, polls showed that only 28 per cent of all Americans thought this was the American dream come true. President Obama's positions were soon challenged. Opponents accused him of being secretly Muslim and of having funded his campaign with drug money. Some shared the perception that blacks now dominated whites, and hence whites must defend themselves. Gun sales increased. The bottom line was: America is a white country and cannot be ruled by a black president. Toward the end of 2009, the Tea Party came in with a vengeance, seen by many as the last resort to defend the "values" of a country in peril. The party emphasized the "African other," an image of Obama as a witch doctor went viral, and protest signs depicted him as a monkey. In November 2016,

the newly-elected president promised to restore the "American way." First, he made clear that Muslim refugees and Mexican immigrants were no longer welcome. As Donald Trump ducked all charges and then counter-charged, the primary voters could not get enough. Professor Gerstle also emphasized that Hillary Clinton would have won the election without the "giant push by the FBI." As for the Obama legacy, the Trump administration might have the power to push Obama out of the history books and to tell children in the future that his presidency was irrelevant. In the end, the paradox that is America is created between the poles of Civic Nationalism and Racial or Ethnic Nationalism, concluded Professor Gerstle before he opened the discussion with the audience. Many questions ensued, for example, why did Americans give Obama a chance? Obama had inspired Civic Nationalism, in sync with the tidings within the population, he was an outsider, not part of the Washington environment, and voters deemed him capable of change. He also grew up as a black child in a white family. He wholeheartedly believed that the racial divide could be crossed and mended, which inspired American voters. Perhaps, Gary Gerstle said, there was never a greater believer in the American Dream than Barack Obama.

Gary Gerstle.



For the penultimate event of the Baden-Württemberg's winter semester, the HCA, in cooperation with the equal opportunity office of Heidelberg University, had invited the filmmaker Bernadette Wegenstein, Professor of Media Studies and Director of the Center for Advanced Media Studies at Johns Hopkins University, on February 2. Professor Wegenstein presented her 2016 movie *The Good Breast Documentary*, which explores breast cancer as ritual and indeed sees the increasing rates of mastectomy in the U.S. as a modern form of breast sacrifice. Shot with great sensitivity, the documentary shows the bodily, emotional, erotic, and psychic scars of breast cancer patients, their families, and communities. It juxtaposes veteran breast cancer surgeon Dr. Lauren Schnaper, who contended that many mastectomies in America are medically unnecessary, with four breast cancer patients and their very diverse stories in search for the "good breast." Allowed intimate access to their mastectomies and their most personal breast reconstructions, the audience in the HCA Atrium witnessed the ups and downs of the women's breast loss and reconstructions, ranging from infected implants to an almost miraculous breast reconstruction.

For each patient, the loss of the breast meant far more than just losing an organ but rather illustrated the complex meaning the breast has for the history, suffering, and resilience of women. Presenting medical, scientific, and religious myths regarding mastectomy, *The Good Breast* ultimately offered a brilliant diagnosis of personal and cultural imaginaries of female bodies. The film artfully blended footage of surgery and archival material on the history of the mastectomy with the surprising journey Dr. Schnaper took to Catania, Sicily, to experience Saint Agatha, the annual festival of the breast. The captured viewers learned about the Sicilian saint of the breast as an ancient symbol of female strength and made the connection between the American culture of the mastectomy and this ancient veneration of the breast, which triggered many questions for a spirited debate with Bernadette Wegenstein

The Good Breast,



For the last talk of its fall Baden-Württemberg Seminar, the HCA welcomed Mark Valeri, who gave a talk on how social realities influenced Puritan communities in eighteenth-century America, the role of free conscience, and the implications of conversion. Jan Stievertmann, Professor of the History of Christianity in the U.S. at the HCA, introduced Professor Valeri, whose areas of specialization include social thought, the political history of Puritanism, and enlightenment moral philosophy. He holds the Reverend Priscilla Wood Neaves Distinguished Professorship of Religion and Politics with the Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University, St. Louis. Professor Valeri's latest book, *Heavenly Merchandize: How Religion Shaped Commerce in Puritan America*, analyzes social transformations in the American economy from the early 1600s, when Puritans argued that common welfare stood above personal profit, to the 1740s, when Christians increasingly viewed commerce as an unqualified good such as happiness. Those who deserved it got to experience its success. The communities embraced the market because it funded them. In those communities, piety led to industry and frugality, serving both as cause and as consequence. Professor Stievertmann praised this work for not turning to politics as an ultimate cause for the development of commerce in the early settlements, but keeping the focus on theology. Mark Valeri kept this focus in in his talk, presenting his view of the history of U.S. capitalism. In Puritan communities, proponents of the free market saw a chance for their improvement: it would bring social mobility and affluence, which strengthened the social union. Professor Valeri quoted John Wesley, who was experienced in trade, had read advice books about economy, and contended that it was important to stay up to date with economic tidings. Wesley advised to gain and save as much as possible in order to give as much as one could. The Calvinists, however, had no enthusiasm for free transatlantic markets, struggling with the tension between the ideas of piety and moral freedom. William Tennant and John Edwards ascribed to the individual the power to select a way of salvation, fostering the idea of religious choice. Parallel to this, the American Revolution was afoot. Professor Valeri argued that eighteenth-century Puritans wanted to use the "language of freedom," but did not know how to. The eighteenth century had a touch of optimism, said Professor Valeri; a confidence that society would be built with a sense of pleasure. Edwards wrote about the affections people have when they experience true

Mark Valeri.



conversion. On the one hand, he stated that determination of will is formed by affections outside of personal power, on the other "people seemed to will as they pleased, because what pleases them is their will." After sharing his thoughts, Professor Valeri invited the audience to an open discussion. His listeners were impressed by his rich and dense talk. However, what about slavery, was this not a part of the market as well? Edwardians had opposed slavery early on, Professor Valeri answered; whether they did so with the concept of free will in mind, he could not say. Most Moravians, on the other hand, would have seen it as an anomaly of capitalism, which actually emphasized free labor. Furthermore, natural ability and moral competence were discussed, as well as the relation between "God" and "I." Replete with new and expanded ideas, the audience left the HCA, some surely with a sense of time travelling when they took the first step out the door.

## SPRING SEMINAR 2017

For its twenty-first semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, the HCA invited another round of eminent speakers from the University of New Mexico, the University of British Columbia, the Council on Foreign Relations, Yale Divinity School, American University, the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, and the University of Connecticut as well as photographer Jason Reblando and author Emily Mitchell.

The first guest of the spring semester of the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar came on the spring-like evening of April 20 from the Philosophy Department of the University of New Mexico. Russell Brian Goodman visited Heidelberg for a few days and delighted the audience in the HCA Atrium with his talk on nineteenth-century philosophy in the U.S., specifically its protagonists Ralph Waldo Emerson and William James. The talk was organized in cooperation with the Fulbright Commission Germany and drew many listeners. Jan Stievermann welcomed the philosopher at the HCA and briefly highlighted the peaks of his academic career. Russell Brian Goodman finished his Ph.D. in philosophy in 1971 at Johns Hopkins University after which he moved to the Southwest to continue his career at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. In 1991, he gained full professorship and apart from a positions as an exchange lecturer in Spain and England, stayed loyal to UNM. His latest book, *American Philosophy before Pragmatism*, published in 2015, concluded with the discussion of "some continuities in American philosophy." The continuity between Emerson and the pragmatists was the topic of the talk. William James, older brother to the author Henry James, had visited Germany in the late 1860s because of his physical ailments and there had turned to philosophy. He even had visited Heidelberg, Professor Goodman knew, but nobody had paid attention to him. William James was one of the greatest thinkers in the nineteenth century, the speaker emphasized, contributing weightily to the establishment of psychology as science. He wrote *The Varieties of Religious Experience*, localizing the heart of religion in the religious experience itself. James, often named along John Dewey and





Russell Goodman.

