



**Heidelberg Center  
for American Studies**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

**SPECIAL FEATURE**

**Detlef Junker**

**"The Crisis of the American Empire"**



**Ruprecht - Karls - Universität  
Heidelberg, est. 1386**



## **ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**



# IMPRINT

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## RECTOR'S WELCOME

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

Dear Reader,

The past academic year brought profound changes to the HCA. In February 2018, HCA Founding Director Detlef Junker gave his Farewell Address to a capacity crowd in the Lecture Hall of the New University. It is documented in this annual report. Upon his retirement, Professor Junker became the chair of the HCA's board of trustees. In the same month, Professor Welf Werner assumed his position as the new director of the HCA and Professor for American Studies at the Faculty for Economic and Social Sciences. While his predecessor discharged his duties as a Distinguished Senior Professor of Heidelberg University, Professor Werner's position is a regular professorship created in recognition both of the tremendous efficacy of the HCA and of the generosity of its benefactors who made this success story possible. The Ruperto Carola is delighted that such an internationally renowned scholar and expert on the United States has joined its ranks. Professor Werner's appointment not only fosters a closer connection between the Center and the Faculty but also strengthens economics and the social sciences at the HCA.

As one of the leading centers for the study of the United States in Europe, the HCA ranks among several institutes for regional studies in the university's Field of Focus 3, "Cultural Dynamics in Globalised Worlds," an important part of our institutional strategy. Research in this field concentrates on understanding urgent problems of cultural identity as well as social and religious conflicts, caused, for example, by accelerated mobility, migration, or historical entanglements. The HCA's research initiatives dovetail in important ways with these issues. As for the center's prime purpose, it seems to me that in times of difficult transatlantic relations, it is all the more imperative to provide the knowledge needed to understand the politics, culture, economy, and society of the United States of America. I am confident that the HCA, as before, will continue to successfully meet this self-proclaimed mission under its new director.

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. WELF WERNER**  
DIRECTOR OF THE HCA

Dear Friends, Benefactors, Students, and Colleagues,

It is my honor and pleasure to present to you the fifteenth annual report of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, the first since I took over as HCA director on February 1, 2018. In the short fifteen years since its founding, the HCA has established itself as one of the preeminent centers for American Studies in Europe. It has graduated hundreds of students, held dozens of conferences and workshops, and furthered the dialogue between academia and the public through numerous events. This would not have been possible without the dedication of the university, the HCA faculty, its staff, and the strong support of private benefactors.

As this annual report goes to print, transatlantic relations are strained. That makes academic research about the United States and the strengthening of transatlantic networks even more crucial. In these times of fundamental change, the HCA stands ready to provide much-needed expertise and networking opportunities to academics, students, and the public at large.

To be sure, history tells us that even renowned experts do not always anticipate major turning points in world history. This became obvious in November 1989, when the Berlin Wall came down; in September 2001, when terrorists attacked the U.S.; and in November 2016, when Donald Trump was elected president of the United States. Transatlantic relations and American domestic policy discourses have taken an unexpected turn during these past two years.

Supported by his voters, the forty-fifth U.S. president questions the very foundations of the exceptional success story of the last seventy years. While America was instrumental in rebuilding peace, prosperity, and democracy out of the ashes of World War II through trustful multilateral cooperation, Trump's "America first" doctrine shifts the focus of U.S. foreign policy back to bilateralism and aggressive unilateralism. As a result, North Atlantic relations, the backbone of the post-war order, have been seriously challenged. On the domestic level, the focus on helping Americans to prosper from technological progress and globalization, the key elements of a new social contract, has all but disappeared from government policies. Improving education and health care, substantial ingredients to a thriving post-war society in which a rising tide lifted all boats, do not play a role in the current government's ambitions.

What, then, is the role of American Studies today? First, while traditional core disciplines of American Studies such as literary and cultural studies will always be indispensable to understand the United States, it seems to me that, in times like these, an emphasis on political science, economics, and sociology may be imperative to find answers to the pressing challenges posed by the end of the post-war era. I thus consider it one of my tasks to strengthen these fields at the HCA. Second, particularly in the Trump era, we need to understand the very traditions out of which we as American Studies scholars and as citizens of the North Atlantic have emerged in our reception of the world's hegemon. For example, have Europeans trusted for too long in the umbrellas that the U.S. provided when it came to matters of security and global economics? There is an important precedent for questioning the wisdom of a long-standing academic perspective. For quite a few decades, historians have profited enormously from an outside, non-western view of world history in the emerging field of Global History. The time is ripe to have a closer look at what insights "Global American Studies" have in store. How is the U.S. perceived by and in what ways does it matter to countries such as Canada, China, Brazil, India, Israel, Russia, or South Africa – or to European neighbors such as Poland, the U.K. and France?

Before I came to Heidelberg, the HCA's outstanding publications and website had provided me with quite a good idea of the center's history and the scope of its work. But the real thing exceeded my expectations by far. During the past ten months, I had the opportunity to learn more about the many projects the HCA has been supporting; the pleasure to get to know its dedicated staff; and the privilege to meet distinguished scholars from Germany and from around the world who consider the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais a place of exceptional academic excellence, if not their second academic home. Without the vision of my esteemed predecessor, Professor Detlef Junker, and the enthusiasm with which he pursued his project, none of this would have become a reality. These are big shoes to fill, and I would like to especially thank the founding director for his warm welcome.

The HCA will stay true to the principles upon which it was founded. Its programs of study will continue to impart the knowledge needed to understand the literature, culture, politics, economy, and society of the United States. Its interdisciplinary research will be based on the principles of rigorous academic inquiry and a critical review of scholarly hypotheses. Its public forum events will facilitate a dialogue between academia and the public. The HCA's activities will also continue to contribute to the creation and strengthening of transatlantic networks – in times when these networks are needed more than ever before.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Welf Werner', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner  
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 632-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; Dr. Oliver Neumann and Dr. Thomas Peuntner of the John Deere Company; and Herbert A. Jung and Dr. Andreas Dienerowitz. 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 sown the seeds which enabled the HCA and Heidelberg University to globally make their mark in the fields of American Studies and transatlantic relations. In 2008, they committed to supporting the HCA with 400,000 EUR annually and have done so ever since. In addition, 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 p. 29).

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

One of the most active benefactors of American Studies in Heidelberg since 1991, Rolf Kentner, established the Rolf-Kentner-Dissertation Prize in 2010. This annual award recognizes an outstanding and yet unpublished dissertation submitted to a German University. In 2010, the award went to Daniel Stein from the University of Göttingen; the 2011 recipient was Frank Usbeck from the University of Leipzig; in 2012, Leonard Schmieding, also from the University of Leipzig, received this award; in 2013, the Kentner Prize was awarded to Jasper M. Trautsch, who received his doctorate from the Free University Berlin; in 2014 the award went to Juliane Braun from the University of Würzburg; Tom Kaden from the University of Leipzig received the Kentner Prize in 2015; the 2016 recipient of the Kentner Prize was Birte Wege from the Free University of Berlin; 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. In 2018, the Kentner Prize was awarded to Jonas B. Anderson from the University of Jena, who completed his doctorate at the LMU Munich (see p. 97).

Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger and the Lautenschläger Foundation continued their longtime support of the HCA by providing funding for the James W. C. Pennington Award, set up jointly by the HCA and the Faculty of Theology. 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, Professor Harry Stout from Yale University in 2017, and Professor Eddie S. Glaude from Princeton University in 2018 (see p. 154).

During the academic year 2017-18, seven MAS students and four 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. In addition, Dr. Andreas Dienerowitz provided a scholarship for an 2018-19 MAS student. And once more, the 2018 Spring Academy was made possible by the generosity of the John Deere Company.

Two foundations, the Schurman Foundation and the Friends of the HCA, 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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A/c # 739 178636

## **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. Professor Welf Werner 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, 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. In February 2018, the HCA's founding director became the chairman of the board of trustees. It meets at least once a year to discuss the institute's progress and to advise its future developments.



### DR. KURT BOCK

Kurt Bock was Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE from 2011 until 2018. He joined the company in 1985 and assumed the role of CFO in 2003. Kurt Bock is a member of the Supervisory Boards of BMW Group, Fresenius Management SE and Munich Reinsurance Company. Kurt Bock was born in 1958. He studied Business Administration in Germany and the US. He 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 active in other portfolio companies of the Mannheim Trust. He spent fifteen 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 the 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, particularly in Namibia, Peru, and China. In October 2007, Professor Eitel assumed the office of rector of Heidelberg University. He was reelected for a second term in 2012.



## 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 his extraordinary support of 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 unflinching 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 AG and of the Management Board of ODDO BHF SCA. From November 2014 to June 2016, he was Head of Deutsche Asset & Wealth Management after heading Wealth Management Germany since June 2007. He was also 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. EM. DETLEF JUNKER

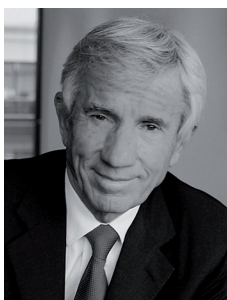
The HCA's founding director was born in Pinneberg near Hamburg. He studied history, political science, philosophy, and German philology in Innsbruck and Kiel, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1969. In 1974 Professor Junker was appointed associate professor at the University of Stuttgart. He taught modern history at Heidelberg University from 1975 to 1994 and held the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History there from 1999 to 2004. From 1994 to 1999, Professor Junker served as the Director of the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D.C. 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 publications are *Die Deutsche Zentrumspartei und Hitler 1932/33. Ein Beitrag zur Problematik des politischen Katholizismus in Deutschland* (1969), *Der unteilbare Weltmarkt. Das ökonomische Interesse in der Außenpolitik der USA 1933-1941*, (1975), *Kampf um die Weltmacht. Die USA und das Dritte Reich* (1988), *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. From 2009 to 2013, Professor Junker served as 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 entrepreneurial abilities. In 2014, he was named 2014 Honorary Roosevelt Fellow of the Roosevelt Study Center.



## 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.

Rolf Kentner was 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 – for an initial period of ten years – the Rolf-Kentner-Dissertation Prize toward a yet unpublished outstanding dissertation in American Studies submitted to a German university. Upon resigning as chairman of the Schurman Foundation in the fall of 2017, Rolf Kentner was appointed honorary chairman, and the foundation decided to continue the prize in his honor.



## 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 actively supported 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, six representatives from these faculties 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. In February 2018, Professor Junker resigned from the board of directors to head the HCA's board of trustees. He is succeeded by Professor Welf Werner. Also, Professor Welker left the board of directors, and the Faculty of Theology designated Professor Jan Stieversmann to replace him. The current deputy directors are Professor Manfred Berg and Professor Ulrike Gerhard.



### 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 Freie University 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), *Geschichte der USA* (2013), and *Woodrow Wilson. Amerika und die Neuordnung der Welt* (2017). In 2006 Professor Berg received the David Thelen Award from the Organization of American Historians (OAH) for the best article on American history published in a foreign language for his article "Black Civil Rights and Liberal Anticommunism: The NAACP during the McCarthy Era." In 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 was 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. He is the speaker of the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT).



## 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, Würzburg, Munich, and Heidelberg. 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 (*Inequalities in Creative Cities*) and the cultural geography of the U.S. (*Kulturgeographie der USA*). 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 in 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 foreign policy at the Institute for Political Science at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, and member of the executive board of the Heidelberg Center for the Environment (HCE). His main research areas include comparative foreign and security policy, international relations theories, cybersecurity, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and climate change policy issues. Sebastian Harnisch holds degrees in history and political science from Trier University and was a research fellow at the Japan Center for International Exchange (Tokyo, 1996), Columbia University (New York, 1996), and Yonsei University (Seoul, 1996-1997), as well as Heidelberg's Center of Excellency, the Marsilius-Kolleg (2011). He has taught at Trier University (2003-2006) and the Federal Armed Forces University in Munich (2006-2007) and was visiting professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University (2011), Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (2013), and China Foreign Affairs University (2018). Sebastian Harnisch is a member of the scientific advisory board of the *Foreign Policy Analysis* journal, as well as co-editor of the series *Foreign Policy and International Order* (Nomos) and the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia for Foreign Policy Analysis* (Oxford University Press). He has published numerous books, volumes, and articles in renowned journals. Professor Harnisch joined the HCA Board of Directors in 2010.

## PROF. DR. DR. H.C. EM. DETLEF JUNKER

(see p. 16)



## 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, Maryland–College Park, and Mainz. Günter Leypoldt holds degrees in American, British, and German literatures from the University of Cape Town (B.A.) and the University of Tübingen (doctorate and Habilitation). He has published essays on literary transcendentalism, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century aesthetics, twentieth-century literary and cultural theory, a monograph on contemporary fiction, *Casual Silences: The Poetics of Minimal Realism* (2001), and a study on 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. He is the co-speaker of the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT).



## PROF. DR. JAN STIEVERMANN

Jan Stievermann, Professor for the History of Christianity in the United States at the HCA and Faculty of Theology, followed Michael Welker as the representative of the Faculty of Theology on the board. He has written and edited books and essays on a broad range of topics in the fields of American religious history and American literature, including a comprehensive study of the theology and aesthetics of Ralph Waldo Emerson (2007). He co-edited *A Peculiar Mixture: German-Language Cultures and Identities in Eighteenth-Century North America* (2013) and *Religion and the Marketplace in the United States* (2014). His most recent publications are the edition of vol. 5 of Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana* (2015) and a book-length study of this hitherto unexplored source entitled *Prophecy, Piety, and the Problem of Historicity: Interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures in Cotton Mather's Biblia Americana*

(2016). For the *Biblia*-project as a whole (10 vols.) he also serves as the executive editor.



## 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, represented the Faculty of Theology on the board. From 2004 to 2018, 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 God the Spirit*, 2015); 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.



## PROF. DR. WELF WERNER

Welf Werner was trained in economics, finance, management, and economic history at the Freie Universität Berlin and Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Before joining the faculty of International University Bremen as Professor of International Economics in 2004, he taught U.S. economic policy and history as lecturer and assistant professor at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies. He received his Ph.D. and *venia legendi* from the Economics Department of the Freie Universität in 1992 and 2003, respectively. He was a John

F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow at Harvard University's Center for European Studies in 1994 and returned to the U.S. in 1997 as a research fellow at both Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and George Washington University. In February 2018, Welf Werner was appointed Professor of American Studies at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Universität Heidelberg and director of the HCA. His research and teaching focus on U.S. domestic and foreign economic policies while giving due regard to their intertwining with history and political science. His interdisciplinary cooperation has occasionally gone beyond the social sciences, as, for example, with the volume *Wie viel Ungleichheit verträgt die Demokratie? Armut und Reichtum in den USA*, co-edited with Winfried Fluck (2004). Specific research interests have touched upon fields such as international trade in services, financial market globalization, monetary regime change, natural disasters and international risk management, globalization and inequality, welfare state reform, and the economic determinants of populism.



## 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. To date, 199 students from 47 countries and six continents have graduated from the MAS.

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 1,400 applications from over 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. Currently, 21 students participate in our program while 20 have successfully completed their doctorate.

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.

The antechamber of the HCA's  
Bel Etage





The Atrium 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.

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 2018, a total of 79 B.A. students are enrolled at the HCA; to date, more than 1,300 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. 154). 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. Its focus will be on doctoral and post-doctoral exchanges as well as on research collaborations. 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 is on doctoral and post-doctoral exchanges as well as research collaborations. So far four joint colloquia took place, and several junior scholars benefitted from the exchange. In the summer of 2018, a Heidelberg delegation participated for the first time in the doctoral summer school Notre Dame organizes with partners from Oxford and Edinburgh. Starting in January 2019, the HCA will also be part of a new Notre Dame research-initiative on "Global 1776."

In the fall of 2016, the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) approved a grant application worth 3.5 million EUR for a new research training group (Graduiertenkolleg) 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 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 Leyboldt (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.

In the spring of 2017, Professor Welf Werner of International University Bremen received a position the university had created two years earlier to ensure the succession of the HCA's founding director, a joint appointment at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and the HCA. In February 2018, the HCA board of directors elected him as the center's new director. As the new

director, Professor Werner adds economics to the center's portfolio, giving due regard to the discipline's intertwining with history and political science

## 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 2017-2018



### **IDA BAHMANN, B.A.** **ASSISTANT FORUM**

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 is responsible for the retrospect reports about the forum events. Ida Bahmann is currently pursuing an M.A. in English Literature at Heidelberg University and is spending the academic year 2018-19 at Cornell University.

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

(see p. 19)



### **REBA CARRUTH, PH.D.** **VISITING SCHOLAR**

Reba Carruth holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Minnesota/Humphrey School of Public Affairs and an M.A. in International Affairs from the American University School of International Service. She is an adjunct faculty member in the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University. She specializes in international regulatory policy cooperation, science based regulation, food/drug/climate and energy/environment/industry, transatlantic policy cooperation, TTIP and U.S./E.U./U.N. global regulatory policy and industry standards harmonization. She was previously an adjunct faculty member in the BMW Center for German and European Studies in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She came to the HCA as a Fulbright Specialist.





## 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. AND RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Tobias Endler has worked on recent U.S. domestic and foreign policy, Enlightenment thinking, and issues of democracy. His current research focuses on U.S. foreign policy and transatlantic relations in the twenty-first century and the impact of education/knowledge acquisition and the media on contemporary democratic societies. 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. He left the HCA in the spring of 2018 for a position as a research associate at the Heidelberg School of Education.





**DOUGLAS FAVERO, M.A.**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Douglas Favero is a photographer, writer, and teacher based in Oaxaca, Mexico. His images have been published in *Food & Travel Mexico*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *El País*, and his three-part series of text and images on Oaxacan indigenous potters was featured in the international arts magazine, *Ceramics Technical*. See one of his favorite photographic series, spanning a decade in time and three continents, at [www.douglasfavero.com/life-on-other-planets](http://www.douglasfavero.com/life-on-other-planets). Raised in central Illinois, he holds a dual B.A. in Sociocultural Studies in Southern Africa and Latin America and in English from Valparaiso University in Indiana. While pursuing an MAS at the HCA, he was responsible for the photographic documentation of events.



**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.



**KATJA FLORACK, B.A.**  
ASSISTANT MAS & SPRING ACADEMY

Katja Florack received her B.A. in American Studies in October 2018 and is now pursuing a Master of Arts in American Studies at the HCA. She started working at the HCA in October 2017 and is currently supporting the MAS team and the HCA Spring Academy team.



## **PROESSOR EDDIE S. GLAUDE, JR., PH.D.** **JAMES W.C.PENNINGTON DISTINGUISHED FELLOW 2018**

The seventh recipient of the James W.C. Pennington Distinguished Fellowship, Eddie S. Glaude is the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor at the Department of Religion and African American Studies at Princeton University and the chair of the Department of African American Studies. He is currently president of the American Academy of Religion. He holds a master's degree in African American Studies from Temple University and a Ph.D in Religion from Princeton University. He began his teaching career at Bowdoin College and was a visiting scholar at Amherst College and Harvard. In 2015 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Colgate University. His books include *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul* (2016); *African American Religion: A Very Short Introduction* (2014); *In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America* (2007); and *Exodus! Religion, Race and Nation in Early 19th Century Black America* (2000), which was awarded the Modern Language Association's William Sanders Scarborough Book Prize. Eddie S. Glaude is also the author of two edited volumes and many influential articles about religion for academic journals. He has also written for the *The New York Times*, *The Huffington Post* and *Time Magazine* and regularly provides commentary on radio and television news programs like *Democracy Now!*, *Morning Joe*, and *The 11th Hour*. Currently Eddie S. Glaude is at work on a book about James Baldwin, tentatively titled *James Baldwin's America, 1963-1972*.

(Photo courtesy Sameer A. Khan, Fotobuddy LLC)



## **KENYON GRADERT, PH.D.** **VOLKSWAGENSTIFTUNG POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOW**

Kenyon Gradert earned his Ph.D. in English from Washington University in St. Louis in 2017, where he specialized in nineteenth-century American and African-American literature with a concentration in religion, memory studies, and cultural theory. In addition to several book and encyclopedia chapters, his academic work has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Journal of American Studies*, *New England Quarterly*, and *Amerikastudien*. As a former Fellow of Washington University's Humanities Digital Workshop, Kenyon often supplements his archival research with

digital tools. His non-academic writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Dissent*, or the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. As a Volkswagen Fellow at the HCA, Kenyon has been completing his first book, *Gospel Writ in Steel: Puritan Spirits in the Abolitionist Imagination*, a study of how prominent American antislavery writers embraced a revolutionary vision of their Puritan heritage to sanction an imaginative holy war against slavery.

**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 establishment of the program in 2011. She is also a member of the HCA's Ph.D. program and is researching endangered Native American languages.

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

(see p. 21)



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

Ryan Hoselton is a doctoral candidate at Heidelberg University. Born in New Mexico, he earned his B.A. in history with honors from the University of New Mexico and his M.Div. and Th.M. from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His dissertation examines how early American evangelicals conceptualized the relationship between experiential knowledge and biblical interpretation in light of their religious

traditions, shifting social and religious circumstances, and early enlightenment context. He teaches a range of courses on American religious history and assists his adviser, Professor Jan Stievermann, with research on the *Biblia Americana* project and administration of the Jonathan Edwards Center Germany.



**SARAH JOERIS, B.A.**  
ASSISTANT MAS & SPRING ACADEMY

Sarah Joeris was a student in the HCA's BAS from 2015-18 and is currently enrolled in the M.A. program of Political Sciences and Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University. In April 2016 she started working at the HCA as a student assistant supporting the MAS team where she is primarily responsible for the MAS newsletter and the MAS marketing. In October 2018, she also became a member of the Spring Academy Team.

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

(see p. 16)



**HANNAH KESEL**  
STUDENT ASSISTANT

Hannah Kesel has been studying sociology at Heidelberg University since the winter term 2017-18. In September 2018 she started working at the HCA as a student assistant, supporting the main office.



**LAYLA KOCH**  
RESEARCH ASSISTANT

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. From June 2017 to July 2018 she served as coordinator for the MAS program.



**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 Mathematik 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 supported the HCA main office. She left in August 2018 to work for a notary public.



## 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, DC. 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 was 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.



## HANNES NAGL, M.A.

### GKAT COORDINATOR, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, & 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, serves as coordinator for the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority & Trust" (GKAT), 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, STATE EXAM** 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. In 2018 he graduated from Heidelberg University.



## **BENJAMIN M. PIETRENKA, PH.D.** RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Benjamin Pietrenka earned his Ph.D. in History from the University of California Santa Cruz in 2017, where he specialized in the history of early America and the Atlantic world with concentrations in the sub-disciplines of religion, German culture, gender, and race. As the recipient of fellowships from the United States Fulbright Commission, the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), the Leibniz Institut für Europäische Geschichte Mainz (IEG), and the Regents of the University of California, Benjamin completed the research and writing of his dissertation entitled „Religion on the Margins: Transatlantic Moravian Identities and Early American Religious Radicalism,“ a study of the early modern Moravian Church through the lens of believers and their networks of correspondence that criss-crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the eighteenth century. At the HCA, Benjamin Pietrenka works as an historical researcher on the *Biblia Americana* Project and teaches courses on religion and American history.





## FRANZISKA PENTZ, B.A.

### SPRING ACADEMY

Franziska Pentz was student in the HCA's BAS program from 2014 to 2017. She is now pursuing a Master of Arts in English Literary Studies at Heidelberg University. Franziska Pentz became part of the HCA Spring Academy team in August 2016 and is now the Spring Academy Coordinator.



## NATALIE RAUSCHER, M.A.

### RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Natalie Rauscher is currently pursuing her doctorate in the HCA's Ph.D. program. She is also working as a research assistant for Professor Welf Werner, supporting his lectures and seminars on the U.S. economy.



## 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* (2016). His research interests include U.S. presidential politics and representation of violence in American fiction. In the spring of 2018 Styles Sass assumed the position of Assistant Director for the American Junior Year at Heidelberg University program.



## **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 Schöler studied history, American Studies and journalism at the University of Münster, the University of Georgia in Athens, and the Freie Universität 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 Freie Universität 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), *Politische Netzwerkerinnen: Internationale Zusammenarbeit von Frauen 1830-1960* (2007), and *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 Freie Universität 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.



## 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

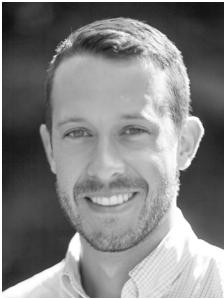
### MAS & PH.D. COORDINATOR

Anne Sommer (née Lübbers) studied political science, German philology, English, and Romance languages at Heidelberg University and the University of Bologna, Italy. She interned at the German Foreign Office in Berlin and at the Goethe Institute in Paris. After receiving her M.A. in 2006, she began work on her doctoral dissertation, making research trips to Italy, France, and Switzerland. She earned her Ph.D. in 2013 with her dissertation on "Alfieri, Foscolo, and Manzoni as Readers of Machiavelli: Intertextuality and Reception in the Early Risorgimento." Anne Sommer has worked for the HCA since 2003. From 2003 to 2007, she was responsible for organizing and convening the Spring Academy and the Baden-Württemberg-Seminar. She has served as MAS coordinator since 2007. In 2010, she was instrumental in developing and implementing the B.A. program at the HCA. In 2018 she took over the task and position of Ph.D. coordinator of the HCA's Ph.D. program as well.

After lecturing at the Romance language department, Anne Sommer now teaches American literature seminars at the HCA and conducts workshops on intercultural competence. 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. Her current research is entitled "Narratives of Return: Changing Notions of Home, Belonging, and Cultural Identity in 21st-Century Italian American Literature." Her research interests include in particular issues of migration, diaspora studies, and transcultural dynamics.

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

(See p. 22)



**JAMES STRASBURG**  
VISITING SCHOLAR

James Strasburg is a doctoral candidate at the University of Notre Dame's Department of History. 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.



**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, B.A.**

### **RESEARCH & CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

Martina Wagner joined the HCA's BAS program in fall 2015 and received her degree in 2018. She worked at the HCA as a student assistant from 2017 to 2018, primarily supporting research and publications of the HCA's Founding Director, Professor Detlef Junker. In the summer of 2018, Martina Wagner joined the team of the Heidelberg Laureate Forum.



## **EMMA WOLF, B.A.** **ASSISTANT FORUM**

Emma Wolf graduated from the HCA's BAS program in the spring of 2018, after spending the academic year of 2016-17 at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In April 2016, she started working for the HCA Forum where she regularly supports both event management and public relations and writes retrospect reports about the HCA's public events. Currently, Emma Wolf is pursuing an M.A. in English Literature at Heidelberg University.

## **HCA INTERNS 2017-2018**

In 2017-18, the HCA successfully continued its internship program, which began in the fall of 2005. We were once more fortunate to host excellent interns during the year who provided valuable support for our work. We would like to thank Temitope Fafore, who joined the Spring Academy team before and during the conference. In September and October of 2018, Martin Cassinelli assisted with the GKAT Workshop "Shifting Patterns of Global Trust and Authority" and provided research support for HCA director Professor Welf Werner.

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).

## ADJUNCT FACULTY

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

Sharon Hodge, B.A.  
Teaching Assistant Literature

Henning Jansen, B.A.  
Teaching Assistant History

Steven Less, J.D.  
Lecturer Law

Stella Müller, M.A.  
Teaching Assistant Geography

Marlene Pfeifer  
Teaching Assistant Political Science

Natalie Rauscher, M.A.  
Teaching Assistant Political Science

Maren Schäfer, M.A.  
Teaching Assistant Key Skills

Theodore Shulman, LL.M.  
Teaching Assistant Law

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

Tim Sommer, M.A.  
Teaching Assistant Literature

Cosima Werner, M.A.  
Teaching Assistant Geography

Cynthia Wilke, J.D.  
Lecturer Law

## ASSOCIATED FELLOWS

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

Professor Rashida Braggs, Ph.D.  
Professor of Africana Studies, Williams Col-  
lege

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. habil. Mischa Honeck  
Research Fellow, Humboldt Universität zu  
Berlin

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

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

Professor Charles Postel, Ph.D.  
San Francisco State University

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

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



## COOPERATION AND SUPPORT

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

The American Academy in Berlin; Max Kade Foundation; Hans Böckler Foundation; Alliiertenmuseum Berlin; Deutscher Bundestag; Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin; Ford Motor Company, Berlin Office; Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung; MdB Dr. Danyal Bayas (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen); Enjoy Jazz Festival, Heidelberg; Forum für internationale Sicherheit (FiS), Heidelberg; Hochschulgruppe für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik, Heidelberg; Haus der Geschichte Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart; Andreas Henn Kunsthandel Galerie Stuttgart; Ulrike Cameron Henn; Baier Druck, Heidelberg; Hertie School of Governance; German Association for American Studies (DGfA); John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin; Institute for International Studies, Charles University, Prague; Institute of North American Studies, King's College, London; Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora, Jagiellonian University, Krakow; Franklin Institute at the University of Alcalá, Spain; Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, The Netherlands; Heidelberg Program of Pepperdine University; University of Notre Dame; Yale Divinity School; Ralph Waldo Emerson Society; Margaret Fuller Society; Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin; German American Institute Heidelberg (DAI); Carl-Schurz-Haus/German American Institute Freiburg; Katholische Akademie Freiburg; English Department, Heidelberg University; Zentrum für Europäische Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften (ZEGK), Heidelberg University; Department of Religious Studies, Heidelberg University; Institute for Geography, Heidelberg University; Faculty of Theology, Heidelberg University; Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg; American Council on Germany; Heidelberg University Association, New York, and its executive director Irmintraud Jost; Heidelberg Alumni International and its director Silke Rodenberg; American German Business Club, Heidelberg; German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); German-American Fulbright Commission; German Historical Institute (GHI), Washington, D.C.; Government of the State of Baden-Württemberg; 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 Studierendenwerk 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 p. 54) from its inception and a three year Ph.D. in American Studies program (see p. 72) 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 2021

In 2018, the program admitted 21 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 four day orientation session and took up their course work afterwards.



The new students of the BAS Class of 2021:

L-r front row:

Nils Herzog, Daniela Willmann, Jennifer Klotz, Marion Steinbächer, Vivien Reinhardt, Charlotte Claßen

L-r back row:

Robin Ehrlich, Alen Hasanovic, Patrick Sirock, Mike Andres, Verena Höringer, Michelle Caneiro Vela, Svea Donauer  
(not pictured: Laura Abels, Widyan Allatif, Lukas Bühler, Lorena Galinski, Flynn Schirott)



## BAS STUDENT TRIP TO BERLIN 2018

After an uncomplicated train ride, the HCA B.A. students and instructors Martin Thunert and Julia Lichtenstein arrived in Berlin and checked into their hotel near Ostbahnhof. The group split up for dinner but met up again in the parliamentary district for the fascinating light installation projected onto the Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus, which showcases the history of the Reichstag. Most students went straight to the hotel afterwards, since they were tired from the long journey.

On Tuesday, the group took the train to Dahlem to visit the Allied Museum, which celebrated the seventieth anniversary of the Berlin Air Lift in 2018 and presented an interesting exhibition on the life of American soldiers stationed in Germany. After a quick snack, the students travelled back to Mitte to meet up with Judith Kleinmeyer, a representative of the Ford Motor Company's Berlin office, who provided them with insights on the economic changes caused by Brexit and the Trump administration. The beautiful summer evening was spent until the group met up again for a bar night at Hackescher Hof.

The next day, students paid a visit to the Kennedy Museum and its exhibition on the sociological concept of "coolness," followed by lunch at a delicious Israeli restaurant. The afternoon led them to the U.S. Embassy where locally-employed staff member Martina Kohl and career diplomat Tanya Brothen gave them a tour and answered questions. Subsequently, the group was able to witness Interior Minister Horst Seehofer during a parliamentary debate on the refugee crisis in the Reichstag, all taking place during the elimination of Germany from the world cup. The game resulted in enormous traffic jams, which made navigation difficult and put a damper on the general mood. However, the remainder of the evening was spent on a three-hour boat trip around the Spree and Landwehrkanal, which was inarguably beautiful and peaceful.

On Thursday morning, HCA students and instructors had a meeting with Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Merkel at the Social Science Center (WZB). Professor Merkel has been the director of the research

BAS Students and their instructor Julia Lichtenstein in Berlin





unit "Democracy and Democratization" there since 2004. He spent the morning talking about the WZB, academic career, and the students' future plans. In addition, he invited them for lunch at the WZB. This event was immediately followed by a meeting at the German Bundestag with MP Dr. Danyal Bayaz, member of the Greens. He talked about his career and discussed such topics like job world 4.0, student housing, and artificial intelligence. After coffee and cake, the group witnessed another parliamentary debate at the Reichstag and visited the glass dome on top of the building in order to enjoy a stunning view of the German capital.

To celebrate this extraordinary trip to Berlin, some of the students met with their instructors one more time in Berlin for a goodbye dinner before leaving for Heidelberg on Friday.

Thanks to the HCA and the student council for making this trip 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; University of Washington, Seattle; University of Connecticut, Mansfield; University of North Carolina, Greensboro, the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Four students opted for an exchange via the ERASMUS program and went to study at the Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; Uppsala University, Sweden; and Volda University and the University of Oslo in Norway.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES (MAS)

In 2017-18, the MAS was offered for the last time as a three semester program. Starting in the winter term 2018-19, the HCA offers a newly designed four semester master's program (see p. 61).

The Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) at the HCA is an 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 as well as academic training and offers inside knowledge with an outside perspective.

To date, thirteen graduating classes totaling 199 students have earned the master's degree. These 199 students came from 47 countries on six 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 winter semester 2017-18 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, literature, and political science, one interdisciplinary colloquium, and two additional methodology courses. The summer semester, which started in April 2018, consisted of two lectures in religious studies and law, 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, 2019. On November 9 and 16, the M.A. thesis workshop took place where 12 M.A. students presented their theses outlines. The graduation ceremony will take place on April 26, 2019.

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 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. At the HCA, she chose history, literature, and religious studies as her majors and wrote her M.A. thesis on "Aesthetic Affinities between W.E. Channing and Emerson: On the Making of the Newborn Bard of the Holy Ghost."

### **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. At the HCA, Katie majored in history, literature, and law. Her M.A. thesis is entitled "'From the Bottom of the Deck': Race Cards and Colour Blindness in the O.J. Simpson Trial."

### **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. Since then, she has had the opportunity to live in seven 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. At the HCA, Nina chose history, literature, and law as her majors. She wrote her M.A. thesis on "Religious Ideals of Womanhood in Nineteenth-Century America: A Close Reading of Catharine Beecher and Margaret Fuller."

### **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. At the HCA, Ilkin focused on history, political science, and religious studies. His M.A. thesis is entitled "Rule by the Ignorant: A Criticism of Diarchic Democracy."

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

Libin was born in Hubei, China. He received his B.A. 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 four years of business practices with local counterparts and companies, he became interested in Western culture, especially in solutions to problems that result from cultural misunderstanding. At the HCA, Libin chose history, political science, and law as his majors and wrote his M.A. thesis on "Congress, the President and the Taiwan Relations Act: A Review of U.S. Foreign Policy toward Taiwan."

### **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 was a fulltime corporate trainer at a U.S. software company for over three years. At the HCA, Le majored in history, literature, and law. Her M.A. thesis is entitled "Re-Examining America's Failure in the Vietnam War: How Did a Global Giant Stumble in a Faraway Land?" After her graduation, Le was admitted to the HCA's Ph.D. program.

### **Léa Pitschmann (France)**

Léa was born in Charpenton-Le-Pont, France, in 1994. After completing a three-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. At the HCA, Léa chose on history, geography, and literature as her majors and wrote her M.A. thesis on "Utopias of the Taboo: A Wittigian Reading of a Nineteenth-Century Corpus." She graduated as the valedictorian of the MAS class of 2018.

### **Supawadee Sriputorn (Thailand)**

Supawadee is from Thailand. She studied mass communications as her undergraduate degree and received her first master's degree in English. She has worked as a translator and a university lecturer in Chiang Mai, Thailand. At the HCA, Supawadee focused on history, literature, and law. She wrote her M.A. thesis on "*Sofia Coppola's Film Adaptation of Jeffrey Eugenides's The Virgin Suicides: A Case Study of 'American Indie' Film Adaptation.*"

### **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 at Ludwig Maximilian's University in Munich. At the HCA, Calum majored in history, political science, and law and write his M.A. thesis on "Evaluating the Relationship between Social Capital and Politics in the Digital Age United States."

