



Heidelberg Center for American Studies

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

SPECIAL FEATURE

Welf Werner

The Trump Phenomenon

Economic Causes and Remedies



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ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

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RECTOR'S WELCOME

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

Dear Reader,

At the Ruperto Carola, the past year revolved almost entirely around the Excellence Initiative. After finalizing a stellar application until the end of 2018, the pressure was on again in March 2019 for the on-site visit. Once again, the entire university came together as the Alte Aula was turned into a convention center for two days. Our efforts paid off in July when our university was pronounced one of eleven German excellence universities for the third time in a row.

As an institute for regional studies, the HCA was an important part of our excellence strategy in the Field of Focus 3 "Cultural Dynamics in Globalised Worlds." Under its new director Welf Werner, the HCA is turning increasingly away from traditional, somewhat euro-centric views on the United States to concepts of "Global American Studies," thus following the path of historians in the establishment of the field "Global History" in the past decades. The university offers an ideal environment for this innovative endeavor. The HCA remains instrumental in the university's internationalization strategy, which encompasses 27 partner universities, worldwide exchange programs with 450 universities, and our branch offices in New Delhi, Santiago de Chile, Kyoto, and New York.

The work of the HCA furthermore epitomizes another central tenet of the university's excellence strategy: The idea that academic findings need to be transferred to the real world more efficiently. From its inception, the HCA has considered itself a forum for the dialogue between academia and the general public. In the past fifteen years, it has always lived up to this goal; its highly visible talks, panel discussions, book launches, exhibitions, and international conferences have drawn hundreds of visitors to the beautiful Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. The renewed excellence status of our university offers new opportunities for advanced research, and the HCA is part of it.

Kind regards,

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

Looking back on my first eighteen months as director of the HCA, I am happy to report that we have taken some crucial steps to strengthen the social sciences and economics in particular. The HCA has added a number of classes on social and economic topics to its programs of study. In May and June of this year, the “Economics Month” offered a number of well-received events, including a talk by Berkeley economist Barry Eichengreen. The HCA was honored when Heidelberg University’s Department of Economics gave us the opportunity to invite a luminary of the transatlantic partnership, former World Bank president Robert Zoellick, to give the fourteenth Alfred Weber Lecture at the university’s Old Lecture Hall. We have also reached out to new partners, among them the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany. Yet, our work does not neglect the more traditional disciplines of American Studies, and we are proud to host the 2020 Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies next June. The topic we suggested for this conference—“Participation in American Culture and Society”—puts a concept best known from the social sciences at the center of the American Studies discourse.

Along with these innovations came a new communication strategy for the HCA, which makes new channels available for the interested public and generally strengthens our Forum activities. We have revamped our website and made information about our public events more accessible; we have commissioned a number of videos documenting HCA highlights and will continue to explore this medium; and we have supported the HCA Graduate Blog from its inception last year and are proud of this latest and lively addition to the dialogue the HCA has fostered since its founding. The Heidelberg Center for American Studies is thus creating a virtual space next to the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. We are grateful that the Angel Foundation generously extended the rent-free use of this magnificent building in the heart of Heidelberg's Old Town until 2031.

During the past year, we have welcomed a number of new research associates to the HCA and witnessed some generational change. Valentina López Liendo and Nikolas Mariani have joined the team as program coordinators of our B.A. and M.A. programs, respectively; Natalie Rauscher is the HCA's new research associate facilitating the cooperation between political science and economics. This new generation brings inspiring perspectives and fresh academic expertise to the HCA. We also welcome political scientist Gordon Friedrichs back to the HCA, succeeding the postdoc of the DFG research training group, Florian Böller, who has left for a position as junior professor at TU Kaiserslautern.

The last eighteen months have brought quite some change to the HCA. In the light of profound political challenges inside and outside the liberal democracies of the North Atlantic community, we will continue to develop our vision of "Global American Studies" on the way to the institute's twenty-fifth anniversary in 2029. The Ruperto Carola, which reasserted its status as "University of Excellence" in 2019, offers a perfect home for this endeavor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Welf Werner', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

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 633-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 Dr. Kurt Bock and the BASF Group; Dr. Martin Bussmann and the Ladenburg Foundation; Elfie and Ray Carrell; Dr. Andreas Dienerowitz; Claudia Engelhorn; Herbert A. Jung; and Dr. Oliver Neumann and Dr. Thomas Peuntner of the John Deere Company. Donations from these benefactors not only enabled the institutional development of the HCA in general but also provided several scholarships for its master's and Ph.D. programs as well as funding for conferences.

With exceptional generosity, Honorary Senators Curt Engelhorn (†) and Heidemarie Engelhorn have 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. 25).

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. The 2019 recipient was Maria Sulimma, who received her doctorate from the Free University Berlin and now teaches at the University Duisburg-Essen (see p. 92).

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, Professor Eddie S. Glaude from Princeton University in 2018, and Professor Paul Harvey from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (see p. 140).

During the academic year 2018-19, five 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, the Leonie Wild Foundation, and Dr. Andreas Dienerowitz. And once more, the 2019 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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for American Studies (FHCA)
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New York, NY 10036
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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, Dr. Martin Bussmann, Ray Carrell, Heidemarie Engelhorn, Rolf Kentner, Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, 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

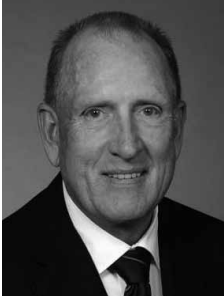
Kurt Bock was Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE from 2011 until 2018. He joined the company in 1985; in 2003 he assumed the role of CFO. Kurt Bock chairman of the Supervisory Board of Fuchs Petrolub SE and member of the Supervisory Boards of BMW Group, Fresenius Management SE, and Munich Reinsurance Company. Kurt Bock was born in 1958. He studied business administration in Germany and the United States. 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

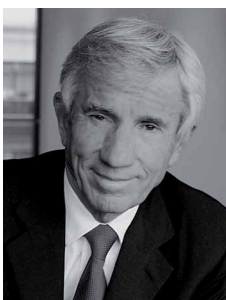
The HCA's founding director was born in Pinneberg near Hamburg. He studied history, political science, philosophy, and German philology in Innsbruck and Kiel, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1969. In 1974 Professor Junker was appointed associate professor at the University of Stuttgart. He taught modern 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 Stievernemann 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). In 2019 the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities made Professor Berg its regular member.



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 re-urbanization 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 and executive director of the Institute for Political Science at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, as well as a 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. 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. 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, 215 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 close to 1,600 applications from almost 80 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 center. 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, 20 students participate in our program while 23 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.

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 Leypoldt, 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 2019, over one hundred B.A. students are enrolled at the HCA.

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. 17). 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. So far four joint colloquia took place, and several junior scholars benefitted from the exchange. Since 2018, the HCA has also been participating in the doctoral summer school Notre Dame

The Atrium of the HCA





A stucco detail in the Meeting Room

organizes with partners from Oxford and Edinburgh. In addition, the HCA has joined 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 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 Leypoldt (Department of English) is the deputy spokesperson. The first four-and-a-half-year funding period began in October 2017 and involves ten doctoral students, four research students, and one postdoctoral scholar. The research training group will make important scholarly contributions to this field and at the same time offer an innovative qualification program that will help young scholars to launch their careers inside and outside academia. The Grand Opening of GKAT took place in November 2017.

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 has been extended to 2031.

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 state of the art projection equipment. 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 2018-2019



AZADEH AKBARI, M.SC. STUDENT ASSISTANT

Azadeh Akbari received her bachelor's degree in social research from Al-lameh Tabatabaei University in Tehran. In 2011, she graduated from the London School of Economics and Political Science with an M.Sc. degree in gender (research). She started her Ph.D. studies in human geography at Heidelberg University in April 2016. In the academic year 2018-19, Azadeh Akbari administered the Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize and assisted in furthering the HCA's digital communications strategies.



IDA BAHMANN, B.A. SPRING ACADEMY

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, where she supported Forum events, including writing retrospect reports for the HCA's website. She graduated from Heidelberg University with a B.A. in American Studies in 2017. After spending the academic year 2018-19 at Cornell University, she returned to the HCA to coordinate the Spring Academy and is currently pursuing an M.A. in English literature at Heidelberg University.

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

(see p. 19)



GREGG CULVER, PH.D.
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

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



DR. 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.



JASPER FLORACK, B.A.
ASSISTANT MAS & SPRING ACADEMY

Jasper Florack received his B.A. in American Studies at the HCA in October 2018 and subsequently enrolled in the HCA's master's program. He started working at the HCA in October 2017, supporting the MAS team and the HCA Spring Academy team. He left the HCA in the summer of 2019 to continue his studies at New York University.

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 her graduation, 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 2010. Iris Hahn-Santoro left the HCA at the end of 2018 and now works for the university's legal service student affairs and teaching, where she serves as the capacity analyst and oversees the establishment of new study programs.

PROF. DR. SEBASTIAN HARNISCH
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

(see p. 21)



PROFESSOR PAUL HARVEY, PH.D.
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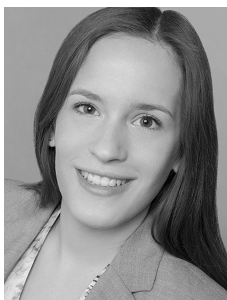
Paul Harvey, who received the eighth W.C. Pennington Award, is Professor of History and Presidential Teaching Scholar at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. He researches, writes, and teaches in the field of American history from the sixteenth century to the present. Professor Harvey is the creator and "blogmeister" of the nationally known professional scholarly blog Religion in American History and a contributor to the online journal Religion Dispatches. He is the author/editor of eleven books and numerous articles, most recently of *Christianity and Race in the American South: A History* (2016), and *Bounds of Their Habitation: Religion and Race in American History* (2017). Professor Harvey's recent co-authored book *The Color of Christ: The Son of God and the Saga of Race in America*, was named a "Top 25 Outstanding Academic Title" by *Choice* magazine in 2013. Harvey's narrative history survey *Through the Storm, Through the Night: A History of African American Christianity* (2011) also received the designation of "Outstanding Academic Title" by *Choice* magazine. Harvey is also co-editor of the reference work *The Columbia Guide to Religion in American History*. Other publications of note include *Redeeming the South: Religious Cultures and Racial Identities Among Southern Baptists, 1865-1925*, (1997) and *Freedom's Coming: Religious Cultures and the Shaping of the South from the Civil War through the Civil Rights Era* (2005). In 2008, Harvey was the Lamar Lecturer in Southern History at Mercer University. The University of Colorado named him Presidential Teaching Scholar in 2009, and from 2007-09, he served as the Senior Mentor to the Young Scholars in American Religion program at IUPUI in Indianapolis. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1992.



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 pursuing an M.A. in political science 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 was primarily responsible for the MAS newsletter and MAS marketing. In October 2018, she also became a member of the Spring Academy Team. She left Heidelberg in the summer of 2019 to continue her studies in Paris.

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. From September 2018 to August 2019 she supported the HCA's main office.



JENNIFER KLOTZ
ASSISTANT FORUM/SPRING ACADEMY

Jennifer Klotz has been pursuing a Bachelor's degree in American Studies since the fall of 2018. In the summer of 2019, she started working at the HCA as a student assistant, supporting Forum events and the HCA Spring Academy.



JULIAN KRAMER, B.A.
PUBLISHING

Julian Kramer obtained a B.A. in North American Studies and geography from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich and continues his education in the HCA's MAS program. In October 2019, he started working at the HCA where he supports the annual report and is responsible for the photographic documentation of HCA events.



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)



VALENTINA LÓPEZ LIENDO, M.A.
BAS COORDINATOR

Valentina López Liendo studied English philology and East Asian studies at Heidelberg and Osaka Universities. 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. 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 Departments. After graduation she joined the HCA's Ph.D. program. In February of 2019 she became the coordinator of the BAS program.



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; paperback 2019); *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.



NIKOLAS MARIANI, M.A.

MAS COORDINATOR

Nikolas Mariani was born and raised in Germany to Croatian and German/American parents. In 2012, he graduated with a B.A. in English and philosophy from Heidelberg University. He subsequently received his M.A. at the HCA in 2015 with a thesis that dealt with emerging opportunities for independent news outlets in the media landscape after the Great Recession of 2008. Following his graduation, Nikolas Mariani worked at the German-American Institute in Heidelberg, where he coordinated Social Media and PR efforts, ran the project "U.S. Topics," an educational program for visiting German high-school classes, and helped organize a conference on "Journalism 2.0." In 2019, he joined the HCA's PhD program where the subject of his research is examining which factors help predict audiences' formation of trust in alternative news media. Next to his own research, Nikolas Mariani also serves as the coordinator of the HCA's MAS program.



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 serves as webmaster and as coordinator for the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority & Trust" (GKAT). He also offers courses in American literature.



MICHAELA NEIDIG
ADMINISTRATION

Michaela Neidig graduated as European (trilingual) secretary from the Merkur International Akademie in Mannheim. Having started her career in the medical and industrial sectors, she assumed a position as secretary of the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History in 2009, where responsibilities include the supervision of contracts for student research assistants in the history department. Since February 2012, she has enlarged her purview by also joining the HCA, where she is primarily working with Professor Stievermann.



**FELIX NEUWERCK, STATE EXAM
PUBLISHING**

Felix Neuwerck took up his studies in geography and German literature at Heidelberg University in 2011. He started working at the HCA in September 2015 and supported HCA publications as well as the office of the Founding Director emeritus. He spent the summer semester 2016 as an ERASMUS student at the University of Maribor, Slovenia. He graduated from Heidelberg University at the end of 2018 and left the HCA to pursue a career in teaching.



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 a 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 took the role of the Spring Academy Coordinator from 2017 to August 2019, when she left the HCA to study at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, as part of the ERASMUS program.



NATALIE RAUSCHER, M.A.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Natalie Rauscher is currently pursuing her doctorate in the HCA’s Ph.D. program. Among her research interests are the future of work, inequality, social media and political protest, as well as US catastrophe mitigation policy. She works with Professor Welf Werner, supporting his lectures and co-teaching the seminars on the U.S. economy. She is also one of the facilitators of the HCA graduate blog.



VIVIEN REINHARDT

STUDENT ASSISTANT

Vivien Reinhardt has been pursuing a Bachelor's degree in American Studies at the HCA since fall 2018. She started working as a student assistant at the HCA in the spring of 2019, supporting the founding director emeritus.



HANNAH ROCHAU

STUDENT ASSISTANT

Hannah Rochau took up her studies of sociology at Heidelberg University in the winter term 2017-18. She has been supporting the HCA's main office since July 2019.



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 Heidelberg University. 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. She started teaching at the HCA in 2006. Since 2009, she has also been coordinating HCA Forum events, including the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, and is responsible for public relations.



CAITLIN SMITH, B.A.

VISITING SCHOLAR

Caitlin Smith is a Ph.D. candidate and Presidential Fellow at the University of Notre Dame. In 2014, she graduated from the University of North Texas with a double major in music history and in literature. Caitlin Smith's interdisciplinary commitments continue to inform her English Ph.D. Her current research focuses on doubt in American literature from the Great Awakening to the Civil War. Previous projects have dealt with print culture and musical practice in colonial New England, the incipient crisis of authority in sixteenth-century radical Protestant rhetoric, Melville's formulation of propositional doubt and affective faith, and transatlantic literary responses to scientific advances in the nineteenth century. Caitlin Smith spent the academic year 2018-19 as a visiting scholar at the HCA, working with Jan Stievermann.



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 Twenty-first Century Italian American Literature.” Her research interests include in particular issues of migration, diaspora studies, and trans-cultural dynamics.



TERESA STEINHOFF

STUDENT ASSISTANT

Teresa Steinhoff joined the HCA’s BAS program in fall 2017. She started working as a student assistant at the HCA in October 2018, supporting executive director Dr. Wilfried Mausbach.

PROF. DR. JAN STIEVERMANN

PROFESSOR OF THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
IN THE U.S. & DIRECTOR, JONATHAN EDWARDS
CENTER GERMANY

(See p. 22)

**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.



CAROLINE WALTER
ASSISTANT FORUM & CONFERENCE
ORGANIZATION

Caroline Walter has been pursuing a Bachelor's degree in American Studies since the fall of 2017. She specializes in history and geography. In October 2018, she joined the HCA Forum team and currently supports the Forum events as well as conference organization.

PROF. DR. WELF WERNER
DIRECTOR & PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN
STUDIES

(see p. 23)



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 2018-2019

In 2018-19, 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.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Martin Holler, Dipl.-Geogr.
Teaching Assistant, Geography

Professor Robert Isaak, Ph.D.
MAS Sociology

Judith Keller, M.A.
Teaching Assistant, Geography

Julia Lichtenstein, M.A.
BAS Methodology

Dr. Styles Sass,
Writing Center

Maren Schäfer, M.A.
Teaching Assistant Key Skills

Daniel Sommer
BAS Debating Club & Presentation Skills

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

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The American Academy in Berlin; Max Kade Foundation; Hans Böckler Foundation; Deutscher Bundestag; MdB Lothar Binding (SPD); Haus der Wannseekonferenz; NATO Headquarters, Brussels; Forum für internationale Sicherheit (FiS), Heidelberg; Hochschulgruppe für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik, Heidelberg; Heidelberg Queer Festival; Andreas Henn Kunsthandel Galerie Stuttgart; Colloquium Politicum, University of Freiburg; Archäologische Sammlung, University of Freiburg; Jos Fritz Buchhandlung, Freiburg; Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe; The American Chamber of Commerce in Germany; Baier Druck, Heidelberg; German Association for American Studies (DGfA); John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin; Heidelberg Program of Pepperdine University; University of Notre Dame; Yale Divinity School; Georgia State University; University of Sussex; University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg; German American Institute Heidelberg (DAI); Carl-Schurz-Haus/German American Institute 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; Alfred Weber Institute for Economics, Heidelberg University; Faculty of Theology, Heidelberg University; Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Heidelberg University; Heidelberg School of Education; Heidelberg University Association, New York, and its executive directors Irmintraud Jost and Amanda Dohm Daquila; 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. 70) 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 twenty-five 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. For application deadlines, please go to www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/ba/zulassung.html.

The program wants to attract German as well as international applicants holding a General Qualification for University Entrance ("Allgemeine Hochschulreife" or equivalent) with a special

interest in the history, politics, society, and culture of North America. The Bachelor in American Studies program at Heidelberg University lets students choose their individual focus, allowing them to specialize in the areas they are most interested in. The course of study comprises both subject-specific and practical parts. For more information, please visit the BAS website at www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/ba/index.html.

THE BAS CLASS OF 2022

In 2019, twenty students joined the HCA undergraduate program. Some of them have already spent some time in the United States, be it as an au-pair or through a high school exchange program. The HCA welcomed the BAS class of 2022 at the beginning of October with a two-day orientation session, and the students eagerly started their classes in the following week.



The BAS class of 2022

Front, l-r: Mustafa Alasahan, Matthes Reichensberger, Lars Irrgang, Robin Simmons, Moritz Aletsee, Felix Leidig.

Back, l-r: Eric Breidenbach, Lukas Wolf, Alice Bogen, Jonathan Barthelmes, Lina Zimmermann, Lennart Wagner, Nico Bläser, Victoria Garcia, Marita Upmann, Emily Göttmann, Johanna Niggemann, Tabea Leibold.

BAS EXCURSION TO BRUSSELS

In April 2019, NATO celebrated its seventieth anniversary, marking seven decades of peacekeeping in the Euro-Atlantic area. On occasion of this event, Wilfried Mausbach taught a proseminar on “The United States and the Founding of NATO” in the winter term 2018-19, which analyzed the American viewpoints in the debates surrounding the founding and current policies of NATO. In order to get a firsthand view on the organization, including the opportunity to talk to real actors, course participants and students of the B.A. program together with Wilfried Mausbach and Florian Böller travelled to Brussels to visit NATO’s new headquarters and other places of policy making in Europe. We arrived in Brussels by ICE on April 10 in the early afternoon to a glorious blue sky. On this first day, we enjoyed our free time and went for a first stroll around Brussels. We admired richly ornamented churches, photographed stately architecture, bought our first chocolates, and ate delicious waffles.

BAS Students with Wilfried Mausbach and Florian Böller in Brussels



We started the next day early to visit the NATO headquarters, the organization’s political and administrative center, just outside of Brussels. The new headquarters opened in 2018, housing NATO’s national delegations, and there we had a chance to talk to a range of representatives. After a briefing by Ms. Iciar Ormaechea, Mr. Eric Povel, Program Officer for Germany and member of the Public Diplomacy Division, elucidated the history and significance of NATO and its tasks and agenda today. Ineke Deserno from NATO’s archives introduced us to the procedures of archival work, the declassification and digitalization of documents, as well as to the temporary exhibition and the NATO Reading Room; for researchers from around the world it offers the opportunity to access publicly disclosed information. Her descriptions were especially valuable for those of us specializing in history, but we all enjoyed learning more on the topic. Finally, a member of the German Delegation to NATO gave us an understanding of Germany’s role within the organization and his delegation’s perspectives on current NATO issues. After lunch, a group photo, and a peek at Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, we boarded the tram to Brussels’ European Quarter.

Since it was another bright and sunny day, we spent our lunch break at Parc du Cinquantenaire (some of us having another one of those waffles), before heading over to our next appointment with Ian Lesser, Vice President and Executive Director of the German Marshall Fund. Mr. Lesser's talk and the animated discussion that followed answered many of our questions regarding the GMF's operation and role in today's world. The rest of the day we used once again for exploration, picture-taking, sight-seeing, and fries-eating.

A three-hour walking tour on Friday morning had us up early but offered some beautiful morning views of the city as well as fascinating facts on Brussels history. Apart from Grote Markt and Manneken Pis, Brussels' most famous sights, we took the small side streets, discovering and learning as we went. We had just enough free time left to stock up on chocolates and enjoy a last waffle until it was time to say goodbye to Brussels on the afternoon of April 12. Many thanks to Teresa Steinhoff, Wilfried Mausbach, and Florian Böller for organizing this trip!

BAS STUDENT TRIP TO BERLIN 2019

The year 2019 commemorated a number of events that had a profound impact on present-day Germany. At the beginning of the year, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. On the one hand, 2019 marked the eightieth anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. On the other, Germany celebrated the Grundgesetz, which was passed seventy 70 years ago as well as the founding of the Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Last but not least, November 9 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Given these milestones in German history, this year's Berlin excursion for bachelor students at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies was not only designed to explore American-related landmarks but also to become more familiar with German history .



BAS Students with their lecturer
Martin Thunert in Berlin

On arrival day, we started the Berlin program with a visit to the book launch of Natasha A. Kelly's new book *Black Feminism*, a collection of primary sources about the challenges of black women

in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A discussion with Emilia Zenzile Roig (Founder & Executive Director Center for Intersectional Justice) on intersectionalism followed, and the evening was capped with a screening of the film *Sojourner* by Cauleen Smith. On Tuesday morning, Professor Thunert led us through the capital and gave us a tour of the once-divided Berlin. Among other things, we visited the Berlin Wall Memorial at the historic site of Bernauer Straße. From a viewing platform, visitors get an impression of the so-called death strip and a remaining guard tower; plaques commemorating successful or fatal escape attempts of GDR citizens to the West display the history of German's division. We then took the S-Bahn from Berlin Mitte to Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg to see the East Side Gallery. The open-air gallery with its modern artworks by 101 different artists is not only a memorial to the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification but also the most extended remaining portion of the former divide between East and West Germany. The most famous art piece depicts "The Fraternal Kiss" between Leonid Brezhnev and Erich Honecker, the leaders of the U.S.S.R. and East Germany. After a short break on the banks of the river Spree, our tour along the former border areas ended at Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin's best-known crossing point between Communist East Berlin and Democratic West Berlin located on Friedrichstraße. We spent the afternoon at the Hamburger Bahnhof. The museum, with its focus on contemporary art, housed exhibitions of various American artists in May, like "The Elephant in the Room - Sculptures of the Marx Collection and of the Collection of the Nationalgalerie" with works by Joseph Beuys, Donald Judd, and Jeff Koons. We also saw an exhibition of works by the African American artist Jack Whitten. "Jack Whitten, Jack's Jacks" included abstract works in acrylic colors and mosaic style such as "King's Wish" (Martin Luther's Dream) (1968) or "Apps for Obama" (2011). The last item on the agenda of the second day was a visit to the Reichstag Building and its dome. On the visitor's platform of the plenary hall, the center of the German Bundestag, a guide gave us the most important information about the Bundestag and explained the composition of the plenum.

BAS students and Martin Thunert in the German Bundestag



On Wednesday morning, we met Lothar Binding (SPD), a member of the German Bundestag from Heidelberg, in the Jakob-Kaiser-Haus. Since 2012, Mr. Binding has been the financial policy spokesman for the SPD federal faction and is responsible for tax policy and financial market regulation. During the meeting, he reported on his tasks as a member of the Finance Committee and

how a session week in the German Bundestag works. Then it was our turn to ask the deputy our questions. In a frank discussion, we gained insights on his opinion about the governing “Grand Coalition” or on how the atmosphere in the Bundestag has changed ever since the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) became part of it. Other significant points of discussion were the looming recession in Germany and whether lobbying is harmful or even crucial in democracies. After meeting Lothar Binding, we left Berlin for Potsdam. For the first time during a Berlin excursion, Schloss Cecilienhof was included in the program. In world history, the Cecilienhof is known as the site of the Potsdam Agreement, also known as the Three-Power Conference of Berlin, which marked the end of World War II and the beginning of the Cold War. The evening ended with a dinner at “The Sixties Diner,” where former HCA students who are currently in Berlin also stopped by.

Contrary to plan, we did not start the next day at the Allied Museum in Dahlem but headed straight for Wannsee. There we visited the house of the Wannsee Conference, where high-ranking representatives of the SS, the NSDAP and various ministries met to discuss the mass murder of the European Jews in 1942. The museum is a haunting memorial to the victims of the Nazi regime. We spent the afternoon with coffee and snacks in the reference library of the American Academy. Fred M. Donner, one of twenty-four Americans who come to the Academy annually for research purposes, gave us insights into his stay in Berlin. Professor Donner investigates the origins of religion in the Berlin papyrus archives. Before the program of the 2019 Berlin Excursion ended, we visited the Jewish Museum in Berlin. Friday morning was free for us students to explore Berlin by ourselves. The Berlin excursion showed us that the capital of Germany is a place where worlds meet and the Western and Eastern heritages merge into today’s history, politics, and culture.

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 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Arizona State University; the University of Kentucky; the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and the University of Oklahoma. Two students opted for an exchange via the ERASMUS program and went to study at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, and Uppsala University, Sweden.

MASTER OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES (MAS)

In 2017-18, the MAS was offered for the last time as a three semester program. Its final cohort graduated in 2019 (see pages 61-65). In the winter term 2018-19, the HCA launched a newly designed four semester master's program, 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.

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

The 2019 MAS graduates at the HCA commencement, l-r:
Natascha Schiel, Laura Alcántara Duque, Benedikt Scantlebury, Anđjela Micanovic, Andreea Rus, Alexandra Katkinová, Tamás Deák-Bárdos, Holly Clayman, Cansu Aydın, Gülhan Arklan, Shasha Lin, Victoria Madsen



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 at research institutions such as the Center for Research on North America (CISAN-UNAM). Laura chose history, geography, and political science as her majors. Her M.A. thesis is entitled "The Miami Riots of the 1980s: Urban Clashes of the War on Drugs?"

Gülhan Arklan (Germany/Turkey)

Gülhan was born and raised in Frankfurt am Main. She went to school in both Germany and Turkey. She holds a B.A. in American Culture and Literature from Ankara University. Gülhan majored in geography, literature, and religious studies and submitted an M.A. thesis on "Children's Books: The Underappreciated Art: An Aesthetical Approach to Four American Children's Books."

Cansu Aydın (Turkey)

Cansu Aydın was born in 1995 in Ankara, Turkey. After high school in Ankara, she was accepted to Bilkent University's Department of American Culture and Literature with a full scholarship. During this time, Cansu spent one year at the 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. Cansu chose geography, law, and religious studies as her majors and her M.A. thesis is entitled "From Kadath to Dhamsawaat: Representations of the Orient in American Fantasy Literature."

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. Erkam majored in geography, literature, and religious studies and wrote his M.A. thesis on "Urban Revitalization of Detroit Through Techno Music."

Holly Clayman (USA)

Holly was born and raised in Concord, the charming capital city of New Hampshire. She received her B.A. (Honors) 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. Holly chose geography, political science, and law as her majors. Her M.A. thesis is entitled "The Offbeat Political Culture of Contemporary New Hampshire: With Liberty and Small Government for All?"

Tamàs Deák-Bárdos (Hungary)

Tamàs was born in Budapest, Hungary. He received his M.A. degree in political science from Corvinus University of Budapest where he chose political theory as his field of specialization. He is interested in the Anglo-Saxon theories of liberalism and their contemporary critiques. During his studies, he was working at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in the research group on political realism. His long term aspiration is to pursue a Ph.D. and to become an academic. After spending a year as an exchange student at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Tamàs chose history, political science, and religious studies as his majors and wrote his M.A. thesis on "Faith and Affluence: Understanding the Reconciliation of Religion and Welfare through the 1996 Welfare Reform Act."

Douglas Favero (USA)

Douglas Favero graduated with a dual degree in sociocultural studies in Southern Africa and Latin America, and English, from Valparaiso University in Indiana. 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. During the years preceding his time at Heidelberg University, he was an academic adviser for the Fulbright Commission and EducationUSA. Douglas majored in history, literature, and political science, and wrote an M.A. thesis entitled "'Where the Public Mind Shall Rest': Abraham Lincoln and the Dred Scott Case."

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. She has a keen interest in U.S. foreign affairs and diplomacy with a specialization on security-related topics. Alexandra chose history, political science, and law as her majors and submitted an M.A. thesis on "The Politicization of the Appointment Process to the Supreme Court of the United States."

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 work experience, she takes interest in American culture, especially in literature

and political science. After graduating from the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, she plans to earn a Ph.D. and ultimately become a professor. Shasha majored in geography, political science, and religious studies and wrote her M.A. thesis on “Racial Balancing versus Racial Discrimination: Asian Americans and Affirmative Action.”

Victoria Madsen (USA)

Victoria was born and raised near Chicago. She earned her B.A. in history from the University of Missouri in 2016 and spent her junior year at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy. Her studies were mainly focused on colonial Latin American history, the U.S. Civil Rights Movement and modern Italian history. History of seemingly any kind and traveling are her two greatest passions. Victoria chose history, geography, and religious studies as her majors. Her M.A. thesis is entitled “‘We Shall Overcome’: Use of the Spiritual Tradition in the Civil Rights Movement’s Protest Gospel Music.”

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 the U.S. (Washington, D.C.) and in Germany (Heidelberg). Andjela has working experience in both the Government Sector (E.U.) and International Organizations (UN), as well as in various NGOs where she volunteered for the last ten years. Andjela majored in history, political science, and law and wrote her M.A. thesis on the “American Role in Montenegrin Accession to NATO.”

Marco Morales Mendez (USA)

Marco graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in American cultural studies from Western Washington University as the 2017 Outstanding Graduate in American Cultural Studies. He was also 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 T.A. in American Social Theory, Latino Studies, and the program lead on a global learning program to the Republic of Cuba. Marco chose history, political science, and law as his majors. His M.A. thesis is entitled “Access to Democracy Laws and the Future of Hispanic Democracy in Washington State.”

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. Andreea majored in geography, literature, and political science and submitted an M.A. on “Remembering Nat Turner in American Popular Culture.”

Emmanuelle Sané (Senegal)

Emanuelle was born in Dakar in 1983 and studied English and American Studies at the Cheick Anta Diop University of Dakar where she received her Maîtrise in 2007. She worked on "Spirituality and the Image of God in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*" before joining the MAS. Her M.A. thesis is entitled "Shifting Paradigms: A Case Study of Elite Anti-Americanism in Senegal."

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 for a B.A. in History at the University of Oxford. At the HCA, Ben chose history, geography, and religious studies as his majors. His M.A. thesis is entitled "A Moment of Biracial Possibility Thwarted: The Collapse of the Readjuster Coalition in Post-Reconstruction Virginia, 1879-1883."

Natascha Schiel (Germany)

Natascha was born in Baden-Baden, Germany, and completed her B.A. in American Studies at the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg in spring 2016. She spent her academic year 2014-15 at Smith College in Massachusetts, where she earned a diploma in American Studies with the support of a scholarship by the German Academic Exchange Service (Jahresstipendium des DAAD). In addition, she has been studying German law at Heidelberg University since 2012. In the MAS, Natascha majored in geography, religious studies, and political science and wrote her M.A. thesis on "Election-Related Fraud Accusations as an Internal Threat to U.S. Democracy: A Divergence Between Political Discourse and Reality."

THE MAS CLASS OF 2020

Hamid Alberto Abud Russell (U.K./Mexico)

Hamid has dual United Kingdom and Mexican nationalities, being born of a British mother and Mexican father who raised him in Campeche, a small town in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. He attended university in Mexico City in "El Colegio de México," where he earned his bachelor's degree in international relations. His research is focused on the forces that shape American foreign policy, specifically on how America's imperialism reflects the will of special interest groups which view Congress as a means to advance their agenda. He interned as a research and a teacher's assistant with Professor Gilberto Conde Zambada, Ph.D., at the Centre for Asian and African studies in El Colegio de México.