Charles Sanders Peirce, was a pragmatist. He viewed pragmatism as a mediator between "tough minded" and "tender minded" philosophical temperaments. James tasted "the bitterness on the bottom of the cup," while he viewed Whitman and Emerson as "blue sky and optimistic" and at the same time as authentic and particular. The Jameses would read Emerson at the dinner table, and William James' copies of Emerson's books swarmed with notes where James had cited him. James and Emerson's works show a coherence in their philosophy, and it seems as if there was an evolving system of values between them. So was Emerson a kind of pragmatist? Not exactly, stated Professor Goodman, he omitted thoughts that are central to pragmatism, but Emerson's themes invaded the work of James and Dewey. Following the talk, the audience discussed some questions with Professor Goodman. Was Emerson actually a philosopher? Was James trying to tap into Emerson's prestige? Unlikely, Professor Goodman responded; both had been individually successful. Both were philosophers; James had described Emerson as a "seer." Today nobody would think of Emerson as a philosopher, but contemporaries did: John Dewey, Stanley Cavell, and Friedrich Nietzsche.

Just a few days later, on April 25, the HCA in cooperation with the Institute for Geography at Heidelberg University welcomed Derek Gregory, Peter Wall Professor at the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia, Canada. Ulrike Gerhard, professor for Human Geography of North America at the HCA and the Institute for Geography, introduced the speaker. His works were well known amongst the audience that spilled over to the gallery of the HCA's Atrium. Derek Gregory currently focuses on where wars literally "take place," specifically on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and their usage since World War II, especially during the Obama era and at present in Afghanistan/Pakistan, Yemen, and elsewhere. Professor Gregory, in his research on space, place, and territory, would not fall back on old-school geography, Ulrike Gerhard emphasized. He focuses on processes of historical and geographical change, and he applies a large range of critical theories, constantly re-thinking concepts of space. The *L.A. Times* has called him "refreshingly angry." The beginning of Professor Gregory's talk revolved around distance, dispersal, and the global battle space. Nuclear arms had distorted the perception of

the battlefield, Professor Gregory summarized Frédéric Megret and his book *War and the Vanishing Battlefield*, and UAVs, or "drones," pushed this development even further. Since the Obama administration embraced drone technology, the idea of "controlled" warfare surfaced, giving the issue a "clean" image. World War II had been "the last war of the pilots." Since then, warfare has switched to remote control; the dream of the "robot flight" had come true. From 1945 onwards, after the results of tests on the Bikini Atoll had been published, the public started discussing "push-button-wars" mostly fearfully but also in awe of the technological developments. The first drones collected data from atomic clouds – all under the motto of securing American lives. The U.S. had found a way to execute power without exposing her citizens. However, U.S. citizens did not see themselves as possible threats, but as possible victims – what would happen if drones were directed at American cities, asked *LIFE* magazine in November 1945. Mock attacks were staged, keeping citizens in constant awareness of the impending threat of a nuclear attack by the Soviets. The next step to sanitize nuclear warfare was "the bureaucratization of homicide," as Henry T. Nash, former analyst of the Air Targets division at the Department of Defense, put it. A complicated system of target developing, target-authorization, and "actioning" works its way to a possible deployment of drones. Kill lists, signals intercepts, and visual feeds render targeted killing an objective, rational, and reasonable process. Officials insist that the number of casualties is minimized through drone warfare. At the end of his talk, Derek Gregory showed a photograph of a Pakistani family who had lost a member in a drone attack. Zubair Rehman, the victim's son, said: "I no longer love blue skies. In fact, I now prefer grey skies. The drones do not fly when the skies are grey." On this note, the talk ended, and Ulrike Gerhard invited the audience to pose questions to the speaker. Was it not the government's task to minimize victims on its side of the conflict? Did not drones kill fewer people, asked a member of the audience? Distance is not a moral absolute, answered Derek Gregory. If something is wrong from afar, how close does it have to be to become okay? Drones can only be deployed in uncontrolled air space, which causes issues of asymmetric warfare. In current American thinking, David is deemed unfair, not Goliath. How do the soldiers steering the drones cope with their experiences? When soldiers fought a war in the actual warzone, on an actual battlefield, they had their buddies around who were making the same experiences. Now drones are piloted from a military base



Derek Gregory.

in the U.S., and the soldiers go home to their families after their shift. Of course, there is no socializing and the war is brought home in many ways, said Professor Gregory. The battlefield is becoming global, creating complicated geographies. On bases within the U.S., from where the drones are maneuvered, signs are put up, saying, "You are now leaving the U.S." As always, the discussion benefitted from the various backgrounds of the members of the audience who left the HCA contemplating the lecture and the discussion.

The spring semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued with the HCA commencement speech. Heidi Crebo-Rediker of the Council on Foreign Relations addressed the graduating class of 2017 with a talk on "Multilateral Ties That Bind" (see pages 61).

Next came a talk by Chicago photographer Jason Reblando on May 15, whose work on greenbelt communities was published later in 2017 with Kehrer Verlag Heidelberg Berlin. Daniel Sommer, who is the managing editor at Kehrer and teaches rhetoric classes at the HCA, led through the evening. Jason Reblando is based in Chicago. He holds an M.F.A. in photography from Columbia College Chicago and a B.A. in Sociology from Boston College. He received a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship to the Philippines and an Artist Fellowship Award from the Illinois Arts Council. His photographs have been exhibited in museums throughout the East and the Midwest of the United States. His interest in the greenbelt communities was sparked by his photographic projects on Chicago public housing between 2000 and 2006, and he began researching what are perhaps some of the most innovative public works projects undertaken by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal administration: the three greenbelt towns Greenbelt, Maryland, out-side Washington, D.C., Greenhills, Ohio, north of Cincinnati, and Greendale, Wisconsin, near Milwaukee. In the 1930s, the U.S. government, through the United States Resettlement Administration, constructed three planned communities to resettle displaced farmers and poor urban dwellers. Reacting to housing problems caused by the Great Depression, planners wanted to re-design American cities based on the "Garden City" principles of British urban reformer Sir Ebenezer Howard, who wanted to create living spaces at the intersection of city and nature. Their residents would benefit from both worlds and have the social and economic advantages of living in a community. In spite of protest by conservative politicians and invectives by anti-New-Deal newspapers, the Resettlement Administration constructed three planned communities that contained spaces for residents, industry, and agriculture. The houses were arranged so all dwellings were easily accessible from the town center that contained a municipal building, retail stores, a movie theater, a gas station, a swimming pool, and a public school, which doubled as a community center. The short distances on foot paths encouraged walking instead of driving; natural, wide-open spaces dominated the set-up. The construction lasted from 1935-1938 and provided jobs for 25,000 unemployed workers. As wonderful as these "*New Deal Utopias*" were, today certain facets merit a rather harsh judgement. The greenbelt cities were designed to house low or moderate-income families; the poor were exempt, and thus those who suffered most, said Jason Reblando. Many who were interested in moving to the garden cities were either too rich or too poor. Furthermore, African-Americans helped to build Greenbelt, Maryland, but were not allowed to live in it; they were confined to a separate development, Langston Terrace. All garden cities were exclusively white until the 1950s. In the 1930s, cities were "out," Jason Reblando stated, projecting a poster



Jason Reblando.

which read: "Death Is in Streets. Which Playground for your Child," referring to the dangers of the city for playing children. "The City," a movie from 1939 showed the urban centers as a chaotic, unhealthy space, defiled by consumerism and hostile to children. "Greenbelt or gutter," Jason Reblando condensed. In the end, the resettlement effort stayed limited to the three communities, private real estate took over, and the free space around the green cities was used for housing, which was inconsistent with the green city philosophy. New Deal Utopias will show how life and living in the green cities play out today; the structures are still visible after eighty years, but overall seem stuck in time. He felt strange at times, the photographer said, taking pictures in streets that seemed unpopulated, where life only manifested itself in the swift motions of curtains. In Ohio, he had the "feeling that everything is there by accident." However, the greenbelt towns still inspire visits of urban planners from around the world. Jason Reblando's talk was accompanied by a range of images, all of them telling stories in strong contrast and color. Or maybe, the photographs were accompanied by the talk. Together, they generated an ambivalent feeling in some members of the audience that did not quite leave them until they stepped out on Heidelberg's busy main street.