### **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. She spent her second year of university as an exchange student at Shanghai International Studies University. At the HCA, she chose literature, history, and law as her majors. She earned her degree with an M.A. thesis entitled "The Quest for Identity: Twentieth-Century Chinese-American Literature."

## THE MAS CLASS OF 2019

### **Laura Alcántara Duque (Mexico)**

Laura was born in Mexico City. She attended the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, where she earned a bachelor degree in history. Her research interest focuses on public policies application, specifically regarding drug prohibition from a historical perspective, and their implications in the present system of narcotics control, with particular attention to consumers. She has interned for research institutions, such as the Center for Research on North America (CISAN-UNAM).

### **Gülhan Arklan (Germany/Turkey)**

Gülhan was born and raised in Frankfurt am Main. She went to school in both Germany and Turkey. She has a B.A. in American Culture and Literature from Ankara University.

### **Cansu Aydin (Turkey)**

Cansu Aydin was born in 1995 in Ankara, Turkey. After high school in Ankara, she was accepted at Bilkent University's Department of American Culture and Literature with a full scholarship. During this time, Cansu spent one year in University of Turku in Turku, Finland as an Erasmus+ exchange student. She graduated from Bilkent University as a High Honor student in 2017. Her study interests are political history, religious studies, and gender studies.

### **Erkam Calik (Turkey)**

Erkam was born in Istanbul, Turkey, but raised in Pakistan and Oman as well. He received his B.A. in American Culture and Literature from Hacettepe University in 2017. Erkam's intercultural experience during his childhood has also molded his musical preferences and drawn him into the underground music scene. Exposed to many different genres, his long-term aspiration is to become an academic specializing in Cultural Studies and Musicology.

### **Chau Pham Tran Bao (Vietnam)**

Chau graduated from Assumption University in Thailand in 2012. She received a bachelor degree in international business management with a minor in marketing. After graduation, she started working for aluminum can making companies both in Thailand and BinhDuong province (north of HoChiMinh City).

### **Holly Clayman (USA)**

Holly was born and raised in Concord, the capital city of New Hampshire. She received her B.A. (Hons) in Creative Arts and Communications, from Richmond the American International University in London. Her research focused on the use of art in public spaces and the relationship between street art as a subculture, and the commodification and recuperation of street art into dominant culture. Her interests include the formation of subcultural groups in the USA.

### **Tamàs Deák-Bárdos (Hungary))**

Tamàs 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 worked at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in the research group on political realism. Tamàs spent a year at Georgia State University as part of the HCA exchange program. His long term aspiration is to pursue a Ph.D. and to become an academic.

### **Douglas Favero (USA)**

Douglas Favero graduated with a dual degree in Sociocultural Studies in Southern Africa and Latin America, and English, from Valparaiso University. He went to work on fiction while traveling the U.S., Spain, and Morocco and living in Seattle and San Francisco. In 2007, he moved to Mexico, where for six years he taught language and culture at a local university. For the past three years, he was an academic adviser for the Fulbright Commission and Education USA.

### **Alexandra Katkinová (Slovakia)**

Alexandra was born in Bratislava, Slovakia. She attended Masaryk University in the Czech Republic where she received her B.A. in international relations and English. She spent a year as an exchange student in Bergen, Norway, and Southampton, United Kingdom. Her bachelor thesis was on the U.S. policy toward North Korea, because she has a keen interest in U.S. foreign affairs and diplomacy with specialization in security-related topics.

### **Shasha Lin (China)**

Shasha grew up in Guangzhou, China, and pursued her B.A. in English language and literature at Sun Yat-sen University. Although she specialized in translation and interpretation and accumulated considerable relevant work experience, she takes an interest in American culture, especially in aspects of literature and political science. After graduating from Heidelberg Center for American Studies, she plans to earn a Ph.D. and ultimately become a professor.

### **Victoria Madsen (USA)**

Victoria was born and raised near Chicago. She earned her B.A. in history from the University of Missouri in 2016. She also spent her junior year at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy. Her studies were mainly focused on Colonial Latin American history, U.S. Civil Rights and Modern Italian history. History of seemingly any kind and traveling are her two greatest passions.

### **Andjela Micanovic (Montenegro)**

Andjela grew up in Montenegro. She graduated from the University of Montenegro as the best social science student. She spent her second and fourth year of studies as an exchange student in Washington D.C. and Heidelberg. Andjela has a working experience in both the Government Sector and International Organizations (the U.N., the E.U.), as well as from various NGOs where she volunteered for the last ten years.

**Marco Morales Mendez (USA)**

Marco graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in American Cultural Studies from Western Washington University. He was the 2017 outstanding graduate in American Cultural Studies and was inducted to the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective multidisciplinary collegiate honor society. At WWU, Marco was a TA in American social theory, Latino Studies, and was the program lead on a global learning program to the Republic of Cuba.

**Johs Rasmussen (Denmark)**

Johs spent most of his childhood in Denmark, although he also lived in the United States and China. He majored in American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark while also taking an elective in comparative literature at the University of Copenhagen. It was during Johs' recent travels that the MAS program gained his interest. His primary concern has been cultural studies in its American form, and his chief inspirations are Fredric Jameson, Ralph Ellison and Stuart Hall.

**Andreea Rus (Romania)**

Andreea grew up in the bustling city of Bucharest. She completed a B.A. in French and English literature at the University of Bucharest. In her last year of study, she focused on trauma, identity, and memory in graphic novels. After graduating in 2014, she taught primary school children at an international British school in Bucharest for three years before deciding to study in Germany.

**Benedict Scantlebury (United Kingdom)**

Ben grew up in the Yorkshire city of Bradford, U.K. Having lived in the north of England all his life, in 2014 he ventured south to begin studying for a B.A. in history at the University of Oxford.

**Natascha Schiel (Germany)**

Natascha was born in Baden-Baden, Germany, and completed her B.A. in American Studies at the HCA 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. In addition, she has been studying German law at Heidelberg University since 2012.

**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.

**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. She is spending the academic year 2017-2018 at Durham University.



## "ART IN CONTEXT" – MAS EXCURSION TO THE STAATSGALERIE STUTTGART

On October 27, 2017, the MAS Class of 2019 visited the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart to view its remarkable exhibition of American graphic prints and "pop art" from the 1960s to the 1990s. "The Great Graphic Boom" presented renowned artwork from artists like Roy Lichtenstein, Donald Judd, and Andy Warhol. MAS student Holly Clayman relates her experience at the gallery:



The MAS Class of 2019 with  
Julia Lichtenstein and Wilfried  
Mausbach at the Staatsgalerie  
Stuttgart

The poster which hung from the entrance to the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart introduced familiar visuals and hinted at what we were about to explore on our tour through the exhibition entitled "The Great Graphic Boom Art in America 1960-1990." I assumed the exhibit would present the graphic arts movement in the United States in terms of its most famous graphic artists such as Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol. However, as our tour began, it became clear that it also included the works of artists who were part of the early experimentation and development of printmaking in the United States.

What I found interesting about the exhibition was the journey from abstract expressionism to pop art and the ability of the tour guide to make the history and context of the work accessible. Even for someone who enjoys going to art galleries, it is not always a simple task to understand the meaning behind the art that hangs on the wall. This exhibition, and the tour itself gave us the chance to look deeper into the motives of the artists, something we may have otherwise missed. This was a useful approach, as the members of the group came from different academic backgrounds.

While I found myself impressed by a number of pieces from artists such as Helen Frankenthaler and Ed Ruscha, my favorite was Warhol's "Electric Chair." One of the main points shared with

us on the tour was Warhol's purposeful use of repetition to take away the meaning we give to images. The electric chair as an image captures the United States' use of the death penalty as a means of punishment. However, Warhol was able to take that image and reproduce it into an image of pop culture. The decision of the curator to include this alongside images of Marilyn Monroe and Jackie Kennedy suddenly became clear. Independent from the rest of the exhibition, "Electric Chair" had a morbid feeling to it, but when placed next to images that seemed to lack depth, such as flowers or soup cans, it blurred the lines between pop culture and social commentary.

At the end of the tour, our guide welcomed us to take pictures of the exhibition. While I was taken aback by the offer to document the gallery, I felt receptive of this opportunity to interact with art. Warhol's work in particular highlighted consumption and the role of American pop imagery. At the conclusion of the tour it felt appropriate to take pictures or selfies with the pieces and post them online, assuming our role as consumers of Warhol's work.

Overall I found the tour insightful and relevant to my own area of academic interest, and would enjoy returning for future exhibitions at the Staatsgalerie. I appreciated having the opportunity to look at art in context, further developing my own knowledge of American artistic movements, and learning more about the role graphic art has played in shaping American culture.

## THE MAS CLASS OF 2020

For the new MAS program, the HCA welcomes twelve new students from six different countries: Hamid Alberto Abud Russell (U.K./Mexico), Esteban Bernal Carrasquilla (Colombia), Hannah Borne (Germany), Wing Kei Choi (Hong Kong), Jack DiMidio (USA), Katja Florack (Germany), Hanna Konradt (Germany), Laura Reeb (Germany), William Brian Sain (USA), Terence Wride (USA), Cansu Yilmaz (Turkey), and Ziyi Yuan (China).

## OUTLOOK: THE NEW MAS PROGRAM STARTING 2018-19

Starting in the winter term 2018-19, the HCA offers its newly designed consecutive M.A. program. The standard duration of study, including the writing of the master's thesis, has been expanded to four semesters instead of three, giving the students more choices among the course offerings and the opportunity to delve deeper into their chosen disciplines and research areas.

At the start of the program, students will choose two of the HCA's academic disciplines (history, human geography, literature and cultural studies, political science, and religious history) as their core disciplines. One of these two core disciplines will receive further emphasis in

the research module, which is meant to prepare students for the writing of their M.A. thesis. The flexibility module gives students the opportunity either to take American Studies courses outside their core disciplines in order to broaden their understanding of the comprehensive field of American Studies, or to attend additional classes in one of their two core disciplines for a deeper engagement with their primary fields of interest. The interdisciplinary module is designed to bring the perspectives and methods of the various disciplines into dialogue with one another.

These subject modules are supplemented by a methodology module meant to impart both theoretical proficiency and empirical methods, as well as practical skills; and a module on cross-cutting perspectives, which—in the spirit of a traditional *studium generale*—affords students an opportunity to venture outside of the field of American Studies. There will also be a chance during the “mobility window,” usually slated for the third semester, to study abroad on an exchange or accept an internship. The MAS program concludes with an examination module.

### **The modules of the new M.A. program in detail:**

**Main modules:** Students choose two of the disciplines offered at the HCA as core disciplines in which they will develop and deepen their subject-specific knowledge and skills. Main modules in the chosen disciplines come with a minimum of one seminar that will be exclusively available to M.A. students, as well as an additional course (in either lecture or seminar format). Students can select their core disciplines freely. They may combine two fields from the humanities or from the social sciences, or they may choose to traverse academic disciplines. All combinations are possible.

**Research module:** After finishing the main modules, students complete a research module in order to immerse themselves more fully in one of their two core disciplines. For the research module, students will participate in a seminar offered exclusively to M.A. students. In an “independent study” format, students will autonomously work through and discuss with their professor an assigned reading list. This will usually serve as preparation for writing the M.A. thesis.

**Flexibility module:** In the flexibility module, students may choose 12 credits worth of courses from any discipline offered in the program. For these elective credits, any combination of courses is allowed. Students can either choose to broaden their understanding of American Studies with classes outside of their core disciplines, or they can choose to focus more deeply on their primary areas of interest.

**Interdisciplinary module:** The interdisciplinary module serves to promote an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship and demonstrate the synergistic potential of such an approach. Students will take part in an interdisciplinary seminar offered by instructors from two different disciplines as well as a two-semester interdisciplinary colloquium in which variegated topics and approaches from the field of American Studies will be discussed.

**Methodology module:** In this module, students will deepen their understanding of the theoretical and empirical methods of American Studies as well as develop their academic writing skills.

**Cross-cutting perspectives:** In this module, students will take courses outside of the area of American Studies. These courses may either be related to or independent from the disciplines of American Studies. Language course credits also count toward this module.

**Mobility window:** The mobility window provides students with the opportunity for intensive and practical engagement with their degree in American Studies. Students can complete an internship in a relevant field or can choose to study abroad in order to foster cultural understanding and strengthen intercultural competencies. For students interested in pursuing an academic career, completion of a teaching assignment can also be counted toward this module, provided the assignment does not concern a constituent curricular component of the HCA's B.A. or M.A. programs.

**Examination module:** With the completion of a Master's thesis in the same area as their research module, students will have acquired specialized knowledge in a particular area of American Studies and will have demonstrated the ability to use academic methods to work on and research a topic independently. Completion of the M.A. thesis takes four months during which students will present an outline of the thesis to their peers at a research colloquium. After completing the thesis, students will take a 60-minute oral final exam.

## HCA COMMENCEMENT 2018

The HCA celebrated its 2018 commencement on April 27, a bright and sunny spring day. The string quartet of Heidelberg University's Collegium Musicum added to the festive atmosphere in the university's venerable old lecture hall with its spirited interpretation of Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance." Vice Rector Beatrix Busse welcomed the graduates and their friends and families kindly. She extended a special welcome to Professor Welf Werner, who had succeeded Professor Detlef Junker as the director of the HCA in February. Professor Busse was very glad, she stated, to have won an internationally recognized economist for this important position. Professor Werner followed the vice rector with his address to the graduates. He was proud and happy, he said, to celebrate the fifth class of the HCA's bachelor program and the thirteenth class of the master program.

His address to the six bachelor candidates emphasized the benefits of their education. Independent learning, the invaluable heritage of enlightenment, was under fire in many regions of the globe, and even in North America and Europe, people struggled to uphold those values. In his address to the MAS class of 2018, Professor Werner talked about the various experiences the graduates had made inside and outside of the classroom and about the tests of the academic and intercultural aptitude of all candidates. He also reminded the audience that the HCA was

the only public-private partnership in the humanities at a German university, dependent on the generous support of its benefactors. He then thanked his predecessor, whose enthusiasm had sparked the special spirit of the HCA, and the institute's dedicated faculty and staff before introducing Karen Donfried, this year's commencement speaker. Dr. Donfried is the president of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening transatlantic cooperation. Until 2014, she was special assistant to Barack Obama and served as the national intelligence officer for Europe on the National Intelligence Council. After congratulating the graduates, Karen Donfried gave her perspective on the development and

MAS and BAS graduates at the HCA Commencement 2018, l-r: Hien-Le Pham, Libin Li, Kelsey Becker, Katie Blakey, Nina El Menschawi, Léa Pitschmann, Charlotte Stöckmann, Lukas Becker, Franziska Pentz, Sharon Hodge, Laura Reeb, Emma Wolf, Yanping Wei



significance of the transatlantic partnership. Dr. Donfried split her talk in three parts, discussing past, presence, and future of transatlantic relationships and, more specifically, the Marshall Plan. Looking back helped to see the present more clearly, she stated, and described the processes behind the idea of the plan. It had helped to create a web of multilateral institutions, something that is the backbone of any liberal international order. The Marshall Plan's values and principles undergirded governments and stood for enlightened American leadership. Every leader of every country puts her or his country first, Dr. Donfried stated. Yet, the current American president does this in a very different way than the Democratic and Republican presidents of the last seventy years. But Europe should rest assured that the U.S. remained committed to its defense. Undoubtedly, Europe and the U.S. find themselves at a consequential moment in history. Dr. Donfried highlighted how European leaders had started cooperating with national leaders, cities, and states like California, an endeavor that gives hope and showcases alternatives. After Dr. Donfried's address, Professor Werner awarded the students with their respective titles and Léa Pitschmann with a book prize for the best overall grade for a Masters of Arts in American Studies. Ms. Pitschmann was heralded for her original approach of applying twentieth-century French feminist theory to nineteenth-century American literature in her thesis titled "Utopias of the Taboo: A Wittigan Reading of a Nineteenth-Century Corpus." Ms. Pitschmann thanked the HCA in her valedictorian speech and portrayed it as a space where academia and inclusion thrive. After a round of applause, Professor Werner invited everybody over to the HCA for a beautiful reception.

## VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH

BY LÉA PITSCHMANN

Good evening everyone,

I was told that this speech was supposed to be five minutes long. So I prepared a sensible five minute-long thesis-antithesis-synthesis type of presentation, in a very German way, very efficient. But then I remembered that I paid to be here. So. Get ready to hear a five-hour long spoken word poem about myself. It all started on a warm Friday afternoon, July 22nd, 1994, angels started singing – but of course, I'm only kidding. I don't want to bore you too long, because I know we all came here to drink the HCA wine.

No, but seriously, it was quite difficult to come up with something that would do justice to the three semesters that we've had here together, students and members of faculty. I was notified ten days before graduation that I was valedictorian, and, of course, left it to the very last second to prepare a speech. A beautiful homage to my academic career. I don't know what being valedictorian means. I mean, I do know; I assume that it was based on complicated calculations of all of my average grades, which are a result of my work, but also luck, and the professional judgment of people in higher positions. As stressed out as I might be by grades and competition, I know that in the end, numbers do not define our worth as students, much less people. Ultimately, anyone of us could have stood here. All of us have a story to tell, wise words that need to be shared.

In summer 2016, when I received that dreadful email with the PDF of the Class of 2018 Reader, I freaked out. I did not open the file until hours later. As I opened the file, I saw these pictures of people I had never seen before, and I read their bios, one more impressive than the other. So, of course, I freaked out even more. And then a certain sense of peace came upon me. Because



The 2018 commencement speaker, Dr. Karen Donfried, President, German Marshall Fund of the United States



I knew that among these faces, there were some that I would never forget. Friends that I would make for life. And it is the case.

So not only did we all get really close during our time here, but we also grew as people. Whether it be at one of our nights out, or around coffee, or within the rooms of the HCA, where our professors taught us knowledge and discipline. It is a very special place here. It is only here that you will be forced to be so close to people you would've otherwise never met. It is here that you change, that you must take a path, hoping that the weight of expectations won't crush you in the process. It won't be easy, unfortunately, but it is bearable.

The 2018 MAS Valedictorian,  
Léa Pitschmann



Because knowledge and discipline aren't the only things you learn here. You learn kindness and compassion, because what is the point in learning if it isn't out of love? Academia can be a cold place, with high walls and distant Gods. It is not the case here, not entirely. Here, in the search for truth, you find yourself. Soon I will be a distant memory to some of you. This place will lose its familiarity. The habits we have learned will fade and be replaced by others. But then, when you find yourself in distress or in mourning, when you are about to change the world, you will know. The person you have become through the guidance of your peers and your mentors will know. It was a precious time here. It is scary, the space between you and me, the isolation of independence. But it all made sense, and it will all fall into place, because "no one in the world walks at the same pace, and their rules all have a grave."



## 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. As every year, the Committee represented the American Studies major at Heidelberg University's 2018 fair for high school students. Within the HCA, the Students' Committee has acted as intermediary between the students and the staff and faculty whenever needed. The establishment of the HCA's Writing Center is one example of the Committee's success in communicating the students' ideas to the administration. Also, for the first time this year, the Student Committee invited former BAS students back to the HCA in order to show current students possible professional fields after their Bachelor in American Studies. The Committee 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' Committee welcomes new members at all times. For further information, please contact the 2017-18 Students' Committee chairs Lara Smail and Hardy Jürgens at [fachschaft@hca.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:fachschaft@hca.uni-heidelberg.de).



The HCA Students' Committee,  
l-r: Hardy Jürgens, Lara Smail,  
Caroline Walter

## 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.

HCA Founding Director Detlef Junker gets ready to carve the turkey



HCA benefactor Manfred Lautenschläger and Andreea Rus, MAS Class of 2019 at the HCA Thanksgiving Dinner



## Christmas Party

Organized by the Students' Committee, the annual student Christmas party has become another tradition at the HCA. On December 17, 2017, students from all HCA programs met in the festively decked-out Atrium for Christmas goodies, mulled wine, and a late night round of Karaoke.



Preparing for the HCA X-Mas Party

## 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.



The Summer BBQ in the HCA's backyard







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 twenty-three 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, Italy, India, Iran, Lithuania, the Netherlands, 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 but is committed to building a true community of scholars by fostering academic debate and continuous exchange among students and faculty members. For more information, visit [https://www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/phd/index\\_en.html](https://www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/phd/index_en.html). 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 need to fulfill the general entrance requirements and must 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 assess their academic qualifications and evaluate the proposed dissertation project.

In October 2018, we welcomed another four doctoral candidates to our program: Valentina López Liendo from Germany, Sina Movaghathi from Iran, Hien-Le Pham from Vietnam, and Jonathan Pike from the United States.

For more information on these aspiring scholars, their fellow Ph.D. students, and more detailed descriptions of their projects see the following pages.

In October 2018, four doctoral students at the HCA, Andreas Balz, Natalie Rauscher, Maren Schäfer, and Aline Schmidt launched the HCA Graduate Blog. It focuses on American Studies research at the HCA, wants to give a glimpse of the work done in the field, and hopes to ignite discussion and scholarly debate among researchers across disciplinary boundaries. Read more on <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org>.



The HCA Graduate Blog was launched in the fall of 2018



## 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, its 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 Heidelberg University, she has 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 Debarchana 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 "How 'Policing's New Visibility' and Body-Worn Cameras Have Impacted Police-Citizen Relations in the U.S." 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 Ph.D. 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 (née Hofmann) graduated from the University of Mannheim with a B.A. in German 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, where she worked as Educational Program Assistant at the Denver Public Library. In 2007, she became a student in the HCA's MAS, supported by the Director's Fellowship. She broadened her previous academic background to include political science, constitutional law, and international business cultures and graduated as valedictorian of her class in 2008. She then joined the HCA's Ph.D. program. Since 2015, Melanie holds a full-time position at the Bundesagentur für Arbeit, providing counseling and job placement services at Jobcenter Rhein-Neckar-Kreis.

Melanie Gish's dissertation "Wrestling With the Wounds of God's World Amidst Cultural and Political Polarization: The Creation Care Movement at the Intersection of American Evangelicalism and Environmentalism" analyzes the evolution of the evangelical environmental advocacy community in the United States. Her interdisciplinary theoretical framework is decidedly influenced by the population ecology of interest representation and social movement theory. Her analysis covers the period since the establishment of the first evangelical environmental organization in 1979-80 until 2009 and 2012-13, respectively. In the dissertation, creation care is compared to and contrasted with "mainstream" environmentalism on the one side and organized evangelical environmental skepticism on the other. Moreover, the project qualitatively explores the religio-political "in-between but still within"-space creation care leaders have established with their movement against the backdrop of the ongoing political and cultural polarization in America. The main goal of Melanie Gish's dissertation is to provide a nuanced analysis of organized creation care which answers the question of whether a culturally mediating evangelical (mini-)movement has developed that intersects with American environmentalism. Furthermore, the project contributes to the ongoing debate on the interplay of religion and politics and thrives to foster a better understanding of American evangelicalism as diverse and ideologically multi-faceted.

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. 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 Leypoldt



## ANTHONY LIVANIOS (GREECE)

Anthony Livanios is an energy economist with experience in U.S. shale gas industry and the U.S. - Eurasian energy relations of natural gas pipelines. He holds a Master of International Affairs with focus on International Political Economy from Columbia University, New York (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. Anthony Livanios is committed to pro-bono and voluntary work, and he has been co-operating with prominent American non-profit think tanks like the Atlas Network, the Leadership Institute, the American Enterprise Institute, and 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 American oil independent entrepreneurs faced in the exploration and production of the American oil and gas fields. The project focuses on 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. 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



## VALENTINA LÓPEZ LIENDO (GERMANY)

Valentina López Liendo studied English philology and East Asian studies at Heidelberg and Osaka University. Her B.A. thesis analyzes Rudyard Kipling's depiction of Japan in his travel writing with reference to Said's *Orientalism*. After her B.A. degree, she continued to pursue her interest in literature with a master's degree in English philology and transcultural studies at Heidelberg University. Her M.A. thesis centers on Colson Whitehead's literary strategies in his zombie novel *Zone One*, drawing from discussions on literary writers' use of genre elements, zombie studies, and post-soul conceptualizations of racial identity. She has worked as a language teacher for English, Spanish and German and as a student assistant at Heidelberg University's East Asian Studies Department and English Department.

In her Ph.D. project, Valentina López Liendo seeks to position Colson Whitehead in the literary field. She aims to examine how he can simultaneously function as the literary successor of authors such as Ralph Ellison and Toni Morrison, as the voice of Obama-era postracial America, and, considering the most current developments, as the politically aware Pulitzer Prize winner. She engages with current research in literary and relational sociology which builds on Bourdieu's concept of the literary field and his analysis of the inner workings of literary production and distinction, such as James English's and Mark McGurl's influential work while also taking into account current discussions on contemporary conceptualizations of Blackness and African American Literature. She is interested in Whitehead's self-fashioning as a multifaceted literary author as well as the different (and shifting) contexts in which his work has been and is read, interpreted, and reviewed.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt



## 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



## SINA MOVAGHATI (IRAN)

Sina Movaghati received his M.A. in English language and literature from Kharazmi University, Iran, in 2014. His M.A. thesis, "Defamiliarization and Foreshadowing of Death in Henry James' *Daisy Miller* and *The Wings of the Dove*" discusses how James utilizes narratological techniques to reformulate his hackneyed subject of the "American Girl." Sina has published articles on Henry James, Paul Bowles, and W. Somerset Maugham. He also translated Bowles' acclaimed novel, *The Sheltering Sky*, into Persian. His current research interests are modern fiction, Henry James, E. M. Forster, Paul Bowles, and literary aesthetics. His latest article discusses the motives of Bowles' villains in the short story collection *The Delicate Prey*.

His dissertation with the working title "The Aesthetics of Failure: A Jamesian Tradition in Modern and Postmodern Novels" looks at the last novels of Henry James that are still a focal point for modern fiction scholars. The protagonists of these novels undertake missions to solve complicated and intricate affairs; however, on the verge of triumph, they lose interest in their goals and abandon their missions. *The Wings of the Dove* (1902), *The Ambassadors* (1903), and *The Golden Bowl* (1904) all follow this pattern. Taking a closer look at these novels' unresolved dénouements, Sina Movaghati will study these works in light of Emmanuel Lévinas' interpretation of aisthesis. In Movaghati's readings of the novels, the much-debated "renunciations" of Lambert Strether, Merton Densher, and others are regarded as "modern failures" when intentionality is engulfed in a sensuous image and fails to arrive at the worldly target. Drawing on this thematic pattern, he will show that the Jamesian failure has become a successful prototype in the hands of the subsequent generations of fiction authors such as Edith Wharton, E. M. Forster, Kazuo Ishiguro, and Ian McEwan. These novelists' preoccupations with the subject of failure are also due to the aesthetic dimension and the aesthetic function of failure. Sina Movaghati also draws on concepts by proponents of the aesthetics such as Hans Robert Jauss, Wolfgang Iser, Alan Singer, and Rudolf Arnheim.

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 Heidelberg University 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 Heidelberg University's 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. Amra 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, Amra 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) BASF 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



## HIEN LE PHAM (VIETNAM)

Hien Le Pham (Le is her first name) was born in Da Nang, a beautiful city in central Vietnam. She graduated from Foreign Trade University 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 in 2016, she was a fulltime corporate trainer at a U.S. software company for over three years. Le Pham received her master's degree in American Studies in April 2018 and decided to go further on her academic journey by joining the HCA's Ph.D. program.

Le Pham has a keen interest in American foreign relations, especially in the relationship between the U.S. and East Asia. Her project, which is titled "U.S. Policy towards China on Maritime Territorial Disputes in East and Southeast Asia," examines America's involvement and interest in these territorial disputes since the Nixon administration's famous rapprochement with the People's Republic of China in the early 1970s. The disputes involve several of America's strategic partners and long-time allies in the region. Thus, they pose serious challenges for U.S. policymakers trying to strike a balance between Washington's interest in establishing constructive relations with Beijing and America's commitment to its allies. An inquiry into America's reactions to China's territorial claims may therefore provide new perspectives on how the United States conceives of its role in a new multipolar. Eventually, the key questions that the project hopes to answer are whether, historically, the dilemma that the United States has to deal with now could have been anticipated earlier in the past, and what the possible flaws are in U.S. modern foreign policy that led to this situation.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg



## JONATHAN PIKE (USA) BASF SCHOLARSHIP

Jonathan Pike most recently earned an MSt in theology from the University of Oxford where he wrote on Samuel Clarke's Newtonian theology in relation to moral agency and human liberty. Prior to that he obtained an M.A. in history from Oxford Brookes University where he wrote on the rejection of original sin and the recrudescence of more Pelagian perspectives in relation to the American Revolution. He earned his B.A. in history from Brigham Young University. He studies the impact of theology on political thought through the history of ideas. He is particularly interested in the long-eighteenth century's transatlantic flow of ideas in relation to the American Revolution and Founding. His dissertation focuses on the Trinitarian debates and their impacts on the substance and character of the American Revolution.

Jonathan Pike's dissertation continues his interest in the anatomy of an ideational revolution, or, more specifically, the theological roots of the American Revolution. Within the context of his prior graduate studies, his Ph.D. dissertation centers on the Trinitarian debates and controversies that formed a primary impetus toward the tripartite nexus of theological, societal, and political thought that fed into the justifications for and subsequent supporting structures of the American Founding. Related aspects of the political theologies held by principal Founders and other significant voices (such as Benjamin Franklin and Jonathan Mayhew), as well as the transatlantic impact of seminal publications (such as Samuel Clarke's *Scripture Doctrine of the Trinity* (1712)), are significant areas of endeavor in his research project, which aims to contribute to a greater and more cultivated understanding of the American Revolution and its origins.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann



## 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 joined the MAS program at the HCA and earned her master's degree in 2015. In her master's project "The Occupy Movement and Its Influence on the Political Discourse in the United States" she looked into the influences of social movements on political decision-making. 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 2011. 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. 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) 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

As every year, the HCA kicked off the fall semester with the awarding ceremony for the Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize. This year's recipient was Jonas Anderson, assistant professor of history at Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena.

On October 18, 2018, the HCA's Deputy Director Ulrike Gerhard, Professor for Human Geography of North America at Heidelberg University, opened the evening and welcomed the large audience that had gathered at the HCA's Atrium. On behalf of the faculty and staff, she thanked Rolf Kentner, longtime friend and benefactor of the HCA, who has generously sponsored this award for nine years. The HCA was proud and grateful to once more honor an outstanding German dissertation in the field of American Studies. Professor Gerhard then extended a special welcome to the HCA's new B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. students and invited them to explore interdisciplinary ways of engaging and researching American culture, just as Dr. Anderson had done in his dissertation.



Awarding of the 2018 Kentner Prize, l-r: Wilfried Mausbach, Ulrike Gerhard, Jonas Anderson

Following these remarks, HCA Executive Director Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, proceeded with the laudatory speech for this year's award winner, who had studied history, theology, and American cultural history at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich. After postgraduate fellowships at SUNY in Albany and Harvard University, he returned to Munich to join his alma mater's Ph.D. program. In his dissertation, Anderson focused on the Dutch-American family Van Rensselaer that emigrated to the American colonies in the seventeenth century and remained influential until the mid-twentieth century. His thesis "American Aristocrats: The Van Rensselaers between Colonial America and the Early Republic" integrates a carefully researched family history into a larger sociological argument about the development and persistence of an American aristocracy. Dr. Mausbach highlighted that Jonas Anderson's work not only proves that an American aristocracy existed, but moreover provides an insightful chronicle of its political and social impact.

In his keynote, Jonas Anderson thanked the HCA and Rolf Kentner and then proceeded to give the audience a more detailed understanding of the significance of the Van Rensselaers' family history. Members of this wealthy Dutch family had arrived in America as colonists to participate in the trade between the new Dutch colonies and Europe. Given the opportunity to receive a charter and become patrons, the Van Rensselaers changed their endeavors and settled in a large area of land in the Hudson Valley. As lords of their own manor, they were able to influence colonial policies and attracted a large number of agricultural tenants who cultivated their estate for them. Although this lifestyle did not seem progressive even by contemporary standards, the Van Rensselaers were not necessarily a conservative force. During the American Revolutionary War, they joined local militias and fought for independence. This enabled them to preserve their social and political position when the United States gained independence. Eventually, the Van Rensselaers had to sell their land to farmers and investors during the 1860s due to increasing family debts and the rural anti-rent movement. Jonas Anderson closed his address by highlighting how the history of a family like the Van Rensselaers can show the persistence in and impact of aristocracy on American society. After a final round of applause, the award winner, staff, and audience gathered for a celebratory reception in the HCA's Bel Etage.

Jonas Anderson



## GRADUIERTENKOLLEG AUTHORITY AND TRUST (GKAT)

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 October 2017. Initiated by an interdisciplinary group of ten Heidelberg professors and researchers led by Manfred Berg (speaker) and Günter Leypoldt (co-speaker), GKAT 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 (see p. 119). 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 program was designed to inspire innovative research and doctoral dissertations focusing specifically on questions of authority and trust – two central concepts which 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. 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 offered 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), Darren Dochuk (University of Notre Dame) and Peter Schneck (University of Osnabrück). 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. 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.

This focus on the project's key concepts continued during the summer term 2018, when the first GKAT Ringvorlesung (lecture series) on "Authority and Trust in the United States" brought ten renowned scholars from Germany, Europe, and the U.S. to the HCA. Together, their talks provided GKAT researchers, HCA students, and a wider public with interdisciplinary perspectives on "authority" and "trust" as well as on the application of these central theoretical concepts in the U.S. context (see p. 99). Two of the participants, Hans Joas (University of Chicago and Humboldt University, Berlin) and Andreas Reckwitz (University of Frankfurt/Oder), also offered workshops during which they discussed their lectures with the group of GKAT researchers.

At the same time, GKAT's mentoring and qualification program offered the GKAT doctoral students the chance to present and discuss their individual research projects in a colloquium in cooperation with HCA's regular Ph.D. program. In addition to weekly sessions, on a weekend in late June 2018, the seventh HCA Ph.D. summer retreat, for the first time a joint venture with GKAT, took place at its traditional venue, the Kurhaus Annweiler/Trifels, a beautifully renovated villa in the picturesque Palatinate. In a pleasant and inspiring atmosphere, doctoral candidates from the HCA's Ph.D. program as well as from GKAT discussed their research projects before receiving valuable feedback from a sizeable audience. The wide range of presentations included topics as diverse as "Authority and Authorization in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Print Culture," "Spatiality of 'Doing Trust'," "Civil-Military Relations and American War Fiction from Vietnam to Iraq to Afghanistan," and "'Framing Them': The Influence of Contemporary Populist Framing on the Anti-Authority Attitude in the United States."



A group of graduate students and their advisors climbed to the top of the Trifels

## GKAT WORKSHOP

**“Shifting Patterns of Global Authority: Driving Foreign Policy Change?”, September 17-18, 2018, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies**

One of the distinct features of U.S. authority used to lie in the self-limitation of its material power by adhering to the universal norms, rules, and institutions within a liberal world order. Because authority is a relational concept, establishing rules-based relations between a leader and followers, U.S. authority hinged on the continuous willingness of subordinate actors to support America’s course. Today, however, there is considerable evidence that international support for U.S. leadership among key audiences, its allies and partners, their societies and businesses, or tolerance by rivals and enemies is declining. The workshop on “Shifting Patterns of Global Authority,” hosted by Sebastian Harnisch and Florian Böller, therefore looked at regional and global responses, adaptation, and changes within the transatlantic realm as well as among rival nations (e.g. China), allies and partners (e.g. European Union, Saudi-Arabia, India), and the international community (United Nations). At the workshop, established scholars as well as junior researchers from the U.S. and Europe discussed, for example, how to conceive of authority in a multipolar world and how global authority is linked to normative orders and material elements of power. Moreover, the presentations sought to grasp how domestic actors conceive the shifting meridians of authority and in which way policy-makers are constrained by changing power relations and shifting ascription of authority in the global sphere.



In their framework paper, Sebastian Harnisch and Florian Böller (Heidelberg University) argued that despite similar systemic pressures, most notably through processes of cultural, political, and economic globalization, different states have chosen to support, contest, or dissent from the U.S.-led global order in non-obvious ways. To offer a theoretical framework which other contributors can build on, Sebastian Harnisch and Florian Böller analyzed the social mechanisms by which the transformation of international authority is refracted through domestic institutions, focusing on state-society relations (politicization and populism), inter-institutional relations (domestication), and state-corporate relations (economization).