Esteban Bernal Carrasquilla (Colombia)

Classical guitarist, music critic, and radio producer, Esteban studied music and international relations at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Colombia). He became interested in the U.S. while researching about jazz diplomacy during the Cold War. He worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia in a cultural diplomacy initiative that aimed to prevent forced recruitment among underage artists exposed to violent environments. During the past years he has conducted several radio shows about American black music and history.

Hannah Borne (Germany)

Hannah-Aeterna Borne, born and raised in Germany, obtained her bachelor degree in American Studies at the HCA in 2018. During her studies, she spent one academic year at the University of Utah, where she developed a special interest in international relations at the Hinckley Institute of Politics. Her studies focused primarily analyzing the relations between the United States and various world regions.

Wing Kei Choi (Hong Kong)

Wing Kei was born and raised in Hong Kong. She earned her B.A. in American Studies and English Studies from the University of Hong Kong. She has been to Denmark and South Korea for exchange studies, and has travelled the United States. These transnational experiences have inspired her studies on race and immigration.

Jack DiMidio (USA)

Jack hails from State College, Pennsylvania. He studied German and linguistics at the Pennsylvania State University. Jack was the recipient of a PIRE grant that allowed him to conduct research in nearby Mannheim. His honors thesis focused on the application of semantic cues to facilitate the acquisition of case marking among native English-speaking second language learners of German.

Laura Reeb (Germany)

Laura was born in Mannheim, Germany, and attended Heidelberg University. She earned her bachelor degree at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies in 2017. During her studies at

the HCA, she specialized in political science and religious history. After her third semester she attended the University of New Mexico for two semesters and pursued her interest in the relations between politics and religion in the United States.

William Brian Sain (USA)

William Brian Sain graduated from Louisiana State University with a B.A. in English secondary education and a minor in German. For the past five years, he has been teaching high schoolers American literature. He has two books of poetry published and is the proud owner of two Pit Bulls and a cat.

Terence Wride (USA)

Terence grew up in California, Oregon, and Utah, but considers Grants Pass, Oregon, home. He earned his B.A. in English and Native American Studies from Brigham Young University, where he focused his coursework and research specifically on the constructions of immigrant, Indigenous, borderland, and diasporic communities. His interests include environmental humanities and promoting the experiences, literatures, and resulting perspectives of oppressed and otherwise marginalized communities through academia.

Cansu Yilmaz (Turkey)

Cansu was born and raised in Ankara, Turkey. She graduated from the Department of American Culture and Literature of Bilkent University, where she studied with a full scholarship. As the highest ranked graduate of her faculty and department, she has also gained work experience in translation, interpretation, and English teaching. Although she is an avid fan of American postmodern poetry, her area of research focuses on political science, specifically neoliberalism, hegemony, and biopower.

THE MAS CLASS OF 2021

In October 2019, the HCA admitted nineteen students from six different countries to its MAS program.



The MAS class of 2021:

Front l-r: Yesim Turak (Turkey), Jasper Yao (Taiwan), Christian Allred (USA), Henry Chan (Hongkong), Nathalie Neubert (Germany), Fei Chang (China), YueYue Hu (China), Shuangjie Sun (China)

Back l-r: Joshua Tobolt (USA), Jacob McKenna (USA), Laura Vogel (Germany), Marius Kaisig (Germany), Cecil Weller (USA), Eva Bein (Germany), Julian Kramer (Germany), Julian Tomic (Germany), Junxuan Li (China).

HCA COMMENCEMENT 2019

On April 26, the HCA celebrated its 2019 Commencement at Heidelberg University's venerable Old Lecture Hall. Accompanied by the Collegium Musicum's UniBrass Ensemble, thirty-three graduates of the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. programs received their honors. The dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Professor Stephan Westphalen, welcomed the graduates and guests and emphasized that the HCA had provided excellent education and research opportunities to their young scholars over the last fifteen years and would continue to do so. Following Professor Westphalen's remarks, HCA Director Professor Welf Werner commenced his address to the graduates starting with the B.A. class of 2019. He pointed out that the free and independent education from which they had profited was no longer a self-evident privilege in Europe and the United States. In his address to the international M.A. class, Professor Werner highlighted the importance and benefits of freedom of speech and freedom of movement that enabled scholars to learn in a pluralistic environment. Finally, Welf Werner addressed the three Ph.D. graduates, Debarcharna Baruah (India), Melanie Gish (Germany), and Agnese Marino (Italy), and congratulated them on the completion of this challenging task. He reminded the audience that the HCA was one of the

few public private partnerships in the humanities in Germany and depended on the support of its generous benefactors.

HCA commencement speaker
David Greenberg



After expressing his gratitude to the HCA's dedicated staff and its founding director, Professor Detlef Junker, Professor Werner introduced David Greenberg, this year's commencement speaker. Professor Greenberg teaches history, journalism, and media studies at Rutgers University and regularly contributes to the *New York Times* and magazines like *Slate*, *The New Yorker*, and *Politico*. After extending his congratulations to the graduates, Professor Greenberg remarked that as an American abroad he frequently felt the need to explain Donald Trump and his politics. The president's demeanor led critics to believe that voting him out of office would be easy, a dangerous underestimation. Criticism towards the president focused mainly on his relations to Russia, his behavior and attitude towards minorities, and his dishonesty. These alleged "Trump Cards" made critics blind to the president's supporters, who countered any criticism vigorously. Consequently, so Professor Greenberg, Trump's critics were unaware of two groups of his potential voters, namely the progressive left and liberals who both agreed with Trump on many levels. Members of the progressive left were likely to deny someone who disagreed with them the right to free speech—a behavior Trump demonstrated frequently; and liberals wanted to rid American society of conservatism—just as the president was eager to purge the White House from dissidents. Such unexpected supporters demanded a more carefully tailored election campaign, as simplifying Trump's behavior and failing to engage with him and his supporters seriously would easily discredit Democrats in the eyes of voters. David Greenberg emphasized that critics should remain factual at all times and acknowledge their own frailties if they wanted to portray themselves as trustworthy politicians. In his conclusion, Professor Greenberg remarked that only a pluralistic society and a moderate government, which equally valued liberals, progressives, and conservatives, could address the growing schisms among Americans.

Professor Werner expressed his gratitude to David Greenberg for his insightful lecture and then proceeded to award the graduates their respective titles. Following this ceremony, the HCA director bestowed the book prize to the valedictorian of the M.A. class, Benedict Scantlebury, whose thesis “A Moment of Biracial Possibility Thwarted: The Collapse of the Readjuster Coalition in Post-Reconstruction Virginia, 1879-1883” was praised for its original and detailed research. In his speech, the 2019 valedictorian expressed his gratitude to his teachers and peers and praised the HCA as an institution that fostered open-minded engagement with the world and its cultures. After a round of applause, Professor Werner invited everyone to the HCA where guests and graduates enjoyed an elegant reception.



The 2019 BAS graduates at the HCA commencement, l-r: Christina Hartmann, Miriam Baar, Michael Watson, Jan Eckhardt, Martina Wagner, Shuxin Chen, Bianca Seitz, Nina Krösing, Marlene Pfeifer, Lisa Marie Adams, Hanna Borne, Marisa Oschmann, Sarah Joeris, Clarissa Begon, Amira Groten-diek, Marie Steinmann

VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH

BY BENEDIKT SCANTLEBURY

Dear esteemed guests, professors, family, friends, and fellow students,

It’s somewhat clichéd to say that “so much has changed over the past eighteen months.” And in my case, at least, nor is it particularly accurate. I came to Heidelberg in October 2017 as a citizen of the European Union, barely able to speak a word of German, but with a fond appetite for Hefeweizen nonetheless. Eighteen months down the line, I leave Germany with my appreciation for German beer fully intact, still unable to speak very much German, much to my eternal shame, and—the last time I checked, at least—just about clinging on to my E.U. citizenship. I realize that I’m doing little there to challenge the stereotype of the linguistically challenged Brit whose main appreciation for European culture is situated at the bottom of a pint glass. Unlike my fellow countrymen, however, I can guarantee to leave this podium when my five minutes are up; no extensions requested. And on this topic, it would be remiss of me if I failed to explicitly mention the elephant in the room. I am, as I’m sure you can tell, British - or, more specifically,

English. Observing events at home from my vantage point here has been a considerable source of bewilderment and disbelief. Yes, never in my wildest imagination did I expect to see the day when England would get further than Germany in a World Cup—a definite highlight of my time here. Somewhere within all this, there is clearly a more serious point to be made about the virtues of spending the previous eighteen months as a member of such a diverse and international group as gathered here today. Sifting through past valedictory addresses, it seems it has become almost mandatory to offer up such an observation. Well, spoiler alert: this is not a tradition I now intend to break.

The 2019 MAS Valedictorian
Benedikt Scantlebury



The diversity of our class can, of course, be commented upon as a novel, even unique feature of the master's course in Heidelberg. Yes, it truly is great that we have come here from eleven different countries, speaking nine different languages. Stopping there, however, would be to do a grave disservice to each and every one of us. All of us came to Heidelberg for our own unique set of reasons. The particularities of our backgrounds, personal histories, the stories we had hitherto crafted for ourselves, perhaps gave us little in common before our arrival here. This, I would suggest, is a cause only for celebration: after all, where would be the benefit of diversity if it was merely superficial. The friendships that have here taken root have not developed from sharing identical worldviews. To the contrary, the most meaningful and memorable conversations have been the product of spirited—yet always respectful and good-humored—disagreement and discussion, often into the early hours of the morning. Reflecting upon these animated debates is a clear rebuke to those who dare suggest that the humanities students of today engage in nothing but unedifying groupthink. For me, here has lain the program's core appeal; by design or by chance, the master's course fosters a remarkable intellectual diversity. As a cohort, our intellectual interests are as eclectic and wide-ranging as our personal histories. Even the most cursory glance at the list of thesis submissions makes this blindingly apparent; from orientalism in American fantasy literature to discrimination against Asian-Americans in the university admissions process, from the impact of techno music in Detroit to the role of spirituals in the civil

rights movement, we had it all. What we do all have in common, I would venture, is something immaterial yet precious—if only because, of recent, it has been in short supply: a willingness—a desire, even—to seek out the unfamiliar, the new, even the sometimes uncomfortable. And I’m not just referring to German bureaucracy there...

If delivering this address in April 2016, I would have no doubt waxed lyrically on how our class reflects the realities of an ever-shrinking world, in which national borders were diminished in the face of an increasingly interconnected globally minded population. Such a conclusion, of course, would have proven disastrously premature. In many ways, the world is no longer shrinking; as walls are erected and national identities entrenched, it is clear that our open-minded engagement with both the world around us and, most importantly, with each other is no longer to be taken for granted. As a class, we are in this sense an anomaly; we have all left the familiar, venturing here to broaden our horizons and widen our understanding of the world in which we live, in proactive pursuit of exposure to the new. And if nothing else, we’ve all shared in that sinking feeling when faced with the inevitable salvo of questions: “So, what actually is American Studies? Why study America in Germany?” And, the ever so grating “How you gonna get a job?” I would like to end by saying that I owe a debt of gratitude to a great many number of people in this room. Indeed, I have reason to thank each and every one of my tutors, classmates, gathered friends and family. In the interests of brevity, however, I will keep my comments short: on behalf of the entire class of 2019, I would like to thank all those who have made our time at the HCA so memorable and enriching. To the professors and tutors, for your patience, guidance and support throughout, we thank you.

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. Members of the Student Committee help to plan and support the orientation week for first-year students in the fall and organize events, such as the annual Christmas party and the summer barbecue. As every year, the Committee represented the American Studies programs at Heidelberg University’s 2019 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. For the second time this year, the Student Committee invited American Studies alumni back to the HCA for the “Beratungsbrücke,” a platform for current students of American Studies to ask questions and get to know possible professional fields after their studies. In addition, the Committee has organized a movie night, a trip to Schwäbisch Hall, and a Student Committee picnic by the Neckar this past year. The Committee’s biweekly meetings, open to everyone, are a safe space for students to voice their concerns and suggestions as well as an 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 2018-19 Students’ Committee chairs Laura Garbe and Lara Smail at fachschaft@hca.uni-heidelberg.de.

The Students’ Committee’s trip to Schwäbisch Hall



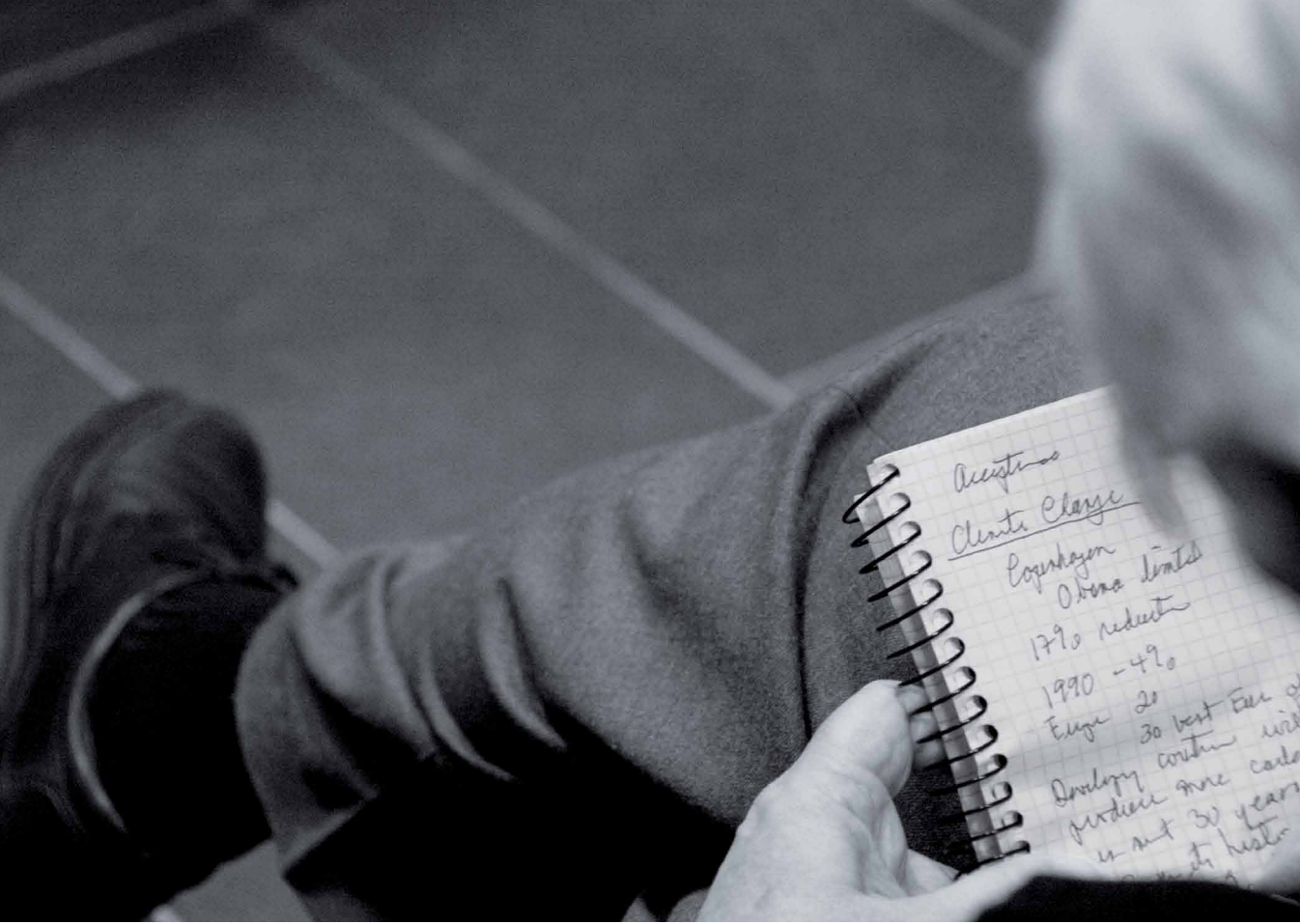
HCA SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Christmas Party

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



Members of the HCA Students' Committee are welcoming guests to the student Christmas party



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. 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 2019, we welcomed two more promising young scholars to the HCA Ph.D. program, Nikolas Mariani from Germany and Sasha Lin from China.

For more information on the HCA's Ph.D. students and more detailed descriptions of their projects see the following pages.

THE HCA GRADUATE BLOG

Fall 2019 saw the one year anniversary of the HCA Graduate Blog. Its editors thank all of the authors and readers who have contributed, read and shared articles. If you are interested in what the up and coming researchers at the HCA are doing, don't look any further! You can read for instance, why blogs are a great source for academic research in "Yes We Can (Blog)! Blogs as a Field for Academic Research" by the editors of the blog, Natalie Rauscher, Maren Schäfer, Andreas Balz and Aline Schmitt. David Eisler wrote on "The All-Volunteer Force and Contemporary American War Fiction." Kristin Berberich, one of our most active contributors, published articles on Michelle Obama's *Becoming*, *When Brooklyn Was Queer*, or on Bike Safety in New York City. Aleksandra Polinska published an article entitled "Is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Really a 'Perfect Foil for the Pro-Trump Media'? A Word on the American Media Landscape." The most recent posts of 2019 include articles on climate skepticism by Hannah Thiele, police work and body-worn cameras by Louis Butcher, and a first-hand account from the 2020 campaign trail by Maren Schäfer.

The HCA Graduate Blog was founded in 2018 by and for the graduate students of the HCA. It emphasizes the interdisciplinary research at the center, offers a glimpse into the work of its graduate students and hopes to ignite discussion and academic debate among researchers across disciplinary boundaries.

As you can see, research at the HCA is as interdisciplinary and vibrant as it can get!



The HCA Graduate Blog was launched in the fall of 2018

Check it out under: hcagrads.hypotheses.org
 Get in touch: hcagrads@hca.uni-heidelberg.de
 Twitter: [@blog_hca](https://twitter.com/blog_hca)

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 Leyboldt



ANASTASSIA BIEDERSTAEDT (GERMANY) BASF SCHOLARSHIP

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

Anastassia Biederstaedt's project examines milk advertisements as outcomes of a complex interplay of social and historical vectors of power. Her dissertation aims at investigating both the geopolitical and socio-cultural forces that helped to build milk as a cultural construct and the broad variety of myths and images intimately tied to this liquid. Given the persisting presence of milk overflow, how does milk continue to be promoted 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



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 Leyboldt



SHASHA LIN (CHINA)

Born in 1994, Shasha Lin earned her bachelor's degree in English language and literature at Sun Yat-Sen University in 2017 and completed her master's degree in American Studies at the HCA in 2019. She wrote her master's thesis on "Racial Balancing Versus Racial Discrimination: Asian Americans and Affirmative Action" and situated Asian Americans within the legal and political discourse on affirmative action looking at a case study of the high-profile lawsuit *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard College*.

Shasha Lin's Ph.D. project, which is tentatively entitled "A Comparative Study of Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese Americans in the Debate over Affirmative Action in Higher Education," compares and contrasts Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese Americans, the first, third and fourth largest Asian American subgroups respectively, in terms of their perceptions of affirmative action in college admissions and corresponding legal and political strategies. Asian Americans, despite the differences between subgroups, have been often depicted as a monolithic group in the current debate over affirmative action in college admissions. They have been portrayed as the "model minority" overrepresented on college campuses or framed as the "model victims of unfair discrimination." So far, research in this field has rarely considered the similarities and differences between Asian American subgroups in terms of their perceptions of affirmative action and their corresponding political and legal strategies. This project intends to close this gap. Since disaggregated data about Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese Americans is limited, this study will use Internet surveys and in-depth interviews with experts in affirmative action, representatives of civil rights organizations, and students concerned with race-conscious admissions policies in order to provide a more accurate and nuanced understanding of the current debate over affirmative action in higher education.

Primary supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



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



NIKOLAS MARIANI (GERMANY)

Nikolas Mariani was born and raised in Germany to Croatian and German/American parents. In 2012, he graduated with a B.A. in English and Philosophy from Heidelberg University, writing his B.A. thesis on the rising Tea Party phenomenon in the USA. He subsequently received his M.A. at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies in 2015, where his thesis dealt with the emerging opportunities for independent news outlets in the media landscape after the Great Recession of 2008. Following his studies, Nikolas Mariani worked at the German-American Institute in Heidelberg, where he coordinated Social Media and PR efforts, ran the project “U.S. Topics”, an educational program for visiting German high-school classes, as well as helped organize a conference on “Journalism 2.0.” In 2019, he joined the HCA’s PhD program where the subject of his research is examining which factors help predict audiences’ formation of trust in alternative news media. Parallel to his research, Nikolas Mariani serves as the coordinator of the HCA’s MAS program.

Nikolas Mariani’s project “Alternative Media in Twenty-First-Century USA: Cultivating Trust in an Era of Distrust” focuses on the phenomenon of alternative, and often digital-native, news media outlets on the left and right of the political spectrum, and seeks to explore the question of how audiences of such sources come to form a relationship of trust with them. This comes at a time when the news industry in general and print journalism in particular are still struggling to adapt to a new economic reality created in part by the proliferation of the internet and exacerbated by the 2008 Great Recession. At the same time, polls are reporting record levels of distrust in mainstream news sources. Conversely, many of the same factors detrimental to mainstream news have allowed alternative news media to flourish. These sources often exhibit views, approaches, methodology, and economic models that differ greatly from mainstream news media. In his dissertation, Nikolas will examine the distinguishable factors that help predict how audiences form a relationship of trust to such outlets.

Primary supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



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

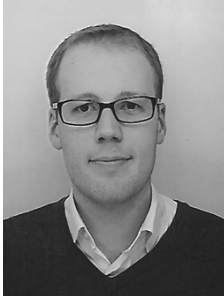


AMRA ODOBASIC (GERMANY) **FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG**

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 Ph.D. 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

On October 24, the HCA awarded the tenth Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize to Maria Sulimma, a graduate of the Free University Berlin and currently an assistant professor at the University Duisburg-Essen, for her outstanding doctoral thesis on seriality and gender in American television shows.

Welf Werner and Günter
Leypoldt award the 2019 Rolf
Kentner Dissertation Prize to
Maria Sulimma



Professor Welf Werner, director of the HCA, welcomed the large audience that had assembled for this special event and was happy to announce that the HCA would continue to bestow the Kentner Prize in the coming years. The first nine awards had been generously underwritten by Rolf Kentner, and the Schurman Foundation decided to renew the award for another five years to acknowledge the work of its honorary chairman. Professor Werner expressed his deep gratitude for the foundation's support before yielding the stage to Professor Günter Leypoldt, who introduced laureate Maria Sulimma and her research. He explained that Maria Sulimma's work provided innovative insights into the construction and serial performance of gender in so-called "quality TV" through well-developed theoretical arguments and a thorough investigation; Professor Leypoldt was convinced that once more the Kentner Prize was bestowed on an excellent dissertation. Sulimma thanked the award committee, Rolf Kentner, the Schurman Foundation, and the HCA for this honor, not the least because it acknowledged the contribution of media studies to the field of literary studies. She also pointed out how literary studies profit from a closer examination of feminist theory, particularly its ideas of intersectionality and its most recent offshoot, postfeminism. First, the concept of intersectionality urges scholars to consider the complex layering and overlapping of class, gender, sex, and ethnicity in real and fictional identities. It likewise reminds scholars of the connection between viewer practices and television practices in the analysis of serial television. Second, postfeminism criticizes the consumption of feminism through pop culture and advertising; while it enables consumers to identify with this complex concept, it does not encourage them to practice its implications. In addition, Maria Sulimma pointed out that the seriality of television shows allowed for unconventional methods of storytelling, gender performances, and viewer interaction, which was why any analysis of serial television had to

consider these aspects. Based on these insights, she then proceeded to explain her analysis of gender in the American shows *Girls*, *The Walking Dead*, and *How To Get Away With Murder*. The show *Girls*, Maria Sulimma argued, actively invited critical analysis of its feminist content and consciously frustrated critics and fans with unanswered questions. However, its position in this socio-political debate also overshadowed features of the show that reflected traditional gender biases. While the writer of *Girls*, Lena Dunham, strongly identified as a feminist, the show repeatedly installed gender performances of women who failed to bond with each other due to competition over male attention. On the other hand, *The Walking Dead* had received much criticism for its exclusively male leadership roles and in response diversified both the character pool and the team of writers. Yet, even its new female leaders did not break with the gender bias of risk-averse, locally focused, cooperative women. Even the politically progressive show *How To Get Away With Murder* failed to create non-normative gender roles that were not highly superficial. In her concluding remarks, Maria Sulimma thus pointed out that a deeper understanding of the gender performances in serial television fostered a more nuanced and critical reception and was essential for the production of truly progressive characters and plots. After a round of applause, the audience was eager to find out more about Sulimma's research and, in the course of the ensuing reception, continued to engage with this topic over food and drink in the HCA's Bel Etage.



Dietmar Schloss with Maria Sulimma at the reception after her presentation

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 Leyboldt (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 research training group is comprised of ten doctoral candidates, four research students, and one postdoctoral researcher. In addition, GKAT profits from the support of renowned associated scholars from Germany, Europe, and the United States.

Within the broad field of American Studies, the GKAT program is 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 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 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 approach these topics in the HCA's interdisciplinary tradition and bring inter- and transnational perspectives to their projects. Throughout the entire funding period, they 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 pro-

vide them with a set of theoretical and methodological skills in the interdisciplinary foundations of American Studies and the basic concepts of authority and trust.

The GKAT group successfully launched their program in 2017-18 with a welcome week, two regular seminars for junior researchers, and a series of public lectures and workshops by scholars working on related topics, including the first GKAT Ringvorlesung on “Authority and Trust in the United States” during the summer term 2018. During the academic year 2018-19, GKAT members continued their focus on the project’s key concepts—“authority” and “trust”—by organizing two international conferences as well as hosting several renowned guest lecturers from Europe and the United States (see pages 99-107).

At the same time, GKAT’s mentoring and qualification program offered the researchers a number of opportunities to not only to discuss their own projects, but to also deepen their understanding of the interdisciplinary research endeavor as a whole. Once again, the traditional Ph.D. Colloquium gave the group of GKAT doctoral students the chance to present their individual research projects in cooperation with the HCA’s regular Ph.D. program. In addition to weekly sessions, on a weekend in May 2019, the HCA Ph.D. summer retreat took place at a pleasant new venue, the Villa Denis in Frankenstein, Pfalz. In an inspiring atmosphere and in the presence of their fellow students and supervisors, 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 “Situating Colson Whitehead in the Literary Field,” “Theological Roots of the American Revolution,” “The Failure of Enlightenment in Henry James,” “Performing Nationhood on the Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Circuit,” “John Dos Passos, Willa Cather, and the Origins of Combat Gnosticism,” and “Joseph Smith Jr., Phoebe Palmer, and New Revelation: How Spiritual Self-Authorization Challenged Traditional Norms in Nineteenth-Century America.”

For the first GKAT faculty workshop, which premiered in the winter term 2018-19 and continued in 2019, GKAT faculty members took the stage to present and discuss preliminary research results from their respective disciplines. Their lectures are currently comprised for a volume to be published in 2020. They covered the fields of history (Manfred Berg, “The Problem of Political Trust in Contemporary American History”); literary and cultural studies (Günter Leypoldt, “Charismatic Trust and Cultural Artifacts”; Dietmar Schloss, “The Trust Debate in the American Renaissance”); political science (Florian Böller and Sebastian Harnisch, “Shifting Patterns of Global Authority: Driving Foreign Policy Change”; Martin Thunert, “Losing and Regaining Trust in Experts: U.S. Policy Makers and the Public in Comparative Perspective”); geography (Ulrike Gerhardt, “‘My Home is my Castle’: Trust and Distrust in Housing Development in U.S. American Precarious Neighborhoods”); theology/religious studies (Jan Stievermann, “Different Responses to the Crisis of Religious Authority in Nineteenth-Century America”); and economics (Welf Werner, “Counter-cyclical Fiscal Policy in the U.S.: Textbook Economics versus Party Politics).

In addition, GKAT’s junior researchers had the chance to take part in several workshops designed to facilitate qualifications and experiences that help them to develop their career prospects both

within and outside academia. Female researchers profited from an Equal Opportunity Mentoring Workshop (November 2018), which brought mentors with different academic and professional backgrounds to the HCA (Stella Krepp, Universität Bern; Sabine Sielke, Universität Bonn; Meike Zwingenberger, Amerikahaus/Bayerische Amerika-Akademie München; and Annalisa Zuccotti, BioRN Network e.V. Heidelberg), and from a Career Coaching Workshop (May 2019) which also offered individual counseling. Two other workshops, open for the whole research group, were organized in cooperation with Heidelberg University's Graduiertenakademie ("Vocal Training" and "Writing Journal Articles", both October 2019).

GKAT CONFERENCES

"NATO at 70: Trust and Mistrust among Allies," April 8-9, 2019, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies

Is NATO really "brain-dead"? One does not need to fully agree with French President Emmanuel Macron's recent critique to acknowledge that NATO and transatlantic ties are currently undergoing a severe crisis. While there have been crisis situations throughout NATO's seventy-year history, the current situation has a new quality. Previous crises like the controversy over the Iraq War, debates on the "dual track" decision in the 1980s, and the Suez Crisis, for example, centered on policy issues. In contrast, today's calamities affect the very heart of the alliance: mutual trust. "Trust and Mistrust among Allies" was therefore the topic of an international conference held at the HCA in April 2019. This two-day conference, convened by GKAT postdoc Florian Böller and HCA Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach, was supported by the German Research Foundation as part of HCA's Graduiertenkolleg "Authority & Trust".

The papers presented and the discussions that ensued underscored that trust is a vital resource in international relations. It is a necessary precondition for settling conflicts and building lasting peace. It is therefore all the more important for NATO, which sees itself as a community of values and security, not just as a military alliance.

The conference brought together a group of scholars interested in trusting relationships, NATO, and transatlantic security. Presenting historical case studies, theoretical concepts, different methodological approaches, and contemporary analyses, the papers shed light on various aspects of the West's preeminent security institution. Sebastian Harnisch (Heidelberg University) and Falk Ostermann (University of Gießen) explored in their papers current aspects of U.S.-European relations. Sebastian Harnisch concluded that the rise of populism poses a new challenge to the alliance and may lead to an erosion of the alliance. Mark Webber (University of Birmingham) was less pessimistic about the future of NATO. He argued that NATO possesses an institutional resilience that may survive the challenges U.S. President Donald Trump poses. Highlighting the aspect of burden-sharing and the two percent-goal as mechanisms to signal trust, Vincent Keating (University of Southern Denmark) and Jan Ruzicka (Aberystwyth University) underscored that

the European partners' unwillingness to pay their fair share of defense expenditure has also contributed to the current crisis of trust.



Roundtable discussion with Wilfried Mausbach, Heiko Thoms, Sudha David-Wilp, Ben Hodges

Looking at historical cases, Florian Böller and Andreas Hasenclever (University of Tübingen) tried to put the current situation in perspective. While Florian Böller demonstrated how U.S. President John F. Kennedy was able to overcome substantial mistrust during the early 1960s, Andreas Hasenclever's contribution focused on the development of trust between France and Germany after 1945, to which NATO was instrumental. Looking beyond intra-NATO relations, Carina van de Wetering (University of Leiden) and Marion Messmer (King's College London) presented papers on U.S.-India relations and on NATO-Russia relations to trace processes of trust-building as well as loss of trust.

The conference concluded with a roundtable discussion featuring senior policy-makers and experts, including Heiko Thoms (Germany's Deputy Permanent Representative at NATO), Sudha David-Wilp (German Marshall Fund of the United States, Berlin) and General Ben Hodges (Ret.) (Center for European Policy Analysis). The panelists agreed that NATO is still the backbone of transatlantic security in view of growing risks and uncertainty, both within Western countries and on a global scale. At the same time, they acknowledged the need for consultation and dialogue through transatlantic networks to restore trust and confidence among allies.

“Transatlantic Literary Authority: Material Networks, Symbolic Economies,” July 4-6, 2019, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies and the Internationales Wissenschaftszentrum Heidelberg

In the first week of July 2019, GKAT faculty member and co-speaker Günter Leypoldt and GKAT Ph.D. candidate Tim Sommer convened an international symposium on transatlantic literary authority. It highlighted a number of innovative methodologies that have resulted from the recent interest in transatlantic literary connections. Those methodologies have moved beyond strictly text-centered comparative approaches and opened up new areas of investigation with fresh explanatory frameworks. The symposium aimed at combining two approaches that have been especially important in energizing this theoretical conversation: the analysis of material artifacts and social practices (as in book history, material culture, media, or performance studies) and the reconstruction of symbolic and discursive patterns (as in cultural sociology or postcolonial studies). Drawing on the concept of authority, the symposium invited papers that brought together these different perspectives and sought to bridge the disciplinary and methodological divides between them.

In an introductory keynote lecture hosted by the HCA on July 4, sociologist Gisèle Sapiro (EHESS/CNRS, Paris) provided a framework for conceptualizing literary authorship and translation in a comparative transnational framework. Over the course of the following two days, nine papers from European and North American scholars explored how individuals or social groups in the literary field of the Atlantic world both experienced and exerted authority. They detailed how transatlantic literary, political, and cultural discourses of authority were conditioned, amplified, or undercut by the media forms and material objects in which they manifested themselves from the second half of the eighteenth century to the present. In addition to several GKAT members who contributed to the symposium as presenters (Günter Leypoldt, Margit Peterfy, and Tim Sommer) and session chairs (David Eisler, Claudia Jetter, Dietmar Schloss, and Jan Stievermann), the event featured presentations by Annika Bautz (University of Plymouth), Katie McGettigan (Royal Holloway, University of London), Meredith L. McGill (Rutgers University), Joseph Rezek (Boston University), Julia Straub (University of Bern), and Tom F. Wright (University of Sussex). Covering a wide range of topics, from the transatlantic circulation of eighteenth-century poet Phillis Wheatley’s writings to the transnational textual and cultural identities of contemporary American and African novelists, the papers and subsequent discussions offered a panoramic view of the plurality of symbolic forms and material shapes of authority. They thus provided a new perspective on transatlantic exchange that complicates previous accounts of transatlantic power relations and promises to spark further debate beyond the historical, geographical, and disciplinary framework of the symposium.