On May 17, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar was the frame for the bestowal of the W.C. Pennington Award to Harry S. Stout, who gave a keynote on "Lincoln's God and the Emancipation Proclamation" (see pages 132).

The next lecture of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar was hosted by the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien on May 23. Guy Ziv from the School for International Service at American University in Washington, D.C., spoke on "U.S.-Israeli Relations in the Era of Donald Trump." He engaged students from the Hochschule and the HCA with his impressive knowledge about foreign policy decision-making, the influence of think tanks in U.S. foreign policy, and the role of political elites in the Arab-Israeli conflict and applied these insights to the current U.S. presidency.



Emily Mitchell Reads in the Garden of the Evangelisches Stift in Tübingen

On May 28, a hot and sunny Sunday, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar once more co-hosted a reading at the Tübingen Book festival. American author Emily Mitchell read from *Viral: Stories* in the idyllic and cool garden of the Evangelisches Stift. *Viral* is a collection of stories about a recognizable but dreamlike America, where mirrors are haunted and the Statue of Liberty wears a bowler hat. In the story the author chose, a department-store supervisor must discipline employees who do not smile enough at customers, but finds himself unexpectedly drawn to the saddest of them all. The characters in her stories find that the world they thought they knew has shifted and changed, become bizarre and disorienting, and, occasionally, miraculous. Told with absurdist humor and sweet sadness, *Viral* is about being lost in places that are supposed to feel like home, and the reading left the audience puzzled on a bright summer afternoon.

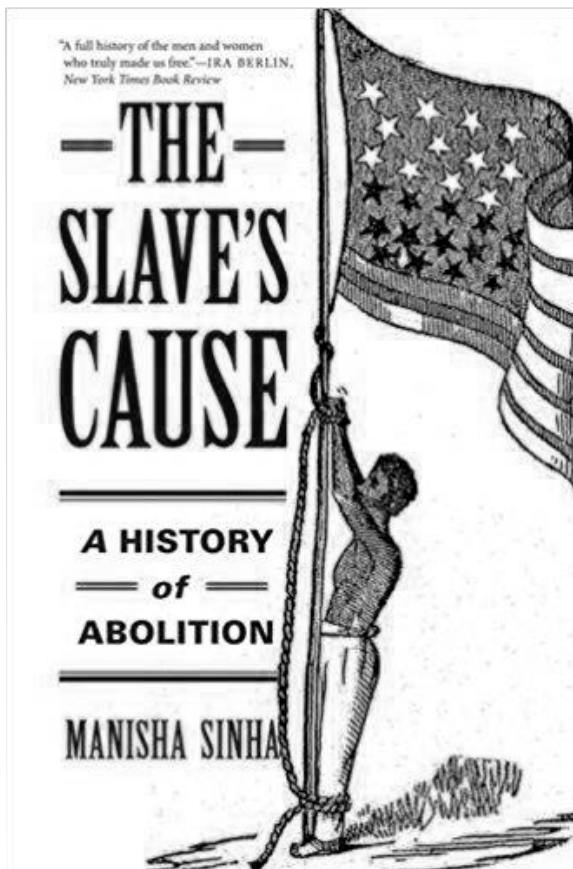
For the penultimate event of the spring semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar on June 8, the HCA welcomed Daniel A. Barber, who is an assistant professor of architecture at Penn Design, the design school of the University of Pennsylvania. Anja Schüler introduced the architectural historian, who holds degrees from Columbia University and Yale University and received a post-doctoral fellowship at the Harvard University Center for the Environment. In 2016, he also received a Fellowship for Advanced Researchers from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, which he is spending in residence at the Rachel Carson Center in Munich intermittently until 2020. Daniel Barber's research does not solely focus on architecture. He has also looked at technological developments and the social and political circumstances that influenced the architectural idea of a solar house. His talk showcased some experiments in solar house heating in the U.S. and around the world. After World War II, solar houses were seen as an element of the American architectural future. One important idea Professor Barber presented is that creativity can come from a point of scarcity: to meet the challenge of designing something that makes use of the resources a society possesses instead of obsessing about dwindling resources. The first solar houses were built at the beginning of the war, and some architects and urban planners saw in them a glimpse of the future that would await post-war America. George Van Dyne, a pioneer of systems ecology, attested the solar house "a meaningful influence on macro climate,"

and it surely was a step away from dependence on fossil fuel. Glass walls with shades created a climate inside the house, in which – without additional heating – "little Toby didn't even get the sniffles." The more experimental drafts showed houses with an algae patch on top, to provide food when "wheat fields and cattle ranches are in the past." Generally, solar houses were popular in countries with a hot climate. Professor Barber presented two examples, both in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. One is the ministry of education, Ministerio de Educación de Río de Janeiro, the other an apartment building, Edifício MMM Roberto / Irmãos Roberto. Both were constructed in 1945, and their inside climate was regulated with façade layers and a manual shading system. Regrettably, Daniel Barber said, the shades were not taken care of after the oil frenzy started, and the rooms were cooled with individual air conditioning units. The audience's interest was sparked, and a lively discussion ensued. Why did solar houses never have a real breakthrough? They definitely do not come cheap, Barber said, especially small units as would be in demand in the suburbs. The site of a future solar house needs to be thoroughly analyzed, shades have to be meticulously adjusted, the insulation is expensive, and the purpose influences the shape. For investors who want to build large numbers of houses in a short time anywhere, a solar is unprofitable. Why was solar energy not explored further between the 1950s and the late 1970s? Fossil fuel was cheap and ready for a long time, up until the energy crisis. Renowned institutions like MIT used their solar energy funds to build a nuclear plant on campus. Where was President Carter on this, did he not support solar energy and even ordered the installation of solar panels on top of the White House? Yes, said Professor Barber, he installed thirty-two panels as a symbolic act and in 1979 told American families to turn down the thermostat and put on a sweater. Obama had focused on food instead of energy, and politicians who survived their commitment in the fight against climate change were rare. With this last comment, the evening's time travel concluded.

Daniel Barber.



Manisha Sinha wrapped up the twenty-first semester of the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar on July 6 with a talk that presented the findings of her new book *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition*. Currently the James and Shirley A. Draper Chair in Early American History at the University of Connecticut, Professor Sinha holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Her first book, *The Counterrevolution of Slavery*, was named one of the ten best books on slavery in *Politico* in 2015. In 2017, she was named one of Top Twenty Five Women in Higher Education by the magazine *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. After an introduction by Manfred Berg, Manisha Sinha commenced her talk by establishing her research as a history of abolition in the long durée. Abolitionism was a radical, interracial movement centered on African Americans that can be dated back to the American Revolution. Yet, historiography often pictures abolitionists either as fanatics that caused the bloodiest war in American history or as bourgeois reformers who were paternalistic and economically conservative. Professor Sinha, on the other hand, contended that "slave resistance, not bourgeois liberalism lay at the heart of the movement." Slave rebellions



in colonial America inspired the first Quaker-dominated abolition societies, and fugitive slaves united all factions of the movement. Emancipation was not a wartime event in 1863, but a hundred-year drama played out in law, politics, literature, and activism. Introducing many lesser-known protagonists of the movement, Professor Sinha pointed out that abolitionism was a movement working across the rigid race, class, and gender lines of the early republic. It questioned the enslavement of labor, gave voice to theoretically sophisticated black abolitionists, and helped birth the first women's right movement. The demise of abolition went hand in hand with the expansion of American democracy. In addition, abolitionists linked American slavery to other wrongs of the world and joined international radical movements like utopian socialism, feminism, and pacifism, supporting Native American, immigrant and workers' rights. Ultimately,

the cause of the American slave became "intertwined with that of democracy, civil liberties, and the emancipation of women and labor." Professor Sinha closed her fascinating lecture by pointing to the legacy of the American abolitionists who wanted to perfect American and, indeed, global democracy. Not surprisingly, a lively debate followed, and quite a few members of the audience availed themselves of the opportunity to obtain a signed copy of *The Slave's Cause*.