China arguably presents the most serious competitor when it comes to challenging U.S. authority on the global stage. However, Deborah Welch Larson (University of California, Los Angeles) presented a critical analysis of China's "Quest for Global Authority." The starting point of her paper was that authority in the international system is closely tied to a state's status. Like status, authority must be recognized by others, but it also refers to legitimacy. Larson outlined that China has professed its support for free trade, the WTO, and controlling climate change. But China would not yet have the status or authority to take the place of the United States as the leader of a new world order. While Larson argued that China has created new institutions such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank, she sees them as complementary rather than competitive with the established World Bank and Asian Development Bank. For Larson, China's authoritarian political system increases the suspicion of European countries in its future intentions despite Beijing's attempt to divide Europe from the United States.

Mischa Hansel (Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden Bonn) explored in his paper the use of colonial history by Indian decision-makers in response to the emergence of new international authority patterns. Hansel argued that Indian decision-makers engage in strategic framing efforts to selectively restrict domestic political space for transnational activists by making accusation of "foreign hands." Also, and with respect to domestic audiences within the South Asian region, they seek to portray Chinese infrastructure and development initiatives as renewal of colonial asymmetries and patterns of foreign dominance. Hansel's contribution thus highlighted how domestic actors make sense of authority shifts on the international level.

Guri Rosén (University of Oslo) presented a paper written together with Marianne Riddervold (Inland University of Applied Sciences) on Europe's reactions to the American decline of authority. She started with the observation that since the beginning of Donald Trump's presidency, European leaders have been struggling to understand and accept the foreign policy strategies of the American administration. Barely recuperated after Obama's Asian pivot, Europe now has to deal with one of its closest allies questioning not only the cost of the alliance but also the values underpinning it. In Rosén's assessment, while the European Union largely rejects Trump's America First approach, the member states and the Commission strive to preserve elements of the traditional liberal order, in particular in the area of multilateral trade.

In her paper on the "United Nations as an Arena of Contested Authority", Catherine Hecht (Vienna School of International Studies) presented the results of a content analysis of UN General

Assembly debates from 1982 to 2016. Hecht focused on statements that contested elements of the traditional liberal world order such as macroeconomic policies, human rights support, or military interventions. The results of Hecht's study presented indeed a counter-intuitive finding. The overall percentage of United Nations member states engaging in contestation, in fact, decreased significantly in recent years. This indicates, as Hecht maintained, that support for the United States and for the normative order it created have to be seen separately when it comes to authority shifts.

May Darwich (Durham University) investigated the case of Saudi-Arabia and its role of claiming authority in the contested regional order of the Middle East. Darwich's paper argued that the Saudi Kingdom's newly-found militarism is driven by its attempt to assert its role as a regional power. This behavior, Darwich explained, must be seen as a role location process resulting from the interaction of a state and the interested audience as it reacts to cues and demands. In this bargain, actors seek recognition for their role. For Darwich, the Saudi military intervention in Yemen reveals the Kingdom's social desire and its struggle to be recognized as a regional power.

Last but not least, Georg Wolff (GKAT, Heidelberg University) presented his paper on "Vietnam as a Transformative Moment in U.S. Authority." Wolff's paper examined American East-Asian diplomacy with a focus on the phase of heightened American involvement in Vietnam. Viewing the conflict from the perspective of the American Right, Georg Wolff showed how domestic actors tried to cope with the American leadership role and attempted to restore American authority during the quagmire. Wolf argued that conservatives played a central part in Nixon's decision to seek rapprochement with the People's Republic of China.

In sum, the workshop presented innovative and original research for the study of global authority change and the respective varying responses on the level of foreign policies. The workshop participants currently prepare the presented manuscripts for publication in a special issue format.

## GKAT RINGVORLESUNG

### Lecture Series "Authority and Trust in the United States," Summer Semester 2018

In summer semester 2018, the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT) organized an international and interdisciplinary lecture series on issues of authority and trust in the United States. Scholars from the fields of linguistics, sociology, publishing, literary studies, urban studies and organization and management came to the HCA to give lectures and conduct workshops.

On April 19, GKAT welcomed Alan Partington at the HCA for the opening lecture of its lecture series. After an introduction by GKAT members Aline Schmidt and Kristin Berberich, the professor of interpreting and translation at the University of Bologna began with his linguistic analysis of delegitimization strategies in the post-Trump era: "'Post-History, Post-Democracy, Post-Truth, Post-Trump.' Really? Argumentation Strategies in Modern Political Discourse." First,

Professor Partington discussed the terms “post-history,” coined by Francis Fukuyama in 1992, “post-democracy,” coined by Colin Crouch in 2004, “post-truth,” the OED word of the year 2016, and “post-Trump,” coined in the same year by Partington himself. He suggested that the term “post-trust” might fit into that narrative and offered an insight into authority and trust in the United States. With a corpuslinguistic approach, Professor Partington analyzed vast amount of data to find delegitimization strategies, which are characteristic for the modern political discourse. Before introducing them, he elaborated on Aristoteles’ understanding of the three pillars of rhetoric.

Alan Partington



According to Aristoteles, three factors are decisive for successful persuasion. Logos, the rational argumentation; pathos, the emotional connection; and ethos, the projection of character. While logos and pathos result in ideational persuasion, ethos leads to interpersonal persuasion. Though underrated, Professor Partington regarded ethos as the most significant pillar. He defined ethos as face work and differentiated between a competence face and an affective face. The competence face refers to the image of a well-informed person, who is in control and an expert. The affective face, in contrast, refers to the image of a likeable and charismatic person, “one of us.” A combination of both faces appears as the ideal. In Professor Partington’s view, the task of politicians is to project one’s own positive face and attack the face of the opponent. Thus, delegitimization strategies are used to discredit the right and ability of an opponent to hold a certain position. The first delegitimization strategy Professor Partington introduced was “outright delegitimization.” A phrase like “crooked Hillary” in Donald Trump’s presidential campaign 2016 delegitimizes the person as a whole and undermines her credibility in general. The second delegitimization strategy attacks the credibility of the opponent’s supporters. Professor Partington warned that this strategy can easily backfire, as it did when Hillary Clinton called Trump sup-

porters a “basket of deplorables.” Further, he introduced the “all purpose delegitimizing.” Calling critical media “fake news” undermines the ethos of the media so much that any criticism can be dismissed as unjustified. One variant of the all-purpose delegitimizing is accusing opponents as scaremongers. In the context of Brexit, Professor Partington illustrated the effect that accusing the Remain-campaign of scaremongering had. All arguments drawing attention to the dangers of Brexit were dismissed as mere propaganda aimed at scaring people into voting remain. The last two strategies deploy false assumptions to justify their position. In addition, “false parallels” construct illogical comparisons to discredit the opponent’s positions. Finally, Professor Partington discussed “false dichotomy” as the delegitimizing strategy that constructs an imagined antagonism with the purpose of alienating the opponent’s position.

Alan Partington ended his talk with pointing out the necessity to redefine the term “post-truth.” His plea for a more differentiated view became clear when he drew attention to the human confirmation bias. This bias results from the tendency to interpret events in a way that fits our prevalent world view. Overcoming the human confirmation bias, according to Professor Partington, is vital to avoid the distortion of research results and produce more accurate research.

In the following week, on April 26, Andreas Reckwitz, Professor of Sociology at the University of Frankfurt/Oder came to the HCA for a conversation about his much-discussed book *Die Gesellschaft der Singularitäten*. He commenced his talk by pointing out that in today’s society, it is no longer the ordinary that counts but the extraordinary. We celebrate uniqueness, which can be embodied by the clothes we wear, the food we eat, the way we work, or the places we travel. We succeed socially if we manage to distinguish ourselves in terms of our own uniqueness and originality. In this process, the values and lifestyle of the traditional middle class that increasingly resides outside the “creative cities” appears rather unattractive. The average person with his or



Andreas Reckwitz

her average life becomes suspicious. Late modern society celebrated the authentic subject with original interests and a carefully crafted biography, as well as unmistakable goods and events, communities and cities. In this world, “lives are not lived anymore, they are curated,” stated Professor Reckwitz.

He then examined the process of singularization and how it plays out in twenty-first century economics, working environments, digital technology, alternative lifestyles, and politics. He introduced the prerequisites for these processes, analyzed its contradictory dynamics, and identified the downsides of this development. Developing his own theory of modernity, he showed how closely this process is intertwined with the culturalization of the social sphere and what constitutes its flip side. Ultimately, he concluded, a society of singularities does not solely comprise triumphant winners, but rather produces its very own injustices, paradoxes, and losers.

For the third talk in the GKAT lecture series, “The Publishing Trapeze: Trust and Communication in the Book Trade,” Claire Squires came to the HCA on May 15. She is the director of the Stirling Centre for International Publishing and Communication at Stirling University, where she focuses on the publishing of contemporary literature. Having previously worked at Oxford Brookes University, in publishing, and as an author herself, Claire Squires offered the insights of a scholar, a publisher, and an artist to the audience in the HCA Atrium. According to Professor Squires, trust is a key aspect within publishing, as the industry was built on contracts and informal agreements but is facing times in which “gentleman handshakes” are not sufficient anymore. She made use of the trapeze as a metaphor to illustrate how fragile the relationships between authors, editors, publishers, and readers can be in the publishing industry’s communication circuit.

This complex net of relationships is built on varying levels of trust illustrated through the example of *The Gunks Guide* by Todd Swain. Typically, a guidebook’s success – and this proves particularly true for guide books that speak about potentially dangerous activities like climbing – results from the reader’s trust in the author’s expertise and accuracy. Interestingly, these works use large amounts of paratext to negate the trust in their accurateness and state explicitly that there is no guarantee and no warrant, and the paratext usually includes a non-liability statement. This branch of the publishing industry that is largely based on trust illustrates that trust might be selling guidebooks, but the players within the industry need to rely on legal terms and safety nets to protect themselves.

Another example to illustrate the complex relations in publishing regards the morality clauses: A legal term that refers to behavior considered intolerable in a community, moral turpitude is something publishers had rarely worried about in the past. In light of the recent debates about misconduct and sexual harassment, the idea of morality clauses in literary contracts might seem appealing at first glance; however, Claire Squires argued that many problems can arise from these clauses. They could pose a danger to free speech, and the vague phrasing could serve as a loophole to dispose of unsuccessful authors. Professor Squires used *Dangerous* by Milo Yiannopoulos as an example to illustrate the issues that can result from the ambiguous morality clauses. S&S’s purchase of this book in December 2016 caused a backlash, and several S&S’s



Claire Squires

authors threatened to leave, causing the major publisher to drop the book. Yiannopoulos in turn sued the publisher, and the trial shed light on processes within publishing that commonly remain hidden from the public eye.

Claire Squires also mentioned new influences and power shifts in the literary market. On the one hand, companies like Amazon interfere more in the process through highly aggressive negotiations and contracts, and on the other hand, costumer reviews and booktubers become more and more influential as platforms for amateurs increase. These are new players in the field of publishing, and the relationships and power structures will need to form and be negotiated to ensure that the balance between individuals on the publishing trapeze remains somewhat intact in the future.

The GKAT lecture series continued on May 17 with a talk by Heike Paul, "The Authority of Experience Revisited: Public Protest and Civil Sentimentalism." Professor Paul has held the chair of American Studies at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg since 2004 and won the renowned Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz-Preis in 2017. Her research interests span various fields in American Studies, including American myths, feminist and gender studies, African American Studies, and Cold War culture in Germany and the United States. In her talk, Professor Paul revisited the concept of the "authority of experience" and analyzed its development over time. The "Authority of Experience" can fulfill various functions. It can be used as an unconditional authorization, a means of empowerment, or the ultimate justification for one's actions or words. This last strategy was frequently applied by feminists in the 1960s, during the so-called second wave of feminism. In large parts, it served to criticize the depiction of women by male authors and attempted to recognize female writers instead of male voices about women. The main goal of feminists that referred to the "Authority of Experience" was to make women heard.



Heike Paul also explored the voices that questioned the effectiveness of the “authority of experience.” She mainly spoke about post-structural feminism, in particular its leading figures Judith Butler and Joan Scott, who took issue with the unconditional power of experience as they saw it as a dangerous feminist strategy that reproduced rather than contested given ideologies. It is important to distinguish between the two: While experience serves different groups in different ways, women were often believed to be influenced by their subjective feelings and to be compromised by knowledge, which lead to an absence of authority. Therefore, experience can be viewed as an instrument and obstacle at the same time, which led to a sentimental view of the “authority of experience.” As a next step, Professor Paul addressed the current sentimental glorification of historical feminisms and focused on feminist manifestos and their prominent reappearance. Quoting Walter Fähnders’ four key aspects of a manifesto – programmatic, public, unequivocal and collective – Heike Paul analyzed different feminist works of literature: Mary Beard’s *Women & Power*, Sarah Ahmed’s *Living a Feminist Life*, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions*. Professor Paul argued that Ahmed’s work is most similar to classic manifestos, whereas Beard’s work fulfils few aspects of this type of text, and Adiche’s work can even be considered the very opposite. Accordingly, one could argue that the term manifesto serves mainly as an attention-grabbing device independent of the actual text. Heike Paul maintained that these sentimental manifestos evoke a nostalgic longing for feminism’s glory days leading to civil sentimentalism rather than civil disobedience. In conclusion, Heike Paul argued that the “authority of experience” proved to be an intergenerational issue within the feminist community and that one can perceive a change of the genre “feminist

Heike Paul



manifesto.” She concluded by asking how much contemporary feminism and populism have in common, as both frequently rely on simplifications to target a larger audience.



On June 5, GKAT welcomed Jeffrey Alexander to the HCA with his talk “The Societalization of Social Problems: Financial Crisis, Church Pedophilia, Media Phone Hacking.” The Lillian Chavenson Saden Professor of Sociology at Yale University commenced his lecture by conceptualizing modernity as an era in which societies do not consist of a single entity but various differentiated and specialized spheres. The separation of these spheres is, according to him, characteristic for modern society, and the relation between these separate spheres is uneven and conflicting. Particularly, the civil sphere, which is an idealized set of attributes necessary for democracy, stands in constant conflicts with other spheres of modern societies. As the degree of democracy raises, Professor Alexander argued, the civil sphere trumps the others. Not only among but also within the different spheres, strains are part of the regular condition. However, when society is in a steady state, the strain remains within the spheres and is handled intra-institutionally through the culture of that particular sphere.

Based on this understanding of modern society, Alexander introduced the concept of societalization of social problems. Societalization denotes the moment in which an intra-institutional problem produces a crisis, a new state of eventfulness. The scandal, marking the tipping point of the crisis, produces a civil trauma that shakes the conscience of society and calls for a civil repair. As a result, code switching evolves in societal discourse and transforms interpretations of practices from normal to evil or the other way around. One of the examples that Alexander used to illustrate this transformation process is church pedophilia. Although pedophilia has been practiced in the Catholic Church for a long time, the problem did not break down the boundaries of the sphere and was handled intra-institutionally. Only when the investigative journalists of the *Boston Globe* drew societal attention to the extent of church pedophilia, the problem was societalized and produced a code-switching from Catholic language to civil references to the crisis, such as “cover up at the highest level” and “abuse of office.” Also, in the case of the financial



Jeffrey Alexander

crisis, a moment of societalization is clearly visible. The autonomy for markets, commercialization of banks, and financialization of mortgages has increased instability within the financial industry for a long time. These processes produced many individual scandals over the years, but only the scandals in the subprime mortgage crisis, which lead to an international banking crisis, produced a societalization of the problems that had been handled intra-institutionally before. As in the first example, this resulted in code switching that portrayed common practices within the industry as evil and called for regulatory interventions in the financial industry.

In the final part of his talk, Professor Alexander pointed out the limits of the societalization of social problems. Strains within spheres do not always lead to societalization, and societalization can be reversed. When in effect, societalization can create backlashes and attack the recently emerged code switching. Further, societalization can lead to increased polarization within society, particularly if only one part of society adapts the code switching. After a civil repair of the problem, society goes back to the steady state, in which intra-institutional self-regulation dominates. However, Professor Alexander also emphasized the potential of social movements to produce societalization and its positive effects on bringing the problems of marginalized, subaltern groups to the mainstream discourse. Professor Alexander ended his talk by emphasizing the importance of social movements. By producing counter-hegemonic narratives and contributing to societalization of social problems, he argued, social movements play an important part in moving toward a more democratic society.

On June 12, the eminent sociologist and social philosopher Hans Joas, Ernst Troeltsch Professor for the Sociology of Religion at the Humboldt University of Berlin and Visiting Professor of Sociology and Social Thought at the University of Chicago, came to the HCA. Professor Joas' talk focused on the main thoughts of his new book *The Power of the Sacred - An Alternative to the Narrative of Disenchantment*. Indeed, Max Weber's famous dictum of the "disenchantment of the world" has become a key concept of modernity. In the prevailing interpretation, modern societies are no longer dominated by religion; rather, religion has become one of social or cultural spheres. Hans Joas' work sets out to demystify Weber's "disenchantment" by looking at exemplary cases of religious engagement. Thus, Professor Joas argued, the eighteenth century was not only a century of enlightenment but also witnessed the rise of Pietism and Methodism as well as the "Great Awakening" in the United States. He also pointed toward today's immense growth of Pentecostal churches in North and South America as well as the rise of Political Islam – hardly signs for a demise of religion, Professor Joas concluded. To the contrary, our world is getting more religious and the power of the sacred more pronounced. Max Weber's narrative of history as an inexorable, progressive process of disenchantment proves to be an illusion, not the least because Weber, in a very suggestive manner, linked events from the time of the Old Testament, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, and his own time. Once we understand the disjointed nature of this narrative, it falls apart. But Hans Joas does not only refute Weber's narrative of "disenchantment" but also the antagonism of religion and rationality or science that Weber posits. But what is the alternative to Weber's narrative? Professor Joas in turn developed the outline of a theory that can satisfy religion's potential to support existing power structures as well as critique them. The "Sacred," for example, has much to offer when it comes to questions of (social)



Hans Joas

justice and an ethically “good life.” In many ways, Professor Joas offered a convincing analysis of the contemporary religious experience, as varied and asynchronous as it may be. Maybe more importantly, he outlined new possibilities for a dialogue between believers and non-believers.

The GKAT lecture series continued on June 28 with a talk by Kamishwari Pothukuchi, professor at the Urban Planning Department at Wayne State University in Detroit and a distinguished expert on Detroit's urban agriculture movement. She spoke on “Agri-Food Collaborations in Detroit: Collective Action & Trust.” Detroit has achieved global recognition through its demographic shrinkage (population decline from 1.8 million in the 1950s to around 670,000 today) and the associated problems of impoverishment, vacancy, and food availability. More recently, Detroit has become the hopeful nucleus of urban agriculture, which is designed to address the problem of food availability in urban areas, and has attracted interdisciplinary research interest. Professor Pothukuchi’s presentation at the HCA centered around the question how important trust was in the negotiation processes and in the institutionalization of urban agriculture in Detroit. She first introduced a theoretical concept, which she then enriched with analyses of the actual activities of urban agriculture organizations in Detroit. Her talk focused on three local organizations with different compositions of social capital. This diversity offers an opportunity to make statements about the integration of organizations in a field that is defined by tension between insiders and outsiders in relation to mistrust and trust. The analysis of the different policies of three organizations thus shows the acceptance of the organizations on the part of the residents in the surrounding neighborhoods. In this sense, Professor Pothukuchi understands her work not least as a beneficial contribution to the prosperity of an integrated and sustainable urban agriculture system in Detroit. The individual organizations in particular should therefore be able to benefit from her findings in practice.



Kameshwari Pothukuchi

On July 5, the GKAT lecture series welcomed Omar Lizardo, who came to the HCA from the University of Notre Dame but will soon be the LeRoy Neiman Term Chair Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. In his talk “Culture, Cognition, and Reliance,” Professor Lizardo elaborated on the potential of dual process models from the field of sociology for the study of trust. He commenced his lecture by introducing the concept of the dual process model. This model separates thought processes into highly rational thinking on the one hand and more instinctual processes on the other. In contrast to the prevailing distinction of emotionality and rationality, the various dual process models regard both types of thinking as differently influenced by emotions and rationality. The goal was therefore, said Professor Lizardo, to connect theoretical and philosophical ideas to concrete empirical data. In the study of culture and how individuals come to acquire it, he introduced the four categories of learning, memorizing, acting, and thinking. According to Professor Lizardo, emotional and rational thinking manifested themselves in different ways in all four categories, and therefore culture was learned both rationally and instinctually. Together both thinking processes constituted the implicit learning of “know-how” and the explicit deliberate learning of “know-what,” which enabled individuals to acquire and employ habits and make culturally informed judgements.

Professor Lizardo then elaborated on the implications of this model to the study of trust, which rested largely on the dichotomy between trust as the result of calculation and trust as the result of intuitive affection. Here, especially the notion of calculated trust bore inherent value to the economy and the field of business management. Investigations into trust in these fields, so Professor Lizardo, often made use of three overarching approaches that studied who or what we trust, how we form trust, and what trust makes us do. Yet, contemporary research was often unclear about the exact difference between calculated trust and trust out of affection, a distinction he termed as both inadequate and unhelpful. Professor Lizardo proposed instead to improve the categories through which trust was studied by applying the structure used in the dual process model. This would differentiate a deliberate rational trust from what he called an intuitive faith and enable researchers to investigate how people learn, memorize, act, and think about both



Omar Lizardo

forms. Professor Lizardo concluded that this would potentially provide new insights into the development of intuitive faith, the form of trust technological advances and complex structures of modernity increasingly demanded from us. Following this fascinating talk, the audience used the opportunity for questions to further elaborate on Professor Lizardo's categories and explore thought experiments regarding the study of trust and faith.

For the penultimate talk in the GKAT lecture series, Amy Hungerford came to the HCA on June 12 to speak about "Reading, not Reading, and the Tangible Humanities." She owes her scholarly reputation not only to her array of publications and to the co-founding of post45, a professional association for scholars working in post-45 literary and cultural studies. She also offers a free-of-charge online lecture series about her work with undergraduate students at Yale, where she is a professor of English and dean of the humanities division. In addition, she also works on a companion open-access journal called *CA: A Journal of Cultural Analytics*, which deals with literary scholarship that uses computational methods. At the HCA, she shared part of her research of the assessment of the authority of words, ours and others' reading, and not reading.

In his column "Stuff I've Been Reading," in *The Believer* magazine, Nick Hornby presents the readers the texts he came across. Feeling awful about reading too few books, he once asked himself, "What if I never read a book again?" Professor Hungerford explained. There were those amongst his readers who were persons of letters, demanding authority since they read the classics, and those who read what they liked – book lovers. They typically read what they bought. However, what we do not read can be as telling as what we read, Professor Hungerford claimed. Phillip Roth typically ignored books on his shelf until he discovered a connection between the author and himself, leading to the book later on. Another of Amy Hungerford's topics was "the problem of abundance," as her Notre Dame colleague Matthew Wilkens refers to it. Especially in

the age of the Internet, people suffer from an overload of information and texts. In 2011, more than 50,000 new novels were published in the United States alone. Professor Hungerford offered solace: We could not listen to or read everybody who deserved our attention.

Losing oneself in a story is considered the tangible company of a book – we do not feel lonely, we are in company. There is an imagined community of readers, as Abigail Williams argues in *The Social Life of Books* about reading as a pastime in the eighteenth century. Modernist novels, Professor Hungerford argued, made readers aware of themselves and of the possibility of introspection. Today, it is hard for scholars to curate their own reading and for teacher to curate their teaching. Amy Hungerford ended her talk by speaking about the glass classroom, created for outsiders to look in and linger. Here, humanities have become tangible; the classroom created a special social space in which reading becomes a shared experience. Nick Hornby's answer to his own question is simple: "Read what you enjoy, not what bores you."

Amy Hungerford



After the talk, Professor Leyoldt invited the audience to chime in. What could stimulate students to read in a classroom, a member of the audience asked? The problem, Professor Hungerford responded, often was not the reading in school, but after graduation. School presented the "innocent reader" with books which emphasized social lessons where empathy was key. Classrooms and readers in general needed multiplicity. What did the literary scholar or well-read person have to offer to society, another member of the audience asked. Being well read was still valued, the professor said; being a connoisseur of anything was cultural capital. The evening drew to an end and left the audience wondering, what do we not read?

The GKAT lecture series "Authority and Trust in the United States" concluded on July 19 with a talk by Guido Möllering, the director of the Reinhard-Mohn-Institut für Unternehmensführung at the Universität Witten/Herdecke. He also holds the Reinhard-Mohn-Stiftungslehrstuhls für Unternehmensführung there. In his talk "Trust Obliges? On Rational, Routinized, and Reflexive



Responsibility,” Professor Möllering looked at the benefits that trust research can bring to the social sciences. He argued that trust has a basis in reason, in routine, and in reflexivity, the “three Rs” of trust research that are interconnected. Yet, we cannot apply these categories too strictly. In our daily lives, we all have to deal with the question how to trust those with whom we have to interact. Ultimately, all trustors have to suspend individual reasoning about their social or personal vulnerability and uncertainty, since they cannot receive the full and unbiased data to make a rational decision; thus, we have to leap to a state of trust, since we are usually not able to completely “calculate” whether someone is trustworthy or not. A similar need for relaxation is found when we look at routine as a base of trust. We simply do not have the skill or time to fully deconstruct the institutions we have grown up with; familiarity with the situation merely assist the trustor in making the leap of faith. Finally, Professor Möllering encouraged the audience to reflect on the bases of trust, asserting that actors can engage in processes that might create trust and in doing so modify the processes and assumptions that were in place before. By moving forward with “blind” trust, an actor can create a situation in which trust develops; later data acquisition may confirm trusting behavior or not. This challenging and at times provocative talk certainly left the audience in the HCA Atrium with new approaches to understand trust.



Guido Möllering



## **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. 31

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. 40

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann, Professor of the History of Christianity in the U.S., see p. 22

Dr. habil. 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. 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 an interim 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 the University of Kaiserslautern 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 the University of Mannheim, 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 socio-linguistics, 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, a native to Ohio, studied psychology, art, and English literature at Ursuline College (B.A.) and English literature and composition at the University of Akron (M.A.) before earning a certificate in TEFL and relocating to Heidelberg in 2013. Since 2008, she has held editorial roles at various research institutions and private publishers. She has taught English conversation and academic writing at Heidelberg University and was a writing consultant at the university's Academic Writing Support Office from 2013 to 2016. She was also a member of the founding editorial team at Heidelberg University Publishing (heiUP), a DFG-funded Open Access humanities publishing project, where she helped to produce numerous articles, monographs, and edited volumes for the book series "Heidelberg Studies on Transculturality" and "Transcultural Research" (Springer), as well as the Open Access e-journal *Transcultural Studies*.

Elizabeth Corrao-Billeter's dissertation identifies an emerging subgenre in contemporary American non-fiction, the voluntary simplicity memoir, and explores how these works advocate what can be called a pastoral of practice. In this context, voluntary simplicity refers to the deliberate adoption of a lifestyle that is materially simpler than that which mainstream American culture typically encourages. Voluntary simplicity 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, disdain authority or contemporary culture in general: it instead shifts the placement of trust to alternative forms of authority by focusing on personal responses to simplification as well as emphasizing the importance of collaboration, community, and the revival of traditional skills. These memoirs thus provide a backdrop for the cultural history of voluntary simplicity as a social movement as well as a context for the recent re-emergence of pastoral ideals and voluntary simplicity's shift in status from fringe movement to general acceptance by mainstream culture. In recent years, this acceptance has become so widespread that the movement itself is subject to commoditization — a development that may negate its original function and attract participants with less altruistic motives than those its founders originally held. Finally, this project examines the impact that this mainstreaming effect has had on American popular culture and 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. After working in Bristol and Liverpool (U.K.), she studied Protestant theology and English literature, language, and culture at Heidelberg University. In the academic year 2010-2011, she worked as a German language assistant at a British boarding school in Cumbria (U.K.). In 2016, she graduated with a "Staatsexamen." During her studies, her main fields of interest were new religious movements in nineteenth-century America, American religion and politics 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 radical responses to the experienced crisis of religious authority that followed the democratization of the American religious landscape in the nineteenth century. Drawing chiefly on new sacred writings from the 1830s and 1840s of prophetic voices such as Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), Phoebe Palmer (1807-1874), and Joseph Smith Jr. (1805-1844), her project investigates a new, democratized form of charismatic authority. By disentangling the dynamic interrelations between these nineteenth-century prophets, their new sacred writings, and the appropriation of them in adhering communities, the use of different status-inducing strategies will be examined. To dissect these strategies, the dissertation will draw on Max Weber's theory of charismatic authority, Rodney Stark's *Theory of Revelations* (1999) as well as theoretical concepts from religious studies. The project thus seeks to shed some new light on the various written expressions of charismatic authority across the American religious spectrum within a democratized religious realm.



## ALEKSANDRA POLINSKA (POLAND)

Aleksandra Polinska was born in Warsaw, Poland. In 2013, she earned her B.A. in English philology from 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 trust and authority in American news media and its political implications. While distrust of the news media has been expressed across the American electorate, it has followed significantly different trajectories on each side of the political spectrum in the last years. This development, embedded in the rapidly evolving news media landscape of the United States, has had significant impact on the political dynamic and developments in the country, including the 2016 presidential election. This research is expected to contribute to the studies of trust and authority in the news media in the United States by shedding more light on the different ways in which Americans' trust in the news media has transformed on the opposite sides of the political spectrum. While certainly not the only source of information, the news media continue to play a very significant informative role as indicated in numerous polls by Americans themselves. Therefore, the analysis of how and why Americans' trust in media has been changing in an asymmetrical way as well as the political implications of this phenomenon is of vital importance. It is particularly so, in the face of the ongoing proliferation of conspiracy theories and disinformation efforts, both domestic and foreign, as well as the (also asymmetrical) growing political polarization. As such, the project deals with historical, socio-cultural, and political matters, which guarantees its 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, New York, 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 and has been a visiting researcher at King's College, Cambridge, the Bodleian Library (Oxford), and Harvard's Houghton Library. He has delivered conference papers at venues including Oxford, Harvard, and Yale, is the recipient of the 2016 Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Graduate Student Paper Award, and has been a Ralph Waldo Emerson Visiting Fellow at Harvard University. His research interests include British Romanticism, New England Transcendentalism, and nineteenth-century Anglo-American literary relations. His work has appeared in journals such as *The New England Quarterly*, *Romanticism*, *The Wordsworth Circle*, and the *Harvard Library Bulletin*.

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 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 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. 77 (HCA Ph.D. program)

Gordon Friedrichs, see p. 79 (HCA Ph.D. program)

Maren Schäfer, see p. 95 (HCA Ph.D. program)

## **RESEARCH STUDENTS**

Judith Keller, Johanna Mast, Oliver Nothdurft, Thanushiyah Tharmadevan

## **ASSOCIATED SCHOLARS**

Professor Jeffrey Alexander, Ph.D., Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University

Prof. Dr. Helmut Anheier, President and Dean, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, and Professor of Sociology, Heidelberg University

Professor Darren Dochuk, Ph.D., Department of History, University of Notre Dame

Professor Philip Goff, Ph.D., Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University

Prof. Dr. Barbara Hahn, Department of Geography and Geology, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans Joas, Faculty of Theology, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Professor Juliet Kaarbo, Ph.D., School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, Executive Director, Heidelberg Center for American Studies

Professor Cameron Thies, Ph.D., School of Politics and Global Studies, Arizona State University

Prof. Dr. Simon Wendt, Department of American Studies, Goethe University Frankfurt

Professor David Wilson, Ph.D., Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

## 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, was 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., as well as 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 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* and *Racism in the Modern World: Historical Perspectives on Cultural Transfer and Adaptation* (both 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.

### **Sustainable Governance Indicators 2018: 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 forty-one Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and European Union (E.U.) countries. The SGI brings together a broad network of experts and practitioners aiming to understand what works best in sustainable governance. The SGI project offers full access to its data set and thus enables the comparisons that generate innovation in governance.

Some seventy international experts participate in this broad-based study. Based on 150 qualitative and quantitative indicators, the SGI provide a detailed picture of the countries' strengths and limitations in order to advance the debate on good governance and sustainable policymaking

among OECD members. The SGI thus provide considerably more information than conventional economic data since social progress and sustainability cannot be expressed by growth rates or material prosperity alone. They also shed light on the success of OECD member states in additional policymaking fields crucial for ensuring the ongoing performance and long-term stability of economic, political, social, and ecological systems and for guaranteeing a high level of social participation. These fields include education, employment, healthcare, integration, innovation, and the environment. In addition to these traditional policymaking fields, the SGI also examine the quality of democracy and rule of law as well as each government's executive capacity in practice. The SGI and its sub-indexes are calculated using quantitative data from international organizations and then supplemented by qualitative assessments from recognized country experts. As a result, the SGI shed light on how capable each country is of using governance processes to identify pressing problems, formulate strategic solutions, and, consequently, ensure sustainable policymaking outcomes. Over the past nine years the project has helped to create a comprehensive data pool on government-related activities in the world's developed market democracies – among them the United States, Canada, Chile, and Mexico. The role of the regional coordinator for the Americas is to edit, amend, and consolidate expert assessments written by eight recognized country specialists – two for each country, representing at least two academic disciplines (for example economics and political science) or two nationalities, including the subject nation. The results are four separate country reports of 30-40 pages each on reform capacities of the United States, Canada, Chile, and Mexico, incorporating quantitative data interpreted through the lenses of the qualitative expert assessments.

The results of the latest SGI round were released as Sustainable Governance Indicators 2018 in October of 2018. 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 <http://www.sgi-network.org/2018/>. 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 2018) go to [http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2018/country/SGI2018\\_USA.pdf](http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2018/country/SGI2018_USA.pdf)

The USA 2018 country report written by Dr. habil. Martin Thunert (HCA), Professor Christian Lammert (Free University of Berlin, JFK-Institute), and Professor Paul J. Quirk (University of British Columbia, Vancouver) can be downloaded at [http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2018/country/SGI2018\\_USA.pdf](http://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2018/country/SGI2018_USA.pdf). Here are some of the results:

Showing increasing problems of fiscal unsustainability, the United States receives middling scores overall (rank 24) with regard to economic policies. Its score on this measure has increased by 0.3 points since 2014. With significant weaknesses, the United States scores relatively poorly in international comparison (rank 30) in the area of social policies. Its score on this measure has declined by 0.6 points relative to 2014. Severe educational inequalities between high- and low-income areas are evident, with performance generally disappointing. Rising university costs have created severe access issues, particularly for poorer students. Income inequality has increased dramatically.

Republican efforts to repeal Obama-era health insurance reforms failed. Continued uncertainty has hampered the stabilization of health insurance markets. 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. The Trump administration has taken numerous steps to cut legal and illegal immigration, and Trump himself has shown active rhetorical hostility toward immigrants. 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 has fallen to the SGI 2018's lowest position (rank 41) with regard to environmental policies. Its score in this area has declined by 0.9 points relative to 2014. The Trump administration ceased participation in the Paris climate agreement and is trying to rejuvenate the coal industry. Hard-line opponents of environmental regulation have been appointed to top environmental positions, and many regulations have been reversed.

Despite the administration's newly routine flouting of political norms, the United States falls into the upper-middle ranks (rank 18) with regard to democracy quality. Its score on this measure has declined by 1.0 point relative to 2014. A majority of states have implemented measures making it harder for some groups to register and vote. The Trump administration has rolled back anti-discrimination rules. The Republican Senate's refusal to act on Obama's Supreme Court nomination and subsequent confirmation of Trump's highlighted the newly partisan character of the federal judiciary. However, courts continue to act independently in blocking some administration policies. Climate change has proven a major stumbling block, with many Americans rejecting large-scale emissions-control strategies. However, piecemeal efforts by individual states, increased fuel-economy standards and coal-plant regulations, and increased use of natural gas have resulted in emissions reductions consistent with international expectations.

With a worrisome degree of chaos at top executive levels, the United States has fallen to the lower-middle ranks (rank 27) with respect to executive capacity. Its score on this measure has declined by 1.8 points relative to 2014. President Trump has shown virtually no interest in long-range planning. Executive decision-making does not follow orderly processes. The lack of experienced top personnel has increased informal coordination, such as within Trump's family and business networks. Impact analysis has largely been abandoned at the administration level. Regulations and Obama-era decisions have been aggressively reversed on the basis of minimal analysis. Legislative successes have been extremely limited, due to divisions within the Republican party. Trump's executive actions have frequently been blocked by the courts.