GKAT LECTURES

October 23, 2018

Alasdair Roberts, University of Massachusetts (Amherst), School of Public Policy "America's Decade of Confusion: The Political Consequences of Financial Crisis"

On October 23, 2018 the HCA welcomed Alasdair Roberts, professor of political science and director of the School of Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. His lecture constituted the first event of the twenty-fourth Baden-Württemberg Seminar, jointly organized with the Graduiertenkolleg „Authority and Trust“(GKAT). Florian Böller, postdoctoral researcher of the Graduiertenkolleg, introduced Professor Roberts, pointing out the highlights in his accomplished academic career. Professor Roberts' lecture then introduced the audience to his theory of sequential intervals of hubris and crisis in democratic governments and its relevance for the United States' current political sentiment. His analysis of today's general mood in the United States revealed an imminent sense of calamity, spread by newspaper headlines and recently published books—a sense of decay that for once cannot completely be blamed on U.S. President Donald Trump. Already four to five years ago, headlines in prominent American newspapers asked „Is there something wrong with democracy?“ Democracy's apparent crisis occurred at the same time as the rise of authoritarian systems. Are democracies just not fit for grappling with twenty-first century challenges?



Alasdair Roberts

To approach an answer to this question, Professor Roberts consulted history. Fifteen years ago, another extreme phenomenon agitated the United States—a feeling of democratic hubris. According to President Bill Clinton in 2000, America had “never enjoyed so much prosperity” as it did at that moment in time. Moreover, the country had been immersed in a similar state of hubris multiple times before the 2000s. President Kennedy referred to similar feelings in a speech in 1962, when he stated that the “old sweeping issues have largely disappeared.” But his feeling of accomplishment was followed by malaise and the sense of a “broken democracy” in 1974-79.

“So, where are we now?” Professor Roberts asked following this historic review. At the moment, America experiences the “ugly” years of deep crisis. If the low point was triggered by the 2008 financial crisis and the crisis pursues the same pattern as past intervals of hubris and crisis, the American population is only half way through the current turbulence. However, this moment of uncertainty and desperation will result in the creation of a new consensus by political entrepreneurs, and institutions will realign. Professor Roberts bid his audience farewell with confidence and hope, reassuring his listeners that processes of political recreation are oftentimes invisible to the public eye. Citing his book *Four Crises of American Democracy*, he concluded that “we should resist the temptation to make broader judgements about democracy in this difficult moment. Democracy does not work neatly, but it works.” Following his enlightening talk, the audience posed questions to further probe Professor Roberts’ theories.

November 8, 2018

James English, University of Pennsylvania, Department of English “Popular Fiction Portfolios”

On November 8, James English, the John Welsh Centennial Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Price Lab for Digital Humanities, had followed a joint invitation of the HCA and GKAT. Tim Sommer, currently a member of GKAT, opened the evening by welcoming the audience in the HCA’s Atrium and introducing the speaker. To commence his talk, Professor English pointed out that his project had originated to some extent in positive psychology, a subject that studied the concept of wellbeing as an increasingly important factor in cultures and cultural endeavors. Scholars were particularly intrigued by studies that attempted to prove a connection between reading and happiness. Yet, such studies often yielded unsatisfactory results, which was largely the result of inadequate data and the complexity of analyzing reading behaviors of different readers across different genres. Eventually, these inadequacies led literary scholars to draw from digital data found on platforms such as Goodreads. Such sociological cybermetric reader studies were less time consuming and cheaper and therefore a rapidly growing field, so James English. Goodreads offered especially interesting data, since it enabled its users to “shelve” their favorites which in return enabled scholars to connect personal reading preferences to general evaluations.

James English



James English and his team began to use such data to determine whether people read narrowly or broadly, that is whether their choices tended to be similar or diverse, in order to test the so-called "omnivore theory." This theory states that individuals choose what they consume not in accordance with their class or education but freely and thus from all aspects of cultural production. In the era of the digital revolution, this theory had gained wide acceptance, not least because the Internet offers an endless array of choices. Therefore, a cultural omnivore was able to consume varied cultural products with little or no effort involved. Professor English's study first investigated this theory by focusing on the readers of specific genres such as bestsellers and works on the short lists for literary prizes. However, those results were inconclusive, eventually leading the team to focus on single readers and their tastes instead. An analysis of reading lists published on Goodreads then showed that, in contrast to the omnivore theory, most people read rather narrowly, and most overlap of tastes was the result of a difficulty to distinguish between certain genres. For example, individuals who enjoyed reading fantasy novels also were likely to read novels categorized as Sci-Fi. Yet, the majority of such genre categorizations did not distinguish clearly between the two but often identified a novel as Fantasy and Sci-Fi. James English emphasized that even though his findings suggested narrow reading habits, there were no prior studies available as reference and therefore no way to be certain about the meaning of such results. Yet, he alerted the audience to platforms such as Goodreads that encourage narrow reading patterns through the use predictive algorithms, which suggest books to users based on their preferences. Professor English then closed his lecture by emphasizing once more that one should regard these findings as a starting point for further research. After a final round of applause, the audience used the opportunity to engage in a more detailed discussion of this project.

November 28, 2018

Caroline Levine, Cornell University, Department of English "Sustainable Forms: Routine, Infrastructure, Conservation"

On November 28, Professor Caroline Levine visited the HCA to speak about her research into forms and New Formalism. The David and Kathleen Ryan Professor of the Humanities at the English Department of Cornell University published her highly acclaimed findings in 2015. After a brief introduction by Dr. Philipp Löffler, assistant professor for English at Heidelberg University, Professor Levine took the stage. The basic assumption of her work is that forms determine all aspects of human life. They appear in different guises as organizations, rituals, patterns, or abstract ideas such as space or time. Not only do they influence our social life, but also politics and arts. All forms, so Professor Levine, have certain sets of portable limitations and qualities, also called affordances. As a result, one can predict how forms play out in different circumstances, regardless of where or when they are implemented. Although Caroline Levine regards this as an advantage, forms and Formalism used to carry a bitter taste in academia. Especially literary studies have developed a culture of celebrating works that resisted or broke with forms such as the avant-garde while on the other hand disregarding texts that adhered to or perpetuated existing conventions. Professor Levine emphasized that especially regarding the growing need for sustainability, the resilience of this destructive culture seemed odd or at least counterproductive.

In her work, she therefore strove to improve the image of sustainability among scholars of the humanities.

Caroline Levine



Following these statements, Caroline Levine then devoted the second part of her lecture to answering the question why it would be beneficial to study forms. Through the examination of existing negative forms, such as white supremacy and sexism, one was able to learn how such structures sustained themselves. In return, this would enable scholars to design a self-sustaining positive form as a replacement. As an example, Professor Levine compared racism's influence on American societies and a food program initiated in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Racial hierarchies had such a pervasive influence on every aspect of social life in America that it affected institutions, organizations, and traditions. In these racially constructed forms, American society reaffirmed the idea of a racial hierarchy. This feedback loop between reciprocally affirmative structures enabled the "form" racism to continue for so long. Caroline Levine argued that Belo Horizonte's food supply system made use of a similar strategy. It had deliberately been imbedded into every existing governmental ministry, making changes costly and maximizing its reach. Even though the benefits were apparent in this example, Professor Levine pointed out that the most difficult challenge was to redefine conventional forms in an aesthetic manner. For a long time, subversive and disruptive art had dominated the academic and public understanding of beauty. Therefore, redefining conservation and routine as admirable and beautiful was crucial to creating a sustainable life. Caroline Levine closed on the notion that this would be the future responsibility of the humanities and literary studies and that it was necessary to reexamine and adjust what all of us perceived as beautiful in everyday life. After a round of applause, the audience was keen to discuss Professor Levine's work in further detail and find out more about its prospects.

May 9, 2019

Hartmut Rosa, Institut für Soziologie, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena „Charisma als Resonanzbeziehung“

On May 9, 2019, the Graduiertenkolleg “Authority and Trust” (GKAT) welcomed sociologist Hartmut Rosa at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA); Hartmut Rosa is professor of general and theoretical sociology at Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena and director of the Max-Weber-Kolleg at Erfurt University. Professor Günter Leypoldt gave an introduction to Hartmut Rosa’s main area of research: Hartmut Rosa’s talk was based on his influential monograph *Resonanz: Eine Soziologie der Weltbeziehung*, which was published in 2016 and builds upon his earlier publication *Beschleunigung: Die Veränderung der Zeitstrukturen der Moderne* from 2005. In his talk, Professor Rosa focused on the connecting elements between the two concepts “charisma” and “resonance.”



Hartmut Rosa

Before introducing the audience to his concept of resonance, Professor Rosa presented several of his own social theories, proposing that “resonance” can be seen as providing a solution to these particular issues. Based on Max Weber’s notion of modernization as a centuries-long process of rationalization, Hartmut Rosa perceives, for instance, modern societies as consistently longing for knowledge that renders the world calculable and controllable in all of its facets, be it in terms of government, lifestyle, or explorations of the moon or nuclear energy. The phenomenon of continuous acceleration, exponential growth, and innovation forces modern societies to grow and accelerate systematically, just in order to maintain the status quo. Professor Rosa described this necessity of constant acceleration needed to maintain the system (which he calls “dynamic stabilization”) as the “escalation logic of modernity.” The members of such a society are driven by and torn between two impulses: on the one hand, the longing to continuously bring more of the world within their reach; on the other hand, the fear to fall and be left behind. While the traditional aim of parents once was to do everything so their children could enjoy a higher standard of living, parents are now driven by the desire to make sure their children’s social economic status does not drop below their own. What pervades society at an even deeper level is, as Hartmut Rosa emphasized, the “basic anxiety of modernity”—the fear of losing our grip on the world, seeing it change and slip from our perception. According to Max Weber, every modern process

of rationalization comes with the downside of perceiving the world as disenchanting. Professor Rosa conceptualizes this form of disenchantment as a mode of “world relation,” in which subject and world have grown alienated: the world appears as mute, grey, indifferent, or even openly denying any relation at all. We are faced with a world that, despite our efforts to appropriate it, appears as a kind of desert—a world, in which work, products, processes, human beings, and animals become alienated, a world generating “professionals without spirit” and “hedonists without passion,” enraged citizens and people suffering from burnout syndrome.

In light of these observations, what would a more “successful” world relation look like? For Hartmut Rosa, the answer lies in the concept of “resonance”—a term he borrows from physics and uses in a sociological sense to describe a system of responses between subject and world. In his understanding, resonance takes place on three “axes”: the horizontal, interpersonal axis; the diagonal, material axis (which binds us to people and objects, be it a believer to her church, a noble man to his castle, or a baker to his bread); and the vertical axis, a general sense of the connection to the world. Resonant world relations are shaped by a kind of affection (something calls to us and touches us deeply) and emotion (we answer this “call” and react to it); finally, this process of being touched and affected transforms us, the world, and the relation itself. Resonance, as Rosa points out, is not “available” in the sense that it can be constructed or forced, and the results of such contacts are open-ended. While we might, for instance, enter a concert hall with the expectation of being moved, there is no guarantee the music will actually touch us.

According to Professor Rosa, the unavailability of charisma is, among other things, an aspect that qualifies it as a relation of resonance—here too, the addressee must exhibit an inherent willingness to be moved. The concept of charisma, in contrast to that of “genius,” cannot exist without a counterpart and is hence a relational term in its very essence. Resonance in charisma first of all manifests itself in that this world relation is diametrically opposed to any form of prediction or control and can hence function as a counterforce to processes of rationalization and bureaucratization. Second, charisma can be seen as having transformative powers by creating axes of resonance on the three aforementioned levels. A further similarity between resonance and charisma that Hartmut Rosa pointed out consists in the fact that both concepts are routinized through and in ritual. He referred to the Christian faith as an example: While on the one hand, the ritualization of charisma can stabilize the axes of resonance, it can, on the other hand, also lead to a certain stiffening of form. Towards the end of this talk, Professor Rosa questioned his own thesis by referring to a central difference between these two forms of world relation. Unlike charisma, resonance presupposes a voice on the receiving end. Charisma, in contrast to resonance, is shaped by an asymmetrical relation between the sending and the receiving party; it causes a relationship of echoes rather than resonance. While charisma claims on behalf of others—“I am your voice”—resonance simply says, “I will give you back your voice.”

May 16, 2019

Hugh Ryan, Writer and Queer Historian, New York City "When Brooklyn Was Queer"

On May 16, the HCA and an expectant audience welcomed author and queer historian Hugh Ryan from New York. In a cooperation between GKAT, with the Heidelberg Queer Festival and the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar, Hugh Ryan presented his recent book *When Brooklyn Was Queer*. His professional background is as diverse and colorful as the subjects of his study. He writes the biweekly "Themstory" column as the resident historian at Conde Nast's new LGBTQ magazine *Them* and founded a pop-up museum of queer history in 2010, where he curates exhibitions at local communities and leads workshops on AIDS activism and LGBTQ history. Furthermore, he serves as the development associate at the Urban Justice Center, as a consultant for New York City's queer experimental film festival, and as an expert on the literary origin of zombies.

Without ever knowing or noticing anything about its queer history, Hugh Ryan lived in Brooklyn for fifteen years. After he discovered hints of Brooklyn's queer past that no historian has ever written about, he began his journey through the archives, systematically uncovering Brooklyn's "great forgotten story." Walt Whitman's publication of *Leaves of Grass* in 1855 marks the beginning of Hugh Ryan's historic timeline that covers the famous drag kings of the late nineteenth century, Ella Wesner and Florence Hines, life in Brooklyn's gay brothels, lesbian women who found employment in the Navy Yard during World War II, and "scare queen" Martin Boyce's stories of the 1969 Stonewall riots. The waterfront played a particular role in the growth of Brooklyn's queer scene. It offered dangerous, dirty, and low-skilled jobs but jobs that paid and queer people were willing to take. A whole waterfront economy developed around gay sailors, sex workers, dancers, and lesbian women who worked in the factories. The police often forbore to change the situation to keep the economy running. The opening of New York's subway system at the beginning of the twentieth century connected suburbs and neighborhoods and promoted a lively exchange between the city's queer communities. If Brooklyn's queer scene experienced this kind of growth what caused its disappearance, its forgetting, Hugh Ryan asked.



Hugh Ryan

The talk then examined in more detail the 1942 case of the Swedish brothel owner Gustave Beekman, who was accused of running a “house of degradation” where German spies and American soldiers met to exchange secret information about troop movements. The media picked up the story and turned it into a sensation involving a gay senator and the question about Beekman’s financial backers; it seemed incomprehensible how a gay brothel owner could earn as much money as Beekman did. In the end, the court sentenced Beekman to twenty years in a maximum-security prison, and he disappeared from public records. After this “witch hunt,” Brooklyn’s brothels gradually shut down, and all signs of former centers of queer community vanished.

Although queerness has been popularized inside and outside of academia, not the least because of Netflix shows and social media, approaching the topic historically proved to be a research challenge, said Hugh Ryan. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, sexual orientation was seldom if ever discussed in newspapers and interviews; he had to rely on letters, personal diary entries as well as oral histories to put the puzzle together, piece by piece. The ambiguous definition of the term “queer” and its ever-changing use over the past 150 years was another challenge of writing this book. At times, people’s memories in oral histories did not match his other sources and required comparing and reconstruction. Ryan struggled to find Brooklynites who worked the navy yard or protested during the Stonewall riots in 1969 and wanted to talk about their experience. However, in the end he was able to reconstruct a profound historic timeline of Brooklyn’s queerness. As fellow historian George Chauncey put it, Hugh Ryan “makes history cool.” The audience’s applause and interested questions bore testimony to this comment.

Find a review of *When Brooklyn Was Queer* by Kristin Berberich on the HCA Graduate Blog: <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/2027>

June 27, 2019

**Michèle Mendelssohn, Faculty of English Language and Literature, Oxford University
“Life Imitates Art, or: The True History of Oscar Wilde’s American Tour and Transatlantic 19th-century Racism”**

On June 27, Michèle Mendelssohn presented her lecture on Oscar Wilde’s American tour. Professor Günter Leypoldt of Heidelberg University’s English Department introduced the guest, who has a long-standing connection with Germany. She spent many summers learning German and working jobs on an island in the North Sea. After her graduation from Concordia University in Canada, a visiting scholarship brought her to Heidelberg University where she studied German literature. In 1999, she went to Cambridge University to earn her M.Phil. and Ph.D. in American and English literature. Today, Mendelssohn is a literary critic, cultural historian, and member of Oxford’s English Faculty.

In July 2018, Mendelssohn published *Making Oscar Wilde*, a biography of the famous Irish poet and playwright. Contrary to common belief he was “not born a genius, he became one.” Though influenced by his eccentric mother, he nevertheless had to outlive hardships before he became

the global cultural icon we remember today. After graduating from school, Wilde enrolled at Trinity College in Dublin to study the classics. Smart but still socially awkward, he applied to Oxford University to study more classics but really focused on expanding his social circle. He succeeded, and the prominent people he surrounded himself with leveraged his own success: discovered by a caricaturist, Wilde headed for America in 1882. “I have nothing to declare but my genius,” Wilde supposedly bragged when clearing customs in the United States. From the beginning of the tour, managers and photographers staged Wilde’s appearances as if he was a movie star. People loved his unconventional style of long hair, tight trousers, and eccentric beard, and police needed to clear the streets because of “young women craving for Oscar.” Though women loved him, Wilde’s eighty-page lectures bored the audiences, and his instant success stagnated. The press tore him apart. His sexuality and his Irish ancestry offered enough material for wild assumptions and racial controversies. Repeatedly, Wilde became the victim of unfavorable reports and caricatures picturing him as a black-faced minstrel act. The Irishman Oscar Wilde was racialized and ridiculed. As many as nineteen minstrel shows featured Wilde, the most famous one being “Ten Sisters for Oscar.” Oscar Wilde was the victim—until he bought into the same culture of fakery and imitation that made fun of him in the first place. He landed an instant success as he attacked American furniture in one of his lectures and established his famous “dandy” persona. Wilde’s genius manifested itself in countless poems, essays, dramas, and in *The Picture of Dorian Grey*, his only novel. Until today, literary criticism uses words like “Wildean” and “Wildese” that trace back to him. Professor Mendelssohn concluded that Oscar Wilde’s belief in himself made his success and extraordinary life possible. “Today he’d have the last laugh” she assumed. Michèle Mendelssohn’s lecture was followed by several rounds of interesting questions from the audience.



Michelle Mendelssohn

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.

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. 38.

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. 41.



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 Technical University of Kaiserslautern, where he taught courses on U.S. politics and transatlantic relations. In 2014, he earned his Ph.D. in political science at Kaiserslautern University with a thesis on the democratic control of U.S. foreign policy after the Cold War. Florian Böller held a visiting fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2013) and was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies (2017). His research interests include the politics of U.S. foreign policy and transatlantic relations. He is also involved in an international project comparing the parliamentary control of security policies ("Deploymentvotewatch"). As a member of GKAT, Florian Böller pursues his "Habilitation" project on the role of trust within the transatlantic security community. Florian Böller left GKAT in the fall of 2019 for a position as a junior professor at TU Kaiserslautern.

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 projects 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.



GORDON FRIEDRICHS POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Gordon Friedrichs studied political science and South Asia Studies at the universities of Frankfurt am Main, Arizona State, and Heidelberg. From 2013 to 2019, he was a research associate at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies as well as the Institute of Political Science at Heidelberg University, where he taught courses on International Relations, U.S. Foreign Policy, and conflict and cooperation in the Asia Pacific. In 2019, he received his Ph.D. in political science from the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Heidelberg University with a thesis on domestic polarization and U.S. global leadership. In October 2019, he became the GKAT postdoctoral researcher.

Gordon Friedrichs' research interests include International Relations Theory, the politics of U.S. foreign policy, domestic polarization, hegemony and power transition, nuclear non-proliferation, and international trade, as well as Asia and the wider Asia Pacific region, with a particular emphasis on the Korean Peninsula. In his postdoc project, he investigates the role of trust in U.S. global financial authority. The aim is to develop an interactionist, relational understanding of U.S. global authority across different case studies over time. Accordingly, U.S. financial authority and the stability of the global financial system (currency exchange, financial governance, and regulation) are contingent on the degree and kind of trust exchange between the U.S. and other geo-economic actors. U.S. global financial authority mainly consists of two main pillars: a responsibility for management of sustained global imbalances and a responsibility for systemic financial stability. Both pillars have undergone severe shifts, for example when the U.S. turned from a creditor to a debtor or when the U.S. stopped ensuring financial stability through tying the U.S. dollar value to the gold standard, fundamentally changing the authority structure, which, in turn, required new sources of trust like that of non-state actors such as banks and private investors.



KRISTIN BERBERICH (GERMANY)

Kristin Berberich studied English, German philology and German as a foreign language with a focus on linguistics at Heidelberg University. After working at the University of Auckland and teaching German at the University of Otago, New Zealand, and Mannheim University, she returned to the English Department at Heidelberg University where, in 2014, she joined Professor Beatrix Busse's team to compile and build a multimodal corpus to analyze place-making strategies in Brooklyn, New York. Following her growing interest in urban linguistics, she completed her master's thesis in 2016 with an analysis of the discursive reclamation of the Boston Marathon. Her research interests lie in the realm of sociolinguistics, discourse analysis, corpus linguistics, and gender studies.

At GKAT, Kristin Berberich investigates the discursive construction of neighborhoods, with a special emphasis on representations of the "good" neighborhood. For her analysis, she compiled a corpus of spoken, written, and online data in neighborhoods along Bedford Avenue. Due to the strong connection between discourse and social practice, neighborhood discourses immediately affect the lives of their residents. Kristin brings together corpus-based discourse analysis and linguistic ethnography to analyze neighborhood discourses produced by individual social actors whose perspectives are often underrepresented in decision-making processes in the urban space. Her dissertation project aims to shed light on various degrees of inter-personal, cross-spatial and cross-genre variation that create an intricate picture of neighborhood discourse, with special regard to trusting relations between neighbors. These insights reveal that an integrative view of the micro- and macro-levels of discourse is crucial to the analysis of urban spaces.



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 Teaching English as a Foreign Language from INTESOL Worldwide and relocating to Heidelberg in 2013. Since 2008, she has held editorial roles at various research institutions and private publishers such as Cleveland Clinic, Wolters Kluwer, EMBO Press, Heidelberg University Clinic, and Simmons University. 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*. In January 2017, an article she co-wrote on the experience of founding heiUP was featured in *The Journal of Scholarly Publishing*.

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. While the extent and modes of these practices vary, 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 "The Burden of Memory: Civil-Military Relations and Contemporary American 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. The project opens by tracing the evolution of the soldier-author's cultural authority over the literary representation of war throughout the twentieth century before showing how the end of the draft and the shift to an all-volunteer force has affected the authorship, content, and form of contemporary war fiction.



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 teaching degree. 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.

Claudia Jetter's dissertation focuses on transformation processes of religious authority in mid-nineteenth century America. It argues that charismatic prophets emerged with new sacred writings and doctrines in response to a perceived crisis of scriptural and ecclesiastical authority at the time. The project discerns the complex production process of "charisma" by comparing Ralph Waldo Emerson, Phoebe Palmer, or Joseph Smith Jr. and their new sacred writing to show that they all established exceptional positions of authority among followers based on their published divine communications. To identify the ways in which these prophets assumed authority through their texts, and to identify the ways in which the community had helped in co-creating charisma, the project analyzes performance and self-image of these prophets, the production processes of their new sacred writings, and the reception of key texts by their followers. Drawing on theoretical concepts of charismatic authority, revelation, and scripture from sociology and religious studies, the project seeks to provide a comparative framework that helps to situate the striking increase of new prophets with additional scripture in antebellum American religious history.



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. 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 asymmetrically) 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 Heidelberg University. 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. Aline Schmidt's research interests include Critical Discourse Studies, Computational Humanities, 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, NY, at the English Department since 2015. In 2017, she joined the HCA's Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust."

In her dissertation, Aline Schmidt investigates the construction of a charismatic relationship between Donald Trump and his followers from a linguistic angle. She draws on social-constructionist perspectives in Max Weber's work, integrating language as a meaning-making resource that constructs and construes social reality and Weber's classic framework of charismatic authority as a highly personalized form of political leadership. Charisma is conceptualized as a social relationship between leader and followers, which is ultimately negotiated in discursive interaction. Considering the impact of social media on political action and on the dissemination of discourses and ideologies, Aline Schmidt emphasizes the role of social media for the construction of the charismatic relationship. Synergizing methods from corpus-assisted discourse studies, she outlines interactional processes of performing and recognizing charisma in the context of the rise of social media. In particular, she analyzes reddit and Twitter as affective discursive spaces which catalyze processes of charismatization. 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 comments and multimodal data on the reddit `The_Donald`. Her project thus integrates various dimensions of authority and trust in the Trump era and aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of irrational and affective politics in the contemporary 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. He studied philosophy and English Studies at Heidelberg University and, as an exchange student, European Studies at Cardiff University (U.K.). He received his "Staatsexamen" degree (equivalent to an M.A.) from Heidelberg University in 2016. In his thesis, he conducted a critical reading of Dave Eggers's dystopian novel *The Circle* (2013), establishing an intellectual link between Eggers's novel and the philosophical critique of modernity of the Frankfurt School. Before joining GKAT in the fall of 2017, Sebastian worked, among other things, as a teaching assistant for philosophy at Heidelberg University.

In his dissertation project, Sebastian Tants focuses on the configurations of trust in the work of Herman Melville (1819-1891). Tracing the way Melville used this theme throughout his career, the project examines a broad selection of his texts, ranging from his short fiction to his novels, with the aim of establishing a panorama of the multifaceted vision of trust embedded in Melville's prose writings. Considering Melville as a theorist of trust, Sebastian employs close reading as well as sociological theory in his textual analysis. In addition, he reads Melville's prose, which is often heavily intertwined with central societal and political discourses of the antebellum era, in its historic environment and discusses it alongside a selection of texts by its contemporaries. The concept of trust is analyzed in such varied contexts as the debate on slavery, colonialism, and intercultural contact as well as in regard to the production and reception of literature. Through these aspects, the research project aims at gaining a clearer understanding of the "performance" of trust literary works such as *Typee* and *The Confidence-Man* are engaged in.



COSIMA WERNER (GERMANY)

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

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



GEORG WOLFF (GERMANY)

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

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

ASSOCIATED DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

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

Maren Schäfer, HCA Ph.D. program (see p. 90)

RESEARCH STUDENTS

Aylin Güngör, Judith Keller, Philipp Leonhardt, Johanna Mast, Oliver Nothdurft, Tommaso Putignano, Caroline Schauß, 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 coalesces 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, Jan 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

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

Professor Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Institute for Geography) continues her research on "Planetary Urbanization," 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 (Lefevbre). Thus we have to think the city not as a form or function but as a new theoretical concept. This opens possibilities to study cities throughout the world from different angles, diverse scales, and critical perspectives. The mega city should not stand as a metonym for the city in the global south, whereas the global city is not just a phenomenon of the global north. Neoliberalism is not the only quintessential narrative of urban development in the twentieth century but just one way to understand increasing inequalities within and between cities. This new epistemology of the urban provides new grounds to study North American cities from an interdisciplinary perspective.

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

The neoliberal creative city discourse has been one of the most significant urban discourses driving public policy interventions and urban restructuring in cities across the globe. However, the notion of everyday mobility practices, on the one hand, and the (re)production of mobility in cities and the politics this produces, on the other hand, have been largely overlooked in research on the creative city, even as (the reshaping of) mobility and its spaces appear to play significant roles in the making of the creative city. Thus, in this "Habilitation" project Gregg Culver (see p. 30) 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 As-

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

Two projects at the Curt Engelhorn Chair in American History 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 2019: 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 thirty to forty 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 2019 in late October of 2019. 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/2019/>. 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 2019) go to https://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2019/country/SGI2019_USA.pdf.

The USA 2019 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/2019/country/SGI2019_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. A moderately expansionary fiscal policy and steady low interest rates helped sustain economic growth. However, a tax cut policy focused on cuts for corporations and high-income individuals was passed in late 2017, sharply increasing the already unsustainable long-term deficit. With significant weaknesses, the United States falls into the lower-middle ranks (rank 29) with regard to social policies. Its score on this measure has declined by 0.6 points relative to 2014. Educational inequalities between high- and low-income areas are severe, with performance generally disappointing. Federal education programs have been cut by more than \$10 billion, with some funding redirected to school-choice initiatives. Income inequality has increased dramatically. Programs for the poor have been cut, and child poverty is a serious problem, with 1.3 million children homeless. The Trump administration has taken numerous steps to cut legal and illegal immigration, with Trump showing active rhetorical hostility toward immigrants. The separation of migrant children from parents has produced a human-rights scandal. Large-city homicide rates and large-scale gun violence are serious problems, with Congress failing to pass legislation tightening weapons regulations.

Despite a history of ambitious environmental protections, the United States sits at the SGI 2019's lowest position (rank 41) with regard to environmental policies. Its score in this area has declined by 1.2 points relative to 2014. Despite the administration's now-routine flouting of political norms, the United States falls into the upper-middle ranks (rank 15) 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, generally minorities, to register and vote. The Trump administration has rolled back anti-discrimination rules. Numerous policies have been implemented and regulations canceled through the use of unilateral executive actions. Congress passed a bill reducing excessive sentences for many nonviolent offenses.

With a worrisome degree of chaos at top executive levels, the United States has fallen to the lower-middle ranks (rank 28) with respect to executive capacity. Its score on this measure has declined by 2.0 points relative to 2014. President Trump has shown virtually no interest in long-

range planning. Executive decision-making does not follow orderly processes. The Republican Congress has drafted key measures in secret, avoiding public discussion. Agencies have suffered massive losses of expert staff. The executive branch has seen calamitous failures of coordination in issues such as hurricane response and border control. Impact analysis has largely been abandoned at the administration level, with sustainability checks manipulated, ignored, or avoided. The White House press office has been heavily engaged in defending or obscuring Trump's many false claims and inconsistencies. Severe staffing deficiencies have diminished monitoring capacities. President Trump had few legislative victories in his first two years, with major policy initiatives instead implemented through executive order. Executive actions were frequently blocked by courts. Regulatory agencies have been staffed with appointees with strong ties to regulated industries. Regulatory enforcement in certain areas, such as the environment or workplace safety, has largely ceased. Despite concerns related to the polarization of political reasoning, the United States receives a high overall score (rank 7) in the area of executive accountability. Its score in this area has improved by 0.4 points relative to its 2014 level. Citizens' policy-knowledge levels are on average quite low, with "partisan motivated reasoning" an increasing concern. Serious, in-depth policy reporting exists, but a decline in journalistic standards is evident, particularly in a right-leaning media that echoes Trump's constant claim that mainstream news organizations are reporting "fake news." Congressional resources are quite substantial, and formal powers are strong. The Republican Congress largely eschewed executive-branch oversight during President Trump's first two years in office. The influential General Accountability Office performs audit functions. No specific ombuds office exists. There is no national data-protection authority, but the Federal Trade Commission, state attorneys general and sectoral agencies fulfill aspects of the function.

SIGI 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 SIGI News is available on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SIGI-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 SIGI 2020 expert assessments was launched in September 2019.

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 (Muster der Politikberatung)

Funding for this project came from the Hans-Böckler-Foundation, affiliated with the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (DGB), the Confederation of German Trade Unions. 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. habil. Martin Thunert, together with Prof. Dr. 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 analyzed the rules, mandates, and procedures and then evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of selected advisory bodies in both countries—from in-house policy units to expert committees and think tanks. In line with the Hans-Böckler-Foundation's support for research linked to the world of work, the project 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., 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 doctoral student and a research associate 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 project started in late 2013 and was concluded in June of 2019 with the online-publication of the final report (in German) and an academic working paper in English (see below). A short project description (in German) is available at: <https://www.boeckler.de/11145.htm?projekt=2013-651-6#projektbeschreibung>.

The final report entitled "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 underwent the final copy-editing stage in 2018-19 and has been published online as an edition of the online-publication series "Study" of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation in June of 2019. The main findings can be summarized as follows:

The suppliers of economic policy advice surveyed in this study see a great need for evidence-based policy advice in both the U.S. and Germany. Most economic policy advisors and members of think tanks or economic research institutes see themselves less as a mouthpiece for particular social interests or for a clearly identifiable ideology than as members of a consulting consortium that participates in academic discourses and translates the ideas developed there into policy-

relevant and politically useful concepts and proposals. Most economic policy experts interviewed for this study believe that policy advice relating to the world of work and the perspective of employees can be extended and optimized both in terms of its communicative orientation to an increasingly differentiated multimedia public and in terms of the range of sources of advice that can be consulted. If communicative strategies of policy advisors could be better geared towards different kinds of analogue and digital media and if the range of sources of advice could be broadened, this may lead to a greater impact of employee-focused economic and socio-political advice. See: Gordon Friedrichs, Dorota Stasiak, and Martin Thunert: *Muster der Politikberatung. Wirtschaftspolitische Beratung in Deutschland und den USA im Vergleich*, Study der Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, 423. Düsseldorf: 2019, ISBN: 978-3-86593-338-6. 224 pages. It can be downloaded free of charge at: https://www.boeckler.de/pdf/p_study_hbs_423.pdf. A roster of American economic policy advisory organizations and institutes—compiled by the HCA project team—can be downloaded at https://www.boeckler.de/pdf_fof/101131.pdf.