## HCA BOOK LAUNCHES

In 2017, HCA continued a popular tradition that celebrates the work of its associates. We invited the interested public to the following book launches in the Atrium of the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais:

The first book launch of the year celebrated the publication of *Woodrow Wilson: Amerika und die Neuordnung der Welt* ("Amerika and the Reordering of the World"), the most recent work of Manfred Berg, the Curt-Engelhorn-Professor for American History at the History Department of the University of Heidelberg. The founding director of the HCA, Detlef Junker, who has known Professor Berg since 1980 and fostered his academic career, spoke the welcoming words. Professor Junker emphasized some highlights of Professor Berg's career, including the Ruprecht-Karls-Award of Heidelberg University in 1990, his appointment at the Ruperto Carola in 2005, the David-Thelen-Award of the Organization of American Historians, the joint appointment at the HCA since 2009, and his book *Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America*, published

Manfred Berg.





in 2011. In 2016, Professor Berg received the Distinguished Historian Award of the Society of Historians of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era. *Woodrow Wilson: Amerika und die Neuordnung der Welt* is his eighth monograph and was published by C.H. Beck. In a reading from this new Wilson biography, the author presented some aspects of the life of the twenty-eighth president of the United States, who, to this day, is a rather controversial historical and political figure. While scholars and popular media alike constantly reappraise the lives of the "national heroes" – Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt – they seem to be much less interested in Woodrow Wilson, both in the U.S. and Europe. Professor Berg's book is the first biography in German in several decades although Wilson led the U.S. into the First World War and thus also influenced the fate of Germany significantly. In his own country, Wilson is rather infamous for one specific brainchild, the Federal Reserve Act, ratified in 1913, which strengthened the influence and power of banks. Also, the Southerner Wilson did not distance himself from the racism of his time. Moreover, Manfred Berg describes Wilson as a powerfully eloquent intellectual, who in only two years moved from the Princeton presidency to the governorship of New Jersey. Today, Princeton students are demanding to rename the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and

Michael Rodegang Drescher

# POETS OF PROTEST

Mythological Resignification  
in American Antebellum and  
German Vormärz Literature



International Affairs because of the racist views of his namesake. It is Wilson's ambiguous legacy which makes a reappraisal of his life so exciting one hundred years after the United States' entry into the First World War. He is remembered for his foreign policy and especially the Wilsonianism or international liberalism that was invoked by some of his successors. The most important components of this policy were the globalization of democracy and a market economy and the dismissal of isolationist politics. This included military strikes if world peace was endangered or the United States' interests were threatened. Wilson's ideas inspired people who saw themselves and their home countries as part of a global community and strove for a fairer world order. An analysis of Wilson's life and actions certainly holds potential for many disputes. Nevertheless, argued Professor Berg, international liberalism is underappreciated nowadays. The United States of America elected a neo-isolationist into the White House, a fact which worried the audience in the ensuing discussion to no small extent.

"The United States and the European Union will not overcome their divisions if their political cultures cling to simplistic perspectives that only look to the past and hope to make something or other 'great again,'" claimed Michael Drescher, who presented parts of his doctoral thesis at the HCA on June 20. Both his advisors, Günter Leypoldt and Dietmar Schloss, were present to congratulate their mentee. Professor Schloss introduced the promising post-doc, who has worked as a tutor both at the HCA and at the English Department. During the research for the thesis, Michael Drescher held a scholarship of the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes and spent time at Harvard University as a research fellow. In his talk, Dr. Drescher focused on how Nathaniel Hawthorne and Heinrich Heine endeavored to rewrite the national mythologies surrounding American Puritans and European emperors. Most importantly, he gave insights on how the topic of myth can be explored and introduced the term "mythological resignification." Hawthorne and Heine re-negotiated national identity through their writings on both sides of the Atlantic at the beginning of the nineteenth century. They were politically-minded authors who tried to re-write stories that defined the cultural foundations of the U.S. and Germany. In the Antebellum and the Vormärz, discontent about politics and the overall political structure grew. The authors used storytelling to introduce a worldview that resonated with the changes they had in mind for their home countries. They saw stories as a vehicle for political change, argued Dr. Drescher. The disassembling and resignification of myths turned out to be a powerful device. Dr. Drescher built his interpretation of myth on Roland Barthes' and Hans Blumenberg's writings. Myth was both a personal and a cultural phenomenon, which created unity where there was fragmentation and a social reality, "a comforting perception of the world that is necessary to make insecurity and terror of existence bearable." Dr. Drescher specified myths that explicate the foundation of nations, like *The Scarlet Letter* or *Deutschland. Ein Wintermärchen* as civic myths. They were most desired in times of turmoil like the Antebellum and the Vormärz. When resignified, myths were infused with new thoughts and political ideas; in Hawthorne's and Heine's cases, they had democratic qualities. These authors did not rewrite in order "to describe the past but to affect the present," Dr. Drescher stated. In his doctoral thesis, he argued that "solving our political problems requires more, not less democracy." Inspired by Michael Drescher's talk, the audience had numerous questions, for example, how could Hawthorne make the Puritans credible in his work? They were long gone when he started writing *The Scarlet Letter*. The Puritans in Hawthorne's

work were imagined, responded Dr. Drescher. It was a vision most Americans share today. Myth did not care for truth or history. Hawthorne had done his research, but he was also looking for a branding that would work in favor of his arguments. Myth and ideology were closely connected, claimed another member of the audience. Was that dangerous? In his thesis, Michael Drescher answered, he had solely focused on the brighter side of myths and the authors who championed democracy. After all, he said, it depends on the hand that wields the pen.

For the final book launch of 2017, Wilfried Mausbach, Martin Klimke, and Claudia Kemper took the stage at the HCA's Atrium on July 18 to celebrate the recent publication of *The Nuclear Crisis: The Arms Race, Cold War Anxiety, and the German Peace Movement of the 1980s*. Dr. Mausbach, the executive director of the HCA, introduced his colleagues Professor Klimke, who co-edited the book, and Dr. Kemper, who contributed a chapter on civil defense. Both talked about their participation in the project, and a discussion with the audience, led by Dr. Maus-