Despite concerns over the implications of an uninformed public, the United States receives a high overall score (rank 6) in the area of executive accountability. Its score in this area is unchanged relative to its 2014 level. 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. Interest associations are often sophisticated and media-savvy.

SIG 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 SIG News is available on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SIG-Sustainable-Governance-Indicators-92146590185/> In the spring of 2018 the board of the Bertelsmann Foundation decided to fully fund the project for another four years. Therefore, the next round of SIG 2019 expert assessments was launched in fall 2018.

### **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 terminated in early 2018 with the submission of the project's main findings to the Böckler-Foundation. The year 2017 was devoted to drafting and editing the final report.

Funding has come from the Hans-Böckler-Foundation, affiliated with the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB), the Confederation of German Trade Unions. The project analyzes the rules, mandates, and procedures and then evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of selected advisory bodies in both countries – from in-house policy units to expert committees and think tanks. In line with the Hans-Böckler-Foundation's support for research linked to the world of work, the project pays special attention to the question of how the perspective of workers can inform actors, institutions, and processes of economic policy advice in both countries. Dr. Martin Thunert's work was supported by Michael Kühlen, M.A., who served as his research associate between February and November 2014, when he left for a position at the Hans-Böckler-Foundation. Gordon Friedrichs, M.A., who has been with the HCA since 2012, took over this position as research associate between December 1, 2014 and September 30, 2016. In late 2015 Hanna Thiele, B.A., a former student in the HCA's BAS program and now a master student of international relations

at Frankfurt University, joined the project as a student research assistant, while Natalie Rauscher, M.A., a graduate of the MAS program and a doctoral student at the HCA came on board as a graduate student research assistant in February 2016. Both provided assistance to Martin Thunert in the process of drafting and editing the final report in 2017 and early 2018, especially with improving graphics as well as with upgrading bibliographic and statistical information. The final report with the working title "Muster der Politikberatung: Wirtschaftspolitische Beratung in Deutschland und den USA im Vergleich" co-authored by Gordon Friedrichs, Dorota Stasiak, and Martin Thunert with the help of Natalie Rauscher and Hanna Thiele is currently in the final copy-editing stage and will be published online as an edition of the online-publication series "Study" of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation in the first half of 2019.

## HCA SPRING ACADEMY 2018

The fifteenth HCA Spring Academy commenced on Monday, March 19, with a reception in the Atrium of the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. Twenty Ph.D. students representing nine different countries and affiliated with institutions in ten countries came together at the HCA to get to know each other over a cup of coffee before the HCA's director, Professor Welf Werner, spoke a few words of welcome. He not only pointed out the special opportunity the HCA Spring Academy offered as a place for networking and early cohort formation but also congratulated the Spring Academy on its fifteenth anniversary by naming numerous alumni who are excelling in various fields today. While most of our alumni occupy academic positions in teaching and research, others have built their careers in free enterprise.

The HCA's executive director, Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, then gave a brief introduction of the HCA. Pointing out the HCA's three pillars – education, research, and public outreach – he located the Spring Academy within these fields. Dr. Mausbach, also known as "Mr. Spring Academy," has been one of the two main facilitators of the conference since its early years.



Spring Academy participants ready to embark on their tour of Old Town

Following a brief reception that offered everyone a chance to mingle, "Ms. Spring Academy," Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, and Dr. Mausbach started the week off with the "warm-up" session. They introduced themselves to the participants and explained the process of selecting the twenty candidates who presented their projects at the Spring Academy 2018. Subsequently, the (in) famous cowbell announced the start of "academic speed dating," an exercise with a long tradition at the Spring Academy, in which the participants explain their Ph.D. projects to each other blazingly fast. This was followed by an extended discussion of "What is/are American Studies?"

in which the group tried to connect different key words as umbrella terms for all the projects to be presented throughout the week. Suggestions included “transformation,” “identity,” “intermediality,” and “positionality.” The terms “change” and “transformation” triggered an extensive discussion; as Dorothea Fischer-Hornung stated, “research often has to anticipate what is not there yet.” Martin Fernandez-Fernandez saw a lot of the change rooted in the role of social media and drew a connection to the way in which his generation constructs their identity through social media. While Agnese Marino argued that she and others belonged to a “generation of a transition period,” which does not have one certain identity as, for example, the generation of the 1960s, Jiann-Chyng Tu disagreed by stating her generation brings forth many direct action groups, for example the “Black Lives Matter”-movement. “Movement,” “protest,” and “social conflict” then became other terms central to the debate. “Race” and “gender” were not represented on the bulletin board, which came as a surprise to Dorothea Fischer-Hornung; Wilfried Mausbach, however, reminded the audience that within the triad of race, class, and gender, the focus of the discipline has lately shifted to class. Considering American Studies from the standpoint of professionals, Mikkel Jensen directed the conversation towards the differences between teaching American Studies in Europe and in the United States. The terms collected would be revisited at the end of the week.

Mirjam Grewe-Salfeld



The first panel, entitled “(Bio-)Sketching the United States,” was chaired by Dr. Tobias Endler, himself a Spring Academy alumnus and a political scientist at the HCA. Sophie Joscelyne from the University of Sussex, U.K., focused her presentation on “The Totalitarian Disease: The American Intellectual Left, Body Politics, and the Image of America in the World from the Cold War to the War on Terror.” She argued that while totalitarianism has been the enemy of the United States ever since the 1930s, the rise of right wing populism in Europe and the election of Donald Trump pose a need to revisit and to revise the concept of totalitarianism. She does so in her dissertation by focusing on the social protests of the 1960s and the activism following 9/11. For her argu-

mentation, Sophie Joscelyne relies, among others, on the works of activist Eldridge Cleaver and author Norman Mailer.

The panel's second speaker was Mirjam Grewe-Salfeld, who came to us from Potsdam University, Germany, introducing parts of her Ph.D. project on "Do-It-Yourself." In her presentation entitled "With My Own Two Hands – Do-It-Yourself Biology and the American Maker" Mirjam spoke about how the American principle of individualism leads to the trend of the body becoming a project that aims at perfection. Mirjam argued that DIY is a movement with political and social power and with cultural value, as it has become part of everyday life. DIY-biology, therefore, tries to take biology out of the laboratories and open it up for everyone, ranging from making fluorescing colors to analyzing one's own DNA. In addition to highlighting the downsides of DIY-biology, Mirjam argued that fundamental American values such as individualism and exceptionalism pathed the way for the DIY-movement.

After a brief coffee break, Agnese Marino, an Italian Ph.D. candidate at the HCA, started the second panel on "Living Cosmopolitanism," which was again chaired by Tobias Endler. In her presentation on "*The Loving Generation* and the Cosmopolitan Identity," Agnese presented the backbone of her dissertation project on "Performative Cosmopolitanism and Mixed-Race Contemporary Autobiography." After the group watched a clip from the documentary *The Loving Generation*, Agnese argued that the children of mixed-race parents represented in the documentary do not identify as such, but rather as either black or white. Agnese stated that external and internal identification co-exist but are not really dealt with in society. However, especially since Barack Obama became the first mixed-race president of the United States, she sees a trend of self-declared mixed-race Americans who are politically active and try to promote mixed-race collaboration instead of a post-racial society.

Chiann-Chyng Tu, a Taiwanese native at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, concluded the first day of the conference with his presentation on "The Transnational Self and Cosmopolitan Imaginary: Romance, Germany, and the Postwar African American Novel, 1948-2016." In his talk, he focused on his analysis of William Gardner Smith's novel *The Last of the Conquerors* (1948), an autobiographical account of the author's experience as black GI serving in a segregated army in the American sector of Germany after WW II. In his discussion of the novel, Chiann-Chyng argued that the main character finds himself in what he feels was a "colorblind" society for the first time during his stay in Germany; the post-war Berlin depicted in Smith's novel was, in this interpretation, a utopian place with traces of a cosmopolitan city.

Tuesday's first session began with "Discovering America: Intersections of Media and Literature," chaired by Dorothea Fischer-Hornung. Mikkel Jensen from Aalborg University, Denmark, presented his Ph.D. project on "David Simon's American City," for which analyses of Simon's TV series *The Corner*, *The Deuce*, *Show Me a Hero*, *Treme*, and *The Wire* build the corpus. Mikkel argued that Simon is one of the most prominent "showrunners" of the time, combining creative power and administrative power in his role as writer-producer, who is not only head of the writer's room but also present on the set. After explaining his approaches to the analyses of the

series, Mikkel introduced the group to his positioning of Simon's productions in the context of U.S. urban history. Especially Simon's most famous show, *The Wire* (2002-2008), produced in Baltimore, touches on a number of urban issues, including interconnectedness, deindustrialization, suburbanization, and the war on drugs.

The day's second speaker, Adriano Tedde, spoke about "Paul Auster, Jim Jarmusch, Tom Waits: Looking for America in Books, Movies, and Songs." Adriano, an Italian Ph.D. candidate at the University of Brisbane, Australia, focused his project on the idols of his childhood. He argues that all of the artists he studies – Auster, Jarmusch, and Waits – use the same storyline in their works and portray a picture of America that is different from the mainstream idea of the country. In his research question, which he tried to answer partially in his presentation at the Spring Academy, Adriano asked how the three artists participate in the public debate on social justice and the failure of the American Dream. Adriano argued that through the works he analyses, he looks at the American society from the bottom up, celebrating the common man and basing the American Dream on values other than wealth and financial stability. In the discussion following the presentation, the group debated other themes of the works apart from the American Dream, including masculinity and the "foreign element."

In panel four, we had a look at "U.S. Military History from the Bottom Up," which was chaired by Wilfried Mausbach. Krysten Blackstone from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, spoke about "The Day We Have Been in an Uproar: Tensions and the Creation of the Continental Army." In this part of her Ph.D. project, Krysten discussed the role of morale in the formation of the continental army, which she defined as "the willingness and ability of an individual or group to endure the hardships of war." Krysten explained General George Washington's struggle to unite the thirteen colonies in one unified army to fight against the common enemy, Great Britain. She considered the continental army neither American nor European, but rather a fusion of both. Krysten argued that although morale was not a key concern at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Washington succeeded in creating a national spirit on the grounds of morale, for example through the establishment of military camps for the education of otherwise unexperienced soldiers.

James Brookes from the University of Nottingham, U.K., concluded this panel with his presentation on "A Most Horrid Picture: Soldier-Artists and the Civil War Combat Experience." In his project, James analyses images of the Civil War that show a different picture of the war than the ones that could be found in newspapers, as he focuses on the rather negative, more realistic images of the war created of soldiers at the front. This "new visual language," he argued, gave soldier-artists a way to draw an emotional picture of the combat experience, to handle trauma, and to call upon the imagination of the spectators to imagine the war. In his presentation, James Brookes showed the group two paintings by soldier-artists, which were not chosen to be distributed to the public as they threatened the "positive" representation of war by the elites. In the following discussion, he added that such works were mostly created to be sent home to the soldiers' families but that they became an educational tool after the war.

The second day of the fifteenth Spring Academy concluded with a workshop on "Academic Writing and Publishing," led by Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Dr. Sherry Föhr. Participants were

given tips and motivational instructions on writing their theses by Sherry Föhr, who used to facilitate the Writing Resources Center in the English Department of Heidelberg University and is considered a “true genius” by many Spring Academy cohorts. Dorothea 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.

We concluded the second day with a walking tour through Heidelberg with Kristian Willenbacher. Snowflakes rounded up the experience of German Romanticism in Heidelberg’s Old Town, where our guide shared informative stories about the city’s romantic history. The evening ended with a traditional German meal at a restaurant in the Old Town.

Wednesday’s first panel “Transing the USA” was chaired by Dorothea Fischer-Hornung. Ewa Scibior from the University of Warsaw, Poland, talked about “Hypermasculinity and Drag in American Literature of the 1970s.” Since the 1969 Stonewall rebellion in Greenwich Village, New York, the gay liberation movement has fought against homophobia in the United States. In her project, Ewa focuses on the author John Rechy, whose autobiographical fiction novels served as a kind of manifesto for the gay liberation movement in the 1970s. As examples from the text showed, the hustlers in Rechy’s works acted straight and embraced the looks of hypermasculinity as a form of self-protection. Ewa argued that Rechy’s emphasis on masculinity, however, was one of the main problems in the gay liberation movement, as it limited acceptable roles of the gay community by internalizing the hetero-social order. In a brief comparison, Ewa explained the similarities she sees in the gender identities of hustlers and drag queens, not only visually, but also as outcasts of the social order who long for admiration.

Simon Whybrew from the University of Graz, Austria, concluded the panel with their talk on “Reclaiming Trans-Histories: Affects of Becoming Trans in Contemporary U.S. Science Fiction.” In this chapter of their presentation, Simon analyses Kim Stanley Robinson’s SciFi novel 2312. Simon Whybrew noted that it was only in the 1990s that literature began to discuss transsexuality as an option for humans; before that, intersex characters were often portrayed as aliens or the like. Simon Whybrew argued that the novel presents sex-modification as a means of preserving physical health and explained how time-travel played another major role in the novel. In a lively discussion after the talk, the group debated the participation of texts in genres and the transgression of genres, which turned out to be an interesting link to this project.

Following panel five, the Spring Academy participants were escorted to Mannheim for a private tour of the John Deere Europe factory. As longtime sponsor of the Spring Academy, John Deere not only supports the program financially but also emphasizes the company’s success as one of the greatest American-German partnerships in manufacturing. After a light reception and 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.

After returning to the HCA, Wilfried Mausbach chaired the last panel of the day on “American Spaces: Classical Gardens and Urban Parks in U.S. Intellectual and Social History.” Steve Gallo





Visit to the John Deere Factory  
in Mannheim

from the University of Nottingham, U.K., presented his project on “‘From an Eyeshore to a Thing of Beauty’: Public Parks and Race in Postbellum Richmond.” In his thesis, Steve examines the South’s adoption of the urban park model that was first popularized in Northern cities. For his presentation, he focused his research on Richmond, Virginia, especially the neighborhood of Chimborazo, where the white population feared the loss of their supremacy in the years following the Civil War. Racial tensions and the absence of police stations in the city ignited tempers between the black and white communities. As Steve argued, whites used public spaces to promote behaviors they considered appropriate, so the white Richmond community purchased thirty-five acres of Chimborazo hill, populated by blacks, in order to remodel the area into a public park for whites only. Steve argued that apart from seeing parks as urban aesthetic, they were also created in order to fulfil a desired ideal, like, in the case of Richmond, removing the black population in order to restore white supremacy.

Alley Jordan from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, concluded the day with a talk about “‘Beautiful Shells from the Shore’: Thomas Jefferson’s Sacred Grotto of 1771.” Alley Jordan defined a grotto as a place of escape, purification, and worship. Thomas Jefferson, who was highly influenced by the gardens he saw on his travels to Europe in the late 1780s, used the garden as a place of spiritual and intellectual retreat. Alley Jordan argued that in his imaginary garden, Jefferson took his visitors on a spiritual journey from ignorance to enlightenment.

On Thursday, we started the program with panel seven on “Remembering, Recalling, and Reviving American History,” chaired by Wilfried Mausbach. Sarah Sporys from Freiburg University, Germany, started the panel with her project on “The Construction of Transatlantic Memory – Conceptual Considerations.” She defined memory as a socially constructed analytic tool and shared Maurice Halbwachs’ separation of historical memory and collective memory. In her talk, Sarah presented the theoretical background of her Ph.D. thesis, in which she analyses the influence of collective or transnational memory on transnational politics. Sarah argues that, for example,

NATO is more than a political alliance since it also represents a certain “transatlantic” identity, which is chosen or has derived from a shared historical memory.



Martin Fernandez-Fernandez

The panel’s second speaker was Martin Fernandez-Fernandez, who came to the HCA from the University of Santiago die Compostella in Spain. Martin presented his project “Through the Lens of Trauma: The Emmett Till Case in U.S. Literature.” He bases his dissertation on trauma studies, arguing that the Emmett Till case caused trauma for the whole African American community. The murder of Emmett Till, a black teenager from Chicago who was killed in Mississippi in 1955 after a white woman accused him of offending her at a grocery store, became the inspiration for a great number of works in the years to follow. Martin’s research examines the fictional novel *Wolf Whistle* (1993) by Lewis Norman in the context of trauma studies, as he argues that this field of study helps the study of literature and vice versa.

After a short coffee break, panel eight on “Images of the Turn-of-the-Nineteenth-Century Female” was introduced by Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and started off by Juliet Conway from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She spoke about “Disoriented and Disillusioned: The Flirt as an Emblem of the Lost Generation,” positioning literature of from the 1870s to the 1920s at the center of her research. For her Spring Academy presentation, Juliet Conway analyzed the character of the “flapper,” who embodies the woman of the “Roaring Twenties.” Writings of the Lost Generation often use the theme of depression and disillusion, for example in Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* or in Anita Loos’ *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (both 1925), which Juliet Conway presented to the group. She argues that the female main character Lorelei Lee not only represents the “New Woman” of the 1920s but ensures her position in power by flirting. The flapper in literature also conflicted with the idea of masculinity in the twenties, demasculating gentlemen through strong female characters.

Christine Bachman-Sanders, University of Minnesota, USA, concluded the panel with her presentation on "Time, Space, and Bicycle Travel: The Queer Archive and Mapping Anachronistic Histories." In her project, Christine revises the feminist liberation through bicycle travel with a focus on tactility and queer temporality for her Spring Academy presentation. Her case study derived from the diary of a female cyclist which offers a rich glimpse of cycling culture and which she examines with the help of queer analysis. However, the use of "queer" in her study is non-sexual; she rather uses the term as a methodology with which she hopes to read the diary against the common narrative. Christine Bachmann-Sanders argues that queer time helps to define anachronistic approaches to history. Interestingly, she has cycled the route the diary depicts herself.

The next panel in our tight schedule "The Politics of Spaces and Places in Metropolitan America" was chaired by Professor Ulrike Gerhard from Heidelberg University's Department of Geography. Michael Savage from the University of Toronto, Canada, presented his topic "Tactical Metropolitanism: The Politics of Metropolitan School Desegregation in the American North in the 1960s and 1970s." He argued that the "tactical metropolitanism" approach aimed at the same goals as segregation but by different means, an argument which he bases on case studies in Detroit, Boston, and Philadelphia. With tactical metropolitanism, Michael Savage explained, quotas for schools were set according to the racial composition of neighborhoods and therefore legalized de facto segregation. With his choice of case studies he wants to bring the North into the Civil Rights discussion.

Jeremy Williams, a British native from Free University Berlin, Germany, concluded the last panel of the day with his presentation on "Between the Idea and the Reality: New Public Spaces in the United States." Jeremy's primary case study is "The High Line" in New York City, a hugely popular public park, which serves as ground zero for spectacle techno-capitalism. Jeremy defines new public spaces, among other features, as socially controlled, with an externally defined purpose and a private element, a spectacle and performance. With his project, Jeremy hopes to influence conversations, which materially affect how public space is built, conceptualized, and managed – both, in the academic and the non-academic context.

After the sessions concluded, the participants had the chance to partake in a one-on-one consultation with Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Sherry Föhr to speak about individual issues concerning writing and publishing.

As 2018 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the HCA Spring Academy, in the evening the organizers cordially invited all participants, as well as staff and students of the HCA, to gather in the HCA's Atrium for a panel discussion followed by a reception. The HCA was especially honored to welcome Klaus Seibold of the John Deere company, as well as their former Public Relations and Brand Management Manager Oliver Neumann, with whom the Spring Academy worked together closely for many years.

In preparation for this event, the organizing team had invited former Spring Academy participants to the HCA; we were happy to welcome back Paul Musselwhite, 2010 alumnus and now assistant professor of history at Dartmouth College; Katharina Gerund, 2009 alumna, who is in

the process of writing her Habilitation at University Erlangen-Nuremberg; and Bryan Banker, alumnus of the 2014 Spring Academy, who teaches at a private university in Munich while finishing his dissertation. To acknowledge the success of the past fourteen conferences, Wilfried Mausbach showed pictures of how the setting changed over the years, and he welcomed all former Spring Academy team members who came together at the HCA for the event. Long-time Spring Academy coordinator Katia Rostetter joined our three alumni on the podium, where they discussed "The Future of American Studies," with Dorothea Fischer-Hornung as moderator. Afterwards, the guests got a chance to continue the discussion over a glass of wine.



Panel Discussion "15 Years of Spring Academy," l-r: Bryan Banker, Katia Rostetter, Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, Katharina Gerund, Paul Musselwhite

The last day of the conference started off with a workshop on "Why *Birth of a Nation* (1915) is Still Relevant in American Politics: Political Film and the Social Construction of U.S. History," facilitated by our visiting scholar Dr. Frank Rusciano from Rider University in New Jersey. He deconstructed the film in his talk, noting the importance of film as a kind of political advertisement. The group then engaged in a lively discussion covering a wide range of topics, clearly reflecting the relevance *Birth of a Nation* still has today.

After lunch, the tenth and last panel on "Nature Between Exploitation, Activism, and Reimagination" was chaired by Dorothea Fischer-Hornung. Robert Oxford from the University of Texas at Austin introduced to us his project on "Fracking Texas: Activism and Critiques of the 21st Century Oil and Gas Industry Along the Supply Chain." His thesis developed out of his interest in tracking the fracking movement in Texas, and he now studies environmental justice as a form of environmental racism, though his study focuses on urban regions and whites living close to fracking areas. After outlining the environmental effects of fracking, Robert argued that whiteness denotes cleanliness, but with climate change, the stability of whiteness is challenged.

The last speaker of this year's Spring Academy was Noemi Quagliati, an Italian Ph.D. candidate at Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany. Noemi presented her project on "Wildness in the Time of Photography: An Itinerary in the Modern Representation of Nature." She started

her presentation with a video she produced herself, which shows different representations of nature, leading to her main question of how the representation of nature has changed throughout the past decades. Noemi argued that the wilderness is central to America but at the same time the exploitation of the land made the country the leading economic force it is today. With examples of different photograph exhibitions, Noemi visualized the change in the representation of American nature since the 1940s, ranging from seeing “the quintessence of the thing” to criticizing the American treatment of nature.

To conclude the conference, Friday’s “Cool Down” session referred back to the key terms collected at the beginning of the week. The group added “collaboration/outreach,” “intersectionality,” “innovative connections,” “affect/emotion,” and “spatiality/space/place” to the collection of “What is/are American Studies?” on the bulletin board. However, “race” and “class” were still excluded from the discussion. In a brief feedback round, the participants thanked the team and facilitators for the interesting and enlightening week. After Ms. and Mr. Spring Academy fulfilled their last duty for this year by handing out the certificates, the HCA invited the participants to a farewell dinner to celebrate another successful HCA Spring Academy.

Members of the Spring Academy and other guests mingle at a reception to celebrate 15 years of sSpring Academy



## **“Transatlantic Crossings: A Symposium in Honor of Detlef Junker,” June 14-15, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies**

In mid-June, a group of distinguished historians of transatlantic relations came together at the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais to celebrate the achievements of the HCA’s Founding Director. With the establishment of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies in 2004, Professor Detlef Junker created a highly visible center for American Studies in Europe. Without Detlef Junker’s initiative and creativity, the HCA would not have become the unique place which scholars, students, and visitors from all over the world cherish as an academic hub.

The conference opened with a keynote at the university’s Old Lecture Hall delivered by Charles Maier, the Leverett Saltonstall Professor of History at Harvard University and one of the most influential historians in the field of German, American, and World History. Professor Maier commenced his lecture by recalling Detlef Junker’s academic achievements and his work in the field



Charles Maier gives the conference keynote at Heidelberg University’s Old Lecture Hall

of transatlantic relations, especially his accomplishments as director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. He then placed the current transatlantic turmoil into historical context. President Donald Trump’s economic protectionism, his concept of political leadership and diplomacy, and the rise of populism in American society, Professor Maier explained, stand in contrast to the multilateral liberal principles which America had espoused since World War II. Yet, Trump’s rallying cry of “America First” is by no means a novelty in American history. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the need to protect a young American economy from strong international competitors was a widely-shared political goal. During the twentieth century, protectionist ideas were rekindled through the Smooth-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930 following the onset of the Great Depression and the increased economic strength of Japan and China. Trump’s perception of global trade as a threat to a struggling U.S. economy, especially in the wake of growing unemployment rates, thus stood in a long tradition of isolationist tendencies, argued Professor Maier. Regarding the president’s leadership and diplomatic efforts, Professor Maier



then pointed out that Trump had already inspired many comparisons with U.S. President Andrew Jackson. His unpredictability and inclination to destructive commentary had forced Trump's international partners to approach him with constant suspicion and distrust. Earlier American leaders like Jackson or Theodore Roosevelt, who were famous for their eccentric character and volatility, had triggered similar responses among their partners. Therefore, Trump could be seen as a combination of modern arrogance stemming from military power and historical impudence. While elections have usually functioned as a democratic corrective for such tendencies, the recent rise of populism in U.S. society has yielded unexpected results. Although disenchanted American voters shocked the world in the presidential election of 2016, their actions were, according to Professor Maier, not without historic precedent. Especially during the time of frontier conflicts, populist movements and their brief political manifestations had been a common theme in American society. Professor Maier then concluded his lecture by emphasizing that the preservation of transatlantic relationships was now in the hands of a new generation, which had to maintain the dialogue between the U.S. and Europe. Professor Junker expressed his gratitude to Professor Maier and invited the guests over to the HCA where everyone enjoyed an evening of casual conversations and a reception in the back yard.

The conference continued on the following day with a panel on "The United States and Europe in the Twentieth Century," chaired by Professor Manfred Berg, the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at Heidelberg University. The panel started out with a paper by Professor Hope Harrison of George Washington University, who recounted German-American relations in seven steps, starting with American isolationism after World War I and ending with the G7 in Canada that had concluded just days earlier. She then reflected on the uses of history in politics, especially the politics of the current administration. Even if the influence academics can have on politicians is limited at best, this needs to be considered in the future. "We have to keep trying," Professor Harrison emphasized. Professor Konrad Jarausch of the University of North Carolina also reviewed critical junctures of transatlantic history, viewing Germany and the United States as "rivals of modernity." While crises occasionally flared up, shared norms and values usually prevailed in transatlantic relations. Professor Jarausch concluded his talk by pointing out the agents that facilitated the transatlantic partnership: youth exchange, institutions like the Atlantikbrücke, personalities like John F. Kennedy, and personal diplomacy.

The second session of that morning, chaired by the new HCA director Professor Welf Werner, looked at German-American economic relations, the topic of Detlef Junker's book *Der unteilbare Weltmarkt*. Professor Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich of the Freie Universität Berlin started out with reflections on U.S. protectionism, past and present. The fact that President Trump questions the multilateral trading system and focuses on bilateral trade imbalances has a negative impact on the U.S. economy. According to Professor Holtfrerich, Trump's economic policies lead to a reduction of capital flows into the United States; in addition, tariffs will hurt U.S. manufacturing while European manufacturing will profit. Therefore, Europeans should not retaliate. Professor Holtfrerich then looked back at the history of U.S. tariffs in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and concluded that the Bretton Woods Agreement of 1944 demonstrated that the U.S. had learned from its mistakes striving for more cooperation in international economic policies.



The current president's destructive approach towards the international trading system, however, is about to destroy what the U.S. has built in Europe since World War II. Hartmut Berghoff, professor for economic and social history at the University of Göttingen, then steered the attention of the audience to the fight against corporate corruption in the United States and Germany in his talk "From Watergate to the Compliance Revolution." Professor Berghoff sees the Watergate scandal of 1972 as the start of a campaign against corruption that also extended into U.S. foreign policy. The extent of corruption that was revealed in a number of "business Watergates" in the following years did not only erode public confidence in the market system but also lowered the respect for the U.S. and its economy worldwide. The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) of 1977 addressed these problems with transparency requirements and rules against bribery of foreign officials. The "Compliance Revolution" finally gained momentum with a paradigm shift that emerged outside the United States in development economics and policies. The end of the Cold War and the bloc confrontation logic in dealing with developing countries put the fight against corruption high on the international agenda. Also, democratization, globalization euphoria, and



Conference participants Liz Borgwardt, Martin Klimke, and Klaus Schwabe

a revival of liberal-market principles fed into the condemnation of corruption. The Clinton administration in particular pushed the internationalization of the FCPA, and a 1988 amendment of this act made it mandatory for the U.S. president to work toward international regulation. Since 1997, an OECD Convention increased pressure on states around the world. Civil society also contributed to this process through organizations like Transparency International (founded in 1993), as did the anti-terrorism measures following 9/11, which exercised influence through controls on illegal money flows. Possibly, this work was too efficient, concluded Professor Berghoff: In his 2016 campaign, Donald Trump promised to abolish the FCPA.

Professor Martin Klimke from New York University Abu Dhabi then chaired the first afternoon panel on "Power and Mission – American Foreign Policy." Professor Klaus Schwabe from the RWTH Aachen revisited the end of World War I, particularly the exchange between American president Woodrow Wilson and the German government in October 1918 and the question of armistice or surrender. It was "America's moment," Professor Schwabe declared, and Wilson got what he wanted, yet the verdict of many historians is that "Wilson lost the peace." But maybe

Wilson got many things right: He distrusted the German military leadership and demanded that Social Democrats be included in the new German government, aiming at some kind of a regime change while rejecting a revolution; he did not insist on total victory, but did not see the German government as an equal partner in the peace negotiations. Professor Elizabeth Borgwardt of Washington University in St. Louis then returned to yet another seminal book of Detlef Junker – Power and Mission. She argued that, while the moral vision behind U.S. foreign policy at times had taken on an almost protean quality – it could justify anything – the lack of moral vision could lead to an exercise of raw imperialist power. Reflecting on current U.S.-Russian relations, Professor Borgwardt observed that the absence of ideological conflict at least makes a new “Cold War” unlikely.

The symposium’s fourth panel then invited distinguished international guests to reflect upon Professor Junker’s life work. Following a brief welcome by the HCA’s Executive Director Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, Professor Philipp Gassert, historian at the University of Mannheim, thanked Detlef Junker for his contributions to the establishment of American Studies in Germany. Via video stream from the Academy of Sciences in Vienna, Professor Gassert praised his academic teacher’s vision and dedication, which had resulted in the founding of the HCA, nowadays one of the leading American Studies institutes in Europe. Then Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, head of the Lautenschläger Foundation and supporter of Detlef Junker’s endeavors since 2003, continued on a more personal note. He thanked Professor Junker for his friendship, admiring his ability to

Participating in a roundtable on the future of transatlantic relations, l-r: Stefan Kornelius, Detlef Junker, Wilfried Mausbach, Hope Harrison, and Kent Logsdon



“sell” his projects and the ease with which he had recruited supporters over the years. Professor Christof Mauch of Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich then recounted how easily his predecessor had grown into his role as director of the German Historical Institute in Washington and how quickly he had become an established and cherished member of Washington’s academic

and political elite. His captivating and clear writing style had earned him respect and admiration both in Washington and in Germany. Professor Kirsten Fischer, historian at the University of Minnesota and twice a visiting professor at the HCA, further elaborated on the significance of the HCA as an academic and social institution. By providing a space for intellectual and intercultural exchange, Professor Junker had made a lasting contribution to the consolidation of transatlantic friendships. Kent Logsdon, Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Berlin, then concluded the session by describing how Professor Junker's entrepreneurial skills and his academic passion had made a lasting impression on him. On behalf of the U.S. government, Mr. Logsdon presented Detlef Junker with a certificate of appreciation honoring his extraordinary service in German-American relations.

The symposium "Transatlantic Crossings" concluded with a public roundtable on the future of transatlantic relations. Following a brief welcome and introduction of the panelists by the chair Wilfried Mausbach, Detlef Junker opened the debate with sharp criticism of the prevailing discourse that seemed to understate rather than acknowledge Trump's egocentrism. In response to this, Kent Logsdon pointed out that both the U.S. and Europe needed to use the momentum of current affairs to reflect upon their global perception and relationships. Hope Harrison sup-



Celebrating the HCA's Founding Director

ported this view and argued that social and political divisions had to be addressed through an international dialogue that focused on the opportunity to deepen German-American exchange and enabled both countries to benefit from the other's historical experience. Stefan Kornelius, Foreign Editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, pointed out, however, that populist movements in the U.S. and in Europe had led to an increased focus on domestic interests resulting in a lack of desire to engage in such exchanges. The panelists went on to discuss the necessity of cultural exchange, especially via educational institutions. Here Detlef Junker pointed out that it was crucial

to address Donald Trump and his policies head on during such intercultural exchanges. Stefan Kornelius sided with Professor Junker on this issue and highlighted the danger of growing accustomed to Trump's disruptions. Following this remark, Wilfried Mausbach opened up the panel for questions and comments from the audience that engaged in a lively debate about growing Anti-American and Anti-European sentiments, the role of education in countering populism, and the future of the Trump administration. The symposium concluded with a roof-top reception where participants toasted the HCA's founding director, followed by a festive dinner.

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

On June 19, the HCA and the Faculty of Theology bestowed the seventh W. C. Pennington Award on Professor Eddie S. Glaude Jr., William S. Tod Professor of Religion and African American Studies at Princeton University. Professor Bernhard Eitel, rector of Heidelberg University, welcomed members of both faculties and guests to the award ceremony in the HCA's Atrium. He emphasized that the Pennington Award, which enables its recipients to work and interact with students and faculty of Heidelberg University for several weeks, represented values that the former slave and minister James W. C. Pennington and Heidelberg University shared. It was the result of the cooperation between the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation, a longstanding and loyal supporter of the University, the Faculty of Theology, Heidelberg's oldest, and the HCA, one of the university's youngest institutions, remarked Professor Eitel proudly.

Dr. Manfred Lautenschläger then told the audience more about the person the award commemorated, James W. C. Pennington, who escaped from slavery, audited classes at Yale University, and became an ordained minister. In 1849, Heidelberg University awarded an honorary doctorate on Pennington. In honor of Pennington and to celebrate African-American culture, history, and education, the Pennington Award is nowadays bestowed upon scholars whose work sheds light on African-American life past and present and on issues that were close to Pennington's heart.

Jan Stievermann, professor for the History of Christianity in America at the HCA and the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University, then introduced this year's recipient. While previous awards had been given to scholars for their contribution to a better understanding of Pennington's life, Professor Glaude's work in the field of politics, culture, religion, and race-relations was, in many ways, a continuation of Pennington's own efforts. After his graduation from Morehouse College and Temple University, Professor Glaude received a Ph.D. in religion from Princeton University. Throughout his career, he worked at multiple universities, including Amherst College and Harvard University, eventually joining the Department of Religion at Princeton University in 2002.

Professor Glaude then commenced his lecture with a critical assessment of the contemporary myth of progress surrounding the persona of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which involved John Dewey's philosophical concepts of critical intelligence and the imagination. Dr. King, who had faced systemic racism in American society and encouraged his followers to peaceful resistance, had become a prominent symbol for the struggle to end racial discrimination. However, this myth, which highlights the extraordinarily prophetic dimension of King's work, sadly also led to a widespread ignorance of the persistence of systemic racism. Therefore, Professor Glaude argued, it would be necessary to dedicate the fiftieth anniversary of King's assassination not only to reevaluate this myth but also to democratize King's actions and thus make them available to the individual citizen. Even though King was a prominent religious leader, who had consciously embedded his work into the American Christian tradition, his appeals and actions were also fundamentally political. Professor Glaude highlighted this since he claimed that a society was



Rector Bernhard Eitel (l) and benefactor Manfred Lautenschläger (r) with James W.C. Pennington Fellow Eddie Glaude

quick to regard prophetic individuals like King as externally-acknowledged authorities, effectively denying itself the ability to have a similar impact. Yet, the trajectory of prophetic work was decidedly social, Eddie Glaude argued. Analyzing King through the philosophy of John Dewey, Professor Glaude made the case that the actions of King and other individuals were nothing more and nothing less than imagining a better world and acting upon such imaginations. Since imagination is a universal human quality, prophetic acts stemming from it are likewise so. Professor Glaude closed on the notion that this democratization of the prophetic enabled Americans to see themselves as objects and activists, and that with King's idea of a human society in mind, it was now time for the U.S. to reimagine what American life should be. Following Professor Glaude's captivating talk, Dr. Lautenschläger, Professor Eitel, and the HCA's director, Professor Welf Werner, then bestowed the award and invited faculty and guests to join them for a reception in the garden of the HCA.