Another product this research project on the mediatisation of (economic) expertise was published as: Dorota Stasiak, Eva Savinova, Gordon Friedrichs, Andrea Römmele, "Mediatization of expertise? How media affects communication patterns in external economic policy advice in Germany and the United States," in: *ZPB Zeitschrift für Politikberatung*, 8 (2016), Heft 2-3, p. 115-129, ISSN print: 1865-4789, ISSN online: 1865-4789, <https://doi.org/10.5771/1865-4789-2016-2-3-115>).

Main findings: A common strategy of today's advisory organizations is to supplement personal, direct transmission of expertise with the public dissemination of recommendations. By doing so, these advisory bodies rely on multiple channels and forms of communication. The present article adopts this communication-oriented perspective to analyze the possible reasons and broader consequences of "expertise going public" within the framework of mediatization. Building on an analysis of the Internet presence of selected German and American organizations offering economic policy advice as well as questionnaires and interviews conducted among their representatives, it asks if they adapt to media logic or already adopt it and reflects on the practical and theoretical implications of such, often implicit, choices.

HCA SPRING ACADEMY 2019

The Spring Academy team rang in the sixteenth annual HCA conference for doctoral students with a cup of coffee in the sun-filled HCA Atrium on Monday, March 18, 2019. Once again, we were proud to welcome twenty Ph.D. students, affiliated with institutions in eight countries and originating from Burkina Faso, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. HCA Director Welf Werner and Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach, one of the main facilitators of the conference, spoke warm words of welcome, introducing the HCA to the Spring Academy participants.

Following a brief reception that offered everyone a chance to mingle, “Ms. Spring Academy,” Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, and Dr. Mausbach led the way to the conference venue in order to start off the week with the “warm-up session.” 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 at blazingly fast speed. 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 presented throughout the week. Suggestions included “diversity,” “movement,” “transnationality,” and “materiality/material culture,” among others.

Participants of the HCA Spring Academy 2019 tour Heidelberg with local guide Kristian Wilenbacher



The first panel, titled “A picture is worth a thousand words?” was chaired by Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and focused on two completely different but nonetheless compelling aspects of photography. Stella Jungmann from Zurich University in Switzerland introduced us to her project on the American representation of Japan through photography in the late nineteenth century: “‘Are they not picturesque!’: Robert H. Pruyn’s photographs of Edo, Japan, 1862.” Her work analyzes the photography and correspondence of diplomatic minister Pruyn in Edo (present-day Tokyo) from 1862–1865, reconstructing his time in Japan. In focusing on microhistory and “visual communities,” Stella Jungmann hopes to explore how Americans visualized “the Other” and “the exotic” in a time when the whole nation was looking “inwards” during the Civil War. The second

speaker of the panel was Emily Brady, who came to the HCA from the University of Nottingham, U.K., to present her project on “‘I Made Them Look Good’”: African American Women Photographers and the Role of the Politics of Respectability in the Long Civil Rights Movement.” Emily Brady works with Evelyn B. Higginbotham’s definition of the “politics of respectability” to argue that black female photographers were only as professionals within the “feminine sphere,” which meant that children, women, or scenes of missionary work in Africa and Asia became common motives. The project also traces black female photography in different genres, such as war photography, photojournalism, and activist photography.

Jesse Kraft from the University of Delaware, USA, opened the second panel on “Material Culture,” chaired by HCA Director Welf Werner, with his talk about “‘Sustained by Foreign Coin’: American Methods to Navigate a Complex Monetary System, 1750–1915.” His work traces the usage of foreign coins (mostly Spanish-American coins and English shilling) in the early British colonies and later the United States, which accounted for a complex monetary system and mathematical formulas until one coinage was introduced for all states in 1857. Jesse Kraft’s argued that the use of foreign coins made sense, as merchants consumers already knew them. However, with the influx of many unfamiliar foreign coins, the introduction of an American monetary system was inevitable. Eva Rüska, the panel’s second speaker, from Freiburg University, Germany, presented her project on “‘Doing Sustainability’: Performing Rural Development in Appalachia.” Her interdisciplinary research focuses on governance, sustainability, and culture alike. She uses the singer Dolly Parton as an exemplar of her thesis, as the artist, herself raised in rural Appalachia, puts forward change in sustainability theories. This case study of Appalachia points out that decreasing resources is something the Appalachian people have had to deal with throughout their lives; since the industrial sector has been dying in the area for decades, Appalachian states have already taken on sustainability projects to, for example, create alternative jobs.

The second day of the conference continued with a panel on “American Cultural Exceptionalism in Music and Comics,” chaired by Professor Rashida K. Braggs from Williams College in Massachusetts, this year’s Spring Academy visiting scholar, who had spent the academic year 2009–2010 at the HCA as the Ghaemian Scholar in Residence. Manuel Bocquier from Écoles des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France, was the first to present his project on the third panel. In his talk on “Categorizing and Negotiating Identities through Music: ‘race music,’ ‘old time music,’ and their Public (1920–1940),” he introduced us to “old-time music,” produced and consumed mostly in Southern Appalachia in the 1930s. His analysis looked closely at the audience of the genre in order to understand the construction of what he called the “musical color line.” The second Tuesday speaker, Aanchal Vij from the University of Sussex, U.K., spoke about a part of her Ph.D. project entitled “‘I was the prosthesis’: Reading Counterfactual, Reparative, and Prosthetic Histories in *The Plot against America* and *Watchmen*.” Aanchal Vij’s dissertation looks at nostalgia and the portrayal of American exceptionalism in the medium of comic books. She pointed out that “hyperamerican” characters are a part of American history since overcompensation for what one perceives as a defect is particular common among readers. She therefore looks at the disabilities of certain characters and tries to find similarities between them and their creators and Americans as a whole.

After a short coffee break, “Mr. Spring Academy” Wilfried Mausbach chaired panel four on “Exploring the Global South Internationally: West Africa—Arab Spring.” Harrouna Malgouri, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, spoke about “Francophone Group Resistance in Colonial French West Africa and the Universal Negro Improvement Association.” He argued that U.S. foreign policy makers scrutinized Pan-African activism in Francophone West Africa between 1946 and 1987, as these activists often challenged U.S. hegemony. Many of his sources consist of interviews with African women and profit from Harrouna Malgouri’s bilingual skills in Francophone and colonial archives in West-African countries. The second speaker on the panel was Marwa Wasfy who came to the HCA from the University of Kent and introduced the audience to her Ph.D. project on “NATO Heading South: Re-examination of the Transatlantic Security Community after the Arab Spring.” In a very personal account, Marwa Wasfy gave an overview of her experiences during the Arab Spring in Egypt, her country of origin. She highlighted the role of social media as well as that of women. Her main question was how the transatlantic community has responded to the Arab Spring and what the measures taken can tell us about the future of the region and NATO.

Presentations in the HCA’s
Stucco seminar room



Tuesday’s last panel “That’s a no-no: Tracing Cultural Appropriation and Mental Illness in Twentieth-century Literature” was chaired by Dorothea Fischer-Hornung. The first speaker, Richard Elliott from the University of Edinburgh, U.K., presented a chapter of his thesis on “Philip Roth and Race in *The Human Stain*.” Richard Elliot’s work crosses cultural boundaries in American fiction from the 1960s to the present and contributes to the study of limits of liberal individualism. As an example, he introduced the main character in Roth’s novel, who tries to pass as a white Jew in order to escape from “his father’s story of a black man.” Richard Elliot’s analysis of the protagonist evolves around the question of how free we are to write our own life story. Turning to a different aspect of cultural appropriation, Abigail Mokra from Masaryk University Brno, Czech Republic, then spoke about “Crises of the Postmodern Literary Mind: Can Symptomatic Traits of Mental Illness Exemplify Mimetic Intertextuality?” This project focusses on the works of J.D. Salinger and poses the questions of why manifestations of mental illness occur in his literature at a certain point. Abigail Mokra argued that Salinger’s experiences of the war and his own mental illness after returning from the front are all written into his characters as an homage to himself. Based on comprehensive methodology, she also examines the influence of Salinger’s works on later authors as well as the (mimetic) intertextuality among the examined texts. As the day came to an end, the HCA invited the group to a city tour around Heidelberg’s beautiful Old Town with local guide Kristian Willenbacher, and the evening ended with a traditional German meal at a local brewery.

Wednesday resumed with a panel on “Community Responses: Race and Class,” chaired by Ulrike Gerhard, professor of human geography at Heidelberg University. ToniAnn Trevino from the University of Michigan, presented “The Border and the City: Federal and Local Anti-Narcotics Projects in the Texas-Mexico Borderlands, 1965–1972.” Her work studies the drug legislation in Texas of the 1950s, which were heavily influenced by Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans. Through case studies of individuals and communities, ToniAnn Trevino hopes to discover absent narratives, for example in highlighting the role of religious and recovery centers in San Antonio. The second speaker of panel six, Monica Campbell from the University of Mississippi, introduced her project “Deliver Us From Urban Decay: The Central Little Rock Project and the Making of the Neoliberal City.” Based on her analysis of urban renewal politics in Little Rock, Arkansas, she argued that gentrification altered the city decades before it became a nationwide phenomenon. In a response to the city’s urban crisis in the 1950s, projects were founded privately to renew the city’s housing and business plans, and ultimately constituted a model that later served as a national prototype.



The HCA Spring Academy 2019 at John Deere Mannheim, the Spring Academy’s generous supporter for more than a decade

Following panel six, the Spring Academy boarded a bus to travel to the John Deere factory in Mannheim. As sponsor of the Spring Academy, John Deere Germany not only supports the program financially but also invites the participants to learn about its striving American-German manufacturing partnership. After a light reception and an introduction by Public Relations and Brand Management Manager Dr. Ralf Lenge, the group had the opportunity to ask anything that came to mind in this unfamiliar setting, which led to a lively discussion and interesting facts. Back at the HCA, Wednesday concluded with a workshop on “Academic Writing and Publishing,” led by Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Dr. Sherry Föhr. Dr. Föhr, who facilitates the Writing Resources Center in Heidelberg University’s English Department and is known as a “true genius” to many Spring Academy cohorts, gave many useful tips and motivational instructions on how to write their theses. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung then shared her expertise in the publishing world as a co-editor of a scholarly journal. The workshop proved effective and instructive to the Spring Academy participants.

Thursday started with another panel chaired by “Ms. Spring Academy,” entitled “Embodying the Human and the Transhuman.” Carmen Laguarda Bueno from the University of Zaragoza, Spain, introduced her work on “Fictionalizing the Debate over Human Enhancement Technologies: Richard Powers’s *Generosity: An Enhancement* (2009), Dave Eggers’s *The Circle* (2013) and Don DeLillo’s *Zero K* (2016).” Her project looks at the concepts of Transhumanism and Posthumanism and analyzes the three novels mentioned above in the context of these concepts. Since she focuses on narratology, the audience gave interesting feedback about further literature or links to other academic fields; “enhancement technologies,” for example, are a related topic in religious studies. The second speaker on panel seven was Irene Polimante from the University of Macerata, Italy, who spoke about “From Page to Stage: The Physical Experience of Voicing Words.” She argued that through performance, poetry can be experienced in a plurality of senses, as the performance can happen on and off page. Composition and performance of the poem can be portrayed as a form of art, and the audience is not merely a spectator, but can take on a role as co-performer.

Panel eight changed the focus of the conference to a very different academic field: “Populism: Framing and the Provision of Public Goods.” Maren Schäfer of Heidelberg University gave an overview of “Stylistic Characteristics of Contemporary Populist Rhetoric.” She centered her presentation on populist communication methods and argued that populists use, among others, the following strategies to address the public: defining in- and out-groups, making moral claims as well as using persuasion and an alleged outsider perspective. Guido Rohmann from Free University of Berlin continued the session with his talk on “Geographies of Discontent” and anti-establishment voting in Western democracies, introducing his case studies of the U.S., Great Britain, and Germany. He argues that voters who benefit from government-supplied good are less likely to vote for anti-establishment parties, an argument he grounds in complex studies and analyses of different Western countries.

After lunch, the conference resumed with panel nine, chaired by Jan Stievermann, professor of the History of Christianity in the U.S., and entitled “Believers, Doubters, and Unbelievers: From Religious Communities to the Rise of Secularism.” Caitlin Smith Oyekole from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, introduced her project on “Transcendentalist Darkness: Doubt, Skepticism, Infidelity, Grief.” In her dissertation, she looks at literature produced between 1734 and 1876 to analyze the representation of religious doubt. Her talk focused on Ralph Waldo Emerson and other thinkers of the 1830s philosophical movement of transcendentalism, in particular on his conception of doubt, skepticism, and pyrrhonism. Thursday’s last speaker was Sarah Buchmeier from the University of Illinois at Chicago, who talked about “The Secularist Re-formation: How Secularism Changed the Shape of American Literature.” Her paper introduced the theory of post-secularism, and she argued that the co-emergence of epistemology and secularism were equally influenced by the tension between realism and romanticism in the late nineteenth century. She used the example of Elizabeth Stuart Phelps and her 1868 novel *The Gates Ajar*, in which the author creates an orthodox heaven disconnected from any life on earth, arguing for a more secular version of belief.

After the sessions concluded, Spring Academy 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.

The last day of the conference started with a workshop on “Jazz Research through Embodied Performance,” facilitated by visiting scholar Professor Braggs. She introduced her research on Jazz diasporas, the history of Jazz performance, and music and performance historiography. Afterwards, the whole group was invited to participate in a performance exercise: In groups of four to five people, our participants should express their thoughts about “diaspora” in either sound or movement performances. While it certainly took a lot of courage for some to step out of their comfort zone, all groups came up with very diverse, innovative, and cleverly thought-out performances—a profound experience.



Spring Academy participants in the HCA's Atrium listening to Welf Werner's introductory remarks

After lunch, the tenth and last panel on “Revising Humanism: From Modernist Anthropocentrism to Contemporary Posthumanism” was chaired by Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung. Sebastian Williams from Purdue University in Indiana, spoke about “Parasites and Public Health: Nonhuman Actors in Great Depression Literature.” In the works he analyzed, he discovered the role of “parasitism,” which he divides into “social parasites” like sharecroppers or migrants, and “parasitic organisms” like lice, fleas, and hookworms. The latter, he argues, played a significant role in Great Depression literature, as authors use parasitism as a complex stylistic device. The last speaker of this year’s Spring Academy was Fabian Eggers from the Free University Berlin. He presented his topic on “The Aesthetics of Intimacy in Contemporary American Literature” and started off by pointing out that we are currently in an era of “new sincerity,” and that literature, in particular, is used as a means to achieve intimacy. However, he went one step further and suggested that the shift of intimacy in modern literature has certain similarities with the shift of intimacy in modern day communities. Therefore, he examines cultural expressions of intimacy and looks at correlations in works of fiction and non-fiction.

To conclude the conference, Friday's "cool down session" referred back to the collected key terms from the beginning of the week. 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 at a nice German restaurant to celebrate another successful HCA Spring Academy.

Conference: "A Hegemonic Transition? Reconfigurations of Global Economic and Security Orders in the Age of Trump," October 4-5, 2019, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies

In October 2019, the HCA hosted a two-day international conference discussing whether the current reconfiguration of global economic and security orders amounts to a "hegemonic transition." The conference, which was organized by the HCA's director Welf Werner and Florian Böller, featured scholars from the U.S. and Europe and explored the emergence of a multipolar global order and the relative economic decline of the West. Although international trends, such as the rise of China, have been debated for quite some time, recent developments in world affairs draw new attention to the possibility of a hegemonic transition. In particular, the U.S. under Donald Trump seems to abandon its traditional role as a global hegemon.

l.-r.: Detlef Junker, Ayse Zarakol, Christian Lammert, and Andreas Falke



The conference started with Ayse Zarakol's (University of Cambridge) opening lecture, which assessed the concept of global hegemony and the causes of previous hegemonic transitions. The next set of papers investigated domestic support and contestation within the West. Christian Lammert (FU Berlin) analyzed the failure of liberal institutions to cope with economic inequalities, and Christian Tuschhoff (FU Berlin) inspected the domestic sources of U.S. foreign policy to trace the sources of the current radical shift under the Trump administration. Looking at economic policies, Welf Werner (HCA) argued that the traditional social contract in the U.S. has been

strained if not broken and that the idea of U.S. hegemony lost its previously bipartisan support among American voters.

The second part of the conference focused on the international side of the potential hegemonic transition. Andreas Falke (University of Erlangen-Nürnberg) discussed Trump's trade policy. Here, the abandonment of the traditional role of the U.S. may be most visible. Mark Schwartz, however, maintained in his paper that the thesis of a hegemonic transition is overstated, in particular with regard to the geo-economic power of the United States. He also pointed to the role of intellectual properties, innovation, and the dominating function of the U.S. dollar to underscore his argument.



Conference organizers Welf Werner and Florian Böller

Gordon Friedrichs (HCA) and Florian Böller (TU Kaiserslautern) presented papers on the effects of Trump's "America First" doctrine among allies. While Gordon Friedrichs aimed to make sense of a "Trump-effect" through the lens of role theory, Florian Böller highlighted that European countries, such as Germany and France, already began to hedge against a further deterioration of transatlantic relations.

The final section of the conference was devoted to "challenger states" of Western Hegemony: China, Russia, India, and Brazil. Suzanne Loftus (Marshall European Center for Security Studies) looked at Russia's status seeking foreign policy and demonstrated Moscow's increased assertiveness on a global stage. Tobias Burgers (Keio University, Tokyo), on the other hand, focused on China's influence in cyberspace to conclude that it has outpaced Western states, in particular in developing countries. How India manages to navigate the period of power transition and U.S. decline was the topic of David Jacobs' and Patrick Kessler's paper (both University of Cologne). Last but not least, Luis Schenoni (University of Notre Dame), undertook an analysis of Brazil's foreign policy.

While not all presenters agreed that world politics has already reached the tipping point of a hegemonic transition, the conference nonetheless traced the seismic shift in global economic and security orders that are currently taking place. It remains to be seen whether these shifts will lead to more instability or a new equilibrium.

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

On July 2, the HCA and Heidelberg University's Faculty of Theology bestowed the eighth James W.C. Pennington Award upon Paul Harvey, Professor of History and Presidential Teaching Fellow at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Professor Beatrix Busse, prorector of Heidelberg University, greeted the guests in the packed Atrium of the HCA and dwelled briefly on the origins of the award that enables its recipient to spend a few weeks teaching and researching at the Ruperto Carola. Funded by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation, the award stands for the values the fugitive slave and Heidelberg University share: It acknowledges scholars whose work sheds light on African-American culture, history, and education. Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger then gave a brief introduction to the life of James W. C. Pennington, followed by Professor Jan Stievermann's laudatio on this year's recipient.

This year's James W.C. Pennington Award recipient, Paul Harvey



Professor Harvey's lecture was dedicated to the extraordinary life of Howard Thurman. A philosopher, theologian, pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, and one of the most influential figures of African American history in the twentieth century, Thurman is almost forgotten today. Born in 1899, he experienced the worst years of racial segregation in the United States in his youth; the everyday confrontation with racism significantly shaped his philosophy of social justice. Howard Thurman's thought joined Christian mysticism, Quakerism, African American pietism, and reformed Hinduism. As professor at Howard University and Boston University, as preacher, author, and mentor, he had a lasting impact on all post-war Civil Rights activists. However, he never sought the spotlight. Growing up in a small African American parish in Florida, Thurman spend

much of his free time in nature; these experiences became essential components of his mystic philosophy. According to Professor Harvey, Howard Thurman was raised a Baptist but always kept an ambivalent relationship to the denomination's theology. The YMCA introduced Thurman to the Social Gospel Movement that sought to fight social problems with Christian reform initiatives. Later, Thurman studied at Morehouse College in Atlanta and at Rochester Theological Seminary in New York to eventually become a professor at Howard University. He developed a Christian-motivated philosophy of peaceful resistance and hoped it would help him overcome racially motivated oppression and violence. His undertaking put him in touch with the pacifist Student Christian Movement and made a long trip to India in 1935 possible. There Thurman faced his own matters of faith but also the criticism of Hindu academics who did not understand his allegiance to a church that had oppressed African Americans and other marginalized groups for centuries. Gandhi, whom Thurman met in 1936, supported his belief that Christianity needed a radical return to Jesus' teachings of benevolence and peace. Back in the United States, Thurman published his ideas and founded the Church of Fellowship of all Peoples in San Francisco to continue his teachings. In the following years, his philosophy became an integral part of the African American Civil Rights Movement; activists like Martin Luther King Jr. and James Farmer built on Thurman's strategy of peaceful activism. Thurman inspired white Christians as well as African Americans to identify with the oppressed and engage themselves in the movement. His theology and philosophy strengthened the oppressed and dispossessed, led the way towards a peaceful, brotherly society, and built bridges towards other spiritual traditions such as Gandhi's reformed Hinduism. Paul Harvey closed his lectures with remarks about Howard Thurman's basic belief of the inner relationship of each Christian to God that obligates the believer to encounter his neighbors with love and equity. After the lecture, members of an impressed audience raised their glasses to the distinguished guest in the HCA back yard.



Manfred Lautenschläger, Paul Harvey,
and Jan Stievermann

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

The list below includes books, book chapters, journal articles, and entries in reference works published by HCA faculty and staff in 2018-19. Also listed are publications by scholars affiliated with the HCA that are relevant to the field of American Studies.

Kristin Berberich (GKAT)

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"The Next Battle of Brooklyn: Keeping Bikers Safe in the City," *HCA Graduate Blog* (2019).

"Unearthing Brooklyn's Queer History," *HCA Graduate Blog* (2019).

"What graduates can learn from reading Michelle Obama's *Becoming*," *HCA Graduate Blog* (2019).

Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

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„Frontier und Wild West: Mythos und Geschichte (The Frontier and the Wild West: Myth and History)," in *Joachim Hildebrand: Wild West*, (Heidelberg: Kehr, 2018), 112-119.

„Wut, Recht und Ordnung. Amerikas Rechtsruck begann 1968—Als Richard Nixon Präsident wurde," *Die ZEIT* 44 (2018): 20.

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“‘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.

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With Lukas D. Herr, “From Washington without Love: Congressional Foreign Policy Making and U.S.-Russian Relations under President Trump,” *Contemporary Politics* (2019).

„Absage an die wertegebundene Führungsrolle? Die USA, die NATO und die transatlantische Sicherheitsgemeinschaft in der Ära Trump,” in *Weltmacht im Abseits. Amerikanische Außenpolitik in der Ära Donald Trump*, ed. Lukas D. Herr, Marcus Müller, Anja Opitz, and Jürgen Wilzewski (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2019), 313-340.

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David Eisler (GKAT)

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

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung (HCA)

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Ryan P. Hoselton (HCA and Faculty of Theology)

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Aleksandra Polinska (HCA)

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Natalie Rauscher (HCA)

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“What the Trump Presidency Means for Canada,” in *Perspectives on Canada. International Canadian Studies*, ed. Barbara Butrymowska and Uwe Zagratzki (Hamburg: Verlag Dr. Kovac, 2018), 179-206.

With Svenja Falk, Manuela Glaab, Andrea Römmele and Henrik Schober, *Handbuch Politikberatung* 2nd edition (Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien, 2019).

„Politikberatung—eine Einführung. Kontexte, Begriffsdimensionen, Forschungsstand, Themenfelder,“ in *Handbuch Politikberatung* 2nd edition, ed. Svenja Falk et al. (Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien, 2019), 3-24.

„Politikberatung in Großbritannien,“ in *Handbuch Politikberatung* 2nd edition, ed. Svenja Falk et al. (Wiesbaden: Springer Fachmedien, 2019), 473-488.

With Anke Kessler and Andrew Sharpe, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2019 Canada Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2019).

With Fabian Klein, Edgar von Knebel, and Claudia Zilla, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2019 Chile Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2019).

With Jörg Faust and Wolfgang Muno, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2019 Mexico Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2019).

With Paul J. Quirk and Christian Lammert, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2019 United States Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2019).

With Gordon Friedrichs and Dorota Stasiak, *Muster der Politikberatung: Wirtschaftspolitische Beratung in Deutschland und den USA im Vergleich (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)* (Düsseldorf: Hans-Böckler Foundation, 2019).

Cosima Werner (HCA)

„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.

Welf Werner (HCA)

“Deep-sea mining: Interdisciplinary Research on Potential Environmental, Legal, Economic, and Societal Implications,” in *Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management* 14:6 (2018): 672-691.

„Nullsummenspiel? Donald Trump und die Kostenvorteile,“ in *Forschungsmagazin der Ruperto Carola* 14 (2019): 138-147.

With Susan Neiman and Josef Braml, „‘Im Zeichen der Freiheit’, America first! Trumps Präsidentschaft: Was bringt sie seinem Land und der Welt? Podiumsveranstaltung in der Aula der Universität Osnabrück am 6. Dezember 2018,“ in *Osnabrücker Jahrbuch Frieden und Wissenschaft* 26 (2019), 101-129.

“The Trump Phenomenon: Economic Causes and Remedies, Inaugural Lecture” in *Annual Report 2018-19* (Heidelberg: Heidelberg Center for American Studies, 2019).

SELECTED TALKS

During 2018-19, the following HCA staff members, students, and associates gave talks at the conferences, workshops, and panel discussions listed below.

Kristin Berberich (GKAT)

With Beatrix Busse and Jennifer Smith, "Avenues for Approaching the Urban." Eighth Biennial International Conference on the Linguistics of Contemporary English, University of Bamberg, September 2019, Bamberg.

"The Vastness of the Urban Datascape—How to Identify and Utilize Unlikely Types of Data." Trier University of Applied Sciences, December 2019, Trier.

Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

„Völkerbund und Selbstbestimmung: Das Friedensprogramm des U.S.-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 U.S.-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’: U.S.-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.

“The Problem of Political Trust in Contemporary American History.” Kolloquium DFG-Graduiertenkolleg 2240 Authority and Trust, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, January 2019, Heidelberg.

„Völkerbund und Selbstbestimmung: Das Friedensprogramm des U.S.-Präsidenten Woodrow Wilson.“ Stiftung Demokratie Saarland, January 2019, Saarbrücken.

“Total War and Civil Liberties: The Repression of Dissent in World War One America from a Comparative Perspective.” Annual Convention of the Organization of American Historians, April 2019, Philadelphia, Pa.

“‘For the Liberation of all Peoples, the German People Included’: Woodrow Wilson and the German Revolution 1918/19.” Centre for War Studies, University College Dublin, May 2019, Ireland.

“Woodrow Wilson and His Domestic Critics: The United States and World Order after the Great War.” Conference “1919: The Paris Peace Conference: The Challenge of a New World Order,“ Deutsches Historisches Institut, June 2019, Paris, France.

„Wie gefährdet ist die amerikanische Demokratie?“ Panel Discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, June 2019, Heidelberg.

„Wie gefährdet ist die Demokratie? Ein historischer und vergleichender Blick auf die USA und Europa.“ “Demokratie Gestalten!“ Sommerakademie der Begabtenförderwerke, August 2019, Heidelberg.

„Die Verflechtung der deutschen und amerikanischen Wirtschaft nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg.“ Conference “Boom und Spekulationsblasen—Die Weltwirtschaftskrisen von 1929/1930 und 2007/2008,“ Volkswagenstiftung Hannover, November 2019, Hannover.

„U.S.-Präsident Woodrow Wilson und das Erbe des liberalen Internationalismus in der U.S.-Außenpolitik.“ Workshop “Amerika—Land des Widerspruchs. Die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika von der Gründung bis in die Gegenwart,” University of Zurich, November 2019, Zurich, Switzerland.

Florian Böller (HCA)

“U.S. 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 U.S. Case.” International Studies Association Annual Meeting, April 2018, San Francisco, Calif.

“Germany, the EU and U.S.: 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.

„Zwei Jahre Trump—Transatlantische Partnerschaft, Quo Vadis.“ Panel Discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, January 2019, Heidelberg.

“From Free-Rider to Partner in Leadership? Germany’s Changing Foreign Policy Role within the Transatlantic Security Community.” International Studies Association Annual Meeting, March 2019, Toronto.

“Booster or Brakeman? Explaining the Changing Patterns of U.S. Arms Control Policy.” Conference “Contested Liberal World Order—Nationalist Challenges for Multilateralism,” Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, June 2019, Munich.

“Berlin, We Have a Problem: Explaining Crises in U.S.-German Relations after the Cold War.” Transatlantic Studies Association Annual Conference, July 2019, Lancaster, United Kingdom.

„Where Do We Go From Here? Die NATO und die transatlantischen Beziehungen.“ Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz e.V., August 2019, Kaiserslautern.

“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, Baumholder, Spangdahlem.

„In Our Friendship We Trust. Die Bedeutung von Vertrauen in den transatlantischen Beziehungen.“ Lectures Series “American Neighbors,” September 2019, 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, Colo.

Gordon Friedrichs (HCA and Institute for Political Science)

“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.

“A New Grand Bargain? Trumpian Populism and Shifts in Liberal Economic Order.” DVPW-Kongress, September 2018, Frankfurt am Main.

“Undermining the global nuclear order? Impacts of unilateral negotiations between the U.S. and North-Korea.” Conference “America first—America alone?” Evangelische Akademie Hofgeismar, Haus der Kirche, November 2018, Kassel.

„Nordkorea: Herrschaftsstabilisierungsstrategien und außenpolitisches Verhalten.“ Seminar „China und Nordkorea: Asiens Autoritarismus auf dem Vormarsch?“ Akademie für politische Bildung, July 2019, Tutzing.

„Zwischen Drohgebärden und Denuklearisierung—der Konflikt um Atomwaffen zwischen Nordkorea und den USA.“ Tagung „Atomwaffen—Konflikte um die nukleare Ordnung der Welt“, Ev. Akademie Loccum, October 2019, Loccum.

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 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 U.S.-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.

“Mobilities in the Global North and South. Critical Global and Urban Visions.” International Conference “Spaces and Flows,” October 2018, Heidelberg.

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

„Nachhaltige Stadtentwicklung—Ein (radikaler) Blick auf die Zukunft der Stadt.“ Neujahrsempfang der GAL Heidelberg, January 2019, Heidelberg.

„Reallabore—Transformative Wissenschaft im öffentlichen Raum.“ Panel discussion, Schader Stiftung, January 2019, Darmstadt.

“My Home is my Castle: Trust and Distrust in Housing Development in Cities.” Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers, April 2019, Washington D.C.

“My Home is my Castle: Trust and Distrust in Housing Development in Cities.” Heidelberg Center for American Studies, April 2019, Heidelberg.

„Wie gefährdet ist die amerikanische Demokratie?“ Panel Discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, June 2019, Heidelberg.

With Editha Marquardt, „Town and Gown: Reallabore als Experimentierfeld kritischer Transformationsforschung.“ Deutscher Kongress für Geographie, September 2019, Kiel.

Sebastian Harnisch (Institute for Political Science)

“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)

“Reading the Bible Spiritually in the Early Enlightenment.” Fresno Pacific University, July 2019, Fresno, Calif.

“‘The Eyes of the Mind Opened’: Jonathan Edwards and Spiritual Exegesis.” The Jonathan Edwards center at Gateway Seminary, August 2019.

With Jan Stievermann, “Jonathan Edwards and German Pietism.” Yale & the International Jonathan Edwards Conference at Yale University, October 2019, New Haven, Conn.

Detlef Junker (HCA)

„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.” Panel 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 Leyoldt (HCA and English Department)

“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)

“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.

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.

Natalie Rauscher (HCA)

„Zukunft der Arbeit—Chancen und Risiken der Digitalisierung.“ Panel Discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2019, Heidelberg.

“Why Has Catastrophe Mitigation Failed in the U.S.?” Conference “Risk and the Insurance Business in History,” Fondazione Mansutti, June 2019, Sevilla, Spain.

Anja Schüler (HCA)

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

„Der Kampf um das Frauenwahlrecht—auch eine internationale Angelegenheit.“ Heidelberg University November 2018, Heidelberg.

„Frauen in die Politik! 100 Jahre Frauenwahlrecht in Deutschland und den USA.“ Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, May 2019, Kaiserslautern.

Tim Sommer (GKAT)

„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, Heidelberg University, 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.

“Networked Distance: Infrastructural Transatlanticism and Anglo-American Literary Culture at Mid-Century.” Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, January 2019, London, United Kingdom.

“‘Spiritual Commerce’: World Literature and Cultural Nationalism in Goethe, Carlyle, and Emerson.” University of Edinburgh, April 2019, Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

“Performing Nationhood on the Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Lecture Circuit.” May 2019, Frankenstein.

“From Page to Stage: Carlyle, Emerson, and Anglo-American Literary Culture.” International Academic Forum, Heidelberg University, July 2019, Heidelberg.

“‘Hyper-Germanized’ vs ‘Thoroughly Saxon’: Nationality, Race, and Style in Carlyle’s Early Transatlantic Reception.” University of Dundee, July 2019, Dundee, United Kingdom.