# The Nuclear Crisis

THE ARMS RACE, COLD WAR ANXIETY, AND  
THE GERMAN PEACE MOVEMENT OF THE 1980s



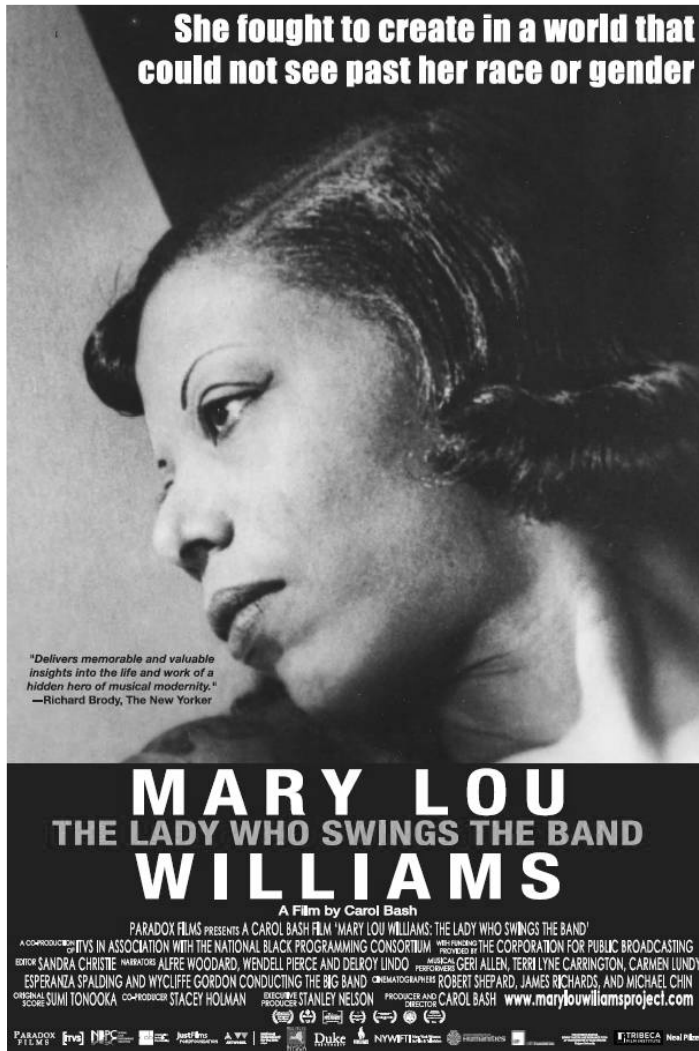
Edited by **Christoph Becker-Schaum, Philipp Gassert,  
Martin Klimke, Wilfried Mausbach, and Marianne Zepp**

bach, ensued. It was quite a homecoming for Martin Klimke, since he had received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Heidelberg University. Today, Professor Klimke is the Associate Dean of Humanities and Associate Professor of History at New York University Abu Dhabi. He described how the group of five editors set out in 2011 to bundle current research in one volume. Professor Klimke gave a short and entertaining tour through the public display of Cold War anxiety, starting with the popular board game "Fulda Gap" from the 1970s and various movies about the possible aftermath of nuclear attacks and ending with the far more serious issue of protests against nuclear weapons in Mutlangen, Germany. Claudia Kemper, who is a research associate at the Hamburg Institute for Social Research, had dealt with the topics of the book prior to her article. The German Research Foundation had funded her postdoctoral project on physicians in the anti-nuclear peace movement in the 1980s. Dr. Kemper is also co-editor of the series "Frieden und Krieg" (Peace and War) at the Klartext publishing house. Her article discusses civil defense in the face of a possible nuclear attack and the worst-case scenarios that were prepared by scientists and politicians. They included in particular the upkeep of infrastructure and buildings as well as the survival of civilians. There were public and individual plans, both based on prognosis, calculation, and scenarios that the author called "currency in the debate of nuclear defense." Different stakeholders tackled the question of a possible "Euroshima" in different ways. Dr. Kemper stated that East Germany had big plans but suffered from a serious lack of material to prepare for civil defense, while Sweden and Switzerland were far more technically advanced, Switzerland gaining a reputation for their bunker systems in the 1980s. West Germany, on the other hand, from the 1950s onwards, had focused on researching the effects of a nuclear attack, specifically radiation damage, radiation sensitivity, and the effects of biological and chemical weapons. After Dr. Kemper's talk, Dr. Mausbach opened the discussion to the audience. Philipp Gassert, Chair for Contemporary History at the University of Mannheim, another co-editor of the volume, asked his colleagues whether they thought the publication had made an impact on the discussion of the topic among historians and other scholars. They had failed in creating a new brand, but definitely succeeded in their conceptual approach, said Professor Klimke. The book had introduced a cultural dimension which worked in this specific case. The next question addressed the need for further exploration of and research on societal aspects of a looming nuclear crisis; Dr. Kemper thought that two main narratives needed to be explored: the transnational character of the peace movement and the assumed blending of the protest movements against nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants. The members of the peace movement are often perceived and presented as naïve "peaceniks," Dr. Mausbach added. There had been a great divide between the U.S. and Europe; while U.S.-Americans were mostly focused on the binary conflict, Europeans had aimed to overcome the Cold War. The discussion developed further, proving once again the relevance of the topic. After tackling the heat of the day with some cold beverages, the audience left the HCA into a fine summer evening.

We are looking forward to presenting more work of HCA associates soon.

## ENJOY JAZZ AT THE HCA

As part of the Enjoy Jazz festival in the Rhine-Neckar delta, the HCA screened Carol Bash's documentary "Mary Lou Williams: The Lady Who Swings the Band" in cooperation with "Bürger für Heidelberg" on October 13, 2016. The Atrium of the HCA turned into a movie theater, popcorn was available, and a full house enjoyed the show. Mary Lou Williams is not a household name. Yet, if you have not heard about her, you have missed out on something, and it is time to catch up. Her musical genius was detected when she was two years old – she could copy her mother's piano play instantly. At seven she started to appear publicly in Pittsburgh, enjoyed some fame as "the little piano girl of East Liberty," and helped to provide for her ten siblings. She left home early to join a travelling band. At one point she was told to drop the clownery and become serious, which she did. In Kansas City she played with musicians who later became stars of the business like Coleman Hawkins and Count Basie. She joined the Andy Kirk band as a teen and met her



husband, John Williams. There, the struggle the rare woman jazz musician had to face became apparent. She had to convince her band leader and colleagues that she was "as good as a man." Furthermore, she was constantly suspected to cause a ruckus within the band because she was a woman. She left the band at the beginning of the forties and moved to New York. Carol Bash documents how Williams thrived on the innovations in jazz music on the one hand and how she struggled to establish herself as a serious artist with a focus on music and not sex appeal on the other. The film presents Mary Lou Williams' troubles as a dark-skinned female artist in detail, contrasting her to the few other popular female artists of her time. She went to Europe and came back crushed. She turned to faith and after a long break picked up arranging and composing music again. In her sixties, she was at her absolute artistic peak, a fact that distinguished her from most of her contemporaries who stuck with what they were known and famous for. Mary Lou Williams inspired modernists, including Thelonious Monk. From the thirties to the seventies she was a driving force in the development of American Jazz. In the documentary Williams stated that she did not compose music but had to release it. At the beginning of the movie, Bash points to the superstitions of the American South—Mary Lou Williams was born with a piece of placenta on her head, which attests to a close connection to the supernatural world. Animations of Williams' artwork underline this notion of an artist plagued by demons. In the end, however, she did not come across as an eccentric musical genius, but as energetic, hard-working, and ambitious. With her documentary "Mary Lou Williams: The Lady Who Swings the Band," Carol Bash contributed immensely to expanding the audience of this great jazz musician.

# EXHIBITION: "THE COLD WAR: ORIGINS – HISTORY – LEGACY"

March 16 to April 27, 2017

On March 16, yet another exhibition opened in the HCA's Atrium: "The Cold War: Origins - History – Legacy," created by the Berlin Center for Cold War Studies and the Bundesstiftung Aufarbeitung, a federal foundation for the study of the Communist dictatorship in Eastern Germany. More than 160 photographs, documents, and charts looked at the years between 1945 and 1991 – from the end of World War II to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Considering recurrent tensions in East-West relations and the ongoing debate about a return of the Cold War, the exhibition seemed especially timely.



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

16. März bis 27. April  
Öffnungszeiten:  
Mo - Fr, 9 - 17 Uhr  
Eintritt frei

**HCA**  
Heidelberg Center  
for American Studies

It depicted the ideological, political, military, and economic dimensions of the Cold War in a global perspective and reminded its visitors how profoundly this conflict shaped societies on both sides of the Iron Curtain. One focus of the exhibition were the dynamics of the nuclear arms race, which was decisive for the origin and aggravation of the Cold War; another the "hot wars" in the "Third World," the effects of which continue until today; a third the diplomatic and civic initiatives that managed to contain the Cold War at least temporarily. This exhibition invited its visitors on opening night and in the ensuing weeks to look back; at the same time, it linked the history of the Cold War to current international conflicts and pointed out the legacies facing Europe today.