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

The list below includes books, book chapters, journal articles, and entries in reference works published by HCA faculty and staff in 2017-18. Also listed are publications by scholars affiliated with the HCA that are relevant to the field of American Studies.

### Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

*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*, ed. 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.

Ed. with Axel Jansen, “Special Issue: Americans and World War I 100 Years Later,“ *Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era* 17:4 (2018): 599-718.

„Die US-amerikanische Perspektive auf den Zusammenhang von 1917 und Zeitgeschichte,“ *Historische Mitteilungen der Ranke-Gesellschaft* 29 (2017): 27-35.

With Axel Jansen, “Americans in World War I - World War I in America: Introduction,“ *Journal of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era* 17:4 (2018): 599-607.

„Afroamerika - Der lange Weg zur Emanzipation,“ in *Kulturgeographie der USA. Eine Nation begreifen*, ed. Werner Gamerith and Ulrike Gerhard (Berlin: Springer Spektrum, 2017), 73-80.



## 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).

With Steffen Hagemann, „Einführung: Externe und interne Herausforderungen für die transatlantische Sicherheits-, Werte- und Wohlfahrtsgemeinschaft,“ in *Die Zukunft der transatlantischen Gemeinschaft: Externe und interne Herausforderungen*, ed. Florian Böller, Steffen Hagemann, Anja Opitz, and Jürgen Wilzewski (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2017), 9-26.

With Steffen Hagemann, „Strukturen, Interessen, Identitäten: Mechanismen der Krisenbewältigung in der transatlantischen Sicherheitsgemeinschaft im Kontext konkurrierender Theorieansätze,“ in *Die Zukunft der transatlantischen Gemeinschaft: Externe und interne Herausforderungen*, ed. Florian Böller, Steffen Hagemann, Anja Opitz, and Jürgen Wilzewski (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2017), 29-54.

“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*, ed. Bruno Schoch et al. (Berlin: LIT, 2017), 33-44.

„Eine außenpolitische Vertrauenskrise: Trumps Außenpolitik nach 200 Tagen im Amt,“ in *200 Tage Trump-Administration (The Road Ahead – Analysen zur Trump-Administration Nr. 2)*, ed. David Sirakov (Kaiserslautern: Atlantische Akademie, 2017), 13-16.

„Eine Revolution? Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik unter Donald Trump,“ *Forum* 2 (2017): 38-39.

With Marcus Müller, “Unleashing the Watchdogs: Explaining Congressional Assertiveness in the Politics of US Military Interventions,“ *European Political Science Review* 10:4 (2018): 637-662.

“‘Guardian of the International Order’? NATO’s Contested Identity, the Discourses of Secretaries General, and the Ukraine Crisis,“ *East European Politics* 34:2 (2018): 217-237.



„Kein Kalter Krieg, aber eine Krise des Vertrauens – Deutsche Sicherheitspolitik in der Ära Trump & Putin,“ *Kompass: Zeitschrift des Katholischen Militärbischofs für die Deutsche Bundeswehr* 9 (2018): 13-14.

With Wolfgang Wagner et al., “Deployment Votes Dataset, Version 2,” *Parliamentary Deployment Votes Database* (2018).

With Michael Sauer and Marcus Müller, *Sicherheit und Frieden, Basisheft Sek. I* (Schwalbach a. T.: Wochenschau-Verlag, 2018).

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

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

“Remembering and Forgetting the Great War in Germany.” *United States World War I Centennial Commission* (2018).

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

“The Hidden Atlantic: Michael Zeuske Reflects on His Recent Research,” *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents*, 15:1 (2018): 136-147.

### **Gordon Friedrichs (Institute for Political Science)**

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.

With Sebastian Harnisch, „Südkoreas strategischer Wankelmut zwischen den Großmächten: Eine liberale Erklärung,“ in *Chinesische Seidenstraßeninitiative und amerikanische Gewichtsverlagerung*, ed. Mischa Hansel, Sebastian Harnisch, and Nadine Godehardt (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2018), 41-72.

With Sebastian Harnisch, „Nordkoreas neue Strategie zur Stabilisierung dynastischer Herrschaft: Nuklearwaffen und innenpolitische Säuberungen,“ in *Chinesische Seidenstraßeninitiative und amerikanische Gewichtsverlagerung*, ed. Mischa Hansel, Sebastian Harnisch, and Nadine Godehardt (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2018), 125-156.

## Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Institute for Geography)

Ed. with Werner Gamerith, *Kulturgeographie der USA. Eine Nation begreifen* (Heidelberg: Springer Spektrum, 2017).

„Reurbanisierung US-amerikanischer Städte – mehr als ein neoliberaler Diskurs,“ in *Kulturgeographie der USA*, ed. Werner Gamerith and Ulrike Gerhard (Heidelberg: Springer Spektrum, 2017), 145-152.

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).

„Mega City, Global City, Ordinary City – zeitgemäße Begriffe einer kosmopolitanen, interdisziplinären Stadtforschung?“ in *Bericht des Marsilius-Kolleg 2016/2017*, ed. T. Rauch and B. Schneidmüller (Heidelberg: Marsilius-Kolleg, 2017), 149-155.

With C. Werner, „USA zwischen Wachstum und Fragmentierung,“ in *Diercke Geographie*, (Braunschweig: Westermann, 2017), 472-479.

With Editha Marquardt and Christina West, „Reallabore in der Stadtforschung. Eine Einführung,“ *Berichte. Geographie und Landeskunde*, 91:1 (2017): 5-12.

With Kerstin Fröhlich, „Wissensbasierte Stadtentwicklung – ein Erfolgskonzept auch für Nachhaltigkeit? Einblicke in die Entwicklung der Heidelberger Südstadt aus Reallaborperspektive,“ *Berichte. Geographie und Landeskunde*, 91:1 (2017): 13-33.

With Editha Marquardt, „Reallabore als innovatives Forschungsformat zur Untersuchung nachhaltiger Stadtentwicklung – eine kritische Reflexion,“ *Berichte. Geographie und Landeskunde*, 91:1 (2017): 97-111.

With Michael Hoelscher, "Introduction. Inequalities in the Creative City: A New Perspective on an Old Phenomenon," in *Inequalities in Creative Cities: Issues, Approaches, Comparisons*, ed. Ulrike Gerhard, Michael Hoelscher, and David Wilson (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2017), 3-14.

With Michael Hoelscher, "Knowledge Makes Cities: Education and Knowledge in Recent Urban Development. The Case of Heidelberg, Germany," in *Inequalities in Creative Cities: Issues, Approaches, Comparisons*, ed. Ulrike Gerhard, Michael Hoelscher, and David Wilson (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2017), 129-164.

„Wer gestaltet die Stadt der Zukunft? Das Primat der Ökonomie in der Nachhaltigen Stadtentwicklung," in *Ruperto Carola* 12 (2018): 42-50.

With Peter Dörrenbächer, „Holz oder Bits? Transformationen der kanadischen Wirtschaft," in *Länderbericht Kanada*, ed. Ursula Lehmkuhl (Bonn: Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, 2018), 280-320.

With Ludger Basten, „Zwischen Zentrum und Peripherie: Urbane Räume im Wandel," in *Länderbericht Kanada*, ed. Ursula Lehmkuhl (Bonn: Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, 2018), 321-357.

### **Professor Dr. Bernd Grzeszick, LL.M. (Faculty of Law)**

„Integration und doppelte Staatsangehörigkeit," *Zeitschrift für Rechtspolitik* 50:5 (2017): 155-157.

„Fraktionsautonomie als Teil des verfassungsrechtlichen Status der Bundestagsfraktionen," *Neue Zeitschrift für Verwaltungsrecht* 14 (2017): 985-992.

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

With Gordon Friedrichs, "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.

„Sozialkonstruktivismus in den Internationalen Beziehungen," in *Handbuch Internationale Beziehungen. 2. Aufl.*, ed. Carlo Masala and Frank Sauer (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2017).

"Theory and Practice of Human Security Concerns in EU-Japan Relations: the EU Perspective," discussion paper *EU-Japan Security Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities*, Online paper series, Spring/Summer 2017.

Ed. with Cameron Thies, Patrick Haney, Juliet Kaarbo, Kai Oppermann, and Atusushi Tago, *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Foreign Policy Analysis* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

"Special Relationships in Foreign Policy," in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Foreign Policy Analysis*, ed. Cameron Thies (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

With Wolf Schünemann and Stefan Artmann, „Cybersicherheit und Rollenwandel," *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* 28:3 (2018): 263-287.

With Ken Masujima, "Human Security: More Potential for Cooperation?" in *EU-Japan Security Cooperation: Trends and Prospects*, ed. Emil J. Kirchner and Han Dorussen (New York: Routledge, 2018).

Ed. with Mischa Hansel and Nadine Godehardt, *Chinesische Seidenstraßeninitiative und amerikanische Gewichtsverlagerung* (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2018).

With Mischa Hansel and Nadine Godehardt, „Einleitung: Seidenstraße und Rebalancing - Reaktionen in Asien," in *Chinesische Seidenstraßeninitiative und amerikanische Gewichtsverlagerung*, ed. Mischa Hansel, Sebastian Harnisch, and Nadine Godehardt (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2018), 7-39.

With Gordon Friedrichs, „Südkoreas strategischer Wankelmut zwischen den Großmächten: Eine liberale Erklärung," in *Chinesische Seidenstraßeninitiative und amerikanische Gewichtsverlagerung*, ed. Mischa Hansel, Sebastian Harnisch, and Nadine Godehardt (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2018), 41-72.

With Gordon Friedrichs, „Nordkoreas neue Strategie zur Stabilisierung dynastischer Herrschaft: Nuklearwaffen und innenpolitische Säuberungen," in *Chinesische Seidenstraßeninitiative und amerikanische Gewichtsverlagerung*, ed. Mischa Hansel, Sebastian Harnisch, and Nadine Godehardt (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2018), 127-161.

With Nadine Godehardt and Mischa Hansel, „Ergebnisse und Ausblick: Sicherheit in Asien jenseits von Großmachtrivalitäten," in *Chinesische Seidenstraßeninitiative und amerikanische Gewichtsverlagerung*, ed. Mischa Hansel, Sebastian Harnisch, and Nadine Godehardt (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2018), 321-336.

„Normalisierung und internationale Führung in der außenpolitischen Debatte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland," in *Juristische Studiengesellschaft Karlsruhe*, Jahresband 2017, (Heidelberg: C.F. Müller, 2018), 73-92.

With Johannes Lohmann and Savas Genc, „Wenn Staaten Migration (aus)nutzen. Über Exterritorialisierung und Akteurschaft in der strategischen Migrationspolitik," *Zeitschrift für Flüchtlingsforschung* 2:1 (2018): 08-127.

With Johannes Lohmann and Delphine Buffat, „Strategische Migrationspolitik und Migrierende als Entscheidende: Erste Ergebnisse aus einem interdisziplinären Projekt,“ *Journal of Self-Regulation and Regulation* 4 (2018): 61-74.

With Stefan Steiger, Kerstin Zettl, and Johannes Lohmann, “Conceptualising Conflicts in Cyberspace,” *Journal of Cyber Policy* 3:1 (2018): 77-95.

“Role Theory in International Relations,” *Oxford Bibliographies* (2018).

### **Ryan P. Hoselton (HCA and Faculty of Theology)**

“Ames, William,” in *The Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia*, ed. Harry S. Stout (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).

“Experientialism,” in *The Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia*, ed. Harry S. Stout (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).

“Mather, Cotton,” in *The Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia*, ed. Harry S. Stout (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).

“Obedience,” in *The Jonathan Edwards Encyclopedia*, ed. Harry S. Stout (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2017).

With Jan Stievermann, “Spiritual Meaning and Experimental Piety in the Exegesis of Cotton Mather and Jonathan Edwards,” in *Jonathan Edwards and Scripture: Biblical Exegesis in British North America*, ed. David P. Barshinger and Douglas A. Sweeney (New York: Oxford UP, 2018). 86-105.

“‘Flesh and Blood Hath Not Revealed it’: Reformation Exegetical Legacies in Pietism and Early Evangelicalism,” in *Multiple Reformations: The Many Faces and Legacies of the Reformation*, ed. Jan Stievermann and Randall C. Zachman (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2018).

*The Love of God Holds Creation Together: Andrew Fuller’s Theology of Virtue* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2018).

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

“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.

„Trumps Krieg gegen die Welt und den transatlantischen Westen,“ *Audit Committee Quarterly* 3 (2018): 44-46.

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

“Knausgaard in America: Literary Prestige and Charismatic Trust,” *Critical Quarterly* 59:3 (Special Issue: *Books in the Making*, ed. Kasia Boddy, David Winters. 2017): 55-69.

“Social Dimensions of the Turn to Genre: Junot Díaz’s *Oscar Wao* and Kazuo Ishiguro’s *The Buried Giant*,” *Post45* (2018).

“1890s Middlebrow: *Sister Carrie* as an Artist Novel,” in *Revisionist Approaches to American Realism and Naturalism*, ed. Jutta Ernst, Sabina Matter-Seibel, and Klaus H. Schmidt (Heidelberg: Winter, 2018), 117-142.

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

„Go West! Frontier und die ‘Idee’ Amerika,“ in *Kulturgeographie der USA: Eine Nation begreifen*, ed. Werner Gamerith and Ulrike Gerhard (Berlin: Springer, 2017), 5-13.

“Nuclear Winter: Prophecies of Doom and Images of Desolation During the Second Cold War,” in *Nuclear Threats, Nuclear Fear, and the Cold War in the 1980s*, ed. Eckart Conze, Martin Klimke, and Jeremy Varon (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017), 27-54.

### **Anja Schüler (HCA)**

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).

„Formen, Bilder, Sprache: Frauenbewegungskulturen im 20. und 21. Jahrhundert,“ in *Damenwahl! 100 Jahre Frauenwahlrecht*, ed. Dorothee Linnemann (Frankfurt/M.: Societäts-Verlag, 2018), 82-85.

„Der Kampf um das Frauenwahlrecht. Auch eine internationale Angelegenheit,“ *Dossier “Frauenwahlrecht” der Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung* (2018).

## **Tim Sommer (GKAT)**

"Charismatic Authorship: Walter Scott, William Wordsworth, and the Nineteenth-Century Construction of Romantic Canonicity," in *Reading the Canon: Literary History in the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Philipp Löffler (Heidelberg: Winter, 2017), 363-85.

"Review of Ben Hewitt, Byron, Shelley, and Goethe's 'Faust': An Epic Connection," *Romanticism* 23:2 (2017): 196-98.

"Review of David LaRocca and Ricardo Miguel-Alfonso (eds.), A Power to Trans-late the World: New Essays on Emerson and International Culture," *Emerson Society Papers* 28:1 (2017): 9-10.

"'Always as a Means, Never as an End': Orestes Brownson's 'Transcendentalist' Criticism and the Uses of the Literary," *New England Quarterly* 90:3 (2017): 442-72.

"Wordsworth's Nineteenth-Century American Critics," *The Wordsworth Circle* 48:3 (2017).

"Shakespearean Negotiations: Carlyle, Emerson, and the Ambiguities of Transatlantic Influence," in *Thomas Carlyle and the Idea of Influence*, ed. Paul E. Kerry, Albert D. Pionke, and Megan Dent (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2018), 129-43.

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

"Biblical Interpretation in Eighteenth-Century America," in *The Oxford Handbook to the Bible in America*, ed. Paul Gutjahr (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), 96-114.

„Christliche Kirchen und Gemeinschaften in Nordamerika bis 1800," in *Geschichte des Globalen Christentums: Frühe Neuzeit*, ed. Norman Hjelm and Jens Holger Schjørring (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2017), 533-617.

"Christian Churches and Communities in North America to 1800," in *History of Global Christianity, Vol. I: European and Global Christianity, ca. 1500-1789*, ed. Norman Hjelm and Jens Holger Schjørring (Leiden: Brill, 2017).

"The Debate over Prophetic Evidence for the Authority of the Bible in Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana*," in *The Bible in American Life*, ed. Philip Goff, Arthur Farnsley II, and Peter J. Thussen (New York: Oxford UP, 2017), 48-62.

"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).

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

Ed. with Randall C. Zachman, *Multiple Reformations: The Many Faces and Legacies of the Reformation* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2018).

"Early American Protestantism and the Confessionalization Paradigm: A Critical Inquiry," in *Multiple Reformations: The Many Faces and Legacies of the Reformation*, ed. Jan Stievermann and Randall C. Zachman (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2018), 161-188.

With Ryan Hoselton, "Spiritual Meaning and Experimental Piety in the Exegesis of Cotton Mather and Jonathan Edwards," in *Jonathan Edwards and Scripture: Biblical Exegesis in British North America*, ed. David P. Barshinger and Douglas A. Sweeney (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018), 86-105.

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

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* 1 (2017): 83-94.

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

„Kanada 150 – Nationale Erfolgsgeschichte und/oder postnationale Identitäten?“ *Zeitschrift für Kanada-Studien* 38 (2018): 114–119.

„Donald J. Trump (2017-): Die beispiellose Präsidentschaft,“ in *Die Präsidenten der USA. 45 historische Porträts von George Washington bis Donald Trump*, ed. Christof Mauch (München: C.H. Beck, 2018), 496-509.

With Anke Kessler and Andrew Sharpe, (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2018).

With Fabian Klein, Edgar von Knebel, and Claudia Zilla, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2018 Chile Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2018).

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With Paul J. Quirk and Christian Lammert, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2018 United States Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2018).

„Die Einwanderungspolitik der USA unter Trump- Was wird aus der amerikanischen Einwanderungsgesellschaft?“ in *Die USA – Eine scheiternde Demokratie?*, ed. Patrick Horst, Philipp Adorf, and Frank Decker (Frankfurt/New York: Campus Verlag, 2018), 347-366.

„Trump in Trouble? Die Halbzeitwahlen („Midterms“) zum US Kongress am 6. November 2018 als Zwischenzeugnis für Präsident Donald Trump,“ *Regierungsforschung.de* (2018).

### **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, ed. Gudrun Cyprin and Gaby Franger (Museum Frauenkultur Regional–International: Nürnberg, 2017), 94-97.

„Convenience Stores als Soziale Orte im US-amerikanischen Ghetto – Ein ethnographischer Feldbericht,“ *Geographie der Extreme HGG-Journal* 31 (2017): 13-23.

„Methodische Herangehensweise an soziologische Kapitalsorten für die Darstellung im sozialen Raum,“ in *Sozialraum erforschen: Qualitative Methoden in der Geographie*, ed. Jeannine Wintzer (Berlin: Springer Spektrum, 2018), 313-328.

## SELECTED TALKS

During 2017-18, the following HCA staff members, students, and associates gave talks at the conferences, workshops, and panel discussions listed below.

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

„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, France.

“‘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, Italy.

„Woodrow Wilson und die Russische Revolution.“ Zentrum für Europäische Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften, December 2017, Heidelberg.

„Völkerbund und Selbstbestimmung: Das Friedensprogramm des US-Präsidenten Woodrow Wilson.“ Arbeitsgemeinschaft Geschichte Bad Nauheim, February 2018, Bad Nauheim.

„Cotton Blues. Ursprünge und Formen der Sklaverei in den USA; Der Ku-Klux-Klan und die Lynchjustiz in den amerikanischen Südstaaten.“ Seminar „Afroamerikanische Geschichte und Gegenwart in der politischen Kultur der USA,“ WBZ Ingelheim, February 2018, Ingelheim.

„‘Safe for Democracy’? Die USA und der Erste Weltkrieg.“ Geschichtsverein Münsingen, March 2018, Münsingen.

„Was ist Rassismus? Ursprünge, Erscheinungsformen, Kontroversen.“ Université du Luxembourg, April 2018, Luxembourg.

„‘We are not Internationalists. We are American Nationalists.’ Woodrow Wilson und das Scheitern des Wilsonianism in den USA.“ University of Augsburg, May 2018, Augsburg.

„Völkerbund und Selbstbestimmung: Das Friedensprogramm des US-Präsidenten Woodrow Wilson.“ Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Saarbrücken, June 2018, Saarbrücken.

„The NAACP in Civil Rights Historiography.“ Symposium “New Perspectives on National and Transatlantic Dimensions of American History,“ Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, June 2018, Jena.

„Safe for Democracy? Woodrow Wilson’s Ideas of Democratization at home and abroad.“ Symposium „Vermessung einer Zeitschwelle. Die Bedeutung des Jahres 1918 in europäischer und globaler Perspektive,“ Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, November 2018, Vienna, Austria.

With Dieter Schulz, „T.S. Eliot und der Erste Weltkrieg: The Waste Land – Die Katastrophe nach der Katastrophe?“ Lecture series „Moderne Krisenliteratur,“ Heidelberg University, November 2018, Heidelberg.

„‘Für die Befreiung aller Völker, einschließlich des deutschen Volkes’: US-Präsident Woodrow Wilson und die deutsche Revolution 1918/19.“ Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut München, November 2018, Munich.

„‘Wilson-Frieden’ oder ‚Schanddiktat’? Der Versailler Vertrag in historischer Perspektive.“ Geschichtsverein Münsingen, November 2018, Münsingen.

**Florian Böller (HCA)**

“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.

“From Obsolete to Firm Commitment? Die USA, die NATO und die transatlantische Sicherheitsgemeinschaft in der Ära Trump.” Conference “Radikaler Bruch? Amerikanische Außenpolitik in der Ära Donald Trump,” December 2017, Tutzing.

“US Global Authority in Decline? The American Dream in World Politics.” Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, January 2018, Jena.

“Parliamentary Deployment Votes Database: A First Look at the US Case.” International Studies Association Annual Meeting, April 2018, San Francisco, Calif.

“Germany, the EU and US: The transatlantic relations today – current situation and perspectives.” Spring Academy, Europäische Akademie Otzenhausen, May 2018, Otzenhausen.

“Ready to Lead? Germany’s Changing Foreign Policy Role after the Ukraine Crisis.” EISA European Workshop in International Studies, June 2018, Groningen, the Netherlands.

„Wie zuverlässig ist der traditionelle Partner USA?“ Zentrum Informationsarbeit der Deutschen Bundeswehr, September 2018, Berlin.

“Transatlantic Relations under Trump: A Crisis of Trust.” United States Air Forces in Europe – Air Forces in Africa Host Nation Advisors Conference, October 2018, Ramstein.

**David Eisler (GKAT)**

“The Influence of the Shift to an All-Volunteer Force on American War Fiction.” Conference “War, Literature and the Arts,” United States Air Force Academy, September 2018, Colorado.

**Gordon Friedrichs (Institute for Political Science)**

„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, Md.

“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.

“Institutional or Moral Decay? The Trump presidency and the domestic politics of U.S. foreign policy.” Verband der deutsch—amerikanischen Clubs (VDAC), February 2018, Steinbach am Donnersberg.

“A New Great Bargain? The Emergence of Trumpian Populism and the Resilience of Transatlantic Order.” Annual Meeting of the German Political Science Association, September 2018, Frankfurt am Main.

“Undermining the global nuclear order? Impacts of unilateral negotiations between the U.S. and North-Korea.” America first – America alone, November 2018, Kassel.

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

„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.

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

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

„Zwischen Zentrum und Peripherie: Ökonomische und soziale Restrukturierungsprozesse in Kanada aus stadtgeographischer Perspektive.“ Zentrum für Kanada-Studien, Universität Wien, November 2017, Vienna, Austria.

„Jenseits von Nord und Süd: Vergleichende Stadtforschung im Kontext natürlicher und sozialer Ressourcenkonflikte.“ Marsilius-Kolleg at Heidelberg University, January 2018, Heidelberg.

“Knowledge Makes Cities. Urban Inequalities in the Recent Discourse on Knowledge-led Urban Development.” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, April 2018, New Orleans, La.

“Nachhaltige Stadtentwicklung in der Wissensgesellschaft. Ergebnisse und Erfahrungen aus über 3 Jahren Reallaborforschung.” Abschluss Symposium BaWüLabs, April 2018, Karlsruhe.

„CATS meets IBA. Über die Bedeutung von komparativer Stadtforschung Nord – Süd im neuen Asienzentrum CATS.“ Heidelberg University, June 2018, Heidelberg.

„Reurbanisierung in US-amerikanischen Städten – eine aktuelle Bestandsaufnahme?“ Vortrag im Rahmen der VL Stadtgeographie, LMU München, June 2018, Munich.

“The ‘Learning City’– Engine for participatory urban development and ‘Cities for Life’.” Fact-Finding Mission and German-Colombian Workshop “Cities for Life – Strengthening Collaboration for Sustainable Urban Solutions,” September 2018, Medellin, Colombia.

“Sustainable Urban Development – A Real-World Lab Perspective.” Sustainable Development in Action Conference, November 2018, Heidelberg.

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

„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.



“(Re-)Taking the lead: the Iranian nuclear crisis and the reallocation of leadership between the EU and the US,” Workshop “Crisis, the Politics of Resilience, and the Future of Transatlantic Relations,” Heidelberg Center for American Studies, March 2017, Heidelberg.

“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, Taiwan.

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.

“Western Hegemony in Crisis and the Reconfiguration of Global Authority”, GKAT Workshop “The Shifting Patterns of Global Authority: Driving Foreign Policy Change?” Heidelberg Center for American Studies, September 2018, Heidelberg.

„Westliche oder neue Weltordnung?“ Hambacher Gespräche, Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Rheinland-Pfalz, Oktober 2018, Neustadt an der Weinstraße.

„USA und der Iran-Deal,“ Forum für Internationale Sicherheit, November 2018, Heidelberg.

### **Ryan P. Hoselton (HCA and Faculty of Theology)**

“The Word and the Spirit: Reformation Pneumatology in the Exegesis of Jonathan Edwards.” American Historical Association/American Society of Church History, January 2017, Denver, Colo.

With Jan Stievermann, “Spiritual Meaning in 18th-Century Evangelical-Pietist Exegesis.” Conference “Multiple Reformations and the Authority and Interpretation of Scripture,” University of Notre Dame, March 2017, Notre Dame, Ind.

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

„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.“ Deutsche 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, Sweden.

„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, N.Y.

„Donald Trump und die Krise des Westens.“ The Association of American Study Abroad Programmes (AASAP), November 2017, Frankfurt/Oder.

„Die Krise des amerikanischen Imperiums.“ Farewell Lecture, Heidelberg University, February 2018, Heidelberg.

„Der Graben über dem Atlantik wird breiter: Marktlücke, Kriegslücke, Gotteslücke.“ SRH Group, April 2018, Heidelberg.

„Mut ist für mich der Mut zum eigenen, begründeten Urteil und der Wille, danach zu handeln. Für einen Historiker kann der Mut nicht die Tapferkeit eines Extremsportlers sein!“ Racket Center, May 2018, Nußloch.

“The Future of Transatlantic Relations.” Roundtable Discussion „Transatlantic Crossings. A Symposium in Honor of Detlef Junker,” Heidelberg Center for American Studies, June 2018, Heidelberg.

„The Other Alliance: Globaler Protest und Studentenunruhen in Westdeutschland und den USA 1962-1972.“ Stiftungsfest Vereinigung Alter Heidelberger Franken e.V., June 2018, Heidelberg.

„USA – Europa: Schwindende Allianz Marktlücke, Kriegsglücke, Gotteslücke.“ June 2018, Lübeck.

“The Crisis of the American Empire.” Hotel Kempinski Gravenbruch, July 2018, Gravenbruch.

"1968: A Global Revolt That Failed." Conference "Gli anni del '68. L'eredità di una stagione cinquant'anni dopo," Università degli Studi di Padova, Oktober 2018, Padua, Italy.

"Verschwörungstheorien diesseits und jenseits des Atlantiks." Nikolausseminar der Kanzlei Schlatter, November 2018, Heidelberg.

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

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

"Charisma." Conference of the Society for Novel Studies "Novel Theory," Cornell University, June 2018, Ithaca, N.Y.

„Ist das noch meine Stadt? Authentische Städte aus kommunikativer Sicht.“ Studium Generale Lecture Series „Die Stadt von Morgen – Zukunftsfragen der Gesellschaft,“ June 2018, Heidelberg.

“Don't let's be praying pompisly about our "sacred calling": Vocation and Disenchantment in Transcendentalist Authorship." Conference "Transcendentalist Intersections: Literature, Philosophy, Religion," Emerson and Fuller Societies, July 2018, Heidelberg.

„Das tiefe Selbst: Figurationen romantischer Innerlichkeit im europäischen Vergleich.“ Conference „Historische Authentizität – Subjektivierung und Vergemeinschaftung in der Moderne,“ September 2018, Potsdam.

"Becoming Black: Ch. N. Adichies *Americanah*, and Alice Goffman's *On the Run*." Conference "Post-45," Annual Symposium, November 2018, Oxford, United Kingdom

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

„100 Tage Trump – Entwicklungen in der Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik,“ Panel Discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Mai 2017, Heidelberg.

„100 Tage Trump – Eine erste Bilanz,“ Reinhold Maier Stiftung, Mai 2017, Bad Cannstatt.

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

"Measured Judgment amid Moribund Mentalities: European Center-left Governments, the Vietnam War, and Protest Movements in the 1960s," Institut für soziale Bewegungen, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, April 2018, Bochum.

"The Americas – Trends and Challenges," Expert Workshop, Robert Bosch Foundation, June 2018, Stuttgart.

"Visions of Community: Transnational Identities and the Atlantic Alliance," Discussion Paper, Global Dome 2018, June 2018, Edinburgh.

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

"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.

### **Benjamin Pietrenka (HCA)**

"Providing for Pietist Awakenings: Johannes Jänicke and Moravian Networks in the Early Nineteenth Century." Conference „Religious Revivals and their Effects: Perceptions, Media, and Networks in the Modern World," Amsterdam Center for Religious History at Vrije Universiteit, May 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

### **Anja Schüler (HCA)**

„Frauen in die Politik! 100 Jahre deutsche Demokratie." VHS Konstanz, October 2018, Konstanz.

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

„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)**

"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.

"Bardolatry and Bardoclasm in Transatlantic Perspective." Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, Fall Doctoral Meeting, November 2017, Heidelberg.

„Weltliterarische Räume, nationalkulturelle Verteilungskämpfe: Pascale Casanovas La République mondiale des Lettres und die anglo-amerikanische Literaturwissenschaft.“ Institut Culturel Franco-Allemand Tübingen, February 2018, Tübingen.

"The Limits of 'The Limits of Critique': Historicizing the (Re-)Turn to Affect." English Department, University of Heidelberg, May 2018, Heidelberg.

"Authority and Authorization in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Print Culture." June 2018, Annweiler.

"Paleo-Nationalism: Rhetorical Patterns and Argumentative Strategies in Nineteenth-Century British and American Writing about Literature and the Nation." Boston University College of General Studies, June 2018, London, United Kingdom.

"Between Autonomy and Heteronomy: Romanticism, Transcendentalism, and the Status of the Literary." Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2018, Heidelberg.

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

„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.

“Cotton Mather’s *Biblia Americana*.” Seminar “The Bible in Art, Music and Literature,” Trinity College, February 2018, Oxford, United Kingdom.

“Cotton Mather’s Biblical Politics of Religious Toleration.” Conference “Religion and Politics in Early America,” Washington University St. Louis, March 2018, St. Louis, Mo.

“American Evangelicalism and the Prussian *Erweckungsbewegung*, ca. 1800-1850.” Conference “Religious Revivals and their Effects: Perceptions, Media and Networks in the Modern World,” Amsterdam Centre for Religious History, Vrije Universiteit, June 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

„Der Religionsdiskurs des amerikanischen Transzendentalismus und seine globale Ausstrahlung.“ Conference „Globale Religionsgeschichte aus regionaler Perspektive. Eine Übersicht über die zweite Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts (ca. 1850-1914),“ University of Heidelberg. June 2018, Heidelberg.

“Emerson and the Invention of Religion(s) in the Nineteenth Century.” Conference “Transcendentalist Intersections: Literature, Philosophy, Religion,” University of Heidelberg, July 2018, Heidelberg.

“Interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures in Cotton Mather’s *Bible Americana*, 1693-1728.” Conference “Biblical Interpretation and Early Transatlantic Evangelicalism,” Southern Baptist Seminary, September 2018, Louisville, Ky.

### Sebastian Tants (GKAT)

“Enlightenment and Technology in Dave Eggers’s *The Circle*.” Heidelberg University, May 2018, Heidelberg.

## **Martin Thunert (HCA)**

„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.

„Präsidentschaftsvorwahlen – 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.

„‘(Selbst)gerecht?’ Ein Jahr mit Präsident Trump.“ Panel Discussion, Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, January 2018, Kaiserslautern.

„Amerika und die Welt nach dem ersten Amtsjahr Donald Trumps.“ Panel Discussion, Rhein-Zeitung, January 2018, Koblenz.

„Die Ära Trump und die Auswirkungen auf die internationale Sicherheitspolitik.“ Bildungszentrum der Bundeswehr, March 2018, Mannheim.

“Think Tanks: Their Significance, Their Potential, and Their Limitations.” Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Nordic Countries, March 2018, Reykjavik, Island.

With Tobias Endler, „Der große Unbekannte? Marx, die USA und die amerikanische Linke.“ Senioren-Uni Calw, SRH-Hochschule, March 2018, Calw.

„Politikberatung im Spannungsfeld von wissenschaftlicher Expertise, Populismus und medialer Transformation.“ Friedrich-Ebert Haus, September 2018, Heidelberg.

„Grundsätze und die aktuelle innen- und außenpolitische Situation der USA in der Ära Trump.“ Bildungszentrum der Bundeswehr, October 2018, Mannheim.

„Quittung für Trump? Die USA vor den Zwischenwahlen.“ Panel Discussion, Atlantische Akademie Rheinland Pfalz and Rhein-Zeitung, October 2018, Koblenz.

„US-Kongresswahl“ – Wird Trump abgestraft?“ Panel Discussion, Phoenix Runde, November 2018, Berlin.

„Halbzeit: Die USA nach den Kongresswahlen.“ Evangelische Akademie Frankfurt, November 2018, Frankfurt.

„Europa und die USA: Trouble for Trump? Die Zwischenwahlen zum US-Kongress vom 6. November 2018 und ihre Folgen.“ Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Saarland, November 2018, Saarbrücken.

With Tobias Endler, „Trumps Politik auf dem Prüfstand.“ Volkshochschule Calw, November 2018, Calw.

„‘Fire and Fury’, Lies and Leadership’: Eine Halbbilanz der unwahrscheinlichen Trump-Administration.“ Politische Akademie Tutzing, December 2018, Tutzing.

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

„Die Moral der Geschichte – Essen unter Beschuss in ‘amerikanischen Ghettos.’“ Tagung Neue Kulturgeographie, Universität Bayreuth, January 2017, Bayreuth.

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

“The Inconvenience of Convenience Stores.” 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.

„Position im Weg: Verhinderte Zugänglichkeit zum Sozialraum ‘convenience store’ in amerikanischen Ghettos.“ Deutscher Kongress der Geographie, Universität Tübingen, October 2017, Tübingen.

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

„Food and the American Ghetto – Umkämpfte Räume, umkämpftes Essen.“ Cafe Geographique, Fränkische Geographische Gesellschaft Erlangen, May 2018, Erlangen.

“Just Around the Corner: Mobility Surrounding Convenience Stores in American Ghettos.” Space and Flows Conference, October 2018, Heidelberg.

## Welf Werner (HCA and Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences)

“Economic Determinants of Populism in the United States.” 50th Anniversary of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship. Harvard University, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, September 2017, Cambridge, Mass.

„70 Jahre Marshall-Plan: Deutschland und Europa im Blick.“ Deutsch-Amerikanisches-Institut Nürnberg, November 2017, Nürnberg.

“Contemporary U.S. Trade Policy Developments.” So unfair? Donald Trump, Deutschland und die Zukunft des Welthandels, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, March 2018, Heidelberg.

„Neuere Entwicklungen in der amerikanischen Handels- und -Fiskalpolitik: Ursachen und Widersprüche.“ Wirtschaftsbeziehungen USA und Europa - Mehr als Zölle und Steuern? Heidelberg Center for American Studies, American Chamber of Commerce, June 2018, Heidelberg.

„American Studies an der Universität Heidelberg: Perspektiven und Ziele.“ Meeting of the Jacob Gould Schurman Foundation, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2018, Heidelberg.

“Trade Imbalances and Policies: China and Germany versus the U.S.?” Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) Joint Workshop: Germany and China in a New Era, Institute for Political Sciences, Heidelberg University, July 2018, Heidelberg.