“Canon, Corpus, Archive: Selection and Valuation from Romantic Criticism to the Digital Humanities.” University of Leipzig, September 2019, Leipzig.

“Material Exchange, Symbolic Recognition: Weltliteratur as Discourse and Practice in Goethe, Carlyle, and Emerson.” St John’s College, University of Oxford, November 2019, Oxford, United Kingdom.

“Total Recall? Digital Humanities Corpora and the Literary-Historical Record.” English Department, Heidelberg University, December 2019, Heidelberg.

Jan Stievermann (HCA and Faculty of Theology)

“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),“ Heidelberg University. June 2018, Heidelberg.

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

“1776: Religious Roots and Outcomes.” Conference “Global 1776,” University of Notre Dame Study Center, January 2019, Kylemore Abbey, Ireland.

“Cotton Mather’s Biblical Politics of Religious Toleration.” Ecclesial History Symposium, Methodist Study Center, Oxford University, June 2019, Oxford, United Kingdom.

“Putting American Puritanism Back into European Context.” University of Tübingen, July 2019, Tübingen.

“Cotton Mather’s *Biblica Americana*: Storehouse of Early Modern Learning.” Massachusetts Historical Society, August 2019, Boston, Mass.

„Die britischen Nordamerikakolonien als Experimentierfeld von Gewissens- und Religionsfreiheit.“ Conference „‘Hier stehe ich’. Gewissen und Freiheit—Worms 1521,“ September 2019, Worms.

“Jonathan Edwards and German Pietism.” International Jonathan Edwards Conference, Yale University, October 2019, New Haven, Conn.

Sebastian Tants (GKAT)

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

“Shifting Tides of Trust in Herman Melville’s *Benito Cereno*.” University of Lisbon, July 2019, Lisbon, Portugal.

Martin Thunert (HCA)

„(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.

„U.S.-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 U.S.-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 Halbzeitbilanz der unwahrscheinlichen Trump-Administration.“ Politische Akademie Tutzing, December 2018, Tutzing.

With Manfred Berg, Detlef Junker, Wilfried Mausbach and Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson, „Die Präsidenten der USA: 45 historische Porträts von George Washington bis Donald Trump.“ Book Launch, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, January 2019, Heidelberg.

„Zwei Jahre Trump—Transatlantische Partnerschaft, quo vadis?“ Panel Discussion, Außen- und Sicherheitspolitische Hochschulgruppe, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, January 2019, Heidelberg.

„Film Vice—Der zweite Mann.“ Panel Discussion, MAL SEH’N KINO, February 2019, Frankfurt.

„Die Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika; Grundsätze und die aktuelle innen- und außenpolitische Situation in der Ära Trump.“ Bildungszentrum der Bundeswehr, March 2019, Mannheim.

With Tobias Endler, „Die Zweite Halbzeit—Angriff oder Verteidigung? Innen- und Außenpolitik in der zweiten Hälfte der Präsidentschaft Trump.“ Volkshochschule Calw, April 2019, Calw.

With Tobias Endler, „Silicon Valley als Keimzelle der globalen Digitalisierung.“ SRH Hochschule Calw, April 2019, Calw.

“Losing and Regaining Trust in Experts: U.S. Policy-Makers and the Public in Comparative Perspective.” GKAT Faculty Workshop, May 2019, Frankenstein.

With Manfred Berg, Ulrike Gerhard, Wilfried Mausbach, and Welf Werner, „Wie gefährdet ist die amerikanische Demokratie?“ Panel Discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, June 2019, Heidelberg.

“(Dis)Trust of Experts and Contemporary Populism: the U.S. in Comparative Perspective.” Conference “Cultures of Populism. Institutions and Hegemonic Practices,” University of Witwatersrand, July 2019, Braamfontein, Johannesburg, South Africa.

“The United States in the Age of Trump. One Year before the 2020 Elections.” Bayerische Lehrerakademie, September 2019, Dillingen.

„Amerikanische Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik im frühen 21. Jahrhundert.“ Bildungszentrum der Bundeswehr, October 2019, Mannheim.

„Was ist bloss los mit Luzerne (Pennsylvania, USA)? Ein Augenschein im Trump-Land.“ Zentrale der Hochschulbibliothek Luzern, October 2019, Luzern, Switzerland.

„Drei Jahre Präsident Trump—in welcher Verfassung befinden sich die USA und die Welt?“ Evangelische Kirchengemeinde Wiesloch-Walldorf, November 2019, Wiesloch-Walldorf.

With Tobias Endler, „Droht die Eskalation? Politik, Wirtschaft, Krisen und Wahlkampf in den USA.“ SRH Hochschule Calw, November 2019, Calw.

„Dämpfer und Neustart für Justin Trudeau? Das politisch gespaltene Kanada nach den Wahlen 2019.“ Deutsch-Kanadische Gesellschaft, November 2019, Frankfurt.

Cosima Werner (HCA)

„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.” Conference “Space and Flows,” October 2018, Heidelberg.

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

“Contemporary U.S. Trade Policy Developments.” Panel Discussion “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.“ Workshop „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.” Workshop 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, 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, N.Y.

„Kurswechsel nach den Midterms? U.S.-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.

„Anmerkung zum Social Contract in den USA.“ Gesellschaft der Freunde der Universität Heidelberg e.V., Heidelberg Center for American Studies, January 2019, Heidelberg.

“Three Ingredients for Anti-Globalism in the U.S.: Hegemonic Decline, Technological Progress, Domestic Policy Failure.” Conference “Obsolete, Resilient, Resurgent? The Nation-State in a Glo-

balized World," Center for International and Transnational Area Studies, May 2019, Regensburg.

With Eleonora Rohland, "Natural Catastrophes and Risk Management in the United States." Panel, "Risk and the Insurance Business in History," Universidad Internacional de Andalucia, June 2019, Sevilla, Spain.

"Why has Catastrophe Mitigation Failed in the U.S.?" "Risk and the Insurance Business in History," Universidad Internacional de Andalucia, June 2019, Sevilla, Spain.

„Wie gefährdet ist die amerikanische Demokratie?" Panel Discussion, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, June 2019, Heidelberg.

„American Studies an der Universität Heidelberg: Perspektiven und Ziele." Meeting of the Jacob Gould Schurman Foundation, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2019, Heidelberg.

„Countercyclical Fiscal Policy? Die U.S.-Wirtschaftspolitik unter Trump." Summer School "Democracy in Decline," Pfalzakademie Lambrecht, July 2019, Lambrecht.

"Causation or Coincidence? Broken Social Contract at Home and Hegemonic Decline in the World." Conference "A Hegemonic Transition? Reconfigurations of Global Economic and Security Orders in the Age of Trump," Heidelberg Center for American Studies, October 2019, Heidelberg.

„Ethos als Orientierung: Globale Werte in Zeiten der Globalisierung." Heidelberger Schlossgespräche, KPMG, October 2019, Mannheim.

"Relearning the Lessons of the Bretton Woods Era in the Age of Populism." Department of History, University of Notre Dame, September 2019, Notre Dame, Ind.

"The Heidelberg Center for American Studies at 25: From the 10th to the 25th Anniversary." Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, September 2019, New York, N.Y.



SPECIAL FEATURE

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THE TRUMP PHENOMENON ECONOMIC CAUSES AND REMEDIES

BY WELF WERNER

Inaugural Lecture, November 7, 2018

On November 7, 2018, a capacity crowd gathered at Heidelberg University's Old Lecture Hall for Professor Welf Werner's inaugural lecture on the economic causes of and remedies for the current populist movement in the United States. Friends, benefactors, faculty and staff of the HCA, members of the Faculties of Economics, Social Sciences and Philosophy, as well as the members of the HCA's board of trustees thus welcomed the new director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, who had taken office in February 2018.

Welf Werner



Aurel Croissant, Professor for Political Science at Heidelberg University and Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, opened the evening by welcoming the audience. He noted that Professor Werner's appointment as director of the HCA added economic expertise to the portfolio of an institute for American Studies which already enjoys a national and international reputation for academic excellence. Furthermore, this appointment strengthens the bond between the HCA and the faculty of economics. As a former assistant professor at the John-F.-Kennedy Institute for North American Studies in Berlin and a former professor of international economics at Jacobs University in Bremen, Welf Werner is well-versed in both economics and interdisciplinary research. His publications, which reach across the disciplines of economics, history, and political

science demonstrate his profound and, at the same time, broad understanding of the United States of America. Professor Croissant was therefore delighted to welcome Professor Werner into the community of scholars at Heidelberg University. We document Professor Croissant's welcome and the inaugural address of the new HCA director here.

Sehr verehrter Herr Professor Werner, lieber Welf,
sehr geehrte Kolleginnen und Kollegen,
Studierende, Mitglieder, Angehörige und Freunde der Universität,
verehrte Gäste,

Herzlich willkommen zur Antrittsvorlesung, mit der sich Prof. Dr. Welf Werner der universitären und außeruniversitären Öffentlichkeit vorstellt. Das Wort „Professor“ stammt bekanntlich vom lateinischen „profiteri“ ab, was zweierlei bedeuten kann, einerseits „öffentlich bekennen“, und andererseits „vorlesen“. Daher ist es auch guter Brauch, dass Antrittsvorlesungen neuer Professorinnen und Professoren öffentlich gehalten werden. So auch die heutige Inaugural Lecture zum Thema „The Trump Phenomenon: Economic Causes and Remedies“.

Welf Werner hat im Februar dieses Jahres seine Tätigkeit als Direktor des Heidelberg Center for American Studies und Professor der Fakultät für Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften aufgenommen. Mit Herrn Werner haben die Universität, das HCA und die WISO-Fakultät einen international hervorragend ausgewiesenen Ökonomen und Amerikaforscher gewinnen können.

Das Heidelberg Center for American Studies hat sich seit seiner Gründung im Jahr 2004 zu einen der führenden Zentren für Nordamerikastudien entwickelt, mit ausgezeichneter nationaler und internationaler Reputation und Sichtbarkeit in Lehre und Forschung. Die Berufung von Herrn Werner ist ein Versprechen auf Fortführung und Ausbau dieser Erfolge. Sie bietet insbesondere eine hervorragende Chance auf eine angestrebte Profilerweiterung des HCA in Richtung Ökonomie und Sozialwissenschaften. Darüber hinaus knüpft die Berufung von Herrn Werner ein starkes Band zwischen dem HCA und der Fakultät für Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften, was wir im Campus Bergheim als großen Gewinn verbuchen und worüber wir uns sehr freuen. Die zahlreichen Aktivitäten von HCA und Direktorium in diese Richtung in den vergangenen Monaten—die Organisation der Alfred Weber Lecture und der für nächstes Frühjahr geplante „Economics Month“ sind zwei Beispiele—liefern starke Hinweise darauf, dass unsere Freude auch begründet ist.

Herr Werner studierte Volkswirtschaftslehre, Betriebswirtschaftslehre und Wirtschaftsgeschichte an der Freien Universität Berlin, wo er 1992 promovierte und sich 2003 habilitierte. Von 1990 bis 2004 forschte und lehrte Welf Werner an der Abteilung Wirtschaft des Berliner John F. Kennedy Instituts für Nordamerika Studien.

Am JFK-Institut wurde Herr Werner in einen interdisziplinären Kontext wissenschaftlich sozialisiert. Auch nach seiner Berufung 2004 an die Jacobs University Bremen auf eine Professur für internationale Wirtschaftsbeziehungen war Herr Werner weiterhin in interdisziplinäre Arbeitszusammenhänge eingebunden, unter anderen als Principal Investigator in der Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences.

Ich denke, man kann sagen, dass die Amerikanistik den akademischen Werdegang von Professor Werner nachhaltig geprägt hat. Herr Werner gehört zu den wenigen Wirtschaftswissenschaftlern in Deutschland, die sowohl über ökonomischen Sachverstand als auch über eine hohe Amerika-kompetenz verfügen und die in ihrer Arbeit die institutionellen, internationalen, politischen und historischen Kontexte der U.S.-Wirtschaft berücksichtigen. In seinen Schriften behandelt Herr Werner umfassend makroökonomische Themen, insbesondere zur Handelspolitik, zur Globalisierung, zur sozialen Ungleichheit und zur Bekämpfung von Wirtschafts- und Finanzkrisen.

Sein wissenschaftliches Werk zeichnet sich durch die Verbindung von wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen und historischen Perspektiven aus und weist vielfältige Bezüge zur Politikwissenschaft auf. Seine Arbeiten zur Binnen- und Außenwirtschaftspolitik der Vereinigten Staaten dokumentieren eindrucksvoll die Fähigkeit des Verfassers, volkswirtschaftlichen Theorien und zur Erklärung gesellschaftlich-kultureller Phänomene nutzbar zu machen sowie produktiv qualitative und quantitative Methoden zu verbinden.

Die Amerikanistik findet in Deutschland in der Form der transatlantischen Beziehungen ihre starke bilaterale Fokussierung. Bei weltweit insgesamt fast 200 Staaten gibt es zugleich aber sehr zahlreiche intensive bilaterale Beziehungen und gegenseitige Wahrnehmungen. Die Amerikanistik kann von einer komparativen Erforschung der vielen bilateralen Beziehungen der USA, Deutschlands und Europas wichtige Impulse erhalten. American Studies werden im Zeitalter eines schnell fortschreitenden Globalisierungsprozesses ihre Position vor allem dann behaupten können, wenn sie zum Verständnis des besonderen *relativen* Stellenwertes der USA und der transatlantischen Beziehungen beitragen. Dieser Anspruch ist nicht einfach einzulösen, da er Kenntnisse über andere Weltregionen erfordert. Der komparative und transnationale Ansatz von Professor Werner, die internationale Perspektive und die Breite in seinen Schriften bieten in dieser Hinsicht einen ausgesprochenen Mehrwert.

Lieber Herr Kollege Werner: Ich wünsche Ihnen eine erfolgreiche Arbeit im Rahmen der Professur für American Studies und als Direktor des HCA. Ich bin gespannt auf Ihren Vortrag zum Phänomen Trump, seinen ökonomischen Ursachen und möglichen Abhilfen. Das Wort hat nun Prof. Dr. Werner—ein herzlichst Willkommen in Heidelberg!

Dean Croissant, dear Aurel: Thank you for your kind introduction, dear benefactors and friends of the HCA, colleagues, and students!

I am honored to give my inaugural lecture tonight in the Old Lecture Hall of Heidelberg University! As you may imagine, it was not so difficult for me to find a topic for this lecture. It was clear to me that I would want to talk about the forty-fifth president of the United States and the meaning that his election has from an economic point of view. There are quite a few reasons to talk about the Trump administration since it has broken with so many traditions of U.S. leadership patterns from the past. Having a populist president at the helm of the U.S. is significant for other reasons as well. While we have been witnessing the emergence of quite a few strong populist movements in Western democracies in recent years, very few of them have been powerful enough to take over the government, as was the case in 2016 in the United States. Also, the U.S. is not just any country in the world, but the one that was instrumental in bringing peace, prosperity, and freedom to the North-Atlantic after World War II and that—until now—has shielded these remarkable achievements against backlash.

Let us recall that the unprecedented success of the development of the North-Atlantic region in the last seventy years rested on two principles, or should I say on a specific belief system: One belief concerning the development of international relations in a war-ridden world and another relating to the domestic development of liberal democracies.

The U.S. and the World in the Last Seventy Years

In the international arena, the success of the last seventy years rested on the idea that international cooperation is a positive-sum game. If done right, international cooperation in multilateral institutions helps all countries and makes the world more predictable. There are many examples that multilateral institutions have worked well in the security and economic spheres, such as NATO, the Bretton Woods institutions such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank, as well as in the institutions of European integration like the Organization of European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), the European Community, and the European Union. Who would know better than the people of Germany how indispensable the U.S. was in bringing back peace, freedom, and democracy to Western Europe after World War II?

One of the challenges of our time, ladies and gentlemen, is that the current U.S. administration does not seem to believe in positive-sum games. The 'America First' strategy of President Donald Trump symbolizes the idea that international relations are a zero-sum game; that if one country gains, the other loses. Ironically, the president is of the opinion that the U.S. did not get a fair deal from the very multilateral agreements that it has upheld in the world over the last seventy years. Since the inauguration of Donald Trump, U.S. international diplomacy has heavily relied on aggressive unilateral action and on bilateral deals. Multilateral institutions such as NATO and the World Trade Organization are, in the eyes of the president, at best a fallback solution. Thus, the forty-fifth president has returned to the volatile, transactional ad-hoc style of international diplomacy that characterized the inter-war-period.

On the national level, the great success of the last seventy years rests on the belief that helping the weakest of society and providing opportunity for economic participation are the key missions of the modern nation-state. The post-war decades were the heydays of the welfare state, and while humanitarian and altruistic beliefs were the basis for this powerful movement, they were surely not its only determinants. The emergence of the welfare state was also a deliberate calculation for stabilizing liberal democracy against political polarization, totalitarian ideas, and social unrest. The American political scientist John Ruggie coined the term “embedded liberalism” for the specific form of capitalism that emerged in the U.S. and other western countries after World War II. The economist and economic historian Peter Temin called it somewhat derogatorily “socialism in many countries.” Economic history textbooks refer to it simply as “big government.” But what does embedded liberalism mean? Liberalism, of course, refers to a form of capitalism that existed throughout the nineteenth century, in which the government played a minor role in the works of the economy. In defense of the liberal idea we can point out that, although capitalism has many flaws, it has unmistakably demonstrated one key advantage: It provides people with rising living standards over time. But why do capitalist systems have such a good track record vis-a-vis other economic systems when it comes to economic growth and innovation? Because markets allow, or should I say invite, what the Austrian economist Josef Schumpeter called “creative destruction.” Capitalist systems allow winners to win and losers to lose. They allow new industries and companies to emerge and to grow and others to go down and finally go bankrupt. However, creative destruction means destruction not only of companies, whole industries, and certain sectors of an economy but also of jobs and, consequently, of the livelihoods of those who used to work in these jobs.

Embedded liberalism is a system in which two opposing powers are reconciled with each other: The cold winds of capitalism on the one hand and the mission to help those individuals who have to face this wind head-on on the other. One of many examples of the reconciliation of these two powers is the Kennedy administration’s support for trade liberalization in the so-called Kennedy Round of the GATT in the 1960s, which was coupled with a program to upskill those American workers who were employed in import competing industries and whose jobs were lost because of the liberalization measures. The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program (TAA) can be understood as an early official governmental confession that trade liberalization and globalization do produce losers within the American workforce, even though it has indisputably strong positive effects on the entire economy, as we learned from the famous writings of the British economist David Ricardo some two hundred years ago.

The forty-fifth president has also left behind the belief that helping the weakest is one of the key missions of our democracies. Furthering education is not on the agenda of this administration. Instead, the rollback of another key element of the modern welfare state, health care, is one of the utmost concerns of the president. As an alternative to helping the weakest to help themselves through better education, Donald Trump spreads the illusion that the process of creative destruction could or should be hampered. The administration claims to bring back jobs long lost to low income countries. It explicitly supports “sunset industries” like steel and coal and obstructs the development of green production and products by rolling back environmental

standards. Another way the president pretends to help American workers is by occasionally pointing fingers at the Chinese, Mexicans, and sometimes also at the Europeans. Desperately needed domestic reform is replaced by xenophobic sentiment; a political turn well-known from the inter-war period.

When I decided that my new function as director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies did not leave me with much choice for my inaugural lecture but to speak one way or another about the elephant in the room, as an economist, I clearly wanted to have a conversation specifically about the economic dimensions of the Trump phenomenon. And this is what we will do in the next hour or so. In the first part of my lecture, I will pose the question whether socio-economic causes contributed to the Trump victory in 2016. After having answered this question with a clear yes, I will in the second part of my lecture offer economic remedies to the Trump phenomenon.

Economic Causes: Marginalization and Insecurity

In a nutshell: The obvious malaise of the U.S. economy on the way to the 2016 presidential elections is a dramatic process of economic marginalization of large parts of the population. Since the 1970s, more and more Americans have not participated adequately in the economic and social progress of the country. Real wages of more than half of the American people have not increased for quite a few decades. The other problem that Americans had to come to terms with in the recent past is severe economic insecurity: The Great Recession of 2008 showed that even stagnating incomes were not safe. Indeed, as we will see, many of the predictors of the Trump vote in 2016 mirror these economic concerns. Since I am also bold enough tonight to suggest some solutions to the economic malaises and thus also to the emergence of populism in the U.S., I will discuss what it would take to turn around the process of economic marginalization and to reduce the exposure to economic insecurity in the future.

To be sure, it is not an easy task to argue in the fall of 2018 that the U.S. economy has a serious problem. It is cruising at a good speed these days with an expected 3% growth rate for this year. The unemployment rate is at a historical low. The last time it was as low as 3.7% was 49 years ago.

But let us have a closer look at the two main economic indicators I just mentioned, economic growth and unemployment. Americans see them mentioned in the media all the time, and they probably wonder why their personal experience in the job market and their capacity to pay the bills does not reflect the overall economic expansion. Do these indicators really show that there is sufficient economic participation of American citizens? Or do they merely show how the economy, but not necessarily the people, are doing? Let us start with the growth rate. Looking through the lens of GDP growth, the U.S. seems to have done nicely since the turn of the century and its recovery from the 2008 crisis: GDP grew some 30% between 2000 and 2014. If we compare the growth of gross domestic product with the increase in earnings of the bottom 90% of wage earners, though, we clearly see that this large portion of Americans have realized only a small

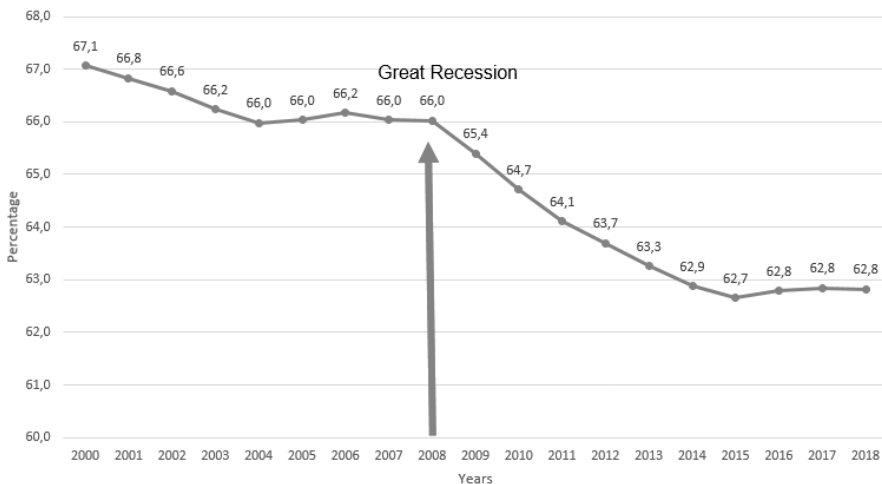
increase of their income. While GDP grew impressively between 2000 and 2014, the bottom 90% of wage earners saw a mere increase of approximately 5% of their wages. How can that be?

In their macroeconomics courses, economists teach that GDP does not only represent the value of the sum of all goods and services produced in a given country and year but at the same time also the income generated within the borders of that very country. How come, that so little income was generated for so many Americans when at the same time GDP grew quite substantially? There are two answers: The first is, of course, income inequality. As in the past, only a small portion of the total population saw their income rise significantly as a result of positive economic dynamics. The more important explanation is that income can be generated from two different sources, from working a job and—alternatively—from receiving interest on capital, for example on stocks. Going to work just does not pay as much anymore as it used to in the U.S.

What about the low unemployment rate? Does this rate indicate that Americans are enjoying the benefits of a healthy job market full of opportunities? In Table 1 we are not looking at the unemployment rate but at an alternative indicator; the labor force participation rate—for an 18-year-period.

Table 1

Economic Marginalization *Labor Market Participation Rate, 2000-2018*

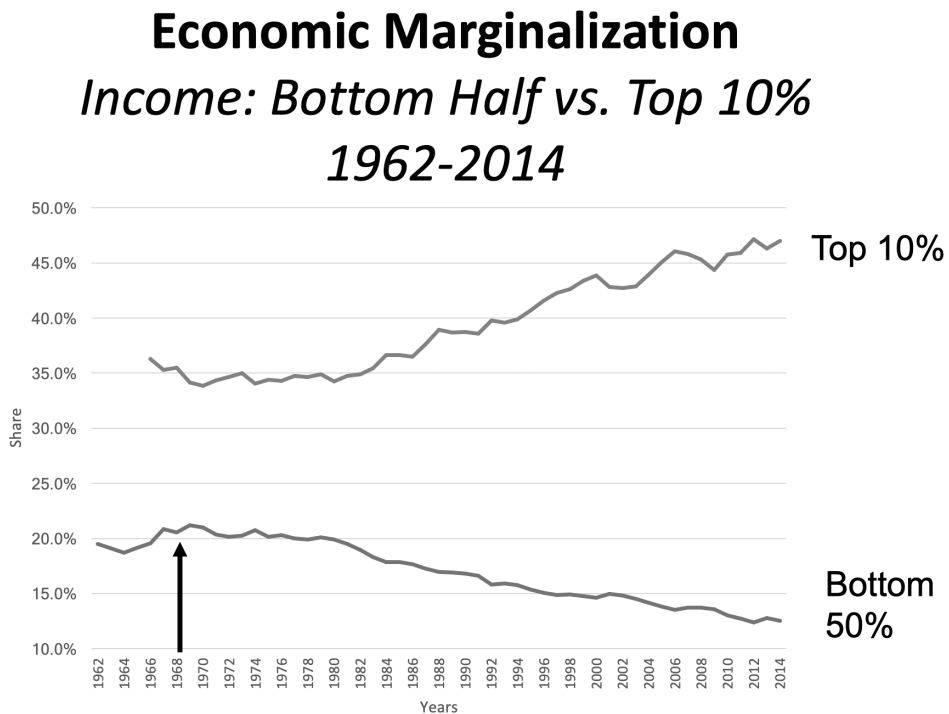


How is the labor force participation rate defined? The labor force of a country consists of two groups, those who have a job and those who are actively seeking a job. The labor force participation rate puts these two groups together and relates the resulting figure to the total working age population, i.e., people aged 15 to 64. In other words, with the help of this indicator we look at

the labor force as a percentage of the working age population. In Table 1, we see that the labor force participation rate has been declining for a long time in the U.S. and that it has stabilized on a very low-level of about 63%, compared to other OECD countries. One of the reasons for this low number is frustration. If unemployed workers remain unemployed long enough, many of them give up seeking a job and drop out of the labor force altogether. Consequently, and ironically, the unemployment rate improves as a result of this frustration, as it has done in the U.S. for quite a few years now. Clearly, this constellation is not at all an indication of a healthy job market with lots of opportunities, as President Obama already pointed out when he self-critically took stock of his two terms in office in an article for the British weekly *The Economist*. Looking a bit closer at both economic growth and unemployment, we see that the two most popular key indicators do not tell us very much about the question whether Americans profit from the dynamics of their economy.

We gain a more direct look at the malaise of insufficient economic participation from looking at the income of the bottom half of the population. This portion of the population received 22% of total income in the 1970s, as we see in Table 2. In the meantime, its share has dropped to 13%, whereas the share of the top 10% earners has increased significantly.

Table 2



Rising income inequality has been growing consistently since the early 1970s—for almost half a century now. Two generations of Americans have experienced rising inequality. Social scientists paid attention to this trend when it started, but not so much during the past decades, even though the social consequences have built up over time. What we also see in Table 2 is that Americans have not always lived in an era of increasing inequality. On the contrary, the post-war decades were a time when a rising tide lifted all boats, as John F. Kennedy famously proclaimed. The 1950s and 1960s actually lifted small boats faster than the big tankers, as Claudia Goldin, an economic historian from Harvard University, demonstrated in her book *The Great Compression*. In contrast, more than half of Americans have not experienced any increase in their real wages during the last 40 to 50 years. White American men today have an even lower real income than in the early 1970s. This is a dramatic finding for a society that was used to per capita income growth of almost 2% annually for two centuries, thereby doubling the standard of living every 30 or 40 years. The experience of ever-improving living standards is deeply engrained in American culture and society. The realization that this part of American identity has been fading in the last 50 years has led to deep frustration—and surely also to political reactions.

Insufficient Participation: The Role of Globalization and Technology

What were the most important determinants of increasing economic marginalization, not only in the U.S., but also in quite a few other OECD countries? For economists, there are two ways to explain this phenomenon. On the one hand, it is globalization, especially in the form of international trade but also in the form of labor migration. Both trans-border activities have put low-skilled labor under pressure. On the other hand, it is technological progress, which takes place independently of the globalization process in modern economies. Let us look a bit closer at the winners and losers of international trade. It is not international trade per se that causes income inequality in countries such as the United States. Rather, it is North-South trade, for example trade between the U.S. and China or Mexico that has such effects. Why? Because developing countries mainly export labor-intensive goods for which they have a comparative advantage vis-a-vis high wage countries. In the U.S., these imports replaced goods produced by American blue-collar workers. These imports lead to creative destruction and a de-industrialization process well-known in the Frostbelt and other old industrial core regions of the U.S., which were especially receptive to the messages of Donald Trump in the presidential elections of 2016. Creative destruction also means that the people who used to work in the import-competing industries of these regions might not have been able to find work in the more successful industries that were expanding. The upscaling of skills is a prerequisite for individual workers to find such jobs. For the entire country it is a prerequisite to move its labor force in the direction of better-paying employment, for example in export-oriented industries. International trade has not only led to de-industrialization in the U.S., but has also opened up plentiful opportunities for new industries, from Amazon to Google.

North-South trade increased dramatically for the U.S., especially because of the post-war liberalization process led by institutions such as the GATT and the WTO. Tariffs dropped from an average of 45% to an average of 5% in the second half of the twentieth century. But there were also singular events in this liberalization process that furthered North-South trade: The introduction of

the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1994 and, even more importantly, China's accession to the WTO in 2001. As quite a few empirical studies have shown, the "China Shock" led to a considerable downward trend in blue-collar jobs in the United States. Economists do not only look at the phenomenon of de-industrialization on the basis of empirical analysis but also with the help of a trade theory that was introduced in the 1940s by two economists, Wolfgang Stolper and Paul Samuelson. They predicted that international trade would not only have positive effects on specific groups of societies that are somehow connected to export-oriented industries—an outcome that might have been expected because of the famous predictions of David Ricardo on the positive welfare effects of international trade on national economies. Rather, Stolper and Samuelson's theorem postulated that international trade has negative effects on specific other groups—groups that are connected to import-competing industries..

Interestingly, in the textbooks for international economics, the Stolper-Samuelson theorem only fills a few pages. The rest of these thick volumes is devoted to trade theories that show more or less clearly that international trade is a positive-sum game for all countries. Economists have never been very concerned with income distribution among certain groups of the population. They have devoted most of their attention to the wealth of whole nations and their determinants, and this was the case with the welfare effects of international trade as well. But who are the winners and who are the losers of globalization according to Stolper and Samuelson? The theorem makes a very precise prediction. In technical terms, the winners will always be the "abundant production factor" of an economy, the losers the "scarce factor". I will give you an example from the last decades of the long nineteenth century that ended with World War I in 1914. This was an era in which globalization was as intense with respect to migration, capital flows, and international trade as in the past few decades. In North America, the abundant factor of production was land—in Western Europe, it was labor and capital. On the basis of the Stolper-Samuelson theorem we expect that land owners in the U.S. were among the globalization winners—and so they were. They saw their incomes rise more quickly than other groups.

Who were the losers of globalization before 1914 on the other side of the North Atlantic? In the Old World, the losers were at the receiving end of what was called the "grain invasion." The grain invasion alludes to the fact that more and more agriculture products from the New World were being shipped across the Atlantic at low cost with steamboats, making the lives of land-owners in Great Britain difficult. At the same time, this grain invasion helped poor factory workers in Europe to significantly improve their purchasing power and living standards. What do we learn from a large number of empirical studies that, some twenty years ago, brought these mechanisms of the last globalization era to light? Among other things, these studies show that globalization is a process in which the poorer do not necessarily get poorer—but in which the scarce production factor will lose, and the abundant factor will win.

But why do we go back more than one-hundred years? Do the income distribution effects of international trade matter today? Did they matter for the political decisions made about globalization in the U.S. before 1914? Did they matter for the Trump vote in 2016? Personally, I came across the studies of the effects of globalization before 1914 when they were published some

twenty years ago. On the basis of these works, which relied on the Stolper-Samuelson theorem, a new consensus emerged explaining the reasons for the end of the last globalization era. It had, in the words of Barry Eichengreen and Michael Bordo, planted the seeds of its own destruction. What does this mean? Economic historians did not only identify the winners and losers of globalization on both sides of the Atlantic, but they were also able to show that the losers of globalization made their voices heard in the political systems of their respective countries. In the U.S., anti-immigration resentments began to take shape and were ultimately successful in limiting labor immigration in the 1920s when immigration laws became very restrictive. In the Old World, land owners were successful in putting an end to the free trade era that had started in the 1840s through the abolition of the Corn Laws in Great Britain. Globalization, or more precisely, the income distribution effects of globalization led to distrust in established government policies that had furthered globalization for many decades. They led to protest movements and finally to a return to economic nationalism. Does this sound familiar in 2018?