Bernd Greiner from the Berlin Center for Cold War Studies returned to some of these themes in his opening night lecture "The Cold War: Observations on an Age of Extremes." Professor Greiner's talk was followed by a lively discussion, and many guests also used the opportunity to take a first look at the exhibit.

## HCA TRIFFT ... PATRICK ROTH

Book readings are always special at the HCA. In July, for the series "HCA trifft...", the author Patrick Roth read from *Die Amerikanische Fahrt* and *Johnny Shines*. The first is a standalone novel, the second is part of the *Christus Trilogie*, which was published as a complete edition by Wallstein publishing house in 2016. The commentary to this edition was written by Michaela Kopp-Marx, who accompanied the author this evening and asked about his personal history and his experience in Los Angeles. Professor Kopp-Marx teaches contemporary German literature at the University of Heidelberg and, since 1998, is responsible for coordinating the lectureship for poetry (Poetikdozentur), which Patrick Roth held in 2004 and 2012. Professor Jan Stievermann added some questions and lead through the open discussion afterwards. The generous support of the Society for the Promotion of the Schurman Library for American History at the University of Heidelberg made this evening possible. Michaela Kopp-Marx introduced the author. After a year in Paris and some semesters of studying at the University of Freiburg, Patrick Roth received a DAAD scholarship for two semesters at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Although he was registered for English literature, he had applied in order to study film production and directing at the Cinema Department. Somehow, he made the switch and afterwards decided to stay in California. He started to write



Photo: Vera Matranga

and stage plays, published as audio plays in Germany later on. Since the 1990s, he is primarily known as an author of novels. He published short stories, novels, narratives, and narrative cycles such as the *Christus Trilogie*. What was so attractive about the U.S., asked Prof. Kopp-Marx. The narrative cinema, answered Patrick Roth; back then the U.S. had been home and lyceum of narrative filmmaking and the best place to learn was the famous USC Cinema Department. The year at USC had been very intense, the author mused, classes had started with silent movies, so the students could learn to tell stories solely with pictures. His creative process had mostly started



with a "splinter," a fragment or a perceived atmosphere he dwelled on for a long period of time. He would retreat to his room; laying on the floor with drawn shades, playing a record with rain sounds, he roamed through the realm of his fantasy. Rain and wind sounds had always inspired him, but were rare in Southern California. During Mr. Roth's reading a thunderstorm went down on the Atrium's glass roof, creating the "perfect mix," the author said happily. In his novel *Die amerikanische Fahrt: Stories eines Filmbesessenen*, he tells about his enthusiasm for movies, actors, and the directors John Ford, Howard Hawks, and Alfred Hitchcock and recounts an unexpected meeting with his hero Henry Fonda. He also explains how the studying of movie making became the base of his writing. How did Patrick Roth grapple with the Bible, which became the foundation of the *Christus Trilogie*, asked Michaela Kopp-Marx before the author turned to the second reading. Primarily, it had been fascination for the language. Only later did he read the Bible as a mythological text, and did it not contain many of the images humanity has been dealing with for centuries? Patrick Roth described the Bible as a "treasure of archetypical images, thought about and commented." In *Johnny Shines*, Patrick Roth tells the story of a young man who obeys the "Jesus command," trying to revive recently deceased people from neighboring communities. The author read an excerpt, which deals with the protagonist's day-to-day life. How should readers interpret Mr. Roth's messianic figures, asked Professor Stieverman after he had joined the conversation on the stage. Was it about the sacrilization or the profanization of biblical content? One should just let text sink in, answered the writer, spontaneous reactions were often suppressed by intellectuals, but it was this reaction that he, as an author, was most interested in. Which contemporary authors inspired him? Next to none, Patrick Roth responded; he did not spend a lot of time with contemporary authors. The only ones that had stood out to him in the last two decades were Breece D'J Pancake and David Mamet. Then it was the audience's turn, which was full of praise for the author's reading and his candor. Meanwhile, the rain had finished and the audience left the HCA into a balmy summer evening.

## 2017 PANEL DISCUSSIONS AT THE HCA

After a number of panel discussions leading up to the U.S. presidential elections in November 2016, (see annual report 2015-2016) the American presidency continued to dominate this format in 2017. "Quo Vadis, Amerika?" was the question Wilfried Mausbach asked three panelists on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2017. Manfred Berg from the History Department, Alexandra Gleber, a B.A. student at the HCA, and Martin Thunert, the HCA's senior lecturer in political science, gave mixed answers, ranging from a rather gloomy perspective to slight optimism – after all, it had become clear between November 2016 and January 2017 that the new administration would depart in significant way from its predecessor. A large audience had assembled in the HCA's Atrium to participate in the discussion and follow the live broadcast from the capital of the United States.

Another panel met for a first assessment of the Trump presidency on May 3. "Everything is more complicated than we thought," could be the motto of Donald Trump's first one hundred days in office," remarked Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, executive director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, at the opening of "Donald Trump's First 100 Days: Developments in Foreign and Security Policies," organized by the Außen- und Sicherheitspolitische Hochschulgruppe Heidelberg and the HCA. Since the forty-fifth American president took the oath of office on January 20, it has become increasingly clear that he is overwhelmed by the multifarious demands of the presidency and downright "allergic to complexity." Moderator Marco Fey (Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung) started the conversation by inquiring why everybody is so interested in an evaluation of a new president after only three months: "Trump has put less than seven per cent of his term behind him – 1,361 days of Trump lie still ahead of us." Dr. David Sirakov (director of the Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz), however, felt that the first one hundred days are especially important: "Ideally, American presidents have to realize their campaign promises in the first 18 months of their administration. After that, the political process could get tough because of changing majorities in Congress." All panelists agreed about the future foreign and security policies of the United States: "There simply is no strategy," said Franka Ellman (German Marshall Fund of the United States). Analysts and diplomats are increasingly convinced that Trump is stumbling over the diplomatic stage, acting mostly on impulse. Add to that his numerous political about-faces, which make it hard to calculate and assess his political actions. "Trump is leading the country with utter political ignorance. He also still needs to fill many key positions," contributed Dr. Sirakov. That is why his Executive Orders, like the "muslim ban," are often easily overturned. Lacking competent advisors, the executive orders are often written haphazardly. The audience was particularly interested in one question: What will happen to German-American relations under Trump? "Trump did not exactly treat Ms. Merkel politely during her recent visit," remarked a guest in the HCA Atrium. Ms. Ellman was relatively unconcerned: "Things are still quite normal and the diplomatic exchange is up and running. German and American heads and secretaries of state certainly did not meet during the first one hundred days of the Obama administration. Back then, the priorities were in Asia." The new administration certainly considers Germany an important international player. So we do not have to lose sleep over the next 1,361 days? "The system of checks and balances is still working," says Franka Ellman. Dr. Sirakov thinks



(l. to r.); Marco Fey, Franka Ellmann, David Sirakov, and Wilfried Mausbach Debate the First 100 Days of the Trump Administration.

that Trump, like all U.S. presidents at the beginning of their administrations will have somewhat of a learning curve when his ideas meet the reality of the White House. Dr. Mausbach agreed: "So far, neither the best nor the worst case scenarios have materialized."