“Make the Economy Great Again? Amerikas Wirtschaft im globalen Kontext.” Reign of Chaos? Die USA unter Trump vor den Zwischenwahlen. Pfalz Akademie Lambrecht, August 2018, Lambrecht.

„Das HCA: Rückblick und Zielvorstellungen.“ Meeting HCA Board of Trustees, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, November 2018, Heidelberg.

“The Trump Phenomenon: Economic Causes and Remedies.” Inaugural Lecture, Alte Aula, Heidelberg University, November 2018, Heidelberg.

“The Heidelberg Center for American Studies – Development and Structure.” Annual Meeting: Friends of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies at the University of Heidelberg, New York, November 2018, New York City.

„Kurswechsel nach den Midterms? US-Handelspolitik nach Trump.“ Panel Discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, November 2018, Heidelberg.

„America first! -Trumps Präsidentschaft: Was bringt sie seinem Land und der Welt?“ Osnabrücker Friedensgespräche, University of Osnabrück, December 2018, Osnabrück.





SPECIAL FEATURE

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### THE CRISIS OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE

BY DETLEF JUNKER

Farewell Lecture, February 8, 2018

The farewell of the HCA's founding director did not come as a surprise. However, as hundreds of guests gathered in the Neue Aula of Heidelberg University on February 8 to celebrate Professor Junker's long and distinguished career, everybody was enchanted by the warm-hearted tribute the audience and speakers paid to the historian, scholarly expert, and "academic entrepreneur."

Rector Bernhard Eitel welcomed the audience, which included the chancellor of the Ruperto Carola, three former rectors, a Heidelberg mayor, colleagues old and new, members of the Schurman Society, benefactors of the HCA, members of the Friends of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, political and cultural representatives as well as family and friends. Professor Eitel looked back at the beginnings of the HCA and emphasized the persistence its founding director had shown throughout the years. The rector struggled to believe that Detlef Junker was retiring – for real this time. Had he not already taken residence in an attic office at the HCA? From there he would support his successor Professor Welf Werner during the initial months.

The dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Professor Gerrit Kloss, then took the audience through Detlef Junker's time and work in Heidelberg. Having arrived as a professor of modern history in 1975, Detlef Junker supervised several hundred graduate theses and state exams, over thirty doctoral theses and one Habilitation during his tenure at the Department of History. But soon Professor Junker became an institution builder, initiating the Schurman Library for American History at the Department of History in 1986. In 1994, he moved to the U.S. capital to become the second director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. In 1999, he returned to Heidelberg, assuming the newly endowed Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History. Instead of retiring in 2004, he moved on to found the Heidelberg Center of American Studies, adding another dimension to American Studies at Germany's oldest university.

His successor as the Curt Engelhorn Chair, Professor Manfred Berg, thanked Detlef Junker in warm words for the support he and many scholars had received, first as students, then as colleagues. He also pointed out Professor Junker's vast and wide-ranging academic work, especially the seminal handbook *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War* that he edited during his time in Washington, D.C.

Visibly moved, Professor Junker then personally welcomed the audience and commenced his farewell lecture, which we document here.

Dear Guests

I am very thankful to all of you for honoring me with your presence here this evening. And I am very moved by the praise for my scholarly work and my activities as an academic entrepreneur.

While I was working on my farewell lecture, I had to think about a famous sentence about the Owl of Minerva – the bird of wisdom – from Hegel’s *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*. “When philosophy paints its grey in grey, one form of life has become old, and by means of grey it cannot be rejuvenated, but only known. The owl of Minerva takes its flight only when the shades of night are gathering.”



The HCA Founding Director and  
Anja van der Schrieck-Junker

Stated more simply, “hindsight is 20/20.” That is also true for my personal history. With my grey-haired reflection in the mirror, I increasingly realized what an important role the formative experiences I had at the end of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War played in awakening my interest in the topic of the United States. Allow me, therefore, to share with you some of my early experiences with America and Americans before I turn to the current crisis of the American empire.

In 1943, during an air raid on Hamburg, one of the bombs hit my hometown of Quickborn, some fifteen kilometers away. It detonated not far from our house, in – of all places – the Adolf-Hitler-Straße. My mother said, “Those are the bombs of the Americans or the English.



In the summer of 1945, British occupation officers had just thrown us out of our house, a platoon of American soldiers stopped for a break at the Market Square. We boys were hanging around, hungry as usual, and suddenly I saw him standing there: a towering, African-American GI with glaring white teeth. He gave me something that I had never had the opportunity to try before: a piece of white bread with butter and cheese. In 1947, I got a bowl of thick hot chocolate soup in school every day – a dietary supplement for schoolkids, which – as we were told – reached us thanks to former American president Herbert Hoover.

On June 20, 1948, my ninth birthday, I went to a restaurant with my father. With the monetary reform, we had received new money that day, and come Monday, we would be able to buy all the things that miraculously turned up in shop windows again. My father told me it was the Americans who had printed the money. And finally, it must have been around 1952, my father took me to the Holsten Hall in Neumünster, to see a rally with Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who looked like a wooden Indian. He declared: "Only our American friends can guarantee our safety

The Lecture Hall of the New University was filled to capacity



and freedom from the Soviet threat." This was immediately obvious to me and remained so right up until the end of the Cold War.

Based on this experiences, my early passion for politics was ignited by two questions: Why National Socialism? And: What do the Americans actually want in Germany and Europe? In the meantime, seventy years later, I think I know why the Americans were and are in Europe – as well as in all other parts of the world, on the seas, in the air, and in space. My answer is compressed into the term "Empire." For if I am speaking about the crisis of the American empire, there has to be an empire.

This assumption is in no way self-evident. Most Americans recoil at the term "empire" with regard to their nation. Imperial powers – that was what the Europeans or other empires throughout world history had been. The global power of the USA and its ability to shape events is almost always spoken of in terms like "global leadership" or "global responsibility." In connection with

their founding principle of freedom and their mission to provide the world with stability, the Americans like to speak of themselves as the “indispensable nation.” If pressed, they might agree to the term “empire of liberty.”

For example, in his famous speech in Cairo in June of 2009 that was meant to signal a new beginning between the USA and the Islamic world, President Obama passionately rejected the accusation of imperialism, stating that “America is not the crude stereotype of a self-interested empire. The United States has been one of the greatest sources of progress that the world has ever known. We were born out of the revolution against an empire. We were founded upon the ideal that all are created equal, and we have shed blood and struggled for centuries to give meaning to those words – within our borders and around the world.”

Naturally, the term “empire” was often a hotbed for theorists of empire, including scientists, intellectuals, strategists, and non-governmental organizations. The term was also used in those cases where “command” – and that is precisely the meaning of the original term empire – did not mean the direct, immediate, and complete control over a foreign territory.

There is another expanded term for imperialism, which I also use as a basis. According to this definition, an imperial power has to be capable of designing the structure of the international order in its own interests for an extended period of time and over a large physical area and be able to fight, or at least neutralize, adversaries of the system. That seems to me to be the core of the Pax Americana in the second half of the twentieth century – the age of nation states and international organizations whose legitimacy derives from the consent of those very nations.



Guests at Detlef Junker's Farewell Address, r-l: Heidemarie Engelhorn, Angelika Kalous, Gerrit Kloss, Manfred Berg, Welf Werner

What was the main reason, from my perspective, for the rise of the USA to an imperial power? It was the global expansion of America's national interest, which, at the very latest, occurred during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt – the most important president of the twentieth century. Elected four times between 1932 and 1944, Roosevelt was a president in times of great crisis. He responded to the greatest economic collapse since the beginning of the industrial revolution by implementing a program of state intervention called the New Deal. He created the modern American presidency – and, arguably, the imperial presidency as well.

Internationally, he took on the challenges presented by German National Socialism, Italian Fascism, and Japanese Imperialism with an unyielding determination – against the massive resistance of isolationists, who were rallying around the slogan "America First." Why? Because he conceived of American national interests as global. Writing to the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Joseph Grew, in January 1941, Roosevelt, for all intents and purposes, laid out the leitmotif of the dawning Pax Americana: "I believe that the fundamental proposition is that we must recog-

Rector Bernhard Eitel and Detlef Junker



nize that the hostilities in Europe, in Africa, and in Asia are all parts of a single world conflict. We must, consequently, recognize that our interests are menaced both in Europe and in the Far East. We are engaged in the task of defending our way of life and our vital national interests wherever they are seriously endangered. Our strategy of self-defense must be a global strategy which takes account of every front and takes advantage of every opportunity to contribute to our total security." A victory by the Axis powers would endanger an indivisible security, the indivisible world market and indivisible freedom, which, in Roosevelt's eyes, would represent world history's worst-case scenario.

By comparison, the isolationists were not pacifists, they were half-globalists. In their view, the vital national interests of the US, worthy of being defended by force of arms, were limited to the western hemisphere, the eastern pacific and the western Atlantic—that's to say about half of the globe. According to the isolationists, America's security was not endangered by Hitler's Germany, or by Japan. An America armed to the teeth, Fortress America, with its two-ocean fleet and a formidable air force, would intimidate any possible attackers.

Economically, the USA could also stand to lose the markets of Europe and Asia. A five percent increase in domestic trade would bring in more dollars than a one hundred percent increase in foreign trade. And it was conventional wisdom that President Woodrow Wilson's attempt to make the world safe for democracy by entering World War I and negotiating the Treaty of Versailles had utterly failed.

Roosevelt, in contrast, maintained that the challenges facing American foreign policy were so immense and interwoven that any attempt to even sketch them out would force him to consider the interdependencies of five continents and seven seas. The United States was waging war in the Atlantic and in Europe, in the Mediterranean and Africa, in the Pacific and in Asia. Not only its main adversaries in Germany, Japan, and Italy or its main allies in England and the British Empire, but also the Soviet Union and China forced Roosevelt to think in global dimensions. Important decisions in Europe were taken with regard to Asia and vice versa.

It is not a coincidence that this globalism is at the heart of all U.S. strategic planning and all national security memoranda from 1941 to the presidency of George W. Bush. The pinnacle and at the same time the tipping point of this imperial globalism was the famous, or infamous, national security memorandum of September 17, 2002. It was authored by a group of neo-conservative ideologues who wanted to take advantage of the situation after 9/11 in order to cement a Pax Americana, a de facto US global domination – and, if need be, use preemptive strikes to do so.

To be sure, this globalization of American foreign policy was also a result of the increasing interdependence of world politics as well as a reaction to the foreign policy of both adversaries and allies of the US and an often exaggerated sense of threats that were evoked in the minds of Americans and their politicians by the acts and ideologies of other states and societies around the world.

Based on Roosevelt's thinking, we can distinguish three main objectives within this American globalism: indivisible security, the indivisible world market, and indivisible freedom. Allow me to briefly outline these three indivisibilities. Considering the restrictions of time, you will have to accept my propositions as proof for the time being.

#### 1. Indivisible security

Indivisible security is to be understood as the preservation of a pro-American balance in the world and the suppression of antagonistic hegemonial powers on the Eurasian continents that could endanger the long-term security of the western hemisphere – the sanctuary of the USA. The security of the western hemisphere, at the center of which is the security of the continental United States, of course has been the top priority of American foreign policy since the famous Monroe Doctrine of 1823.

Whenever this appears to be threatened, the nation is put on red alert. An old joke about the problems of American security reflects a reality that is deeply anchored in America's collective conscience: A weak Canada to the North, a weak Mexico to the South, and to the East and West

fish as far as the eye can see. Despite the nuclear balance of mutual annihilation with the Soviet Union, and then Russia, every real or perceived threat to the security of the western hemisphere forces the U.S. government to respond. Remember the Cuba-crisis of 1962 or the reaction to 9/11. At present, we once again have an extremely dangerous situation.

Washington will not tolerate North Korean long-range missiles armed with atomic warheads that could threaten the continental United States. It is not a coincidence that in his courtesy visit at the White House with president-elect Donald Trump, President Obama spoke almost exclusively about North Korea as the greatest threat to American security. At present, Trump and the military are working on a new, more flexible nuclear strategy. In the U.S., maneuvers and war games are being developed for a second Korean War.

The HCA's Founding Director



America's global objectives have always been dialectically connected to global threat scenarios. In the case of National Socialism, the conjecture was that Hitler and Germany wanted to conquer the entire world. In the case of the Cold War, there was the subjective certainty that Communism would threaten all three indivisibilities, first in Europe and Asia, then – after the globalization of Soviet foreign policy in the Khrushchev era – in the Middle East, in Africa, and in Latin America. International terrorism is also perceived as a new global threat although President Obama warned about elevating terrorism to this level of magnitude. This is not the case with President Trump: Terrorism is at the core of his image of the enemy. What is more, this imperial power has the ability, when necessary, to forge global coalitions of different governments and systems.

We all know that since World War II, this U.S. globalism has led to a global American military establishment with alliances throughout the world; an establishment that today consumes 36 % of global military spending (by comparison: China 13 % and Russia 4.1%). Domestically safeguarded by an alliance between the military, the arms industry, and Congress, this estab-



HCA benefactor Manfred Lautenschläger

lishment has created a network of more than 1,000 (one thousand!) military bases around the world – some of which are black sites whose location is not known. If it wanted, the U.S. could pulverize any place on earth within 20 minutes. And, as already mentioned, the George W. Bush administration made explicit the mission for the foreseeable future to defend a Pax Americana against any combination of possible opponents and to forestall the rise of any regional hegemon on any continent who might threaten this global leadership role.

The centerpiece of American security policy remains the nuclear triad; that is the ability to launch nuclear-armed intercontinental missiles from ocean-cruising submarines, land-based underground silos, or airborne bombers. Admittedly, the USA has reduced its operational nuclear warheads from a peak of over 31,000 in 1967 to the present level of 4,000. By comparison, Russia has 4,300; France has 300; China 270; Great Britain 215; Pakistan 140; India 130; and Israel 80.

The danger of the North Korean dictator lies in the fact that, after Russia, he wants to be the second nuclear power with the ability to threaten the American homeland with intercontinental rockets. The visible military forces of the USA on land, at sea, in the air, and in space is supported by an invisible empire of intelligence agencies which collect information around the world by every possible means, peeking into everything, eavesdropping on everyone, and reading along everywhere – possibly even here and now.

Someone has suggested that the American motto should be expanded to read: “In God we trust – all others we monitor.” And with that I come to the second global pillar of the American empire:



## 2. The indivisible world market

This aspect of globalism is not centered on the state and security but rather the market and society. At its heart lie the terms economy and expansion. From its founding, and right up to today, the U.S. has been an economically expanding power. Until the Civil War, this mainly meant land grabbing at the expense of the three old European colonial powers, namely England, France, and Spain as well as Mexico and the Native Americans.

Of course, overseas trade had always been central to America from colonial times to the early republic and beyond. But after the industrial revolution and the closing of the frontier, this expansion underwent a change in form and meaning. For many, from this point on, American foreign policy can be seen as essentially a reflex of a liberal capitalist system inherently dependent on

Reinhard Bütikofer, MdEP



external expansion; a nexus that is always recognized by the nation's foreign policy decision-makers. Indeed, round the world, this is the standard interpretation of American foreign policy by political factions on the left.

I cannot, of course, adequately analyze today the growing importance of the American economy within the frame of the global economy of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. But a snapshot is possible: The United States was the only great power to become wealthier as a result of both World War One and World War Two – the Soviet Union and Great Britain (not to mention France) had basically fought their economies into the ground. In 1945, Washington held two-thirds of the global gold reserve.



An undamaged economy, with an extraordinarily high level of productivity and a huge competitive advantage, stood across from the decimated Eurasian continents. From Vladivostok to London, there was no economic region that could compete with the USA. In addition, during the war, the U.S. had also penetrated even deeper into the markets of Latin America. Making up over one-half of the worldwide production of industrial goods, its percentage was even higher than in the years between 1925 and 1929: Once again, the USA was by far the strongest exporting nation.

Already during the war, at the Bretton Woods conference in 1944, the U.S. managed to designate the U.S. dollar, together with gold, as the leading reserve and transaction currency. The Americans dominated the newly founded International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. With their aim of dismantling tariffs and other trade barriers, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) of 1947, as well as the later World Trade Organization (WTO), embodied America's fundamental ideas of free trade and an "open door."

After 1945, and in contrast to the interwar period, the U.S. played by the rules and gradually reduced tariffs. Driven by memories of the Great Depression and its political consequences around the world in the 1930s, America was now determined to replace England as the guarantor of a liberal global economic order and an indivisible world market.

Until the election of Donald Trump and throughout all the cyclical crises of market capitalism – since 1900, the U.S. has survived twenty-one recessions and the Great Depression of 1929 – the country stuck to the principle of rule-based, open markets, partly



Guests of the reception in the HCA Atrium

because, for decades, it was the hegemon of this system. Until today, they alone are able to print the leading global currency – namely, the dollar. The dollar continues to be the reserve currency of the world. Ninety percent of bank-financed transactions take place in dollars – a most dangerous weapon when it comes to economic sanctions.

The indivisible world market is also the basis for what is generally meant by the term “Americanization,” namely, the enormous influence of the American knowledge and culture industry, especially an entertainment sector that dominates global pop culture. Already in 1976, the film director Wim Wenders claimed, “the Americans have colonized our subconscious.”

With the messages transported by U.S. pop culture – freedom, independence, expanse, consumption, violence, and sex – it would seem that global dreams are being simultaneously represented and created. And as you all know, American English has become the international lingua franca. These days, no head waiter can do without it.

And this brings me to the third main argument as to why I consider the United States to be an imperial power. It is an aspect of American globalism that the rest of the world has the most difficulties to grasp. Security and economy seem to be immediately obvious, but when it comes to American values, or, if you prefer, American ideology, things become more convoluted.

### 3. Freedom: the civil-religious founding principle of the USA

In American history and society, there is a deeply embedded religiosity that is not only central to myriads of religious denominations but also to America’s civil religion. The core of this civil religion consists in the trinity of God, country, and freedom. This American creed creates meaning and bestows a sense of community, which has always bound American society together. In the American Revolution, Christianity merged with Enlightenment ideas and a missionary zeal for democracy and freedom, creating a uniquely American form of civil religion. America, it is said, is a nation with the soul of a church. The American nation does not have an ideology; it is an ideology.

America’s culture of remembrance and its memory politics, its national holidays and rituals, and in particular the rhetoric of its presidents were all centered around the ideas and the symbolic world of this civil religion with its ecumenical concept of God. Almost all Americans embrace the national motto “In God We Trust,” which you can find on the back of every dollar bill, or the phrase “One Nation under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance. This religiosity also means that, while Americans can in the meantime imagine an African-American or a woman as president, they cannot imagine electing an atheist or secular humanist.

The debate over America’s special mission of freedom, its relationship to God, providence, and history, has been going on since the first settlement was founded – that is to say: for more than 400 years. This on-going discourse, in modern parlance, about the special mission of the United States, its uniqueness, and its chosenness, has itself become the core of American identity. This

civil-religious mission of freedom has made it possible for the vast majority of Americans – a few perennial dissidents aside – to vindicate every single war and military intervention in their history (from the Indian wars of old to the modern wars in Afghanistan and Iraq) as a just war, a *bellum iustum*.

This is precisely what President Obama did in 2009 when he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. In his address, he used the word “peace” thirty-two times but the word “war” forty-four times, emphasizing that evil existed in the world and that sometimes there was no choice but to fight against it. Naturally, Hitler and the Nazis served as exhibit A. However, every American enemy will ultimately find itself caught up in what I have called the Manichaean trap of America’s missionary calling.

Setbacks and defeats have not yet led Americans to abandon this calling. It is well known that the overwhelming majority of American attempts either during or after a military intervention to establish and stabilize democratic governments have failed; Germany, Japan, and South Korea being the exceptions. Iraq and Afghanistan are about to be added to the list of failed American attempts to bring people and states freedom through the use of force. And yet, prior to the presidency of Donald Trump, it has proven extremely difficult for Americans to turn away from their civil-religious mission. After all, a defining characteristic of worldly utopias is that they, like religions, do not allow their utopian surpluses, their core of hope, to be destroyed by wretched realities and unpleasant facts.

That is also true for America’s civil-religious principle of freedom. Hope for a better future, faith in another chance and in progress and improvement for the human race – all these inform the nation’s missionary calling.

George W. Bush, to be sure, very much belonged to those countless generations of Americans who interpreted the history of their chosen nation as a continuous track record of ever-increasing freedom. In this respect, he in no way stood outside the American tradition but rather exhibited substantial overlaps with his predecessors, from Woodrow Wilson to Bill Clinton, and even with his successor Barack Obama.

America’s self-perception as the cradle of freedom and justice, has led to the founding of the League of Nations in 1919 and the United Nations in 1945. It legitimated the struggle against National Socialism, Japan’s imperialism, and Communism. It also turned the United States into the midwife, first of Western European integration after 1945 and then of a Germany reunified in peace and freedom in 1990. Without the U.S., reunification would have failed on account of Western European reservations.

It is precisely this founding principle of freedom that makes it impossible for most Americans to characterize their country’s foreign policy as “imperial.”

This will have to suffice for an explanation of my leitmotif of the global expansion of America's national interest as the structural basis for the country's imperial rule. I will now turn to the crisis of the American empire, or, if you like, to the world-historical decline of the U.S., which, and this is the main thesis of my lecture, absolutely cannot be understood without knowing the structure of an empire.

#### 4. The crisis of the American empire

The crisis of the American empire signifies the dwindling capability of the United States to shape the global order according to its own interests and values. Indivisible security and indivisible freedom are crumbling and possibly the indivisible world market as well.

At the same time and causally connected to the crisis of external globalization, a crisis of internal globalization is emerging in the United States. The multi-ethnic immigrant society, a potential global cosmos unto itself, is being threatened at its very core: by racism, violence, drug and prescription medicine abuse; by the chasm between rich and poor; urban and rural; Wall Street, Main Street, and Skid Row; by the divide between Democrats and Republicans; and by a dysfunctional Congress. Increasing numbers of historically-minded Americans wonder whether their nation is approaching a pre-civil war situation. My following remarks will, however, focus on the crisis of external globalization.

In this crisis situation, a minority of Americans, some thirty percent of eligible voters, have – against all predictions, but thanks to American voting rules – elected a great wrecking ball to be

Matthias Molt in conversation with the rector



president of the United States. Donald Trump is simultaneously the most graphic manifestation of the crisis and its most powerful accelerator.

Ladies and gentlemen, when it comes to Donald Trump, I assume my experience is similar to yours: I no longer know what to say about Trump. The day after his election, I asserted publicly



Klaus Schwabe

that he had neither the character nor the judgement to responsibly execute the office of the president of what is still the most powerful nation on earth. Recently, a *New York Times* editorial asked: "Is Mr. Trump Nuts?" According to the *New York Times*, this is the wrong question to ask. One should neither attempt a psychiatric analysis of him, nor kick him out of office via impeachment. Rather, the verdict on a president who – "nuts" or not – is clearly unfit to govern, should be handed down by Americans in the next election.

Therefore, I will limit myself to only a few remarks on Trump: yes, in my opinion, Trump is a pathological narcissist, who, since his early childhood, stands at the center of his own universe. Pathological means that, while he has an inflated and grandiloquent infatuation with himself, he is also in need of constant praise and adulation from others. He has to experience himself as a sensation in the news every morning in order to reinvigorate himself. This is why he blesses the world with tweets even before breakfast.

Whoever wants something from him has to flatter and lavish excessive praise on him. If need be, he is not above capturing his cabinet or the captains of industry in Davos on film as they recite their declarations of devotion. Whoever criticizes him immediately becomes his enemy. Already any hint of criticism or disloyalty is a sin: "Then you will be fired!" Trump is a notorious gambler and swindler, a racist and sexist, without any regard for a free press or the rule of law. He is the quintessential Social Darwinist who considers life to be a brutal jungle. There are only winners and losers. Already as a child, his father inculcated him with the advice "Be a killer." That said, my only explanation for his behavior toward Putin is that he may be susceptible to blackmail.

Donald Trump has no political experience and no knowledge of the world – not even about the history and constitution of his own country. He is not capable of reading detailed memos and does not even care for the president’s daily brief, a concise summary put together by America’s intelligence agencies. He has decapitated the Department of State, where the largest knowledge about the world is assembled. Now he is busy trying to decapitate the FBI and the Justice Department. If Republicans do not stop him soon, he will corrupt the system of checks and balances.

Perhaps the worst part for an empire in crisis is the fact that the president cannot stick to a thought for any period of time. He continually contradicts himself, and no one knows what headline he will produce the next day. The American media has documented thousands of false and misleading presidential statements. It is thus understandable that his lawyers in the White House absolutely want to prevent him from having to undergo a personal deposition with special counsel Robert Mueller, since, in such an interview, he would most likely risk his neck with careless talk.

Welf Werner talks to Nancy Fischer (l) and Kirsten Fischer (r)



There is, as I see it, one exception to Trump’s incalculability. At least since the 1970s, he is obsessed with the idea that the American people have been continually exploited by the very international order the United States itself created. He sees the U.S. as a victim, put in chains by multilateral agreements and institutions. With the slogans “America First” and “Make America Great Again” he promises his voters that, by fighting the rest of the world and making bilateral deals, he will give the American nation back its fair share.



With this president, the U.S. will not be able to stop the crisis of the empire – neither the erosion of indivisible security, nor of indivisible freedom, nor most likely the erosion of the indivisible world market.

## 5. The crisis of indivisible security

I will begin with the crisis of indivisible security. The Eurasian continents, including Europe, are increasingly escaping from American influence. This is also true for the Near East, Africa, and Latin America. The globalization of American national interest is being pruned back.

Xi Jinping, president of the People’s Republic of China and General-Secretary of the Communist Party of China, has come out of the woods. China’s claim to world power status is becoming increasingly more overt. The country is systematically expanding its influence on all continents. While China’s rise over the last decades was defined primarily in economic terms, Xi increasingly lays claim to global political leadership. The Chinese are also active militarily in other corners of the world.

At the same time, the country is becoming increasingly authoritarian and communist. The old hope of the West that a period of democratization would follow on the heels of China’s economic upturn has foundered. Repression is on the rise in all areas of life. The country is gradually devolving into a form of Asian despotism. In Xi’s words: “With decades of hard work, socialism with Chinese characteristics has crossed the threshold into a new era.”

It is a national socialism that does not recognize any kind of freedom. The new despotism comes on velvet paws but, once in possession of power, strikes mercilessly. Unlike Trump’s America, however, China has a strategy. A businesswoman whose company is present everywhere on the world markets told me recently that she fears the Chinese communists much more than the American protectionists.

Eurasia is also at the center of the worldview of the new dictator Putin, who has now enforced conformity on all of Russia’s institutions. In the name of a new Greater Russia, Putin is following an expansionist foreign policy aimed at a new Eurasian order. Following that old long-term goal of the Soviet Union to separate Europe from the U.S., he is making every effort to destabilize not only the United States but also the democratic and constitutional governments in Europe. Although economically underdeveloped and completely dependent on the sale of raw materials, Putin has resolutely modernized Russia’s military forces and thereby forced his way into the Mediterranean, always remembering the traditional goal of the czars.

The new dictator Erdogan dreams of a new Ottoman Empire. He already has the new palace for it. The Iranian theocracy longs for a new Persian Empire reaching at least to the Mediterranean. And I have already spoken about North Korea. But the United States is also largely powerless when it comes to the self-destruction of the Muslim-Arab world, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the terrorist war against western modernity. Parts of Africa and large areas of South America



are sinking into chaos, violence, corruption, and misery. The United States, and naturally Europe as well, that is to say the transatlantic west, are increasingly incapable of shaping the world according to their values and interests.

## 6. The crisis of the indivisible world market

That brings me to the world market. In this area, it is not quite clear if and to what degree the American position is in crisis. The global economy is booming, and the USA still has a powerful national economy. Above all, we do not yet know if the protectionist and nationalist Donald Trump will really endanger the rule-based exchange of capital and goods and thereby the indivisible world market. In any case, he could not have granted a bigger boon to the Chinese than to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). His promised withdrawal from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is still under debate.

Concerning the world market, I am continually bothered by another worry: a worry about the influence of the financial industries, which nation states are clearly unable to control, and the potential for blackmail that this influence entails. This worry is only added to by the planned

Former HCA staff Christian Kempf and Marie-Luise Bischoff



deregulation of the capital markets. Since the great recession of 2008, the debt of nation states, banks, and companies has roughly doubled. Critics and pessimists claim that the “residual risk” of the minimally regulated and growing financial bubble is only exceeded by the “residual risk” of the nuclear industry. We are all on the Titanic cruising toward the next bursting of the credit and capital bubbles – and with no lifeboats to boot since neither nation states nor taxpayers will be able to foot the bill again. According to the famous economist Joseph Schumpeter, genius rides to success upon the horse of debt. What he does not say is that these debts have to remain reasonable and actually have to be repaid eventually.

Regarding the structure of the finance-driven global economy I will mention only two figures: Global assets have risen from 119 trillion dollars in 2000 to 267 trillion in 2015. Global financial institutions represent almost four times the value of the market for goods, and the gap gets larger every year. Bonds, stocks, and loans worth almost 270 trillion dollars tower over a more or less stagnating real economy valued at 73 trillion dollars. This difference does not even include the so-called derivatives, those hotly speculative investments in the future, or, in Warren Buffett's words, rather "weapons of mass destruction."

The concept of *creatio ex nihilo*, creation out of nothing, has been considered an attribute of God within the history of theology ever since the second century. Today, central banks and large financial institutions have taken the place of God. They offer credit and print money without any real collateral or counter-value while being advised by really existing economists.

## 7. The crisis of indivisible freedom

Which leads me to the crisis of freedom. President Trump is working to destroy the core values of the American empire. He obviously considers the American founding principles of freedom and human rights to represent pure naivety and nonsense.



Anja van der Schriek-Junker and Detlef Junker with artist Herbert A. Jung

While in the history of the American empire there have always been enormous discrepancies between professed values and de facto actions, up to now no U.S. president has so often avoided mentioning the theme of freedom when speaking to autocrats and dictators. In doing so, he not only threatens the identity of Americans, but also America's moral capital throughout the world. Yet, Americans cannot remove freedom from the "holy trinity" of God, country, and freedom without paying a price. In this sense, a recent front cover of *Der Spiegel*, which showed Donald Trump

holding a bloody knife after having beheaded the Statue of Liberty, illuminates a core problem of Trump's America that, to be sure, has sparked a heated debate in the U.S. as well.

Dear guests, I truly regret that I am not able to offer you an optimistic message today. Which is why I want to remind you of the oldest rule of diplomacy: Don't kill the messenger. So I hope I will manage to get out of the New Lecture Hall alive.

So is there no hope? Yes, actually there is, because the future is fundamentally open. It is at least plausible – I do not want to speculate on the probability – that America can free itself from its serious crisis, beginning with the great wrecking ball not being reelected. It is plausible that the Republican Party frees itself from the Babylonian captivity of "big money." It is plausible that the divided Democrats will unite around a common political center. It is plausible that the Americans will amend their voting laws. Yes, it is even plausible that a new Franklin D. Roosevelt rises from the ashes like a Phoenix and tries to unite the country.

If you allow me to make a value judgement here at the end, I believe Germans and Europeans have a vital interest in such an outcome. The values for which the transatlantic west stands can only be defended together. Alone, we cannot preserve Europe's security, its prosperity, or its freedom. About this our old Adenauer was right.

HCA Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach and Anja van der Schriek-Junker take a first look at the Founding Director's portrait



But there is also another hope "closer to home." Despite the turbulence of the global situation, the HCA will stay true to its mission of describing, explaining, and understanding the USA and the transatlantic relationship. We will continue to be committed to the enlightenment and to the hypothetical application of rational inquiry. I am absolutely sure that my successor, Professor Welf Werner, will continue to lead the HCA by this same guiding spirit.

After Professor Junker's Farewell Address, the audience expressed its respect and admiration for his work with a long round of applause. His guests then crossed the Universitätsplatz over to the HCA, where many toasts and another surprise awaited the HCA's founding director: His portrait by the Heidelberg artist Herbert A. Jung, which now adorns the HCA's Atrium.





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 twenty-second and twenty-third semesters of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar. Our cooperation partners in 2017-18 were the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT); the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg; the Carl-Schurz-Haus/Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut, Freiburg; the Fulbright Commission; the Historisches Seminar, Heidelberg University; the Office for Equal Opportunity, Heidelberg University; the Faculty of Theology, Heidelberg University, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, and the Margaret Fuller Society. We wish to thank this committed network of partners for their continued support.

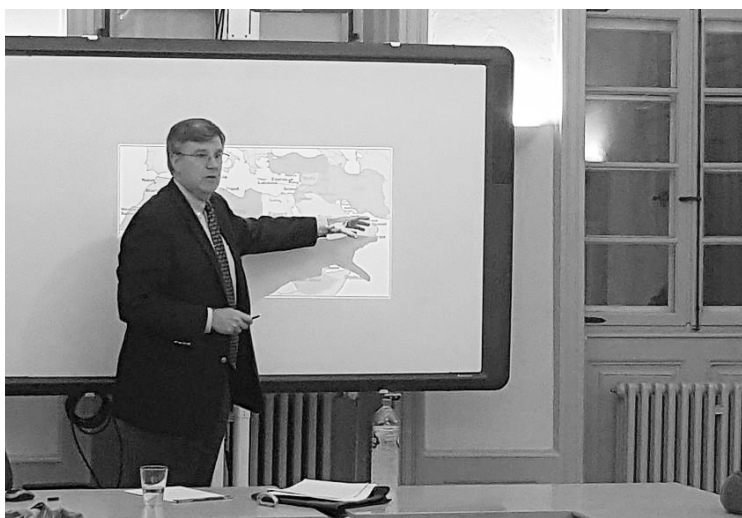


## FALL SEMINAR 2017

The twenty-second semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar presented distinguished scholars from Texas A&M University, the University of Edinburgh, Harvard Divinity School, the University of South Carolina, the University of Connecticut, Harvard University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Notre Dame as well as author Deborah Feldman and food writer Laura Shapiro.

F. Gregory Gause, professor for international affairs and head of the International Affairs Department of the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University, opened the 2017 fall program of the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar on October 5. The John H. Lindsay '44 Chair reflected on current American foreign political approaches to the Middle East under President Trump in a lecture co-hosted by the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg. After a brief introduction by the Ben-Gurion-Chair for Israel/Middle East Studies Professor Johannes Becke, Professor Gause commenced his lecture with a detailed analysis of President Trump's foreign policy actions in the Middle East. To the surprise of his audience, Professor Gause emphasized that President Trump's foreign policy continued traditional American approaches to the Middle East. While other areas of current American foreign and domestic policy had experienced drastic changes in the wake of his presidency, Trump's stance on Middle East issues is largely in accord with most of his predecessors' actions.

Professor Gause demonstrated that especially President Trump's counter terrorism actions relate to American public opinion and continue the work of former presidents. He noted that Trump's campaign promise to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem had quickly given way to a renewed commitment to support an Israeli-Arab peace treaty. And while President Trump had advocated for a decreased involvement in the Middle East on the campaign trail, an increased use of airpower in Syria and the deployment of new troops to Afghanistan in fact pointed towards a greater involvement in the Middle East. Furthermore, recent changes in the



F. Gregory Gause

ranks of White House staff have moderated the former hardline islamophobic, anti-Muslim rhetoric that had characterized the beginning of the Trump administration under former White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon and former National Security Advisor Lieutenant General Michael Flynn. With newly appointed National Security Advisor Lieutenant General H. R. McMaster, Professor Gause argued, the administration has taken another step towards continuing the Middle East policy initiated by Trump's predecessors. However, Professor Gause also remarked that so far the Trump administration has demonstrated a different attitude towards Iran and the nuclear deal. Here, President Trump was more confrontational than President Obama had been, and the Trump administration has introduced the possibility of a regime change. However, F. Gregory Gause emphasized, this was more consistent with American foreign policy approaches to Iran since 1979 in general than political actions initiated under former President Obama in particular.