When I came across these insights some twenty years ago, I was intrigued. There was one question that interested me the most: Could there be another globalization backlash due to the income distribution effects of international trade and migration in the twenty-first century? The early years of the twenty-first century were a bit of an awkward time to ponder this question, as globalization had just been discovered by the academic community as the dominating force of the time. Prominent economists such as Herbert Giersch, one of the former directors of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, were promising that globalization was irreversible—because of its positive welfare effects (on entire countries!). The economic historians that had worked on the long nineteenth century did not consider my question in their papers, or, if they did, only in passing. They concluded that another such backlash was not possible or likely. They pointed to a very simple reason: the world of 2000 is not the world of 1900. Today there is a welfare state that compensates the losers of globalization, and there is a social contract that says that liberalization and globalization go hand in hand with increased opportunities—that the modern activating welfare state helps its citizens to withstand the cold winds of global capitalism. In the year 2000, the losers of globalization, so the logic went, were compensated through a more or less generous welfare state. This is, of course, a typical answer from an economist. Yet we all know that food stamps or unemployment benefits are not a good enough replacement for a job lost. Participation means, among other things, participating in the labor market. For this and other reasons, I did not agree with the answer given by economic historians at the time.

In 2004, I published a paper whose title translates as “Globalization and Globalization-Backlash: A Comparison of Today with the pre-1914 Era.” I made the argument that globalization backlash was not only possible in the twenty-first century but that it was already in the making in the United States. De-industrialization had led to mass unemployment beginning way back in the 1960s. Already in the early 1980s, the beginnings of a long-term wage stagnation had reached quite a few Americans. Ross Perot, a very successful independent presidential candidate in 1992, had employed quite the same rhetoric as Donald Trump in 2016 with respect to trade and immigration. His main focus was NAFTA. On the other side of the political spectrum, events such as the “Battle of Seattle” against the WTO ministerial meeting in Washington state in 1999 showed

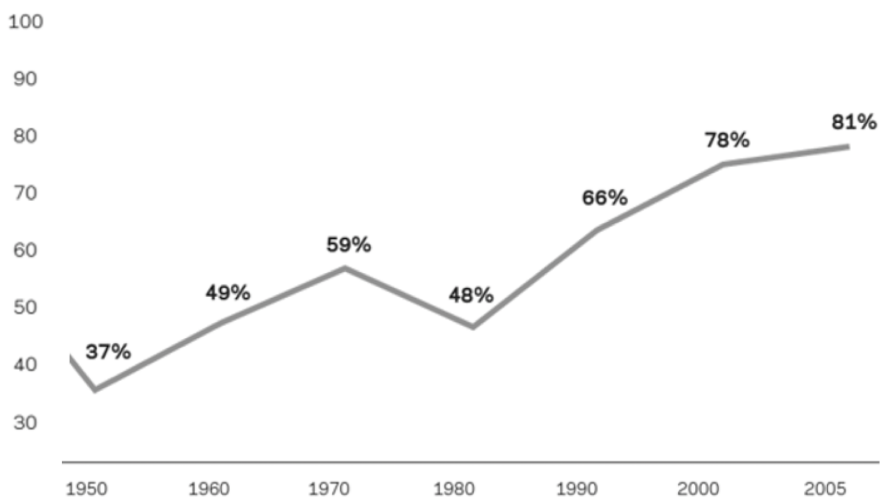
frustration with globalization of another kind. More importantly, Congress was already evenly divided about trade liberalization, and only half of the American people were in favor of free trade. My hypothesis earned me the keynote lecture at a globalization conference in Göttingen organized by Renate Ohr—and some polite smiles, when I presented it.

Besides globalization in the forms of trade and migration, the other factor that has added significantly to rising inequality in the U.S. during the last decades is, according to economic analysis, technological progress. Such progress changes the balance in the labor market, as demand for labor switches from low-qualified to high-qualified labor. As a result, a premium is paid to the well-educated. In Table 3 you see that in 1950 the “skilled,” meaning those with a college degree, earned 37% more than the “unskilled.” In 2005, this percentage had climbed up to 81%.

Table 3

Technological Progress

Wages: Skilled vs. Unskilled Workers, 1950-2005



There are other causes for rising inequality and decreasing economic participation, such as declining union membership, which reduces the bargaining power of American workers. For a long time, the minimum wage has stagnated. There is also an increase in “assortative mating,” marriage between individuals of comparable social and economic background. I recently read an article in the *New York Times* that said that MIT students like to marry—other MIT students.

There are several other causes that have led to rising income inequality and decreasing economic participation in the recent past, but let us keep in mind that globalization and technological progress are the most crucial factors.

Economic Insecurity: The Long Shadow of the Great Recession

Now, how can this economic marginalization influence presidential elections? Before we are going to look at the results of the presidential election in 2016, we will look at another economic malaise that many Americans were confronted with: economic insecurity resulting from the 2008 financial crisis. Of course, we know that economic crises in the twentieth century have caused social unrest and dramatic political polarization. In many cases, such turmoil resulted in meaningful economic and social reform. In the case of Germany, the economic malaise of the 1920s and the Great Depression contributed to a fatal political crisis. In the United States, the tremendous economic hardship of the inter-war period helped Franklin Delano Roosevelt to leapfrog into his New Deal policies.

What are the effects of the Great Recession of 2008? I think that we do not know yet what the final outcome will be. But we do know that this crisis added significantly to frustration, polarization, and the decline of economic participation. As we saw in Table 1, the labor force participation rate continued to fall once the economy showed signs of recovery. Empirical studies show that Americans who had experienced wage stagnation for many decades were more exposed to the negative consequences of the recession than others. The Tea Party and the Occupy Movements were only the initial, most visible political reactions to this historical crisis. Ten years after the Great Recession of 2008, we know that these reactions were by far not the only ones. Large parts of the American population that did not participate in these protest movements were nevertheless deeply upset about the effects of the Great Recession—and the way the Obama government handled it. The economic insecurity that it had brought on top of the experience of decades of economic stagnation led to frustration with established policies. The impression that Washington, more specifically the Obama administration, had forcefully helped Wall Street, but not Main Street, to deal with the negative effects of the crisis, convinced many that the system was “rigged.”

While stock market values have recovered by now nicely from the recession, the net worth of American households is still lagging far behind the 2000 level. These insights are noteworthy if we take into consideration that more than 50% of all Americans do not own stocks, or, in other words, that they did not participate in the more dynamic facets of the recovery. We have already discussed that the unemployment rate slowly improved since the crisis whereas labor market participation—the more important indicator—has continued its downward trend, pointing to great frustration in the American labor market.

Timothy Geithner, the Secretary of the Treasury during the Obama administration, frankly admitted, “what feels just and fair is often the opposite of what’s required to solve a financial crisis.” He was of course referring to the fact that the Obama administration rescued the big financial

firms on Wall Street but not the many homeowners who had lost their homes due to the crisis, and that the government's efforts to prevent people from sliding into unemployment or poverty were limited. The unfortunate truth behind this skewed reaction of the Obama administration is that the government was forced to rescue the too-big-to-fail financial institutions in order to prevent the economy from sliding deeper into recession even though many of these institutions had taken on excessive risk. One of the results of this dilemma was that Democrats and the Obama administration took a hammering in the 2010 mid-term elections—while at the same time successfully overcoming the worst recession since the Great Depression.

The Presidential Elections of 2016

In my mind, there is no doubt that the malaise of the American economy—insufficient participation and profound economic insecurity—played a significant role in the 2016 presidential election. I would argue that, despite the heterogeneous picture that has emerged from the many empirical studies looking for the determinants of the Trump vote in 2016, we have a consensus on the most important ones. Among them are, first of all, financial insecurity, meaning that the more financially insecure Americans felt, the more likely they were to vote in favor of Donald Trump. Secondly, status threat: the more a voter felt a status threat, which is largely defined economically, the more likely he or she was to vote for Trump. Thirdly, racism: the more a voter displayed racist attitudes, the more likely he or she was to make the populist choice. And finally, education: the less educated a voter was, the more likely he or she was to vote for the non-establishment candidate.

The absolute income level was, on the other hand, not an election predictor, or, in other words, all income groups that voted for the forty-fifth president had a severe feeling of insecurity and status threat—*independent of their income level*. Looking at empirical studies from different authors, there emerges a picture of a society that has been staring into the economic abyss for a long period of time and that, because of this unsolved challenge, has uncovered deep-rooted issues such as racial resentment. Of course, you are listening to an economist, but you are also listening to an economist who has devoted his career to cooperation with other disciplines, and so it is clear to me that the presidential election of 2016 was not only a vote on the economic malaise of the United States. Issues such as abortion or gun control have long been at the center of the political discourse in the U.S., and they have certainly played a role in the election as well, together with other identity issues.

Economic Remedies: Compensation, Participation, Countercyclical Policies

I promised that I would not only share my ideas on the economic causes of the Trump phenomenon but also on possible remedies. There are ways to counter American populism from an economic perspective. To be more precise, we need two answers to the economic malaise: one tackling the long-term trend of economic marginalization and the other addressing the economic insecurity caused by recurring economic crises. First, economic marginalization. As I already suggested, financial compensation is not a sufficient reaction to globalization or any other chal-

lenges caused by structural change in the economy. Since the 1980s, the so-called activating welfare state has rightly put the focus on help for self-help, even though—unlike most Western European and especially Scandinavian countries—the U.S. has not been very successful in putting this new concept into action. The remedies against populism that I would like to briefly address tonight are strengthening “compensation” and, more importantly, “help for self-help” in order to preserve democratic support for technological progress and globalization. Why? Because technological progress and globalization are and have always been the basis of economic progress. As I sometimes mention in my lectures, if the U.S. had not embraced structural change in the past, most Americans would still be farmers. Sometimes it is hard to get this point across to larger audiences—that creative destruction is indispensable. Not surprisingly, my suggestions are considerably different from those of the forty-fifth president. The core policies of the Trump administration are to ignore “compensation” and “help for self-help.”

When I suggest that more participation is the key remedy to crack U.S. populism, I also suggest that the U.S. welfare system has not only been ignored by the current administration but has not been updated for decades in the face of new challenges, as it should have been. I would like to give you two examples of policy failure in the areas of education and health care that will have to be repaired.

Policy Failure in Education and Health Care

As one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the U.S. should have one of the best education systems in order to preserve living standards in the future. The reality looks very different. According to the PISA studies of the OECD, the U.S. ranks mediocre, not even average, among the 35 of the richest countries with respect to educational attainment on the primary level. How can that be? How can the wealthiest nation not have invested in the most precious resource, human capital? From both a societal and an economic perspective, upscaling skills is key. There are more serious things to consider. The U.S. ranks only thirty-first out of 35 with respect to the social mobility function of its education system. This means that in the western world a young school kid in the U.S. from a poor family has one of the worst chances to earn a higher degree and to make it into a well-paying job. Community colleges, which are supposed to help integrating blue-collar workers into the new technologically advanced work force are both underperforming and chronically underfinanced. Dual education and apprenticeship programs are, compared to countries such as Germany, almost non-existent. Regarding the public expenses for active labor market policies (as a percentage of GDP), the U.S. ranks thirty-fourth out of 35; the country ranks second-to-last in helping those without a job to upscale their skills and to find a new job. The U.S. spends 0.01% of GDP on such programs. Denmark, a famous role model in the E.U.'s efforts to spread ‘good practices’ in labor market and social policies spends 2.3% or 23 times as much as the United States. But the crisis in the U.S. welfare system is not only about spending levels but also about efficiency.

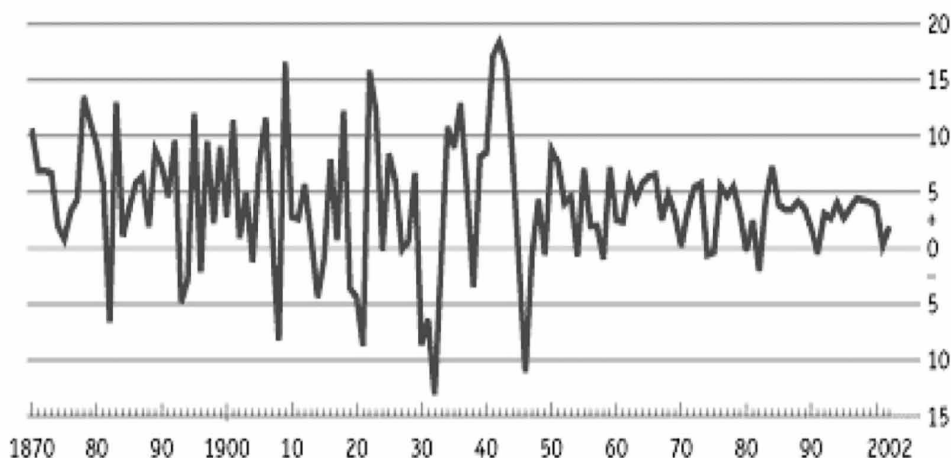
Let us have a look at health care. Here, the U.S. ranks first concerning the amount spent per capita. But does this mean that it also ranks first regarding the health status of its population?

Not at all! The U.S. spends about 18% of GDP on health care, seven percentage points more than the OECD average, but it once again ranks only mediocre with respect to performance. There is a significant cost-performance gap in the U.S. health care system. Given the performance level of the American system and considering the performance of other OECD countries, the gap amounts to \$1.4 trillion per year. If the health care system would be more efficient in providing the large majority of Americans with quality health care along the lines of other OECD countries, this money could be spent on other causes, such as education.

Table 4

Sucesful Countercyclical Policies

The U.S. Business Cycle, 1870-2002



Fighting Economic Insecurity

Economic insecurity is the second challenge that has to be dealt with in order to fight populism in the United States. Here, my evaluation is gloomier. Whereas economic marginalization has been combatted successfully time and again throughout the twentieth century and can be combatted successfully again, finding ways to insulate the U.S. from future economic crises is a Herculean task. Counter-cyclical policies, as applied successfully during the latter half of the twentieth century to fight recessions, consist of three elements: fiscal policy in the form of deficit spending; monetary policy; and strict regulation of financial institutions. Americans have been

very successful in applying sensible policies in all three areas after World War II. As you can see in Table 4, the volatility of the American business cycle was significantly reduced in the middle of the twentieth century compared to earlier times. But can these policies also be applied successfully in the future?

I would say that there is a huge question mark because fiscal and monetary policies were over-used in the last decades and the grip of American regulators on the stability of financial institutions has loosened considerably. As to fiscal policies, Table 5 shows that the U.S. has engaged in deficit spending independently of the business cycle for quite a few decades. It has thus accumulated a considerable debt comparable to the debt amassed during World War II.

Table 5

Overreach: Fiscal Policy

U.S. Debt as Percent of GDP since 1980



This high debt level reduces opportunities for sound economic policies in the future, and it gives a bad example to other OECD countries. As table 6 shows, the stretching of monetary policies consists not only of zero-interest policies by the Federal Reserve Board (FED) for a period of about ten years, but also of quantitative easing. With these new monetary policies, the FED injected an impressive \$3.5 trillion into the world economy after the 2008 crisis, which in turn has fed new asset bubbles. Finally, financial market regulation is overburdened with challenges such as a tremendous rise in "hot money," i.e., short-term international capital flows, increasing regulatory competition and arbitration, and a race to the bottom with respect to regulatory control compared to the post-war decades.

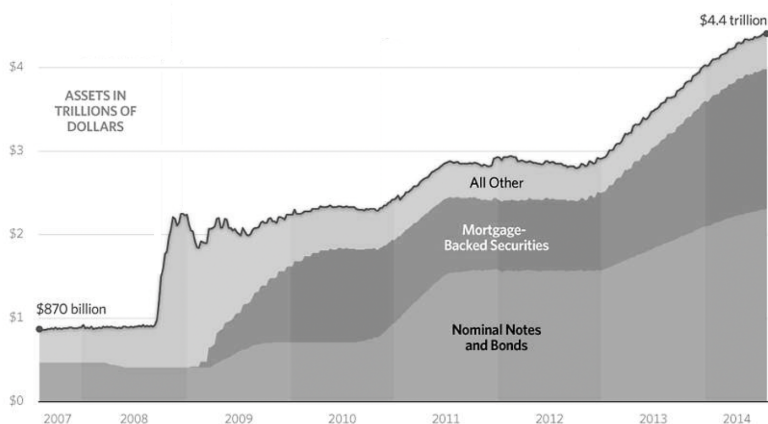
Table 6

Overreach: Monetary Policy

Quantitative Easing

CHART 1

Federal Reserve Assets: Key Dates



And it is with this gloomy outlook on economic crises and their potential to feed the next round of populist sentiment that my presentation concludes. My argument in a nutshell: yes, the Trump phenomenon is to a large degree caused by an economic malaise, and yes, Americans do have economic policy prescriptions for some of these economic problems at their disposal—more so in the area of improving economic participation than in the area of countercyclical policies. I am at the same time aware that my focus on the Trump presidency was a narrow one tonight. I am an economist, and I spoke to you today as an economist, economic historian, and political economist. I am very much looking forward to discussing this topic with colleagues from other disciplines, as I have done in the past—for example, in a 2004 volume that I edited together with the cultural scientist Winfried Fluck. The German title of this volume translates as: *Poverty and Wealth in the U.S.: How much Inequality can Democracy Endure?*

Thank you very much for your attention!

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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-fourth and twenty-fifth semesters of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar. Our cooperation partners in 2018-19 were the Carl-Schurz Haus/Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut e.V., Freiburg; the Collegium politicum at the University of Freiburg; the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT); the Geographisches Institut, Heidelberg University; The Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, the Heidelberg School of Education; Jos Fritz Buchhandlung, Freiburg; the Heidelberg Queer Festival; the Historisches Seminar, Heidelberg University; and the Faculty of Theology, Heidelberg University. We wish to thank all of our committed partners in this program for their continued support.

FALL SEMINAR 2018

The twenty-fourth semester of the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar included distinguished scholars from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; the University of Pennsylvania, San Francisco State University, The New School for Social Research, the University of Connecticut; Cornell University, and the University of Mississippi. Author David Sedaris kicked off the fall program at the Paulussaal in Freiburg on October 10 with a hilarious reading from his new book *Calypso*.

On October 23, 2018 the HCA welcomed Alasdair Roberts, professor of political science and director of the School of Public Policy at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. The first Heidelberg event of the twenty-fourth Baden-Württemberg Seminar was jointly organized with the Graduiertenkolleg „Authority and Trust“(GKAT) (see p. 99). The HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued on November 8 with a lecture by James English, who had also followed a joint invitation of the HCA and GKAT (see p. 100).

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued in the following week, on November 15, in cooperation with the Institute for Geography and welcomed Professor Jason Henderson from San Francisco State University. His research focuses on the politics of mobility, urban mobility, bicycle transportation, transit, and parking, particularly in San Francisco and Copenhagen. After an introduction by Dr. Gregg Culver of the Institute for Geography, Professor Henderson introduced his topic and invited his audience to witness San Francisco's modern transportation development while elucidating tech mobility's claims on urban livability, resources, labor, and the future. Jason Henderson commenced his talk by pointing out that "tech mobility" employs smartphones, GPS, batteries, and defense technologies, which are superimposed on existing mobility. As a forerunner, the Bay Area Internet giant Google introduced its private tech bus system in 2006, but it was not until 2013 that the concept took off. The buses offer Wi-Fi connection, spacious legroom, and ample seating. Most importantly, the buses enable Google tech experts to start their working hours while commuting, a benefit public transportation does not offer. A second example for tech mobility's rising influence are so-called transportation network companies (TNC), the best-known being Uber and Lyft, whose CEO, Logan Green, has predicted the end of car ownership



Jason Henderson

by 2025, owing to tech mobility's rapid growth. The companies enable users to hire personal on-demand cars, take advantage of cashless pay, and rate the driver via smartphone app.

Tech mobility's claims sound promising. The Google Bus renders it unnecessary to own a car, and Uber and Lyft reduce the need to use your car, thereby seemingly relieving congested city centers and the problem of scarce parking possibilities; mobility shifts from the necessity of the individual to a service performed by others. At least in theory, tech mobility's future shines bright, but it has its down sides. Google buses serve the elites, making dense downtown areas even more unaffordable for the working middle-class. This results in gentrification and displacement into low-density sprawl, disinvestment in public transport, and fragmented regional planning. Horrendous working conditions, for example split shifts, non-existent break rooms, and long commuting routes for Google bus drivers are other negative aspects of tech mobility. Since the Google Bus does not stop at designated stations but randomly, it blocks the curbs for cyclists and city buses, resulting in a "street fight for the public curb." Driverless electric cars as well make a deceiving promise—the electric car manufacturing process itself is very emission-intensive. Professor Henderson suggested that instead of finding a way to electrify two billion cars and promote climate change by doing so, the debate should rather be about renewable energy supply for urban mass transit, utility-scale renewables, and the life cycle of batteries. After Professor Henderson's presentation, the audience was left wondering about the far-reaching consequences transportation has on all sectors of society. He encouraged it to critically engage with the claims made by tech mobility and develop alternative visions. Jason Henderson's talk was followed by a lively discussion that ranged from the role of delivery vehicles and consumer patterns to sociological relationships within the realm of transportation.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar moved to Karlsruhe on November 24. Where McKenzie Wark, Professor of Media and Cultural Studies at the New School for Social Research in New York City spoke at the symposium "Kathy Acker GET RID OF MEANING." His talk "Philosophy for Spiders" approached Kathy Acker not so much as an author but rather as a philosopher, and attempted to extract a consistent philosophical practice from her works. Professor Wark assumed that Acker's writing tactics do not aim at high theory, but rather constitute low theory—a "Philosophy of spiders." The large audience at the lecture hall of the Badischer Kunstverein was as fascinated by the talk as by the superb exhibition.

Only three days later, on November 27, the audience of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar encountered quite a different topic, as the Heidelberg Center for American Studies welcomed Susan Herbst, president of the University of Connecticut. Manfred Berg, the HCA's deputy director, introduced Professor Herbst and her outstanding career. As chief academic officer of the Georgia University System, she led fifteen university presidents and oversaw the academic missions for all thirty-five public universities in Georgia. After holding appointments at Temple University, Georgia Tech, and SUNY Albany, Susan Herbst became the first female president of the University of Connecticut in 2010. Her own academic work focuses on the analysis of public opinion in the United States. Based on her profound knowledge in the field, Susan Herbst finds the analysis of public opinion in the twenty-first century United States highly problematic. The unexpected suc-

cess of Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election epitomizes this problem. While political scientists have perfected polling and survey techniques over time, they have failed to capture what really concerns society. Professor Herbst commenced her lecture with a brief historic overview to help her audience understand how pollsters got themselves into the current misery and then explained why Donald Trump is a master of understanding political sentiments.

The term “public opinion” was coined during the French Revolution, but already Greek philosophers understood the “wisdom of the masses” as a political force. It was in the 1920s that public opinion polling underwent a drastic change, a “domestication.” President Franklin D. Roosevelt employed the first fulltime pollsters, and political scientists developed wide-ranging techniques to study and measure public opinion. Today, a whole polling industry exists to analyze society’s sentiments. The Trump candidacy and presidency play an interesting role in this field. According to Professor Herbst, Donald Trump himself is an outstanding longtime analyst of public opinion, who studied people’s reactions and learned to understand America and its sensibilities throughout his business career. Social media became a significant resource for the president to understand what aroused the masses, and analysis of TV programs his way to judge the current “climate of opinion.” Susan Herbst sees a resemblance here to nineteenth-century party bosses who showed the same deep understanding of their communities. Polls cannot capture and convey such intimate relationships.



Susan Herbst

According to Professor Herbst, the polling industry’s great error in 2016 was to rely on polls and surveys instead of closely examining the connection of culture and public opinion. Observing people’s environment and community, as the party bosses of old did, would have predicted Trump’s victory in the presidential election. Susan Herbst acknowledged that more recently, pollsters have begun to interview Trump supporters and value this as a useful instrument for the prediction of future election outcomes. Following Professor Herbst’s lecture, an enthusiastic audience asked about structural deficiencies in American political science, the role of opinion pollsters in the midterm elections, and the dangers of polling for the actual election process.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued on November 28 in cooperation with GKAT, when Professor Caroline Levine visited the HCA to speak about her research into forms and New Formalism (see p. 101).

For the last talk of the fall program, the HCA welcomed distinguished author Beth Ann Fennelly back to its Baden-Württemberg Seminar on December 11, 2018; she and her husband, Tom Franklin, had already been part of the HCA's distinguished lecture series in October 2016, when they read from their co-authored novel *The Tilted World*. This time, the HCA hosted a reading of Beth Ann Fennelly's latest book, *Heating & Cooling*, in cooperation with the Heidelberg School of Education. Anja Schüler of the HCA introduced Beth Ann Fennelly and her multifaceted career. The writer has authored three collections of poetry, one autobiography, and a novel before publishing her collection of micro memoirs in October 2017. Beth Ann Fennelly has received numerous awards and fellowships, and her poetry has been featured in over fifty anthologies. She directs the MFA program at the University of Mississippi since 2001 where she also teaches poetry and non-fiction; in 2016, she was named poet laureate of Mississippi.

Beth Ann Fennelly created the genre of micro memoirs to accommodate her current writing style. After collaborating on *A Tilted World* with her husband for four years, her thoughts refused to join naturally into a narrative as she sat down to write another novel. Instead of forcing the thoughts and snippets into a storyline, she began to work with what she got: sentences, texts, essays, varying in length from one line to six pages. She defined her micro memoirs as "little somethings," joining her favorite elements of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction: extreme compression, narrative, and truth telling. The results are very small, true stories. Why fifty-two of them? No intention lies behind this number. Soon after a friend of hers referred to the original collection of 100 micro memoirs as "exuberant," Fennelly narrowed her selection to the ones connected to Chicago, where she grew up, and Mississippi, where she has been living for the past 18 years, ending up with 52 micro memoirs.

Beth Ann Fennelly



In her small pieces of art, Beth Ann Fennelly searches for beauty and meaning in everyday life; acts of love and friendship, but also moments of rudeness, confusion, and frustration became the material for *Heating & Cooling*. One story tells us about her intense emotions when she and her father set out to the local church in the midst of the "Blizzard of 1979," another about the day she conversed about carpets with a stranger. The "Married Love" sequence celebrates the raw, imperfect everyday-love that so many narratives fail to include in the picture. Beth Ann Fennelly does not shy away from intimate topics such as her extraordinary bladder size or her husband's vasectomy. However, her direct and amusing way of seeing the world and putting her observations and experiences into words never leaves the reader feeling awkward but rather roaring with

laughter. As the title suggests, *Heating & Cooling* is about the ups and downs, about childhood memories and parenting, happiness and sadness, melancholy and joy; it is “all the emotions that are totally me,” as Fennelly puts it, created to convey a “sense of fullness of the human experience.” *Heating & Cooling* is a book for mothers and women, for fathers and men, and for people finding joy in life’s imperfections.

After Beth Ann Fennelly read the last micro memoir for the night, the audience engaged in a lively discussion, asking about her writing process, the influence of motherhood on her work, and the direction of her next writing venture. She advised every future writer to be “organized in work, and wild in writing”—to listen to their thoughts and commit to daily fidelity to their desk to find out what you have to say. Motherhood changed her perception from needing to write the perfect piece within the perfect setting to using what you got, even if it was only 15 minutes time and a crayon. She increasingly grew focused, aware of time and of her place on earth. Her next work will be a novel because this is what feels right for her at the moment. The discussion was followed a book signing, and Beth Ann Fennelly happily answered more questions and wrote a thoughtful note to every reader.

SPRING SEMINAR 2019

For its twenty-fifth semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, the HCA invited distinguished academics from Rutgers University, the University of Notre Dame, the University of California, Berkeley, LMU München, the University of Pennsylvania, Oxford University, and the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. The program was completed by author Daniel Mendelsohn, writer and queer historian Hugh Ryan, and the 2018-19 Colonial Williamsburg Revolutionary in Residence, Edward Lengel.

The spring seminar got off to a great start in Freiburg on March 19 with a reading by classics scholar, translator, and memoirist Daniel Mendelsohn, who is also a literary and television critic. He read from his new book *An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic*, a story that the New York Times has called “subtle and deeply moving.” It is an account of a father—a mathematician—and his son—a classics scholar—trapped on a theme cruise: the theme is Homer’s *Odyssey*. The audience at the Archäologische Sammlung of the University of Freiburg was truly impressed with the book that had as many things to say about Homer’s epic poem as about the complicated relationships between fathers and sons.

The Baden-Württemberg moved back to Heidelberg on April 26, when David Greenberg, Professor of History and of Journalism & Media Studies at Rutgers University gave the HCA Commencement Address at the University’s Alte Aula (see p. 61).

The HCA’s signature lecture series continued on April 30 with a lecture by Sandra Gustafson. As Professor of English and American Studies at the University of Notre Dame’s English Department, Gustafson’s foci lie in American literature and culture, peace studies, and the study of civil

and human rights. Her talk successfully integrated these scholarly specialties. Jan Stievermann, professor of the history of American Christianity at Heidelberg University, introduced the speaker and her distinguished career: Apart from her role in undergraduate and graduate education at Notre Dame, she is the editor of the ninth edition of *The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Vol. A*, the advisory editor of *Journals Early American Literature*, and a guest editor of a special issue of the *Journal of the Early Republic*.

Sandra Gustafson



In the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Professor Gustafson set out to explain, early “theorists of peace” William Penn and Immanuel Kant wrote on the “Present and Future Peace of Europe, by the Establishment of an European Dyet, Parliament, or Estates” (Penn, 1693-94) and “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” (Kant, 1795). However, these pacifist ideas did not assume a permanent form until the early nineteenth century; in 1815, David Low Dodge formed the first peace organization in New York City, inducing a rapid growth of similar societies all over New England and Ohio. Print media brought the peace movement to international attention during the 1840s, and it expanded across the globe. In 1849, French author Victor Hugo presided over the first international Peace Congress in Paris, arguing that “the cause of peace is a direct extension of our democratic responsibilities.” African Americans and abolitionists alike regarded slavery as a persistent cause of war and inhibitor of peace and freedom; two African American men attended the Congress in Paris: James W.C. Pennington and William Wells Brown.

The two novels chosen by Professor Gustafson, *The Deerslayer* by James Fenimore Cooper and *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe, both stem from that agitated time in which the peace movement first flourished. The Nat Turner Rebellion in 1831, the murder of Elijah Lovejoy six years later, as well as “Bleeding Kansas” and John Brown’s Raid intensified the fracture of American society, widened the gap between war and peace, and encumbered the ultimate goal of nation-wide freedom. In her analysis, Professor Gustafson turned toward the figures of Hattie Hutter in *The Deerslayer* and Phineas Fletcher in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. In *The Deerslayer*, James Fenimore Cooper incorporates Christian morality and the ethical dimension of frontier violence towards Native Americans. The character of Hattie Hutter stands as representative of the tragic and seemingly unavoidable colonial warfare of the time. Though of limited intellectual powers, Hattie Hutter’s strong belief in morality and biblical teachings allowed her to speak up against

violence and bloodshed. When a group of Englishmen attacked the members of the Native American Huron tribe, Hattie was mortally wounded and died. She protruded as a symbol of goodness in a world reliant upon power and force. In *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe created the character of Phineas Fletcher as a symbol of pacifism. Fletcher, a man violent by nature, converted to Quakerism not out of faith but out of love to a woman. When he, too, is wounded, he undergoes a metamorphosis from slave catcher to honest, believing frontiersman. The construction of the figure Phineas Fletcher and *Uncle Tom's Cabin* as a whole bespeak Beecher-Stowe's deep understanding of the peace movement at the time. While critics did not see Stowe's novel as a comprehensive image of a post-slavery society, it was nevertheless a first step towards a broader education about the peace movement.

After Professor Gustafson's knowledgeable, in-depth analysis of these works of fiction and their connection to the early peace movement, a lively discussion commenced. The audience wondered, for instance, if there was an obvious connection between the peace movement and morality and femaleness and if the novel was a preferred medium to bring across the message of the peace movement. Professor Gustafson doubted that peace was a specifically feminine topic though mostly women were active in social reform movements. The novel was probably a favored medium due to the vigorous print culture at the time.

The next guest of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar introduced quite a different topic: On May 16, an expectant audience welcomed author and queer historian Hugh Ryan from New York. In cooperation with the Heidelberg Queer Festival and GKAT (see p. 104) Find a review of *When Brooklyn Was Queer* by Kristin Berberich on the HCA Graduate Blog: <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/2027>

On May 23, the HCA was delighted to welcome Professor Jon Coleman, Chair of the Department of History at Notre Dame University, to its Baden-Württemberg Seminar. Professor Jan Stievermann of Heidelberg University welcomed his colleague and gave the audience a brief introduction into his work. Professor Coleman got involved with the topic of his talk while researching the history of mobility in America before combustion engines, supported by a Guggenheim Fellowship. During this inquiry, he came across multiple intriguing stories about getting lost in America that lead him to look further into this phenomenon.