The HCA returned to the Trump presidency on July 28 with a panel discussion on current U.S. politics: "Trump's World: The First 200 Days." The journalists Ali Aslan and Andreas Horchler and the HCA's Martin Thunert joined for a discussion moderated by Tobias Endler (HCA). It evolved around Trump's voters, domestic policy changes, and the role of the media before and after Trump's election. Tobias Endler briefly summarized the state of the current administration, the president's eccentric outbursts, his twitter craze, and the tumultuous politics that are the result of all this. At the onset of the congressional summer recess, it seemed right to stop for a moment and reflect upon what is going on in the United States of America. First, Dr. Endler addressed Andreas Horchler, who until July of this year was the ARD correspondent in Washington. Mr. Horchler had lived and worked in the U.S. for four years, so what was the atmosphere like? Was the capital the "cesspool" Donald Trump had repeatedly talked about? For many, Trump's presidency was a never-ending nightmare, Mr. Horchler responded. Washington, D.C. was deeply Democratic; to find actual supporters of Trump, one had to go into the country. Only recently he had talked to an arms dealer in North Virginia, who had explained to him that the scandals Trump was involved with were meaningless, and that, as their president, he did his best. The next question was directed at Ali Aslan, who had lived in the U.S. from 1992 until 2006 and had started his career with CNN. After working for NBC News, CNN, ABC News; and Channel News Asia, the moderator, journalist, and political scientist is now working for the online format "Die richtigen Fragen" on bild.de. Where did Trump draw his support from? He did not appear out of nowhere, Mr. Aslan responded. Similar developments could be observed in Poland, Turkey, and Hungary. Contrary to public belief, the conflict was not between left and right, but between rich and poor. It was partly the Democrats' fault that the underprivileged voters had turned to Trump, because they had allowed it. Ali Aslan voiced his concern about the arrogance Germans and Europeans displayed while judging the recent political developments in the United States. The

situation overseas could not be judged by European standards of thinking. In the States, the election of a reality TV star was only logical. All panelists agreed that Trump had started campaigning for a second term already and that his re-election was a possibility. What did Trump achieve in his first 200 days? New standards had been put into place, Ali Aslan responded; Trump possessed a Teflon character, and nothing seemed to affect him. The scandals he was involved in would have cost his predecessors' careers. The extent of this fall from grace was huge, agreed Andreas Horchler. "No-drama-Obama" was definitely over. He saw Trump's greatest impact in the appointment of Neil Gorsuch as Supreme Court judge. His conservative stand on family planning and abortion would influence American jurisdiction possibly for decades. However, Martin Thunert, who worked for the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in the past, added that so far the Trump administration had not actually influenced any legislation. The relationship between the first branch of government, the executive, and the fourth estate, the media, had changed already during the elections, said Dr. Endler. What was the panelists' perspective on this? The media had made Trump bigger than he actually was, Ali Aslan said. To show a Trump Hotel opening for thirty minutes and devote only two minutes to politics was an outrage; the fact that CNN had become a 24/7 Trump channel in order to secure the president's favor showed weakness. Secretly, everybody in media agreed: Trump was good for business. The press had lost its function of gatekeeping, Dr. Thunert said, via Twitter the president can communicate directly with the entire world. The attempt to make Trump look foolish might backfire; Breitbart was only the tip of the iceberg. Soon, Tobias Endler opened the discussion, and the audience was primarily concerned with Trump's character. What explains the Teflon effect? Trump was New York through and through, responded Ali Aslan. He had profited from the social divide and "gridlock Washington." His wealth played a role, although nobody knew whether he is as wealthy as he claims. Also, he had never obeyed the rules of political correctness, a fact that his voters cherish. Martin Thunert said that Trump was not the first Teflon president; voters had overlooked Ronald Reagan's misgivings time and again. In contrast to Reagan, who drew appeal from his sympathetic and communicative manner and his naiveté, Trump's offensiveness is considered a plus; his voters interpret it as honesty and candor. Furthermore, many politicians were even more unpopular than Trump. Other topics of the open discussion were "fake news" and migration. Ultimately, Trump was a phenomenon, said Tobias Endler. And, Ali Aslan added, the Women's March had drawn more people than Trump's inauguration, and the U.S. was more than just Trump. In less than seven and a half years this presidency might be over anyhow.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

During the past year, these reports on the HCA and its activities, as well as contributions by its faculty have appeared:

„'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“

(RNZ, March 26, 2016)

„Trumps Spiel mit den Medien“

Article by Tobias Endler

(Carta, May 31, 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“

(RNZ, June 23, 2016)

„A born-again Methodist Who Died Fighting for Prohibition in 1922“

Article by Daniel Silliman

(The Gospel Coalition, June 29, 2016)

„In Yale nicht einmal Bachelor: In Heidelberg wurde James Pennington 1849 Ehrendoktor“

(RNZ, July 5, 2016)

„Die geistige Blindheit zerstreuen: Zum fünften Mal wurde der Pennington-Preis vergeben – Weltbekannte Yale University ist an Zusammenarbeit interessiert“

(RNZ, 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)

„Selbst Clinton würde das Land nur noch weiter spalten“  
Article by Manfred Berg  
(Tagesspiegel, July 26 and 31, 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“

(RNZ, 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 on the 2016 election results

(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)

„Was tut Trump jetzt?“  
Report featuring comments by Wilfried Mausbach  
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 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)

„ZDF Spezial: Obama in Deutschland“  
Report featuring Tobias Endler  
(ZDF, November 17, 2016)

„US-Gesellschaft nach der Wahl: Von Autorität und Vertrauen“  
Radio interview with Manfred Berg  
(SWR2 "Journal", November 21, 2016)

„Sharing, Gigs, On-Demand: Opportunities and Risks of the New Digital Economy“  
Article by Natalie Rauscher  
(atlantic-community.org, November 24, 2016)

„Aaron Schock once turned to Jesus. Now he faces federal charges“  
Article by Daniel Silliman  
(washingtonpost.com, December 13, 2016)

„Die postpolitische Außenpolitik des Donald Trump: Milliardäre, Putinverstehler und Generäle in der künftigen US-Regierung“  
Radio interview with HCA founding director Detlef Junker  
(SWR2 "Journal", December 14, 2016)

„Obama hätte gegen Trump gewonnen“

Interview with Manfred Berg

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, January 11, 2017)

„Machtwechsel im Weißen Haus: 'Das Schlachtfest ist bereitet'“

Interview with Tobias Endler

(Deutschlandradio Kultur, January 11, 2017)

„Vom Hoffnungsträger zum Entzauberten“

Article by Martin Thunert and Tobias Endler

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, January 16, 2017)

„Trump ist geistig nicht in der Lage, das Amt auszuüben“

Article by Detlef Junker

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, January 20, 2017)

„In den USA entsteht ein autokratisches Gefüge“

Article by Tobias Endler

(Der Standard, February 11, 2017)

„Vereidigung als Public Viewing: Im Heidelberg Center for American Studies verfolgten Baden-Württemberger den Amtsantritt von Donald Trump mit gemischten Gefühlen“

TV report about the HCA's live broadcast of the inauguration

(SWR Landesschau, January 20, 2017)

„Ungewisse und unsichere Zukunft“

TV interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR Landesschau, January 20, 2017)

„Analyse: Das bedeutet Trumps Antrittsrede“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Heilbronner Stimme, January 21, 2017)

„'Frieden ohne Sieg': Rede von Woodrow Wilson am 22. Januar 1917“

Radio Report with Manfred Berg

(WDR „ZeitZeichen“, January 22, 2017)

„Rassismus hat Trump die Tür in die Politik geöffnet“

Interview with Gary Gerstle

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, January 26, 2017)

„Das ist eine latente Verfassungskrise“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Deutschlandfunk, February 7, 2017)

„Parteitag der U.S.-Demokraten: Tea-Party von links“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR2 „Journal am Morgen“, February 24, 2017)

„Trump hat ein großspuriges, selbstverliebttes Bild von sich“

Article by Detlef Junker

(Mannheimer Morgen, February 25, 2017)

„Der Antisemitismus in den USA nimmt zu“

Radio interview with Manfred Berg

(SWR2 „Aktuell“, February 28, 2017)