After his detailed comparison, Professor Gause then addressed the question why the public perceived Donald Trump as a more "dangerous" president, especially regarding foreign policy. In his opinion, Trump's instant reactions to political issues, which undercut public statements of other White House officials, could do serious damage to diplomatic relations. Moreover, they left spectators and politicians alike wondering who actually spoke for the White House and who really represented American foreign policy. In his closing remarks, Professor Gause gave possible reasons for the Trump administration's unexpected continuity in its approach to the Middle East. While economic ties to the Middle East were a measure to secure European access to oil, the majority of political actions reflected American public opinion. On the one hand, there had been broad public support in the U.S. for the state of Israel since the Yom Kippur War in 1973; on the other hand, the public continued to demand a vigilant counter terrorism policy as a result of the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. Professor Gause thus concluded that continuity in the political approach to the Middle East was more likely under President Trump than his initially promised drastic changes. These and other issues regarding America in the Middle East were then discussed in the lively debate that followed Professor Gause's remarks.

On October 11th, the HCA was delighted to welcome Juliet Kaarbo, co-director of the Center for Security Research and Professor for Foreign Policy at the University of Edinburgh, to the Baden-Württemberg Seminar. Professor Kaarbo presented her current research project, which applies role theory to the Brexit in the first joined event hosted by the HCA and the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT). After a brief introduction by Professor Sebastian Harnisch of the Institute for Political Science at Heidelberg University, Juliet Kaarbo began to elaborate on the insights her project had to offer. She explained to the audience that role theory treats international and domestic politics as a series of actions on a global stage, and that it attributes corresponding roles to regional, national, and international actors. Role theory further assumes that the roles states play are a product of both their position on stage and their socialization through other actors. Professor Kaarbo is therefore eager to find out how, why, and when states' roles change.

Here, Juliet Kaarbo and her colleagues Kai Oppermann and Ryan Beasley researched role transformation as an event triggered by internal contestation and external socialization. While internal contestation seems to be more influential regarding Brexit, Kaarbo argued that external

socialization, a process during which a state crafts its role according to its interaction with other states, has had a similarly significant impact on the transformation of the U.K.'s global role. Especially the issue of U.K. sovereignty lies at the center of both the internal and the external discourse. This nexus between sovereignty and the U.K.'s role transformation has raised the question of whether including such a characteristic into role theory could improve the theories on organizational capacity regarding the Brexit. Transforming a state's role through the medium of sovereignty exposes not only the actual and idealistic value of sovereignty but more importantly highlights the distribution of power and provides opportunity to transfer it to other institutions. It is also helpful to include it in order to observe implications on other states regarding a changed sovereignty role of one actor. While it might lead to new allies, it could also estrange old ones. Brexit is therefore not simply the U.K.'s attempt to transform its sovereignty; it eventually forces the E.U. to position itself accordingly, demonstrating the interconnectedness of all roles on stage. Moreover, it could lead to a broad reevaluation of the concept of sovereignty affecting every sovereign role on the global stage.

Professor Kaarbo also demonstrated how these theoretical aspects manifested themselves and led to a role contestation on many sites in the case of Brexit. While the original attempt had been to regain national sovereignty, which had been lost in the process of pooling sovereignty in the E.U., the contestation had rapidly spread to the courts, the parliament, and the parts of the United Kingdom. Consequently, Brexit is now intertwined in a multitude of complex regional and national issues. International pressure on the U.K. to remain part of the E.U. has quickly given way to "sovereignty skirmishes" after the referendum. Among others, Scotland, Gibraltar, and the Chagos Islands are prominent examples of those skirmishes demonstrating the U.K.'s struggle to redefine its new role. Professor Kaarbo closed on the note that a distinct understanding of sovereignty norms had prevailed the Brexit and that it could thus have lasting impacts on those norms and how other actors understood them. Intrigued by this theoretical and empirical work, the audience embraced the chance to discuss aspects of the project with Juliet Kaarbo, who elaborated on her talk and offered speculations during the ensuing animated debate.



Juliet Kaarbo



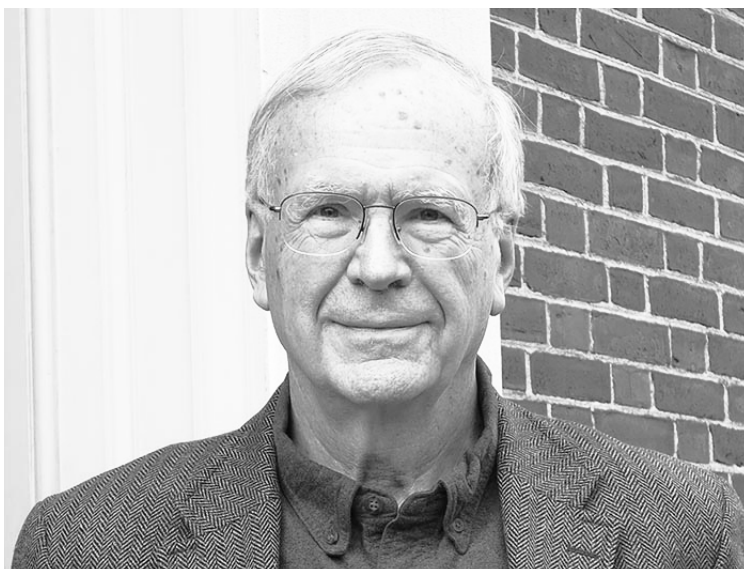
Deborah Feldman signing books at a reading in Freiburg

On October 19, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar took place in Freiburg, where Deborah Feldman read from her autobiography *Unorthodox: The Story of My Hasidic Roots* as well as from her new book *Überbitten*. Raised as a member of the Hasidic Satmar group in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Deborah Feldman left this oppressive environment in 2006 with her small son, started blogging, and published her autobiography, which became an instant bestseller. Resettling in Berlin, Deborah Feldman continued reporting on her life. The sizeable audience at Artjamming was fascinated by the account of her childhood and youth as well as by the sequel that describes the extensive reading and travel that helped her find her cultural roots.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued in Heidelberg on October 26 with a talk by David D. Hall, Bartlett Professor of New England Church History Emeritus at Harvard Divinity School, who spoke on "The Origins of Puritanism: or the Politics of 'Reformation' in Sixteenth-Century Britain." David D. Hall has taught at Harvard Divinity School since 1989. His work has shaped and re-shaped Puritan Studies and the history of American religion. At the HCA, he talked about religion and society in seventeenth-century New England and England in line with his current project, a general history of Puritanism in England, Scotland, and New England c. 1550 to 1700, to be published by Princeton University Press.

Professor Hall started his talk with a brief run through the kings, queens, and beheadings in sixteenth-century England and Scotland. He compared the circumstances in England and Scotland, introducing the Scottish reformer John Knox and the English reformer Thomas Sampson. In England, Thomas Sampson, a formerly exiled left wing Protestant, was not pleased with the state of affairs, especially the manner of worship he yearned to "purify." Meanwhile, through her bishop, Elizabeth I. ordered the ministers to wear a surplice instead of the Geneva gown and thus triggered the beginning of protestant non-conformity – thirty-seven ministers denied. The Scottish monarch, Mary of Guise, had to submit to a stern sit-down with Puritan leaders, who convinced her to go public with her Puritan beliefs. In 1561, the Scottish Book of Common Prayer was published, an English translation of the Geneva Order. While the Scots remained suspicious of their English neighbors, the English admired the Scots for their promotion of Puritanism.

Charles I. wanted to unite the whole of England in their manner of worship and asked Scottish bishops to help him create a prayer book. The English were less than amused; the bishops had feces thrown at them in public, and three men lost their ears and were branded as blasphemers and traitors. However, the king needed the Scots to promote Puritanism. His father had drilled fear of Presbyterianism into him because it would turn people against the crown eventually. The Puritans who founded communities in America in the seventeenth century tried to erase anti-democratic sentiments, Professor Hall stated. Their congregations encompassed groups within who put limitations on who could join the sacrament. One of the main ideas behind David Hall's research was the question of how oppressive the Puritans had been as a society – probably less than we imagine. For example, Puritans had pressed for marriage to become a civil act – the result was that divorce became possible. In the ensuing discussion, the audience wanted to find out more about a particular step towards democratization: education. The literacy rate was much higher in the U.S. than in England, and over forty percent of all Massachusetts households owned a Bible and were able to read it.



David Hall  
(Photo courtesy of Rare Books  
Library, University of Virginia)

On November 9, Thomas Brown from the University of South Carolina, who currently holds the Fulbright Distinguished Chair at Uppsala University, followed the HCA's invitation to speak at its Baden-Württemberg Seminar. Professor Brown talked about "The Rise and Fall of Confederate Monuments," relating to the book he is currently completing, entitled *The Reconstruction of American Memory: Civic Monuments of the Civil War*. Throughout the South, but mainly in New Orleans, Baltimore, and Dallas, Confederate monuments are being removed, Professor Brown pointed out. Why now? Monuments to commemorate and celebrate the Confederate Army, often expressing blatantly racist mindsets, were erected until the 1950s, and the public at least had tolerated them until recently. Professor Brown showed images of two monuments: the Farragut monument, located in New York City's Madison Square, commemorating Admiral David Glasgow





Thomas Brown

Farragut, who, during the Civil War, captured New Orleans and won the Battle of Mobile Bay, and the Lincoln Memorial in Chicago; both were designed by the sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Professor Brown pointed out, how, for a long time, only Civil War leaders had been depicted. The common foot soldier monuments became only popular at the end of the nineteenth century when the soldier replaced the farmer as the model citizen. Furthermore, the location of the monuments and statues changed over the years. First, monuments were erected mainly on cemeteries, highly political spaces, as the example of Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn shows. There were differences in commemoration between the North and the South. For one, the South possessed the remains of its soldiers, while most of the Northerners died a long way from home. Interestingly, the Civil War was the first war in which soldiers did not die namelessly but received an identification tag, a piece of paper, metal, or wood, which was pinned to the inside of their uniforms or worn around their necks. Many Civil War monuments were built with the support of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), by some estimates the majority of the over seven hundred statues and monuments that were built in the seventy-five years after the war, including the Confederate Memorial on the Arlington National Cemetery.

When did the building of monuments stop? Monuments were built for pedestrians, Professor Brown said. With the introduction of cars into traffic, a spatial change occurred. A cultural change was brought on by cinema, where moving pictures impressed crowds far more than bronze statues. Recently, more and more monuments have fallen. The controversial Nathan Bedford Forrest statue in Nashville, Tennessee, had been vandalized regularly over the years and more recently covered with #Black Lives Matter graffiti, stated Professor Brown. The #Black Lives Matter movement played an enormous role in the discourse about Confederate monuments. In 2017 the Jefferson Davis Monument in New Orleans was removed by order of the city council, albeit under protest. Important examples in the current debate are the Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and the Robert E. Lee monuments in Emancipation Park, Charlottesville, Virginia. They were erected in 1921 and 1924. Emancipation Park used to be an African American neighborhood called McKee Row. This rowdy street was torn down after World War I, and memorials to two of the

most notorious Southern generals were positioned in the middle of it. The idea to remove them was sparked in the aftermath of the death of Heather Heyer, who was killed in August 2017 by a car racing into a group that protested a rally of white nationalist and other right-wing organizations. The city council unanimously voted to cover the two statues with black tarps immediately afterwards. People contesting the covering up or removal of Confederate monuments often claim statues commemorate the person, not the deed. On a narrow level, the removals happen for two reasons: to speak out against government-sponsored racism and to not devalue the change legislation underwent during and after the Civil Rights Movement. On a broader level, the monuments stand for the origins of iconoclasm, violent racist outbursts, and the social organization of violence, Professor Brown stated. Furthermore, he added, the monuments offered models of a violent regulation of the racial order, as in monuments celebrating racial segregation. After his talk, Professor Brown was bombarded with questions concerning the removal of monuments. There was a clear rift in the audience between those who wished them gone and those who had the feeling history would be incomplete in its documentation if the statues were removed. To this Professor Brown answered that there were “many forms of remembrance, and the most democratic seemed the book.”

On December 5, the HCA was delighted to welcome Professor Frank Costigliola, the Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor at the University of Connecticut, to its Baden-Württemberg Seminar. Professor Costigliola, who is an old friend of the HCA, came to Heidelberg to talk about the so-called “father of Cold War containment policy,” George Kennan, and his idea of political *raison*. Kennan had lived in Europe before, during, and after World War II and had been fluent in German, Russian, and other European languages. To witness the immense destruction the war brought over places he loved, particularly Hamburg, had a lasting impact on Kennan’s opinion about war. He became an expert for the Soviet Union, trained at the embassy in Berlin, and eventually an American diplomat to Moscow from 1934-37. Early on, Kennan had developed a passion for Russian culture and a deep affection for the Russian people, holding very romantic ideas and opinions about them and their lifestyle. Yet, he also felt strongly about the Soviet



Frank Costigliola



government, which he saw as a threat to the good nature of the Russian people. During his time in Moscow, he formed a deep bond to the city and its inhabitants, some of whom later became victims of Stalin's purges and executions. Even though Kennan often tried to build understanding for the Russian point of view, his writings from Moscow shaped the United States Cold War policy of containment and early on defined the Soviet threat.

After giving the audience a comprehensive overview over Kennan's biography, Professor Costigliola, the editor of the *Kennan Diaries*, then proceeded to elaborate on the significance of studying Kennan's character. Analyzing Kennan's writings could demonstrate the inadequacy of the widely accepted so-called "body-mind-polarity," which assumes a strict separation between emotions and emotional thinking (body) and reason and rational thinking (mind). Although Kennan saw himself as a rational person capable of monitoring his emotions and those of others, he was prone to a mystical romanticism and often displayed an explosive temper. Therefore, Professor Costigliola argued, it is necessary to investigate his life according to how he conceptualized thoughts, feelings, and behavior. While emotion and reason were carefully balanced in most of his reports to Washington, Kennan's psychological trauma triggered by Stalin's violent purges changed this dynamic. He struggled to report neutrally on the excessive trials and executions of Red Army officers and felt like his Western analytical mind made it impossible for him to comprehend the purges at all. In his historical review of the purges published in 1968, Kennan thus demanded that the leaders atoned for their sins. Eventually he began to advocate in favor of certain Kremlin leaders and to criticize decisions made by NATO. Even though his endeavor to bring the Russian and the American people closer together failed, Kennan is a powerful example to counter the idea of a purely rational policymaker or diplomat. He, who thought of himself as the pinnacle of reason, was overcome by his emotionality, which in return influenced his rational decision-making. Professor Costigliola closed on the note that such examples are key to leading the humanities and political sciences to a more suitable definition of integrated rational thinking that can never be detached from emotional opinions.

Organizers and audience of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar had been very much looking forward to the first speaker of the New Year: author and food historian Laura Shapiro, the author of, among others, the critically acclaimed biography *Julia Child: A Life* (2007). Laura Shapiro's most recent journey, which would end with the publication of *What She Ate: Six Remarkable Women and the Food That Tells Their Stories*, the subject of her talk at the HCA, started with a woman whose biography eventually did not make it into the book: Inez Haynes Irwin. She became a suffragist because of food. For her, the weekly Sunday lunch, including a big rare roast, stood for all that was rotten and wrong with the sexist society of the early twentieth century. The lunch in a family setting left "scars upon her soul," and she vowed never to learn how to cook. In the end, she did not have to; she became successful, had a fulfilling marriage, and a cook. "Every life has a food story," stated Ms. Shapiro, and she had wanted to write a book about women, food, and biography that made food visible in the women's histories. The women she finally selected for the book were a debatable choice, the author admitted. All of them were white, famous, and none of them died poor. But their struggles emerged through the food they prepared or did not prepare, ate or did not eat. The author gave a quick tour through the range of ladies whose

food habits had occupied her thoughts for a long time: Dorothy Wordsworth, the famous poet's sister, who had included food in her diary; Rosa Lewis, the only professional in the book, who had cooked for King Edward VII; Eva Braun, whose symbolic role and function in the Third Reich especially revealed itself at Hitler's table; Barbara Pym, author and untiring observer of food acquisition and consumption in the London of the nineteen-fifties, and Helen Gurley Brown, editor of *Cosmopolitan*, who was an "evangelist of dieting" but also published a four-hundred-page cook book.



Laura Shapiro

For her talk, Laura Shapiro zoomed in on one character whose eating was "American to the core" – Eleanor Roosevelt. Many guests of the White House declared the food that was served during the three Roosevelt administrations unpalatable, even the drinks undrinkable. How was this possible, considering that everybody knew what a connoisseur Franklin D. Roosevelt was? The president complained about the food constantly. Her family attested Mrs. Roosevelt "a sandpaper palate," and when it came to food she seemed to be the equivalent of tone-deaf. Yet, they also considered a wonderful host who invited a great variety of people into the White House, even strangers from the street. She was, the author emphasized, fully committed to her job as First Lady and aware of the importance of the White House as a social space. Yet, she had been raised rather strictly by her grandmother and did not have the ability to foster or express desires but saw self-control as the paramount rule for female behavior. She turned her own children over to nannies, causing them to favor their father over her. Additionally, in her own eyes, she failed as a wife, when she discovered her husband's affair with his personal secretary Lucy Mercer. Subsequently, she offered him a divorce – a brave act, Ms. Shapiro added. But FDR declined. His wife, however, vowed to let herself not be disappointed again by her husband. She took care of him when he fell ill for a longer period of time and came out of this situation a different woman. She became the great organizer and leading figure we remember today. She also took cooking classes, feeling her way into autonomy, Laura Shapiro said. Then she fell in love with the subject of home economics as it was taught at Cornell University. Here, she could be feminine but rational. This was a realm reigned by reason, not instinct and sentiment. It had her name on

it. While many guests at the Cornell table declared the food bland, Eleanor Roosevelt loved it. The raw cabbage and creamed cod of the Depression years were a horror to many; to her it was comfort food. When the Roosevelts moved into the White House, the Cornell menu moved in with them. To tackle the task, Mrs. Roosevelt hired Henrietta Nesbitt, an old acquaintance, as a housekeeper. She was not a professional, but she remodeled the kitchen and insisted on simple food. She logged all meals and handed these papers over to the Library of Congress before she died. The documented dishes were mostly stuffed foods and “meat stretchers,” everything on toast, preferably yesterday’s leftovers. The president criticized Ms. Nesbitt’s performance, but his opinion was not heeded. Henrietta Nesbitt might have been his wife’s revenge for his indiscretions, Laura Shapiro suggested. Yet outside the White House, food was important for the First Lady. She was curious and tried various ethnic cuisines. She was especially excited about Lebanese and French food. She liked to imagine, Laura Shapiro said, Julia Child and Eleanor Roosevelt had met in Paris, but it was not very probable.

Mrs. Roosevelt had also fun with food when she spent time with her female friends and cooked with them in her country house, where the First Lady set the table and prepared the salad. At Cornell, Mrs. Roosevelt “had learned that domesticity had a brain, but it was in the country house with her friends, where she learned that domesticity had a heart”. She – hopefully – had experienced “what food could mean when love did the cooking.” Laura Shapiro finished her talk on this note and the floor was opened for the audience’s questions. Many good answers and great stories later, books were signed and glasses clinked to conclude a truly inspiring evening.

On January 16, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar was delighted to welcome David J. Alworth, John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University. Professor Alworth presented his recent work on contemporary American novels and how they adapt to an increasingly digitalized age. Even though digitization has transformed modern day society and its means of cultural production in recent years, the printed novel and the art novel in particular continue to flourish, so Professor Alworth. Where theorists had predicted the redundancy of fic-

David Alworth



tional stories in a digital age in which yesterday's fiction would become tomorrow's reality, the novel's incessant relevance and prominence not only contradicted such predications but also posed a theoretical problem. In order to find a theoretical explanation for this phenomenon, David Alworth began combining genre analysis and media theory guided by the premise to analyze the influence of digital culture on the novel. After the social turn had changed the dynamic between art and society, literary analysis has put a greater focus on the relations works of art such as a novel establish between the public and the individual. Claire Bishop first used the term "social turn" to identify the shift towards participatory art and the idea that the spectator becomes a part of the artwork itself. Literary scholars now increasingly use the concept behind the social turn to highlight the relational aesthetics of novels and other texts.

While the art novel had mostly rejected the premise of realism, that is depicting reality as truthfully and detailed as possible, Professor Alworth claimed that realism still functions as a gateway to the study of sociality and contemporary society. Art novels provide extensive information about social relations and thus an insight into the deep texture of society. As a medium capable of telling the history of the future through genres like science fiction, the novel could link the individual to broader social ideas and establish a relation between consumers, producers, and their shared environment. This bridge between what Alworth called the mediality of the social and the sociality of media was present in many recent works, such as Don DeLillo's *Zero K*. Addressing the question of both the embodiment of art and the individual, DeLillo's novel was firmly rooted in the digital age. However, it also demonstrated just how difficult it had become for contemporary art to outdo reality. Alworth closed on the note that this difficulty necessarily demanded that the art novel reinvented itself to find new ways to establish coherence in a fundamentally incoherent present. Intrigued by Alworth's ideas the audience then used the opportunity to ponder theoretical and practical aspects of his work in the ensuing discussion.

On January 18, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued with a talk by Kira Thurman, assistant professor of History and Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan. Professor Thurman is both a historian and a musicologist as well as a classical pianist by training. Professor Thurman recounted that she has often been asked whether she was a singer – maybe a jazz singer? Her answer that she was a classical pianist puzzled many. Apparently, the popular mind rarely associates African Americans with classical instruments. When she started out with her research on the topic, colleagues asked her mainly one question: How did African Americans start out as classical musicians? While they had been interpreting the Austro-German canon of classical music for more than a hundred years, the answer to this question remained unclear. Professor Thurman roamed the archives of Howard University, Fisk University, Spellman College, Tuskegee University, and other historically black colleges and universities, looking for African American classical musicians. Many files revealed that these schools would in fact not train blacks in classical music, some well into the 1950s. The New England Conservatory had once denied an African American student to occupy a dorm. So why would African Americans have bothered with "white music" at all? Professor Thurman emphasized how important classical music, especially the Austro-German canon, was for African Americans. There is a black tradition of performing and listening to classical music from the 1890s onwards. For a long time, black



Kira Thurman

and white musicians succumbed to the same rule: There was German music and bad music. However, “blacks were not just empty vessels waiting to be filled”; many took a very active role, such as contralto Marian Anderson, who performed mainly in the 1930s. African American artists went to Europe to engage in and to promote African American internationalism or in order to escape the repressive system of racial segregation in the United States. In a brief social history, Professor Thurman led through the period from the 1870s to the 1940s and introduced several African American classical musicians of the time. One of them was the composer Harry Lawrence Freeman, also called the “black Wagner.” His scope and scale, leitmotifs and fondness of large orchestras was truly Wagnerian. He, as many black musicians, had a German teacher behind him. The fact that many artists were taken under the wings by white mentors did not sit well with everybody in the United States. According to Professor Thurman, the most efficient school for black musicians was the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio; it was certainly the most radical and progressive in terms of racial equality. Oberlin had a strong connection to Central Europe; Weber, Bach, Brahms, Schumann, and Mendelssohn were prevalent on the conservatory’s schedules. At Fisk University, Professor Thurman found that the majority of its teachers were Oberlin alumni who had brought their textbooks and methods with them – the course catalogue again was overwhelmingly German. When James Monroe Trotter, in his 1878 book *Music and Some Highly Musical People*, stated that there were only two kinds of musical people, Germans and African Americans; in a sense, he rewrote music history. German music became part of African American culture; now blackness was located in classical music itself. African Americans, said Professor Thurman, placed themselves, “a people without history,” at the center of Western cultural production. A 1927 article in *The Crisis* described the friendship between Afro-European George Bridgetower and Ludwig van Beethoven, first confirming the status of black musicians as intellectuals and second the fact that black people had always been connected to classical music. The “blackness” of Beethoven meant that classical music was not only meant to be performed and listened to by everybody, but was composed especially for black people. The sentiment that classical music’s universality had nothing to do with whiteness deepened. African American artists wanted to “liberate classical music from the confinements of racism.”

The twenty-second Baden-Württemberg Seminar concluded with a talk by Darren Dochuk, Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, who visited the HCA to give a talk on the interconnection between oil and religion. He started by reminding his audience that scholars often base their research on unconventional backgrounds. Similar to Laura Shapiro, who connected food and biography in January, Professor Dochuk depicted individual biographies and that of a whole country pertaining to crude oil in his current project, *Anointed With Oil: God and Black Gold in America's Century*. The oil patches of North America constituted the first, the local level of his research. He discerns in particular the Texan landscape with its oil derricks and steeples as a symbol for the strong connection between oil and God. Where oil is a dominant economic force, religion is strong, Darren Dochuk stated. An oil patch has its own religious culture and its own political culture, which tends to be conservative, a development that supports the marriage of oil and religion. Individuals who gained wealth through oil used their power to influence the shape of communities and religious institutions. On a national level, Professor Dochuk makes the case that this marriage produced pivotal historical events such as the election of Dwight D. Eisenhower in the early 1950s, who was supported and funded by religious and oil organizations. This election marked the rise of the Republican Party in the South. President Eisenhower promised to leave offshore oil to the states and thus set a political course for the future. Religion and oil form the pillars of U.S. hegemony, the speaker argued. And this hegemony had to be secured before the oil ran out. It was an unreliable source of energy, but in the 1890s America received a blessing in oil and relished it. However, oil did not only organize American life. It was also perceived as a super-human life form and fuel to christianize the barbarous world. It shaped the culture and politics of the U.S. and the country's relations on a global level. Professor Dochuk introduced two men, Henry Luce, the magazine tycoon, and William Eddy, U.S. minister to Saudi Arabia and consultant for the Arabian American Oil Company in the 1940s. The twentieth century was the American century, Luce claimed; oil and Christianity would lead the way. Eddy, dubbed the "Arabian Knight" by his biographer, actively shaped the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States. On February 14, 1945, President Roosevelt and King Abdul-Aziz met on board the U.S. Naval ship USS Quincy with Eddy as the translator upon the King's request. Eddy helped foster a relationship that is still relevant today.



Darren Dochuk



## SPRING SEMINAR 2018

For its twenty-third seminar of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, the HCA invited a number of distinguished speakers from the University of New Mexico, Harvard University, Princeton University, and the University of Notre Dame, as well as the author Irene Dische and the president of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, Karen Donfried.

The first event of the spring semester was held in Freiburg, where Irene Dische read from her new book *Black and White*. The novel is a reckoning with the promises of the American Dream. Lili, a blonde New York beauty with wealthy parents preparing for a career in modeling, and Duke, a handsome African American Vietnam vet from the South, cause a furor in 1970s Manhattan. They are extravagant, self-confident, in love with money and striving for the best things in life but in the end leave a trail of destruction. A sizeable audience followed the tale that searched for the roots of Trump's America in the city and the times in which the New York realtor who currently occupies the Oval Office flourished.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued with the HCA commencement speech, held in 2018 by Karen Donfried, the president of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, who reflected on the transatlantic partnership seventy years after the Marshall Plan (see p. 63).

The HCA continued its Baden-Württemberg Seminar on May 24 with a talk by Jason Scott Smith about the roots of neoliberalism in the United States and globally. Professor Smith has taught at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque for the past twelve years and came to the HCA as the Mary Ball Washington Chair in American History at University College, Dublin, Ireland. Best known for his seminal work on the New Deal, Professor Smith zoomed in on certain aspects in the history of capitalism and political economy. The New Deal, he argued, aimed at creating a new economic infrastructure. Like its offspring, the Marshall Plan, it was intended to further economic development during an unprecedented economic crisis. The New Deal kicked off state-sponsored capitalism and made use of the government's ability to work as an equilibrating power in the relationship between the state and big corporations. After 1945 it traveled overseas. Politicians, policymakers, and businesspeople succumbed to it, eager to stabilize the economy, and by all means prevent the Great Depression from repeating itself. Governments rose along with the big firms; their priority was to create capital-friendly environments, but not necessarily employment. The Marshall Plan did not merely provide Europe with financial aid. New Dealers argued that it would restore industrial capacity, contain communism, and thus hold Europe together. The opposition claimed that the Marshall Plan stood for greed, governments would be taken over by Wall Street wolves, taxpayers needed to support "pot cracks" in the system, and the New Deal would not only regulate the economy but also legislation. In 1951, Paul G. Hoffman, who headed the implementation of the Marshall Plan, said everyone involved in it had learned how to deal with Asia and world politics in general. The sentiment changed somewhat in the 1960s, when multinational corporations met mid-century liberalism. They became "less greedy," Professor Smith stated. However, some companies and businesspersons paid dearly for meddling with foreign regimes. When the Shah of Iran was driven out of the country and a new government





Jason Scott Smith

under Ruhollah Khomeini took over, all contracts with the Development and Resources Corporation were stopped, an organization founded by the American David E. Lilienthal, who had led the Tennessee Valley Authority, and later the Atomic Energy Commission. Lilienthal lost over two million dollars.

After the talk, a lively discussion ensued. Many in the audience were curious about the structures of the relationship between the U.S. and the countries that were refashioned under the Marshall Plan. Between factory-building and Hoover's food relief, the Marshall Plan also increased the influence of the world's newest profession: management consultants took over. What was good for the economy was good for the country, they postulated. America's politicians and businessmen had always served the national interests first, and it was in the U.S. interest to generate competition in and with Europe. On that evening, it became clear once more how combining historical and economic approaches can offer fresh perspectives on the history of capitalism.

On June 14, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued with a talk by Charles Maier of Harvard University, who gave the keynote of the symposium "Transatlantic Crossing," which honored the work of HCA Founding Director Detlef Junker (see p. 184).

In the following week, the W.C. Pennington Award was bestowed on Eddie S. Glaude from Princeton University as part of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar (see p. 154).

The next two guests, Omar Lizardo of the University of Notre Dame, who spoke on "Culture, Cognition, and Reliance" as well as Amy Hungerford from Yale University, who talked about "Reading, Not Reading, and the Tangible Humanities" came to the Baden-Württemberg Seminar in cooperation with the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT) (see p. 113).

The HCA wrapped up its twenty-third Baden-Württemberg Seminar on July 26 with a talk by Laura Walls, the William P. and Hazel B. White Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. Professor Walls' work is situated at the intersection of literature and science, specializing in the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, and Alexander von Humboldt. It ex-



Laura Walls

plores American Transcendentalism broadly as an intellectual, social, and environmental reform movement. Professor Walls' talk was the first keynote of the conference "Transcendentalist Intersections: Literature, Philosophy, and Religion," jointly organized by the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society and the Margaret Fuller Society at the HCA. Professor Walls commenced her talk on the encounter of Transcendentalism and the Anthropocene with the observation that the humanities often seem stuck in the past. The assumption that nature would always take care of us could not be supported anymore in the twenty-first century, as the collapse of ecosystems becomes ever more apparent – it was certainly hard to ignore the climate change debate on this sweltering summer evening in the HCA's Atrium.

While Ralph Waldo Emerson has traditionally been regarded as a dreamer and a mystic, Professor Walls sees him as the leading thinker of his age who epitomized the connection between transcendentalism and nineteenth-century science. Not only was Emerson's first publication, *Nature* (1836), based on a series of lectures on natural science, nature speaks as well, according to Professor Walls, in his poem "The Sphinx," which *The Dial* published in 1841. His work was symbolic for the intersection of human and natural history, something we cannot ignore any longer. In our age, Professor Walls emphasized, "we need not think against transcendentalist thinkers but alongside with them." The speaker then drew the attention of the audience to some "golden spikes" in history that were recorded in textbook history as well as in fossil history: In the early seventeenth century, the mass deportation of Native Americans led to the rewilding of their lands and therefore a dip in carbon dioxide levels; in the late eighteenth century, they rose again after the invention of the steam engine and the beginning of the Industrial Revolution; and in 1945, the ignition of the atom bomb changed human history as well as human habitat. Just as the humanities often disregard fossil evidence in the construction of history, interpretations of Emerson's work often fail to embrace science as part of it. The use of science to understand God's design was central to his thinking, but that part of his philosophy often remains invisible. Professor Walls concluded her talk by pointing out the ambivalent relationship of American society and nature: Americans were at the same time horrified of natural disasters and attracted by the vastness of the wilderness.

## HCA BOOK LAUNCHES

On May 2, 2018, the HCA was delighted to host its first book launch of the summer semester. Professor Ulrike Gerhard of Heidelberg University and Professor Werner Gamerith, professor for regional geography at Passau University, presented their anthology *Kulturgeographie der USA: Eine Nation begreifen [Cultural Geography of the USA: Grasping a Nation]*. Two contributing authors, Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, executive director of the HCA, and Dr. Philipp Löffler, assistant professor for American literature at Heidelberg University, joined them on the podium. In a short introduction, HCA director Professor Welf Werner highlighted the importance of such anthologies, especially for institutes like the HCA that are dedicated to interdisciplinary research and teaching. Since this approach demands both, expertise in a specific field and critical distance to it, books like the one presented to the audience provided helpful insights to students. Professor Gerhard further highlighted the anthology's premise to include different disciplines and provide a balanced collection of regional and global perspectives as well. In recent years, said Professor Gerhard, the interest in regional geography has increased, not least since it provided an opportunity to study the polarization of small spaces while also enabling researchers to contextualize such phenomena in a broader perspective. Besides its topical variety, the anthology was also suitable for a broad audience beyond the academic realm, added Professor Gamerith. With the American perspectives on each overarching theme, an insider's view complemented the research presented.

Following the general introduction, the audience then received brief insights into three specific issues. Dr. Mausbach began with his historical analysis of the trope of the West. What had originally been a reference to the geographical territory west of the Appalachians soon evolved into a more abstract idea of the spread of Western culture. Even after President John F. Kennedy had moved the "frontier," the border between civilized and undeveloped land, into space, the American dedication to the idea of a manifest destiny remained firmly intertwined with the



Discussing cultural geography, l-r: Philipp Löffler, Ulrike Gerhard, Werner Gamerith, Wilfried Mausbach

trope of the West. Professor Gerhard then briefly spoke about the phenomenon of reurbanization, the gentrification of inner city areas, which had been of particular interest to the field of urban geography in recent years. Cities like Atlanta, Georgia, or Portland, Oregon, showed increased inner city developments, yet did not enable researchers to draw up a general theory behind this highly specific trend. Dr. Löffler then concluded the evening with his analysis of the rise of so-called “quality TV,” which, facilitated by new online streaming methods, produced TV shows modeled after traditional ideas and concepts of storytelling as found in Henry James. Such shows enjoyed a greater artistic freedom since they did not rely on a fixed screening time nor a specific audience, creating a new dynamic on the entertainment market. Intrigued by the many new perspectives, the audience then engaged in lively conversations with the contributors and editors over drinks and snacks.

The HCA continued its popular format of book launches on June 26 with the presentation of *Die Zukunft der transatlantischen Gemeinschaft (The Future of the Transatlantic Community)*, edited by Dr. Florian Böller, postdoctoral researcher of the Graduiertenkolleg “Authority and Trust” (GKAT) at the HCA. Two contributors of the book, HCA director Professor Welf Werner and Dr. Gerlinde Groitl, assistant professor at the University of Regensburg, added their perspectives on matters of economy and security policies, respectively. The panel first presented the research questions, conceptions and theses of the book. Dr. Böller reminded the audience of crises in the past which shocked but also fortified transatlantic partnerships: the Suez Crisis, the cost of military presence in Europe, the Vietnam War, and, most recently, the Iraq War.

From a historical perspective, one could reason that things had always worked out in the end, but the recent developments called for a healthy amount of skepticism, Dr. Böller stated. The book discussed the origins of crises on one hand and tangible strategies to avoid them on the other. Primarily, the transatlantic community upheld security and welfare of the respective members and consequentially was a community of values. Gerlinde Groitl had contributed an essay on security policy, Welf Werner on social policy, or, more specifically, the state of the economy. Concerning these fields of research, Dr. Böller advanced two theses: major discords had already been visible under Barack Obama, for instance in the discussion about the drone war. Furthermore, the previous norms of multilateralism had suffered considerably, as Donald Trump’s wish to leave G8 and his thoughts of leaving NATO demonstrated. “We Europeans must take our fate into our own hands,” Dr. Böller quoted the German chancellor before Gerlinde Groitl took the floor.

Dr. Groitl, a representative of the political school of realism, sees the transatlantic relationship as a partnership, however, according to President Trump, not an equal partnership. He demands alternatives. In her opinion, Europe concentrated too much on the scandals around the president. Most Europeans believed all had been well before Trump took office and transatlantic relations would return to this stage once he leaves the White House. However, a constant estrangement had developed over decades. She backed her statement with examples such as the destitution during the Balkan Wars and the response of European politicians to George W. Bush’s “War on Terror.” The volume also discussed the relationship of both the U.S. and the E.U. with China, which is also the topic of Dr. Groitl’s new book in progress. The rise of China divided the U.S.

and Europe, and although Donald Trump had not created this dilemma, he would definitely aggravate the problem. This conflict attacked the roots of the transatlantic partnership, but it was also clear that both partners could not pursue their interests apart from each other.