Following Professor Stievermann's introduction, Jon Coleman dwelled on how the past five years of academic exchange between the HCA and Notre Dame University had influenced his research on getting lost. He drew from the theory of the spatial turn as well as psychological studies of spatial cognition in order to approach an answer to the question why humans got lost and in the past and still get lost today. According to those theories, we engage with and construct space abstractly and creatively instead of perceiving it geographically. Moreover, unlike animals, we do not pay attention to near planetary features such as magnetic forces or the position of the sun. Professor Coleman therefore argued that space is something social, geographical, and constructed for humans and that they are hence likely to get lost if those elements shift or change. Such a change could lead to alienation from socially or geographically navigable space as well

as to an ensuing trauma he termed “nature shock,” a seizure-like sudden confusion that incapacitates a person’s orientation ability and can be traumatizing for life. Professor Coleman used the case of Jack, a hunter, to illustrate this condition. With a group of fellow hunters, Jack had chased a herd of horses from the plains back to their owner. During a storm, he was separated from the group and went missing for thirty-three days. Professor Coleman argued that the group of hunters had travelled through space without paying attention to their surroundings because they were focused entirely on the horses. However, the group was able to navigate out of an unfamiliar environment in a storm because it stayed together. Jack got lost because he lost the social network through which he navigated unfamiliar spaces. As social beings, our relations to others define our perception and navigation of spaces familiar and unfamiliar. Jon Coleman further argued that this insight was significant since we currently experience a transformation from relational space to individual space. In the age of mass media, the relations that define our space sometimes span the entire globe, creating more individual, immediate surroundings. Although Professor Coleman was uncertain about the impact this transformation will have on human navigation in the future, he assured the audience that we will continue to rely on personal connections to navigate space, notwithstanding the character of our environment. After a round of applause, the audience used the opportunity to learn more about Professor Coleman’s research and ways to avoid getting lost.

Jon Coleman



On May 29, the HCA welcomed Berkeley economist Barry Eichengreen, an event that was co-hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany. Professor Eichengreen’s talk also kicked off the HCA Economics Month (see p. 215).

The HCA’s Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued on June 13 in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Berlin and the chair for public history at Heidelberg University with a guest lecture by Edward Lengel, the 2018-19 Revolutionary in Residence at Colonial Williamsburg. Dr. Anja Schüler, coordinator of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, briefly introduced Dr. Lengel, whose positions as professor for history at the University of Virginia and Chief Historian for the White House Historical Association led him to his work as public historian.

Edward Lengel commenced his talk by explaining that he had refocused his career to find an approach to history that was able to bridge the gap between academia and the public. As the divide between popular historians and academic historians grew, the latter found it increasingly difficult to interest general audiences in history. Dr. Lengel thinks this is because academic historians no longer attempted to empathize with historic figures or show compassion for their situation, thus failing to highlight the similarities between them and us. This was largely the result of an academic approach to historiography popularized during the early twentieth century. Focused entirely on factually accurate history, academic historians at the time began to exclude storytelling, an essential component of historiography that enabled people to build meaningful connections between themselves and the past. Edward Lengel himself had recognized the importance of storytelling while he worked on the George Washington Papers Project at the University of Virginia. Americans of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries experienced George Washington's death as a devastating loss. Subsequently, they held on to numerous anecdotes, true and false, about their late president, which enabled them to grieve while simultaneously keeping Washington's image with them. Following the American involvement in World War I, historians began to debunk the Washington stories as a response to a post-war rejection of patriotic narratives. Those anecdotes that survived this process were completely true but also, said Dr. Lengel, dull and meaningless. Until the presidency of Ronald Reagan, the idea of meaningful stories remained largely absent from American historiography. Edward Lengel emphasized that the process of reincorporating storytelling in factual historiography was challenging, ongoing, and often met with broad resistance in academia. In particular, the waning interest in historical narratives surrounding D-Day and the Berlin Airlift demonstrated that even meaningful aspects of a nation's history could become meaningless over time if they are not connected to meaningful stories. Dr. Lengel closed on the note that since academic historians were losing touch with the wider public, it was evident to him that they had to change their approach to historiography in order to maintain the relevance of their work in the public eye. After these fascinating insights, the audience was eager to find out more about changing historical narratives in the ensuing discussion round.



Edward Lengel

For the next talk in the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, the HCA welcomed Barbara Savage, Geraldine R. Segal Professor of American Social Thought at the University of Pennsylvania and Harmsworth Visiting Professor of American History at Oxford University, on June 25. Dr. Anja Schüller

was delighted to introduce the audience to Professor Savage and her academic career. In her lecture, she shed light on the life and work of twentieth-century African-American scholar Merze Tate, who in spite of her academic and personal achievements received growing public recognition only after her death in 1996.

Barbara Savage



Born and raised in central Michigan, Merze Tate was the first African-American woman to graduate from the state's Western State Teachers College in 1927. Following her graduation, she had to move to Indianapolis where she taught at a segregated High School and continued her education attending several graduate and summer courses. Eventually, Merze Tate received a scholarship from the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority to study foreign affairs at Oxford University where she was the first Africa-American graduate in 1935. Merze Tate returned to the U.S. and soon entered a Ph.D. program at Harvard University, from which she graduated in 1941. Not only was she the first female African-American Ph.D. recipient from Harvard, she moreover became the first female professor at Howard University's History Department. There, Barbara Savage emphasized, Merze Tate regularly addressed wage inequality and gender discrimination, fighting vigorously for more time to teach and research. Shortly after the establishment of the Fulbright Program, she received a grant to teach geopolitics at Tagore's World University in Shantiniketan, India, in 1950. Unlike other American scholars who travelled to India, Tate became deeply committed to community life there. The university's vision to welcome students from all cultural backgrounds and enable them to study peacefully together enchanted her, said Professor Savage. While she met many important individuals such as Mahatma Gandhi during her time in India, Merze Tate was above all able to travel extensively throughout Asia and the South Pacific. Back in the U.S., she refocused her research on the South Pacific and Africa, two projects she continued to work on until her death. In her academic works, Merze Tate regularly expressed deeply anti-imperialist and anti-racist thoughts. She was thoroughly concerned about the impact of the post-war situation on existing inequalities and hence argued for a new global order that would guarantee freedom to everyone. To Merze Tate, racism was not a local issue but symptomatic of a global problem that required interdisciplinary and international cooperation, two approaches Tate was committed to throughout her career. Professor Savage emphasized that the substantial body of publications on international relations and geopolitics in Asia, Africa, and the South Pacific, her belief in gender and racial equality as well as her personal and professional devotion highlighted Merze Tate as

an outstanding woman of her time and true intellectual pioneer. Following this insightful glimpse into the life and work of Merze Tate, Barbara Savage gladly answered questions from the audience that was eager to find out more about Merze Tate's struggles and achievements.

The summer program of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar featured two additional talks. On June 27, we welcomed another scholar from Oxford University, Michèle Mendelssohn, in cooperation with GKAT (see p. 106); on July 2, the HCA and the Faculty of Theology bestowed the eighth James W. C. Pennington Award on Paul Harvey (see p. 140).

HCA BOOK LAUNCHES

In the academic year 2018-19, the HCA once again presented the work of its associates to the wider public.

On December 13, the HCA welcomed Dr. Mischa Honeck back to Heidelberg, who had worked at the HCA as a research associate from 2008 to 2011. He presented his latest book, *Our Frontier Is the World: The Boy Scouts in the Age of American Ascendancy*, published by Cornell University Press in May 2018. His longtime mentor, Manfred Berg, Curt Engelhorn chair of American History, introduced the author and his academic career. Dr. Honeck had pursued his master's degree, his Ph.D., and his "Habilitation" at Heidelberg's History Department. After several years at the GHI Washington, he became a research associate at Humboldt University Berlin in September 2017 and currently acts as a temporary professor at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Mischa Honeck's research foci lie on the history of childhood and adolescence, transnational history, ethnicity, race and gender history as well as the study of imperialism.

Mischa Honeck



Mischa Honeck's analysis of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) provides new insights into a well-known American organization. He abstains from solely studying the BSA as a national entity but explores the Boy Scouts' role in global history and in transnational relations. *Our Frontier Is the World* covers Boy Scouts' expeditions to foreign continents as part of the "imperial project" of a "powerful, yet innocent" America. The Boy Scouts America (BSA) was founded by William D. Boyce in 1910 and grew to become one of America's largest youth organizations as well as a symbol for youthfulness and brotherhood. The Boy Scouts took on the challenge of rearing America's boys, and it became their self-defined goal to produce physically strong and mentally stable young men. For America, the BSA offered a solution to its "imperial dilemma": by attend-

ing worldwide jamborees, the Boy Scouts' famous gatherings, the American organization spread its message of brotherhood across the world. Love, friendship, fraternity, and kindness added to and partially replaced the typical colonial paternalism.

In addition to his thoroughly researched history of the Boy Scouts' international endeavors, Mischa Honeck's book also explores gender studies and the role of ethnicity within the Boy Scouts of America. While many of the former Boy Scouts happily remember childhood adventures with their brothers, Honeck criticizes the BSA's organization and, especially, their sentiment towards race and sexuality. The BSA linked "ideal boyhood" directly to whiteness, discriminating other ethnicities. The boys' behavior and sexual development was influenced, criticized, and altered by Boy Scout leaders. In reality, the supposedly "natural boyification" was utterly artificial and nothing the boys chose to do on their own account. Even though homosociality and homosexuality are closely connected, the BAS prohibited sexual contact, condemned masturbation as an ill, and discriminated upon same-sex relationships. Reports on sexual abuse eventually emerged. Euphemistic narratives of "real-life Peter Pans" and "cheerful conservatism" fail to convey those downsides.

A round of questions followed Dr. Honeck's enlightening lecture. His choice of topic, the role of nature, and the treatment of women were just some aspects that interested the audience. Once a member of the Cub Scouts, the Boy Scouts children's organization, himself, Mischa Honeck became interested in the BSA's history after finding an archival photo that showed Philippine boys in Boy Scouts uniforms. Dr. Honeck confirmed that the imperial project has not been the Boy Scouts only occupation; nature still constitutes an important part of Boy Scouts culture, featuring activities such as trash collection and tree planting. He remarked that the organization of the Girl Scouts, the BSA's female counterpart, greatly differed from the BSA. While the BSA's boyification suggested energy and innocence, an equivalent "girlification" would not have had the same effect. Instead of adventure, the Girl Scouts rather stand for domesticity, most famously through their cookies sales. After the lecture, members of the audience had the opportunity to mingle a bit with the author during the ensuing reception.

The HCA kicked off 2019 celebrating a new edition of *Die Präsidenten der USA: 45 historische Porträts von George Washington bis Donald Trump* (*The Presidents of the USA: 45 Historic Portraits from George Washington to Donald Trump*), to which HCA associates had contributed. HCA Founding Director Professor Detlef Junker, Curt Engelhorn Professor Manfred Berg, and Dr. Martin Thunert, HCA Senior Lecturer for American politics, sat the on podium, along with contributing author Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson, professor for the history of European-transatlantic culture at the University of Augsburg, and presented their short biographies to a large audience in the HCA Atrium. Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, moderator of the evening, emphasized that this work demonstrated how much a person's biography could influence their political choices.

Professor Junker opened the discussion by briefly sketching the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had played an important role in shaping the office as we know it today. Roosevelt greatly expanded executive powers and employed advisors from different areas of expertise. The

comprehensive reforms of his New Deal brought immense structural change to American society, reforming the labor market, the health insurance system, and fiscal policy. Moreover, Roosevelt set an agenda for his successors with his unprecedented close cooperation and communication with the media. Then Professor Berg took over with a short presentation of Richard Nixon and his successor Gerald Ford. Nixon, mainly remembered for the Watergate scandal, had, unlike Ford, been an ambivalent president. In his foreign policy, Nixon had placed a special emphasis on détente and improving relations with China and Russia. Moreover, his domestic policy was liberal, prioritizing issues such as environmental protection. Yet, Nixon had also been known—and feared—for his paranoid and power-hungry behavior. In contrast, Gerald Ford drew less attention as a public figure but also had fewer political achievements to show for his time in the Oval Office.

At this point, Professor Waldschmidt-Nelson jumped into the twenty-first century with her remarks about Barack Obama, whose election in 2008 had been a symbolic moment for many Americans. Yet, Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson's analysis turned out to be less promising. Even though Obama's policies during the financial crisis and towards Iran had been successful, he had also received justified criticism, particularly for frequent drone strikes in the Middle East. Unfortunately; racial tensions also increased during his presidency, which disappointed many of his supporters. Lastly, Dr. Thunert offered his remarks about the current president, Donald Trump, and surprised the audience with an analysis focused on political parallels and continuities between Obama and Trump. This was quite unexpected, considering that Trump seemed more efficient in breaking down existing structures than in reconstructing new ones, so Martin Thunert. Therefore, the questions how Trump could convince voters and what will happen at the end of his term remained significant. Whether or not it was possible to return to the status quo pre Trump remained an open question.

After some concluding remarks, Dr. Mausbach thanked the speakers for their contributions and opened the discussion for questions and comments from the audience, who gladly used this opportunity to engage in a lively debate with the experts on the podium.

EXHIBITION: "WOODSTOCK AND THE NATION"

March 14 to April 26, 2019

The year 2019 commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of the Woodstock Music & Art Fair, and the HCA celebrated this anniversary with an exhibition. In the summer of 1969, more than thirty bands and solo artists of the folk, rock, psychedelic rock, blues, and country genre played in front of 400,000 visitors on a dairy farmer's pasturelands near small-town Bethel, New York, from August 15 to 18, 1969. Among the artists were prominent musicians such as the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane, Canned Heat, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, The Who, Joan Baez, Joe Cocker, Arlo Guthrie, Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and Santana. Inclement weather and organizational problems caused somewhat chaotic conditions, but overall, the atmosphere was euphoric. Countless movies, books, posters, and photos immortalized the "Three Days of Peace & Music." However, while it played a vital role in the festival's music, the political dimension of Woodstock usually fades into the background.



Georg Wolff attends the exhibition's opening in the Atrium of the HCA

On opening night a lively crowd gathered at the HCA to admire Reinhard Schultz's exhibition of Woodstock photographs and to attend the lecture of Professor Ingrid Holtey from the department of contemporary history at Bielefeld University on "1968 and the counter-culture." For the past twenty years, Professor Holtey's work has focused on social movements, especially the 1968 movements in Germany, France, and the United States. The heated atmosphere of the 1960s, visible in many of Schultz's photographs, the riots, protests, and arrests, echoed in her lecture. Together with Dierk Helmken, she reenacted a scene of the Chicago Eight Trial in 1969, when

the federal government charged eight men with conspiracy and incitement of riot and counter-cultural protests. The horrors of the Vietnam War and the murders of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Robert F. Kennedy provoked countless other student, hippie, and antiwar movements and protests all around the country and the world.

At the same time, two young men, Artie Kornfeld and Michael Lang, dreamed of their own music studio. They paired with two investors from New York and organized what would become one of the grandest and most famous festivals in history. In July 1969, local initiatives forced Kornfeld and Lang to settle in Bethel instead of Woodstock. Despite the spontaneous change of location, people began arriving two weeks before the official start of the festival, and 150,000 had already pitched their tents before the pay booth was up. In the end, Woodstock was declared admission-free and 400,000 people attended. However, the festival was not all flowers, peace, and friendship but part of the capitalist economy. The image of a creative, "other" America, self-determined and free-minded, stood juxtaposed to the profit-seeking of the festival organizers. Bands and solo artists did not play for love and pacifism but for enormous fees; camera teams roamed the festival grounds, asking visitors to pose and dance in order to get a perfect shot. While the festival itself was a financial failure, the movie, released in 1970, brought in millions of dollars, three Oscar nominations, and one award.

After the lecture, curator Reinhard Schultz offered his perspective on Woodstock and the counterculture. He has a strong personal connection to the year 1969: while Woodstock attracted hippies from all over the world, Schultz travelled to the United States to attend the Chicago Eight Trial. He saw greater importance in the documentation of social movements than in the festival that he termed a "peripheral phenomenon." Nevertheless, he became interested in Woodstock for two reasons: the discrepancy between the strong peace symbolism in the festival's music and the tough social reality. He embraced the challenge of compiling and exhibiting Woodstock's photo material, even if it is almost impossible to find photographs without copyright; so far, no printed photo collection of Woodstock exists. Getty Images, the proprietor of most Woodstock images today, charges a minimum of 400 U.S. dollars per photograph and thus makes the publication of a comprehensive Woodstock volume almost unaffordable. The HCA was therefore delighted to present the many facets of Woodstock to the public.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS AT THE HCA

As in the previous year, the politics of the forty-fifth president raised many questions for the interested public, and the HCA invited experts for three panel discussions to provide some answers.

On October 30, 2018, four political science experts took the stage in the HCA Atrium to discuss the midterm elections and their possible outcomes. Two years after each presidential election, the midterms reshuffle the Senate and House of Representative. Dr. Martin Thunert of the HCA welcomed the following participants to discuss “Trump in Trouble? The Midterm Elections and President Trump’s Politics”: Dr. Philipp Adorf of the Department for Political and Social Sciences at Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Sarah Wagner of the Atlantic Academy Kaiserslautern, HCA Ph.D. candidate Melanie Gish, and Dr. Styles Sass, an HCA graduate and assistant director of the American Junior Year at Heidelberg University program.



L-r: Philipp Adorf, Sarah Wagner, Martin Thunert, Melanie Gish, Styles Sass

Martin Thunert opened the panel, introduced the participants, and gave them an opportunity for an opening statement. Philipp Adorf emphasized that despite the fact that the midterm’s outcome usually does not favor the president’s party, this year’s elections could serve as a „blessing in disguise“ for President Donald Trump, who might turn the current crisis to his favor. He must rely on his core voters, white Americans afraid of losing their social status, to secure Republican seats in Congress. Sarah Wagner focused on the Democratic Party and assessed its current state as catastrophic. In her opinion, the party had already lost its connection to the voters during the Obama administration and was not able to reconnect to them. The #MeToo-movement as well as the nationwide women’s marches, though, offered a perfect opportunity to revitalize the Democrats during this year’s midterms. Melanie Gish then analyzed the Evangelical voting behavior. The Evangelicals constitute a strong voting bloc, contributing around twenty per cent of all votes, and an analysis of a possible Evangelical vote allows for predictions towards the general election results. According to Melanie Gish, the Evangelicals have been exclusively vot-

ing for the Republican Party since the 1970s and will probably continue to do so in the midterms since Trump has delivered, choosing Mike Pence for vice president and appointing conservative judges to the Supreme Court. Styles Sass concluded the introductory statements by stressing the difference between “campaign narratives.

A possible electoral defeat of the Republican Party quickly became the central point of the discussion. All participants agreed that Trump would win in any case—he will blame a defeat on his advisors, whereas a success would confirm his politics. A Republican defeat, however, might take him closer to political reality. “America has to be bigger than Trump” summed up the discussion; all participants agreed that the midterm election results will reveal whether the American electorate possesses the strength to change the current political situation. After an insightful discussion, the panel answered questions of the audience, particularly concerning young voters and strategies of the Democratic Party.

After the enlightening panel discussion on the midterm elections, three experts convened at the HCA on November 20, 2018, to analyze possible changes in U.S. trade policies after the midterms: “Kurswechsel nach den Midterms? U.S.-Handelspolitik unter Trump.” Moderator Professor Switgard Feuerstein of the Alfred-Weber-Institute of Heidelberg University welcomed Professor Andreas Falke, political scientist at the University Erlangen-Nürnberg and renowned trade specialist, Dr. Christian Tuschhoff, associate professor at the Freie Universität Berlin and expert for international relations, as well as Professor Welf Werner, director of the HCA, whose research revolves around domestic and foreign economic policies of the United States.

L-r: Christian Tuschhoff, Andreas Falke, Switgard Feuerstein, and Welf Werner



In his opening statement, Andreas Falke focused on the newly negotiated USMCA, formerly NAFTA, which he called “a problematic agreement.” Its negative effects on some of the old industries in the U.S. would amplify the already prevalent Republican protectionism. During the midterm elections, however, trade policies played a minor role and were only a campaign issue in

agrarian regions, which were hit more than other regions by the evolving trade conflict between China and the United States. Christian Tuschhoff then analyzed the foundations of European and American trade relations, which have functioned quite well in the past. These relations rested mainly upon metropolitan elites, multinational corporations, leading think tanks, economists as well as the media. After the presidential election of 2016, though, the United States lost the support of these groups and thus much of the network that sustained transatlantic trade relations. In his statement, Welf Werner focused on the trade strategies of the Trump administration in the run-up to the midterm elections. He detected a conscious decision of the U.S. government to calm the national and international trade policy storms before the elections. Right now, we are in the middle of an interesting, but economically somewhat surprising time, emphasized Professor Werner, as the Trump administration is trying to revive old industrial sectors with the help of USMCA and other measures.

During the discussion, Professor Feuerstein and the other participants presented compelling aspects of U.S. trade policies and their future direction. Professor Falke deliberated whether Donald Trump was indeed a representative of the Republican Party or whether he actually represented a third branch, trying to drive trade policies in a protectionist direction to activate his voter base. Instead of the old elites, Trump was now at the helm, and Professor Werner and Dr. Tuschhoff agreed that elite politicians had difficulties counterbalancing Trump's populist messages. Overall, though, Christian Tuschhoff assessed Trump's presidential performance as rather poor, as he leans heavily towards unilateral rather than coordinated multilateral action vis a vis China. Moreover, Dr. Tuschhoff warned that American companies would have to restructure global sourcing networks to be prepared for any future political surprises of the forty-fifth president.

A lively discussion followed as the audience began to ask questions. There was particular interest in whether Donald Trump will emerge victorious from the current battle about the direction of national and international trade policies. Wrapping up the discussion, Switgard Feuerstein asked Andreas Falke, Christian Tuschhoff, and Welf Werner for their closing remarks. Andreas Falke predicted "uncomfortable conditions" in European and American trade policies. Christian Tuschhoff and Welf Werner agreed, adding that the start of a new era is never easy.

HCA panel discussions turned to foreign policy on January 30, when the University Group for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies invited the public to a panel discussion on the current state of the transatlantic partnership following the first two years of the Trump administration: "Two Years of Trump—Transatlantic Partnership, Quo Vadis?" Panelists Andrea Rotter from Hanns-Seidel-Foundation and Dr. David Sirakov, member of the Atlantic Academy, debated with Dr. Florian Böller and Dr. Martin Thunert, political scientists at the HCA, about the role of NATO and the future of the nuclear agreement with Iran.

The opening question addressed the conflict between multilateral alliances such as NATO and Donald Trump's "America First" policy. Florian Böller explained that Trump perceived NATO not as an alliance of shared values but as a vessel for zero-sum games in favor of the U.S. Although other presidents before Trump had criticized the extent to which NATO members shared their values

(as was the case with the invasion of Iraq in 2003), the panelists agreed that “America First” and alliances of shared international values were two mutually exclusive things. Andrea Rotter further voiced skepticism towards the functionality of the 2017 PESCO agreement, which had been the European answer to “strategic autonomy” and independence in matters of military defense. While it was a long overdue, necessary step, ideas about how to achieve autonomy were widely different among European countries whose security policies in the meantime depended largely on the United States. Here David Sirakov agreed and added that national egoisms determined many European defense budgets. Concerning the INF Treaty, the panelists equally agreed that both NATO and the U.S. were certain about violations by the Russian government, which meant that Trump could calculate with congressional support for any action in this matter. Although such missiles threatened above all Europe, there was still no definitive stance on this matter by most European nations. David Sirakov remarked that regardless of the treaty’s outdated character that disregarded important global players like China and India, it nevertheless provided a crucial ground for diplomatic dialogue between Russia and the United States. In the second part of the discussion, the panelists analyzed the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, which was especially problematic, because it put increasing pressure on the European economy not to trade with Iranian businesses. Andrea Rotter highlighted that while the establishment of a barter system between Iran and Europe might enable Europe to avoid American sanctions, the value of this system that excluded the trade of Iranian oil was symbolic at best and it displayed many structural deficiencies, as well. This topic led the panelists to a third question about the future of German-American relations. Considering the many vacant diplomatic positions in the U.S. State Department, it was no surprise that the two nations had a difficult relationship at the moment. Similarly, they perceived the increasing amount of Trump followers in diplomatic positions who actively influenced foreign governments in matters that concerned prime American interests such as NATO’s two percent goal, the Iran deal and Nord Stream 2, as a dangerous novelty. David Sirakov argued in his prognosis of the coming two or six years of the Trump administration that Trump would have major difficulties to push his domestic projects and therefore would possibly invest more energy into foreign policies due to the prevailing climate and difficult majority situation in Congress. This way, Trump could overshadow domestic policy issues with a confrontational foreign policy approach. However, Sirakov closed by emphasizing that Trump’s presidency also had positive effects on Germany, as his election had spurred the public debate about Germany’s role in global politics and military deficits. In the current climate of extreme polarization, it was increasingly difficult for Trump to gain a stable majority among his voters and other politicians. Consequently, he could only enact his policies through executive orders that could easily be revoked in case he would not be reelected in 2020.

The future of American democracy was the topic of a panel discussion on June 19 on the occasion of the HCA’s fifteen-year anniversary and the eightieth birthday of its founding director Professor Detlef Junker. Friends of the institution and other guests gathered at the New University’s Manfred Lautenschläger Lecture Hall for a panel discussion about the resilience of American democracy: “Is American Democracy Endangered?” Professor Welf Werner, director of the HCA, opened the evening with a retrospect of his predecessor’s long career that looked back on his academic achievements and his successes as an entrepreneur.



The audience celebrates Professor Junker on the occasion of his eightieth birthday as well as the HCA's fifteenth anniversary in the Manfred Lautenschläger lecture hall

Welf Werner then thanked Detlef Junker in the name of the entire staff for his superb efforts before handing over to Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, the moderator of the panel discussion. Introducing the topic of the evening, Dr. Mausbach emphasized that the current American president, who many people regarded as the biggest threat to American democracy, was essentially a symptom of a complex social malaise weighing heavily on the American democratic system. The panel, made up of geographer Ulrike Gerhard, historian Manfred Berg, political scientist Martin Thunert, and economist Welf Werner presented a wide range of expertise. For the opening round, Wilfried Mausbach asked Dr. Thunert about specific threats to American democracy. The political scientist explained that, by now, Democrats and Republicans no longer regarded each other as competitors but as enemies, mixing morality with politics and subsequently complicating if not ruling out negotiations or compromises between both parties. Professor Berg then identified the growing polarization of American society as an equally pressing issue. Considering that a similar condition had preceded the outbreak of the Civil War in the nineteenth century, he argued, it seemed as if America was currently undergoing a paradigmatic transformation that other pluralistic Western states might experience in the future as well. Following this analysis, Professor Gerhard remarked that the rising inequalities in American metropolises affected over eighty per cent of all Americans and had a significant influence on their political participation. Here, Welf Werner added that during the past thirty years, fifty per cent of Americans had been excluded from economic growth and that financial insecurity could affect even the other fifty per cent, as the financial crisis of 2008 had demonstrated. In the second round of questions, Ulrike Gerhard pointed out that private investors nowadays partially funded urban development projects such as the Hudson Yards in New York City, subsequently creating exclusive areas and displacing lower class residents. Manfred Berg added that this resulted in an increasing support for right wing populism while Welf Werner noted critically that left wing factions were growing at a similar rate but that diverging definitions of liberalism in the U.S. and Europe often failed to highlight this development. At this point, Martin Thunert remarked that many political entities were not using their full powers and that this posed a serious threat to the democratic system and its checks

and balances—a prominent example being the Democrats who did not impeach Donald Trump for strategic reasons. When Wilfried Mausbach asked Manfred Berg whether one could compare Trump to other political figures of the past or present, Professor Berg hesitated and warned that such comparisons were often counterproductive. Following this exchange, Professor Gerhard emphasized the gravity of the structural inequalities that had resulted in the 2016 presidential election and argued that these inequalities should be at the center of the debate about the vulnerability of American democracy. Martin Thunert agreed and pointed out that multiple structural inequalities were an inherent part of the U.S. political system. When the moderator finally asked the panelists for a concluding prognosis, Manfred Berg, Martin Thunert, and Welf Werner expressed great skepticism about a return to American democratic principles. Although Ulrike Gerhard agreed with their evaluations, she pointed toward various urban initiatives that had successfully tackled some social problems such as housing inequality. Paying attention to positive local changes on a small scale across the U.S. therefore enabled her to look more optimistically to the future. In the ensuing discussion, the audience brought forth additional threats to American democracy before Detlef Junker offered some concluding remarks. He stated that he had not anticipated the election of Donald Trump even though he had been engaging with American history and politics as both scholar and contemporary for many decades now. However, after the election he had come to the realization that Trump’s presidency was a symptom of a deep-seated crisis whose resolution, he was certain, would have a global impact. Therefore, he was grateful to his colleagues on the panel who had offered insights into a complex issue. The guests then proceeded to the HCA’s backyard where the Studierendenwerk offered an authentic American barbecue. Friends, family, and colleagues enjoyed a wonderful summer celebration and at midnight raised their glasses to toast the HCA’s founding director.

An American barbecue in the backyard of the Engelhorn Palais



ECONOMICS MONTH AT THE HCA

In summer semester 2019, the HCA hosted its first “Economics Month” with four events that presented economic perspectives on the United States—from changes in global economic geography or the future of work in the U.S. to the interweaving of populist surges and economic turbulences. Many thanks to HCA Ph.D. students Aline Schmidt, Maren Schäfer, Natalie Rauscher, and Andreas Balz, who provided the following retrospectives on the HCA graduate blog. Read more on the blog at <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/>

To kick off its Economics Month, the HCA collaborated with the Economics Department and the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany to welcome economic historian Barry Eichengreen to Heidelberg on May 29. He currently holds the George C. Pardee and Helen N. Pardee Professorship of Economics and Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. His work is balancing dedicated in-depth research, detailed observation, and careful documentation of patterns and fluctuations throughout the economic history of the West. In his talk “The Populist Temptation: Economic Grievance and Political Reaction in America,” he discussed some key arguments from his 2018 book of the same title, placing contemporary populist surges across Europe and the U.S. in historical and sociocultural contexts. As the HCA’s Director Welf Werner put it, “Barry Eichengreen’s research reminds us of the economic turmoil and socio-structural tendencies before Trump, and that history casts a long shadow.”

While populism has become a buzzword over the past few years, Eichengreen acknowledged a kind of populism fatigue, a reluctance to place the rise of right-wing movements, from Trump’s electoral success and Brexit to the recent E.U. elections, in the “populism bin.” Certainly, the political landscape has changed significantly, and we seem to observe similar patterns in the E.U. and the United States. But is there actually any consensus about the definition of the term, and is it a meaningful concept to make sense of the political phenomena we observe at the moment? In a way, Professor Eichengreen noted, the only consensus appears to be strangely parallel to Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart’s erstwhile categorization of pornography—“I know it when I see it.” In other words: There is barely any consensus about the conceptual boundaries of populism. Professor Eichengreen followed his own definition of populist movements as those movements that show “anti-elite, authoritarian, and nativist tendencies.”

Populism may be an elusive concept, and Barry Eichengreen’s parameters may help place certain political movements along a populist spectrum. But in order to understand populism, we must look farther and deeper. Why do some populist movements gain more traction than others? And why now? Professor Eichengreen’s argument is clear: Poor economic performance is the hotbed for populism. Current political shifts go hand in hand with rising inequality, declining social mobility, a loss of hope, and a dire vision for future generations; people perceive a sense of economic insecurity, and they lament a lack of political alternatives. Political outsiders like Donald Trump and new parties like the Alternative für Deutschland benefit from these economic anxieties and can successfully stage themselves as the saviors of the people. At the same time, globalization and technological advancement promise an immense improvement of the economic conditions

and possibilities. And, of course, everyone wants a share of that pie. Yet, some people feel that they are left with merely crumbs. They experience greater social inequality and economic insecurity in their lives. Who is to blame? Economic hardship and a sense of exclusion increase the susceptibility to the populist temptation that pits the common people against the elites.

Of course, populism is about identity, too. The rhetoric populists employ is textbook identity politics. Right-wing populist movements tend to foreground nativist resentments against foreigners and liberal “social justice warriors” or Gutmenschen. They feel a threat to the majority, a loss of tradition, and a decay of value systems by ethnic, racial, or religious minorities. What is perceived as progress by those embracing values of religious and sexual freedom, equal human rights and open borders, seems to undermine the ontological security of others. Populist politicians appeal to these fears and tap into a dangerous nostalgia of mythologized national history and tradition in order to push a right-wing/nationalist agenda.

Barry Eichengreen in the university's Old Lecture Hall



Populism in the U.S. is deeply rooted in national identity and an American individualist ethos, Professor Eichengreen argued. Individualism, the glorification of income and entrepreneurship as well as market fundamentalism are inscribed in the material roots of American culture, and so is anti-governmentalism. Historically, this is exemplified in the populist revolt following patronage and corruption concerns in Postbellum America, or in FDR’s New Deal. Today, businessman-made-politician Donald Trump is a figurehead of these individualist values and of the distrust of the political establishment.

Small economies like those in the E.U. are not only more vulnerable to external shocks and thus must rely on governmental buffering; anti-authority attitudes have also produced an insufficient welfare system. Looking to Europe, the role of the government in the economy is more prominent (e.g., trade adjustment assistance, taxation of income, social insurance systems). Professor Eichengreen noted that the idea that the primary role of the government is to regulate markets in a way as to counteract detrimental effects on social equality seem radical to an American. He admits that he may be romanticizing, but from a European perspective, Bernie Sanders’ 2016

campaign was not perceived to be as “radically socialist” as in the U.S., but rather comparable to the agendas of centrist European social democrats.

According to Professor Eichengreen, another reason for the American susceptibility to populism (or a lack thereof) may also lie in the presidential system and the Electoral College versus, for instance, electoral reforms following World War II in Germany. The war also left deep marks on European identity, a history lesson on populism that the U.S. does not share. Barry Eichengreen did not mean to generalize, and he noted important historical exceptions (e.g., the expression of anti-elitism as the distrust of the E.U. by the U.K.) and further factors that need to be considered when talking about the potential of populism (for example the role of the media and the makeup of national mediascapes).