„Trump liefert Visionen - offen bleibt, wer zahlt“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR Aktuell, March 1, 2017)

„Trump- versus Obamacare: U.S.-Bürger fürchten um Versicherungsschutz – deutscher Experte erläutert die Konsequenzen“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Medscape, March 16, 2017)

„Merkel bei Trump: Die Latte nicht zu hoch hängen“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(Sputnik Deutschland, March 21, 2017)

„Umstrittene Reform von 'Obamacare' in den USA: Abstimmung über 'Trumpcare' verschoben“

Radio interview with Detlef Junker

(SWR2 "Journal am Morgen", March 24, 2017)

„Wilson tradito da Trump“ (“Wilson betrayed by Trump“)

Manfred Berg interviewed by former HCA visiting scholar Giovanni Bernardini

(Corriere della Sera, March 26, 2017)

„Er wollte keinen Krieg. Dennoch führte Woodrow Wilson, 28. Präsident der USA, sein Land im April 1917 auf das europäische Schlachtfeld: Die Geschichte einer Entscheidung wider Willen“

Article by Manfred Berg

(DIE ZEIT, March 30, 2017)

„Er führte keinen Kreuzzug für die Demokratie“

Article by Manfred Berg

(Frankfurter Rundschau, April 5, 2017)

"The IRS Rarely Targets Pastors but One Preacher was Arrested for Saying 'Fork'"

Article by Daniel Silliman

(washingtonpost.com, May 5, 2017)

„Der Pennington Award geht nach Yale: Preisträger ist der Religionshistoriker Harry Stout“

(RNZ, May 19, 2017)

„Der Präsident als Popstar: John F. Kennedy und sein Mythos“

Discussion with Manfred Berg, Andreas Etges und Alan Posener

(SWR2 „Forum,“ May 23, 2017)

„Erste Bilanz: Donald Trump ist ein halbes Jahr im Amt“

Radiointerview with Tobias Endler and Andreas Horchler, ARD correspondent in Washington

(hr-iNFO, July 20, 2017)

"The Unvarnished Tyrant: American Soldiers and the Final Months of Saddam"

Article by David Eisler

(War on the Rocks, July 21, 2017)

"How One Purist Tried to Save the Religious Right from Republicans"

Article by Daniel Silliman

(Religion and Politics, August 8, 2017)

„Hilfestellung für Identitäre Bewegung: Wie Alt-Right 'Defend Europe' unterstützt“

Report featuring comments by Martin Thunert

(tagesschau.de, August 8, 2017)

„Wer wird da diskriminiert? Die amerikanische Regierung stellt Förderprogramme für Minderheiten in Frage“

Article by Manfred Berg

(DIE ZEIT, August 10, 2017)

"How a small occult publisher changed America"

Article by Daniel Silliman

(Real Clear Religion, August 30, 2017)

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Radio interview with Manfred Berg

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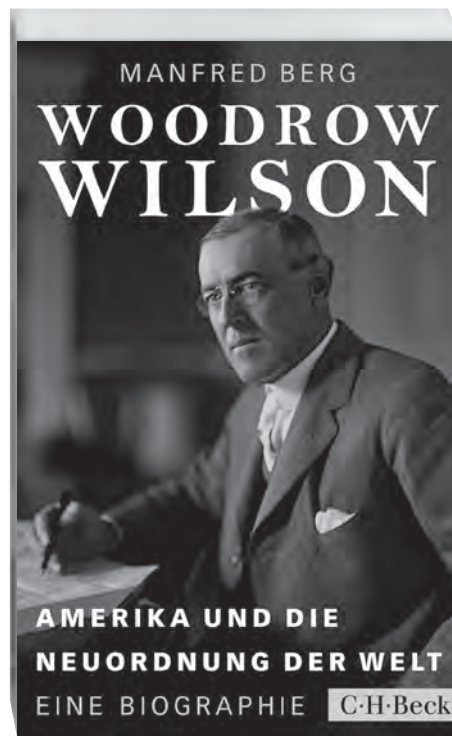


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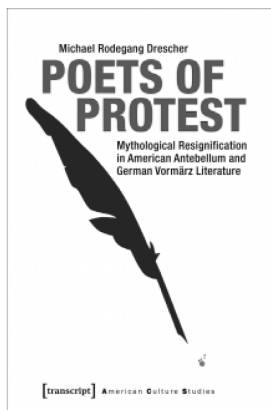


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**Manfred Berg** ist Professor für Amerikanische Geschichte an der Universität Heidelberg.

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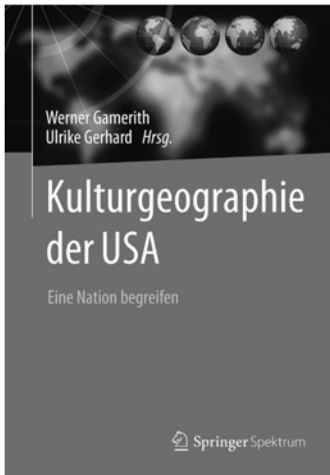
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**Michael Rodegang Drescher** (Dr.) teaches American literature at the University of Heidelberg. His research interests include democracy and aesthetics, cognition, consciousness, and genre theory.

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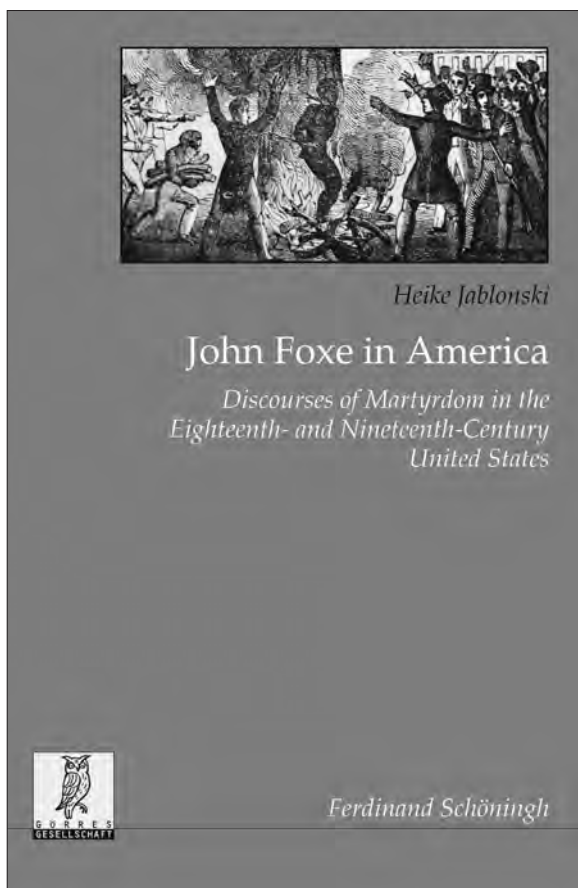


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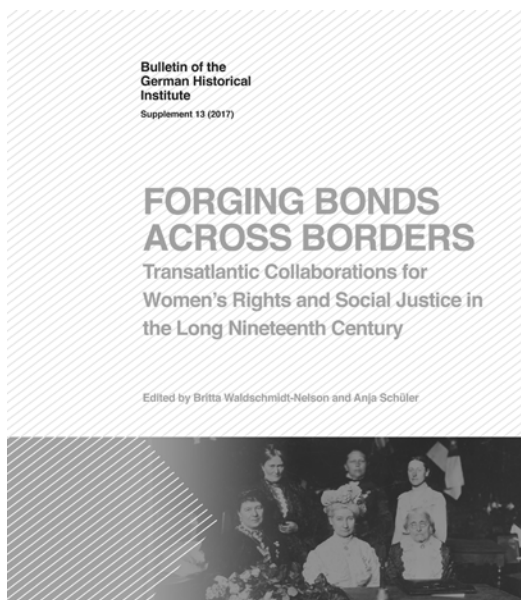
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