Welf Werner agreed with his colleague and highlighted that the USA presented themselves no longer as the “gentle hegemon.” His article discussed the stability of the liberal economic order. Pertaining to this stability, Europe and the USA were used to three things: accelerated economic growth, a well-balanced business cycle, and high participation of their citizens in this development. Professor Werner mentioned an essay by Claudia Goldin which describes a phenomenon she calls „the great compression,” the upswing of U.S. society between 1940 and 1970. Over the course of this period differences between income and capital shrank. This changed dramatically between 1970 and 1985, when things returned to 1940 levels. Many perceived the “adventure globalism” as an elitist project, rubber-stamped only by fifty percent



Gerlinde Groitl, Florian Böller and Welf Werner discuss the future of the transatlantic community

of the population, and only during upward economic trends, Professor Werner claimed. White U.S.-American middle-aged men earn as much today as they did in 1970. Society has increasingly grown apart, something even data pertaining to life expectancy and infant mortality rate attests to. However, poverty on a global level was decreasing, from 35 percent to 11 percent. The catching-up process of some countries, even if at the expense of others, could be seen as a recovery process. Migration and technical progress walked hand in hand, the HCA-director added. Yet, the job market needed highly trained employees, and a less-qualified workforce was at a high disadvantage when exposed to globalization. This, Professor Werner said, made its members so susceptible to populism. They certainly noticed how the Obama administration reacted during the financial crisis of 2008, putting “Wall Street before Main Street.” On the other side of the Atlantic, many Europeans felt their currency was like a strait jacket during the Euro crisis.

Following these brief statements, Dr. Böller shared some of his impressions and questions and then opened the panel to the audience, which started a lively discussion. A member of the audience asked if the E.U. did not speak with one voice, how would the union collectively answer future questions of global consequence? The E.U. was not capable of acting as one, Dr. Groitl said. Its member states had blocked each other in the past. Every country had its own perspective, and problems varied; refugees in the South, Russia to the East – a strategic consensus was not in sight, and security, even the military, was a neglected and difficult issue. Europe had to disengage from “tit for tat,” Professor Werner agreed, the states had to put their own houses in order. An exciting and informative evening came to an end, leaving the audience curious about the future of the transatlantic community.

## ENJOY JAZZ AT THE HCA

In the fall of 2017, the Enjoy Jazz Festival returned to the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. On October 17, the HCA was delighted to screen the movie *Faubourg Tremé* by Dawn Logsdon and Lolis Eric Elie. The documentary produced by two native New Orleanians portrays the Faubourg Tremé neighborhood before and after hurricane Katrina and contextualizes the present struggle to rebuild the community considering its history throughout slavery, segregation, and the Civil Rights Movement. Professor Berndt Ostendorf, Emeritus Professor of the Institute for American History, Culture, and Society of the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich, provided substantial historical background on New Orleans and the neighborhood. Because of its diverse population and a high percentage of free African Americans, Tremé had quickly evolved into the center of Creole and African American culture in nineteenth-century New Orleans. It earned the title “birthplace of Jazz” in the twentieth century when a vibrant Jazz culture emerged in reaction to the segregation of the American society. The people of Tremé not only found a means of expression but more importantly a source of empowerment in Jazz, Professor Ostendorf argued. Even though the community experienced multiple setbacks caused by social and infrastructural changes and most recently in 2005 by hurricane Katrina, music and art remain a pillar for the people of Tremé.

Faubourg Tremé





The audience then followed the story of Lolis Eric Elie, who discovered forgotten parts of the history of Tremé and its inhabitants as he began renovating an old house he purchased before Katrina. Due to the relatively low number of enslaved African Americans in Tremé, many houses had been in the possession of the same families for decades. The ethnically diverse community had built its culture on the foundations of Creole, African, and European influences and displayed its vibrancy in regular street parades. The so-called “second-lining,” dancing in a parade’s second line behind the brass band, is still very much at the heart of Tremé. Besides its cultural impact, Tremé also exerted political influence beyond the limits of New Orleans. Here, the first African American newspaper, *L’Union*, later renamed to *The New Orleans Tribune*, was printed. *The Tribune* was a fervent supporter of the abolition of slavery and the Civil Rights Movement. Jazz became a means to cope with discrimination and racism and today provides the means to revive the neighborhood of Tremé. The audience was moved to see how devastating the impact of Katrina had been but even more touched to witness the dedication the community demonstrated in the ongoing process of restoring the birthplace of Jazz to its former vivacity. In the ensuing discussion, the audience pondered the future of Tremé over drinks and popcorn with Berndt Ostendorf and Anja Schüler.

On October 24, the HCA was happy to present yet another documentary about New Orleans to its visitors, once more in cooperation with the Enjoy Jazz festival. In the course of the German premiere of Renée Edward’s *One Note At A Time*, the audience in the HCA Atrium caught a glimpse of the life of New Orleans Jazz musicians following hurricane Katrina in 2005. The documentary trailed the personal life stories of musicians and their struggle to cope with the aftermath of the floods in the wake of a slowly collapsing health care system. Freelance music journalist and concert organizer Franziska Buhre introduced the movie and its subject to the audience: the New Orleans Musician’s Clinic, an institute dedicated to providing health services to dancers and musicians. Shortly after Katrina, Bethany and Johann Bultman founded the clinic to cater to the needs of musicians, most of whom earned too much to be eligible for government health care programs such as Medicaid, yet not enough to be able to afford private insurance. Buhre explained that the Musician’s Clinic worked on flexible rates, giving every patient the opportunity to pay fees according to their personal income.



One Note at a Time



The documentary then presented the issue of health care after Katrina on a more personal level. Facilitated through multiple interviews with Jazz musicians and employees of the clinic, viewers not only learned about the medical necessity of the clinic. Moreover, it became clear that the Musician's Clinic was crucial to the psychological healing processes many musicians were undergoing following the loss of a lifetime of musical data and hardware. Especially to those who had been forced to leave New Orleans after the flood, returning to their home symbolized a crucial step in their healing processes. However, they now found themselves faced with new problems, as the city was still struggling to come to terms with the aftermath of the hurricane. Increased competition with new clubs as well as recent legislation regarding noise orders fundamentally changed how musicians organized themselves and their bands but, eventually, many agreed, improved Jazz culture in New Orleans. Reviving the city's Jazz scene had been a strenuous effort for all musicians involved, said Bethany Bultman, founding director of the Musician's Clinic. Musicians have to rely on good health since they invested most of their time and energy into their art. In order to be able to support musicians, the clinic relied on federal grants, which were not renewed, leaving the institute to rely on private fundraising. Nevertheless, the clinic had strengthened the community of New Orleans and thus had helped to revive its Jazz culture. Touched by the personal stories of the musicians of New Orleans, the audience was eager to find out more about the clinic itself and the fate of its patients in the ensuing discussion with Franziska Buhre and Anja Schüler.

## **EXHIBITION: "BLACK COWBOYS – GERMAN INDIANS"**

March 15 to April 26, 2018

During the 2018 spring break, the HCA presented a photo exhibition by the German-American couple Max Becher and Andrea Robbins. Their fascinating photographs shed light on two extraordinary social phenomena, Black cowboys in the United States and the emulation of Native American culture in Germany.

At the height of the cattle ranching period of the nineteenth century, over one-third of all cowboys were African American. Black cowboy culture still thrives, yet little remains known to the general public and is essentially unheard of outside the United States. This marginalization was primarily the result of both official and unofficial segregation in competitive rodeos. Interestingly, the term "cowboy" is reputed to have originated on plantations, where slaves had titles like "houseboy," "fieldboy," and "cowboy." After abolition, the independence provided by the demanding but dignified cowboy lifestyle was preferable to sharecropping for many freed men and women. They combined riding techniques adapted from Native Americans with knowledge of animal husbandry and cow herding skills, which many trace back to African traditions. In the world of competitive rodeos, even famous Black cowboys such as Bill Pickett – the inventor of "bull dogging," a popular steer wrestling event – were either excluded from participating with

white cowboys or were given time to compete after the close of the main events. This segregation created the need for a separate African American rodeo culture.

Across the United States, Black riding clubs meet regularly and hold trail rides, backyard jackpot rodeo competitions, and charity events. Competitions take place year round and are increasingly popular and inclusive, blurring the lines between professional cowboys and enthusiasts, country and urban culture, as well as southern and northern traditions. These rodeo activities provide an opportunity to reunite families and introduce young people to their cultural history as well as the land that was left behind after the Great Migration of African Americans out of the South

in the early twentieth century. Becher and Robbins' pictures, taken between 2008 and 2017, show that black cowboys have formed an evolving culture and style that blends the archetypal cowboy image with hip-hop and soul influences.

The other part of the exhibition was shot in Radebeul near Dresden in 1997 and 1998, where the birthday of Karl May is celebrated annually by hundreds of Germans dressed as Native Americans. The extraordinary fascination of Germans with Native Americans can be explained by the popularity of May's work that portrayed Native Americans as heroes and whites as villains as well as by a deep-rooted romantic view of a preindustrial past. Although the "pro-Indian" slant of Karl May can be understood as a progressive, anti-colonial message, his writings



**Andrea Robbins & Max Becher:  
Black Cowboys  
German Indians**

**15. März - 26. April 2018**

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

Öffnungszeiten  
Mo - Fr, 9 - 17 Uhr  
Eintritt frei  
Eröffnung: 15.03. 18:15 Uhr

**HCA**  
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for American Studies

became inadvertently intertwined with an important part of Nazi mythology. German fascists identified with the Indian as noble savage and as the victim of a modern, corrupt, and overly intellectual world. Adolf Hitler was a fan and avid reader of May's work, and despite his sympathy for the Indians, he found inspiration in the way they had been either rounded up into reservations or exterminated to make room for westward expansion. After World War II, the east-west division of Germany caused a split in the culture of Native American emulation. In East Germany, Indian fan clubs increased because they were a legal opportunity to gather in large numbers,

and Karl May's anti-American and anti-capitalist messages coincided with Eastern-Bloc rhetoric. In West Germany, the influx of American popular culture expanded the imagery of the American West but conflicted with May's sympathetic descriptions of indigenous Americans. On opening night, Frank Usbeck, author of *Fellow Tribesmen: The German Image of Indians, the Emergence of National Identity, and Nazi Ideology in German Periodicals* and 2011 winner of the Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize, talked about the long-standing German infatuation with Native Americans and then invited the audience take a first look at a fascinating exhibition.

(Adapted from a text by Andrea Robbins und Max Becher.)

## PANEL DISCUSSIONS

In 2017-18, the 2016 election of Donald Trump still resonated, and panel discussions at the HCA exclusively revolved around the politics and persona of the forty-fifth American president.

On Wednesday November 8, 2017, the Forum for International Security (FIS) at Heidelberg University invited the public to the panel discussion "The Trump Effect – One Year After the Election," which was organized in cooperation with the Heidelberg Center for American Studies and the Deutsche Atlantische Gesellschaft (German Transatlantic Society). Professor Sebastian Harnisch of the Institute for Political Science at Heidelberg University moderated the panel that hosted Dr. Martin Thunert, lecturer for political science at the HCA, Dr. David Sirakov of the Atlantic Academy Rheinland-Palatinate, and Dr. Caroline Fehl of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

Professor Harnisch opened the panel with the question whether Donald Trump had fulfilled his promise to "make America great again." The members of the panel agreed that this was not the case since Trump's biggest success so far had been the election and not legislative measures he initiated as president. Rather, Trump had to be viewed as a symptom of long-term social forces and not as their cause. Yet, his election had triggered a significant increase in the polarization of the American public, especially regarding the common skepticism towards international organizations and treaties. Compared to former President Barack Obama's relationship to German chancellor Angela Merkel, Donald Trump's relationships to international heads of state was quite intricate. It was more likely that French President Emanuel Macron would grow closer to Trump in the future even though both leaders represented different political goals. Considering the question whether Trump could be given the metaphoric title "King of Twitter" following his spontaneously published comments on the online platform, Dr. Sirakov emphasized that it was crucial to take Trump's comments seriously, regardless of how he published them. Even though Dr. Fehl and Dr. Thunert acknowledged the impact advisors such as Ivanka Trump had on the president, they emphasized that such influence could not be detected in his actions – best observed in Trump's decision regarding the Paris Climate Treaty. Even though his strength in domestic matters had yet to be discovered, there was widespread consensus about the outcome of the 2018 midterm elections and the concomitant restructuring of the Republican Party. Even though the overall amount of Americans that affiliated themselves with the Republican Party was decreasing, the vast majority of Republicans was still supportive of Trump. It was therefore crucial that

Trump pushed for positive legislation, e.g. in the field of tax laws, as a follow-up measure to his efforts to repeal Obama's policies since the scandals surrounding Russian involvement in the election and the firing of FBI Chief Comey were casting shadows on Trump's presidency. The panel discussion ended on the question whether Trump posed a serious security threat regarding U.S. relations to Iran and North Korea, to which the participants agreed unanimously. Then the panel was opened to audience questions, and during the ensuing debate both panel participants and members of the audience discussed issues relating to Trump's security policy, his possible reelection in 2020, and the influence his tax legislation had on the Dow Jones.

On November 20, 2017, participants of the town hall meeting on "The Transatlantic Alliance and the Trump Administration" were reminded that security policy, though a serious matter, could be entertaining, too. The speakers invited to this meeting were U.S. Consul General James Herman and Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, Commanding General of the U.S. Army in Europe. The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) and the Außen- und Sicherheitspolitische Hochschulgruppe Heidelberg (Academic Association for the Studies of Foreign and Security Policy Heidelberg, ASH) had invited the public to engage in a conversation with these distinguished guests. Shortly after the introduction by the HCA's Founding Director Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker, General Hodges and Consul General Herman demonstrated their joint experience in leading such discussion rounds: they announced that they would reward especially difficult audience questions with a bottle of American beer. This contributed to a casual atmosphere in which a lively debate soon flourished.



Consul General Jim Herman enjoys the discussion

General Hodges and Consul General Herman emphasized on more than one occasion the importance of good German-American relations as well as Germany's role as a "moral authority" in the global theatre. Moreover, they highlighted different measures to regain the German population's trust in the U.S. following the NSA spying scandal as well as the significance of bilateral relationships below the government level. Asked about the influence of U.S. President Trump's twitter messages on German-American relations, General Hodges simply replied: "Watch what we do, not what we say." Despite recent media headlines, Hodges stressed how important it was that Germany met NATO's defense spending target of two percent in order to guarantee a reliable partnership of both nations in the future. Even though diplomatic measures to resolve conflict should always be preferred to military ones, diplomacy without military capacities would be something akin to "an orchestra without instruments," said General Hodges. The U.S. was much in favor of increased European cooperation in the area of defense because efficient collaboration regarding acquisition and maintenance as well as faster redeployment of material and personnel within Europe would eventually also strengthen NATO. Following the 70-minute debate, moderator Florian Stellkamp extended his gratitude in the name of the ASH to both the speakers and the HCA and thanked the large audience for their lively participation in the discussion.

On March 21, 2018, the HCA was delighted to welcome experts from academia, politics, and economics to a panel discussion on the Trump administration's impact on global trade, its plan to impose steep tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, and its announcement of extensive but not yet clearly defined punitive economic measures against China. The HCA's Atrium was filled to capacity when Gretchen Tietje, officer for politics and economics at the American Consulate in Frankfurt; Matthias Kruse, representative of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Rhein-Neckar; Professor Andreas Falke of the University Erlangen-Nuremberg; and HCA Director Professor Welf Werner debated the future of international trade. Moderated by Professor Switgard Feuerstein of Heidelberg University's Alfred-Weber-Institute, the members of the panel discussed Trump's motivation behind the tariffs he announced as well as the scope of his plans.

Gretchen Tietje started the discussion by remarking that regardless of how President Trump's plans came across, the White House was eager to reform trade relations in a cooperative manner. Indeed, the president did not intend to withdraw from international trade but rather wanted to change prevalent conditions in cooperation with other nations in order to adjust current imbalances and unfair practices. Matthias Kruse, however, criticized the manner in which such measures were being taken. He highlighted how the White House was bending the multilateral regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO), thus complicating matters for themselves. President Trump's decisions would ultimately also affect the Rhein-Neckar region. It was essential for these matters to be discussed in a constructive dialogue. Welf Werner then put the Trump administration's current actions into the context of contemporary history. While Trump's aggressive unilateralism might seem outlandish, it was in fact part and parcel of a panoply of economic policies that American presidents had occasionally employed since the 1970s. Professor Werner reminded the audience that during the 2016 presidential campaign both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders had dallied with protectionist trade policies. Here Andreas Falke added a short report about the current political atmosphere in the American capital, from where

he had just returned. The White House had left politicians and experts on both sides of the Atlantic puzzled about its motives and goals, even if the Trump administration's criticism of China's unfair trade policies had won wide bipartisan support. The administration's actions essentially sent a message to disgruntled American voters promising to restore the country's nostalgic past. At the same time, unilateral decisions like the latest tariffs certainly limited the WTO's room to maneuver.



Debating transatlantic trade, l-r: Andreas Falke, Matthias Kruse, Switgard Feuerstein, Gretchen Tietje, and Welf Werner

Following those remarks, the members of the panel discussed several prominent issues in the debate surrounding U.S. trade policy. Matthias Kruse explained the misconception concerning the differing tariffs on automobiles imported into the European Union and the United States respectively, which – he claimed – barely affected customer demand in the U.S. or Germany. Welf Werner further cautioned the audience not to fall prey to the increasingly polarized public debate when evaluating or judging actions of President Trump. Due to an increasingly hostile political climate, it has become difficult to see actions of the White House in a balanced and realistic way. In addition, Germany's position is complicated by its extraordinarily high and persistent export surplus in relation to its GDP. Gretchen Tietje reassured the audience that it was America's goal to initiate change in accord with other affected nations, making any reform in bilateral trading relationships a joint effort. Andreas Falke commented, however, that so far the White House had not properly prepared its trade policy options, for example in regard to China, and has not coordinated them sufficiently with its European partners. Switgard Feuerstein then opened the discussion for questions and remarks by the audience. In the ensuing discussion of possible motives Trump might have and appropriate German and European responses, the audience eagerly participated and entered into a lively debate with the members of the panel.



## OTHER TALKS

On April 24, 2018, Kate Raworth followed a joint invitation by the study group Real World Economics, the Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik, and the HCA. The professor for economics at Oxford University presented her recent book *Doughnut Economics* at an event organized by students of the Faculty for Economics and the Social Sciences and hosted in the HCA's crowded Atrium. Raworth opened her talk with the story of how she came to acquire her present understanding of the economy during her time at university and later on in her job. This brought her to her first question: what influences our understanding of the economy?

Raworth mentioned above all the power of images and the impact educational standards in the field of economics can have on this. As the economist Paul A. Samuelson said: "I don't care who writes a nation's laws – or crafts its advanced treatises – if I can write its economics textbooks," a statement with which Raworth seemed to identify. But she is not the only one who aims at changing conventional approaches to understanding the economy, as both the Netzwerk Plurale Ökonomik and the study group Real World Economics work towards pluralizing the teaching methods of economics. Raworth's model of the doughnut can facilitate this process through its simplicity and theoretical richness: Twelve elements such as water, food, gender equality, or the right to political participation represent social minimum standards that limit the economy from the inside. On the outside are nine ecological limits such as air pollution or the decline of biological diversity that the economy has to respect. In between these two sets of limits is the so-called "safe and just space for humanity." The idea of setting limits is, despite its fundamental function in the study of economics, only of minor significance in this study field. What sets the "Doughnut"-model apart from other approaches is its ability to combine human and environmental needs and confront them with economic goals such as growth. As a result, infinite growth is replaced by a new goal – economic balance. Raworth was able to make these and other points convincingly and eloquently, thus capturing her audience. Eventually, however, the question how the ideal predicted by the "Doughnut" could be achieved and how the first partly surprising em-

Kate Raworth





pirical results have to be taken into consideration remained open. Professor Raworth managed to take a first step towards change by grasping a complex topic and inspiring her audience to follow her example – step by step.

On July 13, Franz Untersteller, Secretary for the Environment, Climate, and Energy Economy of the State of Baden-Württemberg, accepted the joint invitation of the Heidelberg Center for the Environment and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies to visit the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. He spoke on the topic of subnational environmental initiatives. Following a short introduction by Professor Bernhard Eitel, rector of Heidelberg University, Secretary Untersteller presented the history and goals of the “Under2 Coalition” to the audience in the HCA Atrium.

In recent years, regional efforts to counter climate change have gained momentum and influenced global initiatives. This movement started in 2014 when Mr. Untersteller accepted Jerry Brown’s invitation to visit the Intersolar in San Francisco, North America’s premier solar exhibition. The governor of California and the Secretary of Baden-Württemberg discussed the idea to unite economically strong regions into an environmental coalition that would exert political pressure on the upcoming Paris Climate Conference. In the ensuing year, the two representatives, together with ten other regional representatives, founded the Under2 Coalition, which today unites almost 200 of the world’s strongest economical regions and thus forty percent of the world’s population. The Under2 Coalition, said Secretary Untersteller, is determined to set specific and ambitious environment protection goals in accord with each of its members’ demands. Secretary Untersteller closed with an outlook on the year 2019, when Heidelberg will host the International Conference for Climate Action that will once again highlight the importance of cities and regions in the global fight against climate change. Following his talk, Secretary Untersteller then welcomed the audience’s questions, which focused on the definition of climate protection goals and the influence of global trading patterns on global warming.



Franz Untersteller, MdL

## MEDIA COVERAGE

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

„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)

„Heiland aus Virginia. Woodrow Wilson führt die USA in den Krieg, um den Nationen der Welt Selbstbestimmung, freien Handel und Demokratie zu beschenken. Der US-Präsident inspiriert die Massen - doch seine globale Neuordnung scheitert“

(*DIE ZEIT* Geschichte 1917, February, 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

(*SWR2* „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“

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, May 19, 2017)

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

Discussion with Manfred Berg, Andreas Etges, and 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)

„Rassenkonflikt in Little Rock beginnt (am 02.09.1957)“

Radio Interview with Manfred Berg

(*WDR „ZeitZeichen“*, September 2, 2017)

„Das geringste Übel: Ein Plädoyer für die inklusive Demokratie im 21. Jahrhundert“

Article by Tobias Endler

(*Carta*, September 12, 2017)

„Ein Jahr Donald Trump - Mehr als starke Worte?“

Radio interview with Tobias Endler

(*NDRinfo*, November 1, 2017)

„Green Card: Das Aus für die Verlosung der Aufenthaltsgenehmigung?“

Interview with Tobias Endler

(*Deutschlandfunk*, November 3, 2017)

„US-Präsident Trumps kritisiert die Justiz wegen des Halloween-Anschlags: Der Sozialdarwinist im Weißen Haus“

Radio Interview with Detlef Junker

(*SWR2 „Journal am Morgen“*, November 3, 2017)

„Ein Jahr US-Präsident Trump“

Article by Martin Thunert

(*Heilbronner Stimme*, November 8, 2017)

„Trump nutzt die Spaltung“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, November 8, 2017)

„Trump bietet dem Volk Brot und Spiele“

Article by Tobias Endler

(*Frankfurter Rundschau*, November 24, 2017)

„Dem Westen entgleitet die globale Ordnung. USA-Experte Detlef Junker warnt vor der Krise des amerikanischen Imperiums“

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, February 10, 2018)

„Nur zwei US-Staaten fehlen ihm noch: Detlef Junker verabschiedet sich als Gründungsdirektor des Heidelberg Centers for American Studies – Er kennt Land und Leute wie kaum ein zweiter Forscher“

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, February 10, 2018)

“If you don't ask, the answer is no”

Interview with Detlef Junker

(*Universität Heidelberg Newsroom*, February 15, 2018)

„'Republic of Florida': So gefährlich sind rechtsextreme Gruppen in den USA“

Comments by Martin Thunert

(*web.de-Magazin*, February 20, 2018)

„Aufstand der Schüler - Kommt in den USA die Waffen-Wende?“

Radio interview with Manfred Berg

(*SWR2 Aktuell „Kontext“*, February 23, 2018)

“Billy Graham, Cold Warrior for God”

Article by Kenyon Gradert and James Strasburg

(*The New York Times*, February 23, 2018)

“Datenskandal um Facebook und Cambridge Analytica: Die Datenhelfer von Donald Trump“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(*SWR2*, March 21, 2018)

„Die Lernende Stadt. 17 Heidelberger Thesen zur nachhaltigen Stadtentwicklung: Empfehlungen aus dem Reallabor Urban Office“

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, April 21, 2018)

“Ausstieg aus dem Iran-Deal: Wie geht es nun weiter?“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(*web.de-Magazin*, May 9, 2018)

“Zehn Fragen und Antworten zu den Konflikten in der Welt: Der Amerika-Experte Martin Thunert vom renommierten Heidelberg Center for American Studies analysiert für die Heilbronner Stimme die globalen Krisenherde“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(*Heilbronner Stimme*, May 14, 2018)

„Zerstörerische Retter? Ein finstere Panorama über die Zukunft der transatlantischen Gemeinschaft“

Review of „Die Zukunft der transatlantischen Gemeinschaft: Externe und interne Herausforderungen,“ edited by Florian Böller et al.

(*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, May 22, 2018)

„Preisträger-Rede über Martin Luther King: Der Religionshistoriker Eddie S. Glaude Jr. wird mit dem James W.C. Pennington Award der Universität ausgezeichnet“

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, June 18, 2018)

„Wie viel Religion verträgt die Universität? Wissenschaftsministerin Theresia Bauer plädiert für Offenheit der Hochschulen“

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, June 20, 2018)

„Martin Luther King wollte ein ganz anderes Amerika: Pennington-Preisträger Eddie Glaude über den amerikanischen Bürgerrechtler“

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, June 22, 2018)

„Der Bruch: Donald Trumps Abkehr von transatlantischen Werten und politischen Traditionen ist historisch einzigartig. Doch er ist derzeit nicht der einzige Staatschef, der so agiert“

Article by Charles S. Maier

(*Süddeutsche Zeitung*, July 10, 2018)

„Donald Trump in Europa“

TV report featuring comments by Martin Thunert

(*ZDF*, July 16, 2018)

„Zwischen Zollkrieg und Handelsfrieden: Jean-Claude Juncker trifft Donald Trump“

Radio interview with Detlef Junker

(*SWR2 „Journal am Morgen“*, July 26, 2018)

„Quo vadis, Amerika? Eine Nation begreifen: Die Heidelbergerin Ulrike Gerhard ist Mitherausgeberin einer Kulturgeschichte der USA“

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, August 8, 2018)

„Cohen und Manafort vor Gericht: Trump muss nun Schaden begrenzen“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(*Deutschlandfunk*, August 22, 2018)

„'Ein sehr schlechter Tag für Trump': Heidelberger Amerika-Experte Thunert über die juristischen Probleme des US-Präsidenten – Zweifel an der neuen Berliner US-Strategie“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(*Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, August 23, 2018)



„Enthüllungen in den USA: Woodward-Buch wird Trump wohl nicht gefährden“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(*Deutschlandfunk*, September 9, 2018)

„Trumpi poliitika võib osutada vajalikuks äratuskellaks eurooplastele“ (“A Crisis of Trust: NATO in the Age of Trump and Europe’s Security Challenge”)

Article by Florian Böller

(*Postimees*, September 10, 2018)

„Kulturkampf in USA: Die Rache des weißen Mannes“

Comments by Martin Thunert

(*Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, Oktober 10, 2018)

„Trumps Rhetorik kann Feindbilder kreieren: Politologe zu Paketbomben kurz vor 'Midterm'-Wahlen“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(*SWR2 „Aktuell“*, Oktober 25, 2018)

„Wut, Recht und Ordnung: Amerikas Rechtsruck begann 1968 – als Richard Nixon Präsident wurde“

Article by Manfred Berg

(*DIE ZEIT*, Oktober 25, 2018)

„Eli Whitneys Erfindung der 'Cotton Gin', 1793“

Radio interview with Manfred Berg

(*WDR „ZeitZeichen“*, Oktober 28, 2018)

„Trump in Trouble? Die Halbzeitwahlen ('Midterms') zum US Kongress am 6. November 2018 als Zwischenzeugnis für Präsident Donald Trump“

Article by Martin Thunert

(*Regierungsforschung.de*, Oktober 31, 2018)

„Die sozialwissenschaftlichen Kompetenzen stärken“

Gespräch mit HCA-Direktor Welf Werner

(*Unispiegel*, November 6, 2018)

„Kongresswahlen in den USA: Obama entlarvt Trumps Strategie“

Comments by Martin Thunert

(*web.de-Magazin*, November 6, 2018)

„phoenix runde: US-Kongresswahl - Wird Trump abgestraft?“

TV discussion with Martin Thunert

(*phoenix*, November 6, 2018)

„Midterm Elections in den USA: Sucht Trump jetzt den Kompromiss?“

Comments by Martin Thunert

(*Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, November 7, 2018)

„Memoiren von Michelle Obama: 'Sie ist eine Influencerin'“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(*Deutschlandfunk Kultur*, November 13, 2018)





## HCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

# Die Zukunft der transatlantischen Gemeinschaft

Externe und interne Herausforderungen

Herausgegeben von Florian Böller, Dr. Steffen Hagemann,  
Anja Opitz und Jürgen Wilzewski



## Die Zukunft der transatlantischen Gemeinschaft

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Trotz zahlreicher Konflikte insbesondere nach dem Ende des Ost-West-Konflikts hat sich die transatlantische Gemeinschaft als robust und anpassungsfähig gegenüber neuen Sicherheitslagen, externen Bedrohungen und internen Herausforderungen erwiesen. Immer wieder ist es den Partnern gelungen, Krisen zu bearbeiten und zu bewältigen. Die Sicherheitsgemeinschaft verfügt, so die grundlegende These des Bandes, über gemeinsame Normen und Institutionen, die dabei helfen, die notwendigerweise auftretenden Konflikte konstruktiv bearbeiten zu können. Die Weiterentwicklung von Normen wie auch die Stärkung institutioneller Ressourcen zeugen von einem kontinuierlichen Wandel, der jedoch stets neu herausgefordert wird

– nicht zuletzt in der Ära Trump. Die Beiträge des Bandes liefern vor diesem Hintergrund durchaus unterschiedliche Befunde über die Grundlagen und Handlungsfähigkeit der transatlantischen Sicherheits-, Werte- und Wohlfahrtsgemeinschaft.

### Mit Beiträgen von

Dr. Florian Böller, Dr. Tobias Bunde, Prof. Dr. Andreas Falke, Dr. Gerlinde Groitl, Dr. Steffen Hagemann, Lukas D. Herr, Dr. Sebastian Mayer, Marcus Müller, Dr. Christian Nünlist, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Stahl, Dr. Sonja Thielges, Prof. Dr. Welf Werner, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Wilzewski

# An Uncommon Faith

## A Pragmatic Approach to the Study of African American Religion

Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

Foreword by Mitchell Reddish



## AN UNCOMMON FAITH

A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO THE STUDY  
OF AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGION

Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

*New pathways for inquiry into the study of African American religion*

With *An Uncommon Faith* Eddie S. Glaude Jr. makes explicit his pragmatic approach to the study of African American religion. He insists that scholars take seriously what he calls black religious attitudes, that is, enduring and deep-seated dispositions tied to a transformative ideal that compel individuals to be otherwise—no matter the risk. This latter claim emerges as Glaude puts forward a rather idiosyncratic view of what the phrase “African American religion” offers within the context of a critically pragmatic approach to writing African American religious history.

Ultimately, Glaude’s approach reveals how pragmatism has shaped his African American scholarship over the years. Moreover, his analysis turns our attention to those black persons who

engage in the arduous task of selfcreation in a world that clings to the idea that white people matter more than others. He argues that the uncommon faith of African Americans deserves the close attention of scholars of African American religion.

EDDIE S. GLAUDE JR. is the William S. Tod Professor of Religion and African American Studies and the chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton University. He is the author of *Exodus! Religion, Race, and Nation in Early Nineteenth-Century Black America*, *In a Shade of Blue: Pragmatism and the Politics of Black America*, and editor of *Is It Nation Time? Contemporary Essays on Black Power and Black Nationalism*.

## Our Frontier Is the World

### The Boy Scouts in the Age of American Ascendancy

MISCHA HONECK

THE UNITED STATES IN THE WORLD

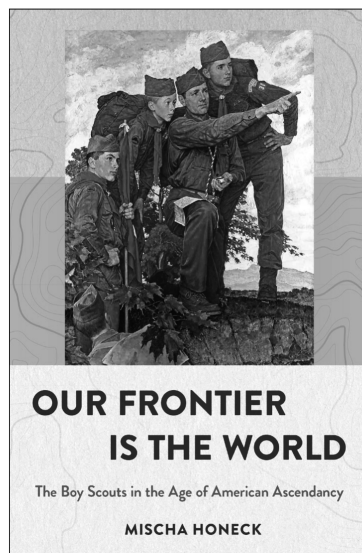
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Mischa Honeck's *Our Frontier Is the World* is a provocative account of how the Boy Scouts echoed and enabled American global expansion in the twentieth century.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has long been a standard bearer for national identity. The core values of the organization have, since its founding in 1910, shaped what it means to be an American boy and man. As Honeck shows, those masculine values had implications that extended far beyond the borders of the United States. Writing the global back into the history of one of the country's largest youth organizations, *Our Frontier Is the World* details how the BSA operated as a vehicle of empire from the Progressive Era up to the countercultural moment of the 1960s. American boys and men wearing the Scout uniform never simply hiked local trails to citizenship; they forged ties with their international peers, camped in foreign lands, and started troops on overseas military bases. Scouts traveled to Africa and even sailed to icy Antarctica, hoisting the American flag and standing as models of loyalty, obedience, and bravery. Through scouting, America's complex engagements with the world were presented as honorable and playful masculine adventures abroad.

Innocent fun and earnest commitment to doing a good turn, of course, were not the whole story. Honeck argues that the good-natured Boy Scout was a ready means for soft power abroad and gentle influence where American values, and democratic capitalism, were at stake. In other instances the BSA provided a pleasant cover for imperial interventions that required coercion and violence. At scouting's global frontiers the stern expression of empire often lurked behind the smile of a boy.

MISCHA HONECK is Senior Lecturer in History at Humboldt University of Berlin. He is the author of *We Are the Revolutionists: German-Speaking Immigrants and American Abolitionists after 1848* and coeditor of *War and Childhood in the Era of the Two World Wars*.



"This wonderful, deeply researched book describes the growth of the Boy Scouts with a respectful, but critical eye. Anyone interested in the history of American democracy, politics, and foreign policy will learn a lot from this groundbreaking book."

—Jeremi Suri, author of *The Impossible Presidency*

"*Our Frontier Is the World* is a study of the cultural underpinnings of the distinctive type of empire that the United States became in the twentieth century. Honeck's work is an important addition to the historiography of American imperialism."

—Ian Tyrrell, coauthor of *Empire's Twin* and author of *Crisis of the Wasteful Nation*

"From overseas colonies to global wars to military occupations, the Boy Scouts have been there, training millions of boys to carry out the United States' mission in the world. Mischa Honeck has fastened on an easily ignored but vitally important dimension of political life, and a fascinating one."

—Daniel Immerwahr, author of *Thinking Small*



# Die Präsidenten der USA

## *45 historische Porträts von George Washington bis Donald Trump*

Christof Mauch (Hrsg.)

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### DIE PRÄSIDENTEN DER USA

45 historische Porträts  
von George Washington  
bis Donald Trump

Mit Beiträgen von

Manfred Berg

Detlef Junker

Martin Thunert



Von George Washington bis Donald Trump bietet dieser Band eine kleine Geschichte Amerikas im Spiegel seiner Präsidenten. Die Autoren schildern in biographischen Portraits Leben und Amtszeit der bisher 45 Präsidenten, skizzieren die wichtigsten Entwicklungen, Ereignisse und Entscheidungen und betrachten abschließend Leistungen und Versäumnisse der jeweiligen Präsidentschaft. So ist zugleich ein Panorama der amerikanischen Geschichte von der Unabhängigkeit am Ende des 18. Jahrhunderts bis zur globalen Supermacht unserer Tage entstanden.

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