Nevertheless, Professor Eichengreen aptly traced the interworking between politics, policy, identity, and economy, and taught us a lot about our time, but also about the role of the scholarly expert. Crossing disciplinary boundaries may open a dialogue that builds bridges—both between disciplines and between research and the public. The obligation of researchers is to make their knowledge accessible for the public, to offer them a gateway into building an informed opinion based on well-documented research—no matter the topic. For the issue of populism, this seems to be more relevant than ever.

The next event of the Economics Month was the 2019 Alfred Weber Lecture, held by Robert Zoellick in the university’s Old Lecture Hall on June 11. The lecture was jointly organized by the HCA and the Alfred-Weber-Institute for Economics. Robert Zoellick is Senior Counselor at Brunswick Geopolitical, an advisory service of Brunswick Group, a Senior Fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, and serves on the boards of multiple companies. He was the President of the World Bank (2007-2012), U.S. Trade Representative (2001-2005), Deputy Secretary of State (2005-2006), and Counselor to the Secretary of the Treasury and Under Secretary of State, as well as the White House Deputy Chief of Staff (1985-1993). Mr. Zoellick also led the U.S. delegation to the two plus four talks on German reunification and had therefore requested to discuss the German unification with German students during a seminar. In the evening, he gave a lecture on “The Changing Global Economic Geography.”

2019 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall. In the aftermath of this event, then 36-year-old Robert Zoellick, who was working under Secretary of State James A. Baker, became chief negotiator for the United States in the two plus four talks. According to HCA director Welf Werner, Robert Zoellick “helped to smoothen the path to German unification” in that capacity. To appreciate what he had done for the country, Germany awarded him the Knight Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit. In the seminar, Mr. Zoellick outlined under which circumstances the unification process happened. He mentioned the hope and excitement of Germans, both East and West, but also a sense of uncertainty prevalent throughout Europe and Eastern Europe in particular. However, there were complications, such as the issue of short range nuclear missiles stationed in Germany or the fear that Germany, once unified, would become not only dominant but dominating. Mr. Zoellick then elaborated on the American strategic and political framework for the German unification, focusing on nine particularities:

1. German unification in freedom

The goal from an American perspective was to unify Germany within Western, European, and NATO structures. A unification in freedom was important.

2. Avoid a Versailles victory

Having learned their lesson from the Versailles treaty at the end of World War I, the U.S. wanted to achieve a unification that gave Germany as much resilience as possible. The goal was to have Germany come out of the process as a fully sovereign state without planting the seeds for future problems. At the same time, the process should leave the other parties involved, most notably the Soviet Union, happy in order to avoid resentment and further potential for conflict.

3. The people matter

During a trip to Berlin, Mr. Zoellick talked to Lutheran pastors who had been part of the East German movement fighting for a unification with West Germany. To his surprise, he found that people in the German Democratic Republic (GDR, East Germany) did not want anything of what diplomats were talking about—an East German state, a third way—but “wanted what they saw on Western TV.” The legitimate state, in the eyes of many, was the Federal Republic of Germany. Thus, they decided that German unification was going to be a take-over, rather than a merger of equal states.

4. Two plus four talks

The U.S. decided that a process was needed to manage and achieve German unification. Following the logic of diplomacy, they focused on the goal—unification—and put the “two” in front of the two plus four talks (the French and British had suggested “four plus two” or “six” talks). This group should negotiate the process and act as a steering force to achieve German unification. For instance, they negotiated the conventional forces issues, changed the NATO structure to accommodate the Soviet Union, and determined the new German borders. As part of the process, the term “unification” was chosen because “reunification”—for legal reasons—would have meant a return to 1937 borders.

5. Public communication is key

Public diplomacy for Germany and Europe were critically important. By setting a framework for the two plus four talks and the unification process and by publicly announcing it, the U.S. managed to both assure Germany’s neighbors and reassure Germans that unification would be a structured process. In doing so, the Americans were careful to communicate the positive aspects of unification. At the same time, they made an effort not to highlight that the process would be more of a take-over in order to avoid public unrest.

6. Importance of personal ties

Throughout the seminar, Mr. Zoellick repeatedly stressed the importance of trust. There were trust relationships between the West German government, mainly Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, and the Bush administration. Despite anxieties among European countries and the Soviet Union, Kohl, Genscher, Baker, and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev had close ties, and so did their assistants. On many occasions, for example with

speeches, political actors triggered anxieties among the public. By simply calling his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Zoellick could ask for the meaning of certain statements and understand the other's positions, rationales, or ways of thinking. These close ties contributed to a smoother unification process.

7. Timing

Everything moved extremely fast. With events such as the invasion of Kuwait drawing attention away from German unification, the process is an example of "how timing is critical in terms of policy action."

8. Good luck

Much could have gone wrong during the unification process. For instance, many Russian soldiers were still stationed in East Germany and could have caused an incident. The three Baltic States seeking independence also complicated things. Force could have been used to achieve independence and their demand for independence, coupled with German unification, could have put too much pressure on Gorbachev and could have led to violence.

9. U.S. public opinion—"of course Germany would unify"

Mr. Zoellick also stressed how lucky the U.S. government was that most Americans supported unification of the two German states. After outlining the conditions surrounding German unification, he concluded: "My own suspicion was that the problems in the East would take decades to resolve"—a change of mindset, culture, identity was necessary. Then, however, "Germany would be the dominating force in Europe."

At the end of the seminar, HCA director Welf Werner cautioned that, from today's perspective, we take German unification for granted. We should keep in mind though that a) "the U.S. was very important" and b) "the people mattered".



L-r: Ulrike Gerhard, Wilfried Mausbach, and Robert Zoellick

The significance of the people as well as trust were also part of Mr. Zoellick's lecture later that day. He emphasized two trends in the global economy: a) Increased globalization and regional shifts in economic growth and b) increased nationalism and fragmentation into regional blocs. According to Robert Zoellick, the first trend manifests itself in the shift of economic growth from developed to emerging economies, whose share of the world economy is increasing. While the share of European markets is decreasing, that of Asian countries, especially China and India, is growing. This trend can be seen, for example, in the share of equity and debt, the number of new patents registered, or the growth of income, wealth, and innovation in an economy. According to Robert Zoellick, the second trend, increased fragmentation of the world market, is reflected in changing patterns of supply. These patterns may relate to logistics, the supply chain, or, for example, sales figures. Moreover, technological change contributes to increased fragmentation of markets. Using 3D-printers as an example, Mr. Zoellick illustrated how technology allows for smaller, more customized products which, in turn, changes how goods are supplied. At the same time, data becomes increasingly important and valuable, changing the global economy.

Robert Zoellick delivering the 2019 Alfred Weber Lecture



How have the United States been reacting to those changes? Under the Trump administration, the United States have reversed their policies on trade. They have raised trade barriers such as taxes and tariffs. In return, other countries have retaliated with similar policies. The result, according to Robert Zoellick, is a spiral of nationalism and protectionism. President Trump's transactional and bilateral trade policy focuses on new rules surrounding barriers of trade. It protects jobs at home through higher tariffs, for example on aluminum, although the costs per job saved in the aluminum industry amount to approximately \$800,000 to 900,000 per worker, which renders the tariffs very inefficient. In addition, threats voiced by the Trump administration, such as the announcement of new tariffs against Mexico, are a temporal trade barrier. They add uncertainty to the market, for example regarding investments, thereby slowing down the economy. On the one hand, we have increased globalization and regional shifts in which countries are the

growth centers of the global economy. On the other hand, nationalism increases, accompanied by the fragmentation of the global economy into regional blocs. Mr. Zoellick recommended four policy strategies to help countries face these changes:

1. Keep transnational ties resilient

The United States are more than just the president. So, Robert Zoellick recommended to keep close ties and establish relationships with other groups in the U.S., may they be members of Congress, mayors, or the private sector.

2. Deal with China but keep open ways to cooperate with the country

According to Mr. Zoellick, greater cooperation between the U.S., Europe, Japan, and others will be necessary to deal with China. At the same time, it is important to allow for ways to work with China and to reach solutions together.

3. Work on the international economic system

We need an international economic system that appreciates global and regional markets while fighting fragmentation. This includes fighting exchange rate fluctuation, strengthening the WTO, and developing new and advanced rules for emerging markets.

4. Deal with challenges of the European market

The United States and Europe need to work together to somehow integrate the United Kingdom into the European Union after Brexit, to strengthen the monetary union, to foster entrepreneurship as well as innovation, and to initiate necessary structural changes.

In the following lively discussion, members of the audience asked Mr. Zoellick about issues like the role of the World Bank and longer-term implications of U.S. trade policy on U.S.-E.U. trade and economic relations. At the end of the Q&A session, we returned to German unification. When asked about its hardest part, Robert Zoellick said that it happened rapidly—the process took less than a year. Today, people take unification for granted but a lot could have gone wrong. Once again, he highlighted the role of trust relationships. After forty years of U.S. commitment to Germany, the process needed to end with a fully sovereign German state. One of the biggest challenges then was to stay alert to what was happening on the ground. With things happening so fast, keeping up with what the people wanted was crucial to avoid crisis.

Both the seminar and the lecture showed Robert Zoellick's expertise on the pivotal connections of economy, politics, and society as well as his keen interest in exchange of opinions and the German perspective on current developments.

In the third event of the HCA Economics Month, John Komlos led the audience in the Atrium down the bleak path of recent U.S. economic history. The distinguished Professor emeritus of LMU Munich was scheduled to talk about "The Economic History of Trumpism" on June 18 and immediately made clear that he was glad to visit Heidelberg but that the purpose of his visit was not a happy one. He also did not hide what he thought about President Trump and his narrow victory in the 2016 election that was basically decided by a few thousands votes in some Mid-

western states, which translated into a majority in the Electoral College. This could have easily ended up the other way around, especially because around one third of the eligible electorate stayed at home.

Nevertheless, Professor Komlos used his lecture to show that the election of Trump did not come out of nowhere. He translated this victory into what he called “path dependency.” The U.S. had entered a path of deconstruction of its own system starting with the watershed moment of Reaganomics and leading to the election of Trump today.

John Komlos



He also made clear what he thought about the claims that the American economy was doing swell, something that President Trump just repeated in his re-election campaign announcement in Orlando. According to Komlos, the U.S. economy is in disturbingly bad shape, and the very glue that holds the society together is dissolving. Data on unemployment rates are misleading. The supposedly “full-employment” claims are wrong; instead of five per cent, the U.S. is facing about ten per cent unemployment, intensified by, for example, those who have dropped out of the labor force altogether and do not show up in the statistics at all. High suicide rates, opioid and alcohol addiction, preventable diseases, mass shootings, despair and desperation is what many Americans face today. The absence of jobs and the decline of entire regions is literally killing people. Desperate voters make desperate decisions; in this case, for Trump. Vengeance is another factor in this decision. People have slipped down the social ladder or are afraid to do so and thus “want to stick it up to the folks in Washington,” according to John Komlos.

But how did the U.S. end up at this point? As indicated, the watershed moment for John Komlos were President Ronald Reagan’s tax cuts. Reaganomics led the U.S. on a path that they cannot get off from; this is what Professor Komlos calls “path dependency.” Reagan’s administration turned away from the New Deal in a quick and devastating fashion, cutting taxes for all, which benefitted the rich most of all. As a result, inequality rose immediately, which has not been reversed since. Although the tax cuts were supposed to initiate the infamous “trickle-down-effect.”

they have in fact led to indebtedness of the U.S. on all fronts. Private households spent money on consumption; the savings rate went down. The government faced a tremendous and growing budget deficit, which was also never reversed. The promised boom in the economy to finance the tax cuts never materialized. Actually, GDP growth stayed exactly where it was predicted even without the tax cuts, and growth in general was far from stellar. With efforts against “Big Government” and “Big Labor,” Reagan decidedly sent the U.S. on the path towards today’s economic and societal malaise.

Additionally, deindustrialization and hyper-globalization hit many areas in the U.S. extremely hard. These areas in the American heartland were destroyed, according to Professor Komlos. Although his criticism of free trade agreements and the trade with China sounded like something President Trump would overall agree with, John Komlos was decidedly saying that he did not see Trump’s tariff measures as helpful because they do nothing to actually address all the issues the U.S. is facing since setting foot on the path of deregulation and liberalization since Reagan. For John Komlos, it is natural that the losers of globalization, those who had lost their jobs to mostly Chinese or Mexican competition due to free trade, would lash out eventually. Nothing was offered to them! Trade and globalization can remain positive for a country if the country is willing to care for those who lose out in a globalized world. But this has not happened in the U.S. for the most part. Workers were not reskilled or trained. With the jobs, health care and other provisions often left these regions as well.

Flashforward to the twenty-first century, the U.S. was hit with the biggest economic crisis since the 1930s, and the newly-elected president, Barack Obama, was faced with solving it. But John Komlos is highly critical of Obama’s efforts as well. Instead of using the crisis to profoundly turn around the economy and leave the “path” the U.S. had entered, Obama turned to the “old guard” of economists and experts that had helped to create the crisis in the first place. For Professor Komlos, this led to Wall Street being saved and Main Street being ignored altogether. More hardship and inequality followed. The desperation that followed the last Great Recession, including the fact that so many people lost their homes while Wall Street recovered so quickly, led many Americans to believe that the establishment politicians were not on their side and could never right the wrongs they faced. This became one more factor in the decision to vote for someone who appeared to be completely outside of the political establishment.

For the future, Professor Komlos was not optimistic. He thinks that the U.S. is still marching down the bleak path they entered in the 1970s and 1980s. This path has never been and never will be sustainable in any way. Summarizing his assessment of recent U.S. economic history he sees a list of issues that the country continues to face:

- The budget deficit
- Private and student loan debts
- Foreign trade deficit
- Political gridlock
- Strong military-industrial complex with high and rising military costs
- Bad data on how the U.S. is actually doing

- Inefficient health and education system
- Imbalanced economy
- Technological change and lack of infrastructure
- Climate change
- No savings rate
- Inequality
- Plutocracy due to money in politics
- Stagnating wages
- Ingrained economic ideology that is not changing
- Productivity slowdown
- Indebtedness to coming generations in every way
- Twenty-first century issues that are tackled with twentieth century ideas
- Inadequate economic theories to overcome all the above

So what can be done? On this, John Komlos remained vague. He is certainly a proponent of government measures to help those Americans who have been left behind. But in a country with such stark political polarization as the U.S. it seems unlikely, at least on the federal level, that any true ideology-reversing force is on the horizon. The U.S. would need to leave the path it has so long pursued—but they will not be able to.

The HCA Economics Month concluded with a panel discussion on “The Future of Work: Opportunities and Risks of Digitization” on July 9. Which impact will new digital and technological advancements have on the future of work? How will they change our society? What do we need to do in order to create a favorable environment for digital innovation? And can Germany learn from Silicon Valley in these respects? For this event, the HCA hosted three guests from the fields of business, politics, and academia who engaged in a debate over these and other questions: Michael Augsburg, Chief Operating Officer of SAP Design, Dr. Danyal Bayaz, Member of Parliament for the German green party Bündnis '90/Die Grünen, and Natalie Rauscher, doctoral candidate at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. Professor Sebastian Harnisch of the Institute for Political Sciences moderated.

Kicking off the discussion, all participants felt the need to draw attention to the specifically German dimensions of the topic: Michael Augsburg surprised the audience with a semantic assessment of the title of the event, pointing out the fact that the term “Digitalisierung” posed problems when considered in an Anglophone context: Literally translating as “digitization,” the term comprises a number of different aspects best captured in English by the concepts of digital revolution, digital transformation, and automation in industrial manufacturing.¹ Danyal Bayaz, on the other hand, a self-declared enthusiast with respect to all things digital, referred to the rest of the title when he complained that German politics too often focus on problems and perils associated with these processes without seeing their potential benefits for economic development—especially for regions like Baden-Württemberg. Natalie Rauscher agreed with his assessment of the more critical German perspective but also noted that even in the U.S. a pro-

¹ Augsburg's observation is also highly relevant in the context of this English summary of the event. When referring to digitization for the remainder of this text, I use the term as it was used by the participants of the discussion, i.e. to refer to the whole range of technological, but particularly digital advancements impacting our lives, from the digitization of data to the rise of social media and an online service industry to the automatization and digital control of industrial production chains.

cess of rethinking had begun. As an academic interested in the rise of the sharing economy, a phenomenon tightly intertwined with processes of digitization, she herself also took a decidedly skeptical position towards the future of work: In her opinion, social inequality, already significantly more distinct in the U.S. than in Germany, is likely to increase in the long run as a result of the digitization of our lives. Even though many new jobs would be created, as she noted, those whose labor will be taken over by algorithms and machines are unlikely to qualify for those jobs. Michael Augsburgger agreed but also pointed out that the process of digitization as such is not a particularly new development, but rather one that originated decades ago, even though it only recently began to pervade all spheres of our society, most importantly our private lives. However, even he had to admit that some of the recent advancements, for example in the field of artificial intelligence, hold the potential to revolutionize our relationship with technology in the very near future.



L-r: Michael Augsburgger, Sebastian Harnisch, Natalie Rauscher, and Danyal Bayaz

The discussion quickly turned to some particularities of the German economy, as Michael Augsburgger had trouble seeing a bright future for the country with respect to the digital industries that Danyal Bayaz had imagined earlier. Market-leading innovators like SAP sadly remained an exception in Germany, the flagging German car manufacturers under pressure by their powerful competitors in the U.S. and China being a case in point. While he referred to the role of venture capital in the rise of companies such as Tesla, Danyal Bayaz called for political action: He stressed the important role of government funding and, as an expert in fiscal policy and a member of the opposition, criticized the current German coalition government under which the country was inevitably falling back behind leading innovators.

While Michael Augsburgger and Danyal Bayaz both wondered about how companies themselves could take action, by, for example, ensuring constant further qualification of their employees, it was once more Natalie Rauscher's task to bring attention to the fact that highly qualified software engineers were not the only ones affected by digitization. Especially those working in jobs requiring little to no special skills—click workers performing easy tasks online for a few

cents, amateurs offering a hand with home improvements via internet platforms, Uber drivers and those delivering what others order online, from pizza to Amazon parcels—were the ones suffering most in a digital work environment often characterized by precariousness. Indeed, Danyal Bayaz admitted, the factors described by Natalie Rauscher might well lead to an increasing polarization of our society in the near future and thus create a “socially explosive” situation in which a global elite of highly qualified digital professionals would find itself opposite to the masses of unskilled laborers.

On a small scale, Michael Augsburgers threw in, these developments could already be observed in Silicon Valley and the rest of the Bay Area where the combination of the increasing number of highly lucrative job positions at tech companies and an extreme shortage of living space forces more and more long-time residents to live in the streets. In fact, Northern California, home to some of the most valuable companies in the world, currently counts around 30,000 homeless. Inevitably, the discussion then also touched upon the concept of a universal basic income, a topic often brought up in Germany when discussing the future of work in the recent past. Danyal Bayaz seemed reluctant to embrace the idea, in contrast to other members of the center-left German green party, and suggested other, less radical measures. Natalie Rauscher, however, also noted in that even Silicon Valley champions of economic liberalism have been warming towards the idea of an income guarantee for every citizen, even though they might think of it in terms of some kind of “venture capital for the masses.”

Towards the end of the discussion, the panel finally also addressed an important measure to cope with the challenges of digitization that had so far gone unmentioned: the improvement of digital education at schools and universities. With respect to Germany, Michael Augsburgers was quick to deliver a damning indictment of the present educational efforts that had so far only managed to put simple word processing and presentational skills on the syllabus. Along with Danyal Bayaz he demanded a broadening of this very restricted focus to not only include operative basic coding and software engineering but also a critical perspective on issues of data security and digital entrepreneurship. The latter also noted that even though most German children were technologically well-equipped, having access to smartphones and computers, their success in education still strongly correlates with income and level of education of their parents. In response to this fact, Natalie Rauscher once more took a transatlantic perspective by referring to similar developments in the U.S., where, after years of promoting tuition-free community colleges under Obama, Trump’s Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos was once again championing expensive private institutions—a policy that is not only increasing social polarization but also unlikely to help satisfy the growing demand for digitally well-educated citizens.

Considering the multifarious problems addressed over the course of the debate, it came as no surprise that the audience in the following Q&A session also seemed overwhelmingly skeptical regarding the future of work under digitization. Whether we should not try to suppress digital developments where they would do more harm than good, one apparently disillusioned attendant of event wanted to know. The opinions on the panel could not have been more unanimous: All participants agreed that technological progress was impossible to prevent, much less to reverse—the only thing we might do is try to gain better control of it. For this purpose, however,

it would be necessary to agree on shared rules and conditions under which digitization should occur. The question of how exactly such a “digital code of ethics” might look like could easily provide the occasion for another fascinating and most likely more controversial debate in the future.

MEDIA COVERAGE

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

„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 finsternes 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 Kulturgeographie 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)

„Kein Kalter Krieg, aber eine Krise des Vertrauens: Deutsche Sicherheitspolitik in der Ära Trump & Putin“

Article by Florian Böller

(Kompass, September 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, October 10, 2018)

„Trumps Rhetorik kann Feindbilder kreieren: Politologe zu Paketbomben kurz vor 'Midterm'-Wahlen“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR2 „Aktuell“, October 25, 2018)

„Wut, Recht und Ordnung: Amerikas Rechtsruck begann 1968—als Richard Nixon Präsident wurde“

Article by Manfred Berg

(DIE ZEIT, October 25, 2018)

„Eli Whitneys Erfindung der 'Cotton Gin', 1793“

Radio interview with Manfred Berg

(WDR „ZeitZeichen“, October 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, October 31, 2018)

„Die sozialwissenschaftlichen Kompetenzen stärken“
Conversation with HCA-Director 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: U.S.-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)

„Die Universität Heidelberg im Spiegel runder und halbrunder Jahrestage 2018“
(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, December 11, 2018)

„U.S.-Rückzug aus Afghanistan und Syrien“
Radio interview with Martin Thunert
(SWR, December 21, 2018)

„Die U.S.-Präsidenten: Von Lichtgestalten und Gruselfiguren—Roosevelt, Nixon, Ford, Obama und Trump: Vier Amerikaexperten stellen Porträts von fünf Staatschefs vor“
(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, January 10, 2019)

„U.S.-Botschafter Grenell droht deutschen Firmen: Was tun gegen diese diplomatischen Fehl-
tritte?“
Radio interview with Martin Thunert
(SWR „Aktuell“, January 14, 2019)

„Donald Trumps State of the Union Address“
Radio interview with Martin Thunert
(SWR, February 6, 2019)

„Dismay in Berlin after Mike Pompeo scraps first trip to Germany“

Comments by Martin Thunert

(Financial Times, May 8, 2019)

„In einigen Bereichen ist die Konfrontation unumgänglich‘: Der frühere Weltbank-Chef Robert Zoellick über den wirtschaftlichen Aufstieg Chinas“

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, June 13, 2019)

„Eine Demokratie in Gefahr: Diskussion heute im HCA“

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, June 19, 2019)

„USA-Experte: Weitere Amtszeit für Trump nicht sicher“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR „Aktuell“, June 19, 2019)

„Stärkung der Enteigneten und Unterdrückten: Pennington Award der Universität Heidelberg an den US-Religionshistoriker Paul Harvey verliehen“

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, July 8, 2019)

„Trumps Feindbildpolitik in den USA: Twitter-Tiraden gegen vier weibliche Kongressabgeordnete“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(hr-iNFO, July 19, 2019)

„Ein Akt der Bilderstürmerei‘: Kontroverse um Fresken an einer High School in San Francisco“

Radio interview with Detlef Junker

(SWR2, August 19, 2019)

„Trump ‘verhält sich mit Absage von Dänemark-Besuch kindisch““

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR „Aktuell“, August 21, 2019)

„Besonders teuer sind junge Afrikanerinnen: Vor 400 Jahren werden in der britischen Kolonie Virginia erstmals Menschen verkauft“

Article by Manfred Berg

(Die Zeit, August 22, 2019)

„Haben die USA die Folgen der Sklaverei wirklich überwunden?“

Radio interview with Manfred Berg

(SRF 4 News, August 30, 2019)

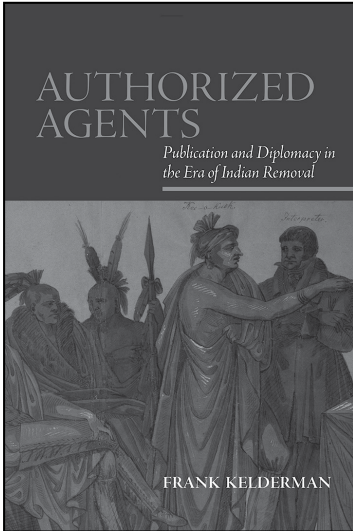
„Impeachment gegen Donald Trump: ‘Das Vergehen des Präsidenten ist diesmal klarer und leichter darstellbar““

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, October 11, 2019)



HCA ANNOUNCEMENTS



AUTHORIZED AGENTS

Publication and Diplomacy in the Era of Indian Removal

FRANK KELDERMAN

FRANK KELDERMAN is
Assistant Professor of English at
the University of Louisville.



A volume in the SUNY series,
Native Traces

JACE WEAVER AND
SCOTT RICHARD LYONS, EDITORS



October 2019
274 pages ♦ 25 b/w photographs
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In the nineteenth century, Native American writing and oratory extended a long tradition of diplomacy between indigenous people and settler states. As the crisis of forced removal profoundly reshaped Indian country between 1820 and 1860, tribal leaders and intellectuals worked with coauthors, interpreters, and amanuenses to address the impact of American imperialism on Indian nations. These collaborative publication projects operated through institutions of Indian diplomacy, but also intervened in them to contest colonial ideas about empire, the frontier, and nationalism. In this book, Frank Kelderman traces this literary history in the heart of the continent, from the Great Lakes to the Upper Missouri River Valley. Because their writings often were edited and published by colonial institutions, many early Native American writers have long been misread, discredited, or simply ignored. *Authorized Agents* demonstrates why their works should not be dismissed as simply extending the discourses of government agencies or religious organizations. Through analyses of a range of texts, including oratory, newspapers, autobiographies, petitions, and government papers, Kelderman offers an interdisciplinary method for examining how Native authors claimed a place in public discourse, and how the conventions of Indian diplomacy shaped their texts.

“Frank Kelderman finds indigenous agency in ‘unexpected places,’ to use Phil Deloria’s term, even as he reveals the ways in which the newly formed United States’ political and publication systems increasingly narrowed the routes through which indigenous people could act and speak, as authorized and authorial agents, on behalf of communal bodies. *Authorized Agents* suggests that the fetishization of the singular, romanticized ‘Indian chief’ in American literature and culture becomes so imbricated in diplomatic structures, in the era of removal, that some Native leaders’ rhetoric came to reflect the masculinist, fatalist discourse of savagery and vanishing, even as those leaders were advocating for tribal sovereignty and critiquing colonialism. An unsettling, provocative analysis of diplomacy, literature, and the insidious patterns of colonial structures.”

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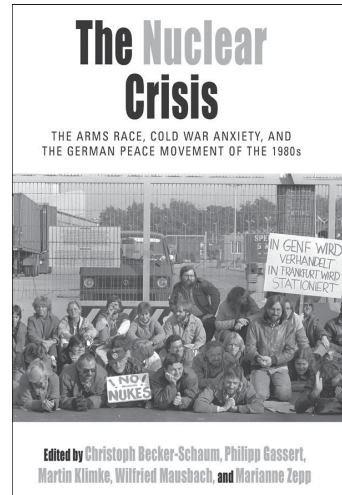
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About the Editors:

Christoph Becker-Schaum is the Director of the Green Memory Archive at the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Berlin.

Philipp Gassert is a Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Mannheim.

Martin Klimke is Associate Dean of Humanities and Associate Professor of History at New York University Abu Dhabi.

Wilfried Mausbach is the Executive Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) at Heidelberg University.

Marianne Zepp is Program Director for Contemporary History at the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Berlin.

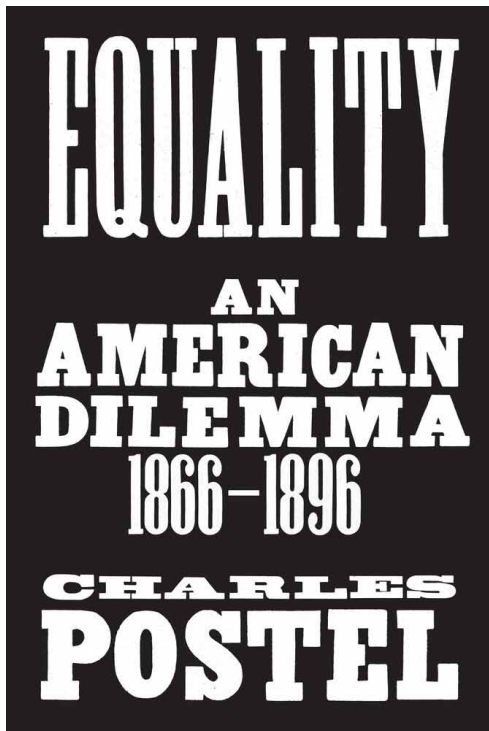
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EQUALITY

An American Dilemma

Charles Postel

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2019



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racial discrimination and oppression. Herculean efforts to overcome the economic inequality of the first Gilded Age and the sexual inequality of the late-Victorian social order emerged alongside Native American dispossession, Chinese exclusion, Jim Crow segregation, and lynch law. Now, as Postel argues, the twenty-first century has ushered in a second Gilded Age of savage socioeconomic inequalities. Convincing and learned, *Equality* explores the roots of these social fissures and speaks urgently to the need for expansive strides toward equality to meet our contemporary crisis.

AN ARMY IN CRISIS

Social Conflict and the U.S. Army in Germany,
1968–1975

ALEXANDER VAZANSKY

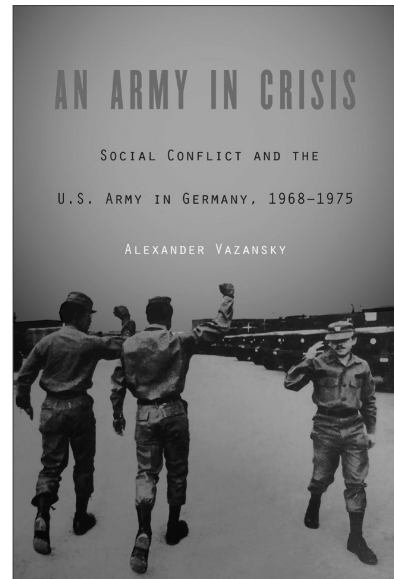
“Written with verve and sophistication, Vazansky’s book impressively traces the contours of the U.S. Army’s crisis of the long 1970s and situates it within the context of America’s complex relationship with the Federal Republic of Germany.”

—Adam R. Seipp, professor of history at Texas A&M University

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In *An Army in Crisis* Alexander Vazansky analyzes the social crisis that developed among the U.S. Army forces stationed in Germany between 1968 and 1975. This crisis was the result of shifting deployment patterns across the world during the Vietnam War; changing social and political realities of life in postwar Germany and Europe; and racial tensions, drug use, dissent, and insubordination within the U.S. Army itself, influenced by the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War, and the youth movement in the States. With particular attention to 1968, *An Army in Crisis* examines the changing relationships between American and German soldiers, from German deference to familiarity and fraternization, and the effects that a prolonged military presence in Germany had on American military personnel, their dependents, and the lives of Germans. Vazansky presents an innovative study of opposition and resistance within the ranks, affected by the Vietnam War and the limitations of personal freedom among the military during this era.

Alexander Vazansky is an assistant professor of history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



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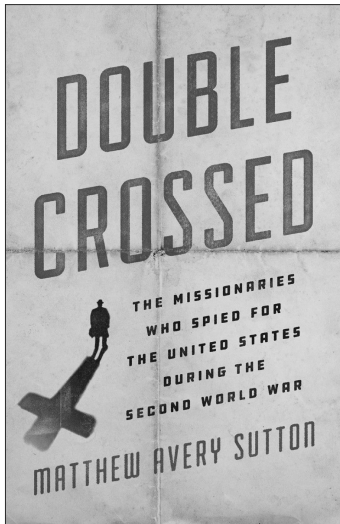
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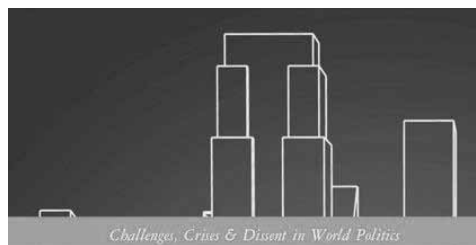
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ENDURING CRISIS?

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The Bilderberg Group and Transatlantic Relations during the Cold War, 1952-1968

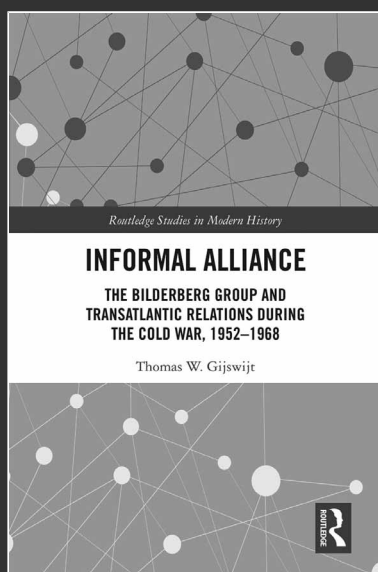
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