



Heidelberg Center
for American Studies

Annual Report 2007/08

Special Feature:

Kirsten Fischer:

**"The Joy of Cosmic Kinship: 'Wonder' in the Writings
of Thomas Paine and Elihu Palmer, American Deists"**



Ruprecht-Karls-Universität
Heidelberg, est. 1386



Annual Report 2007/08

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Rector's Welcome

Dear Reader,

Multidisciplinarity or “interdisciplinarity” is one of the frequently overused buzzwords in recent discussions about the quality and competitiveness of German universities. In many cases, it is more talked about than actually exercised. Not so at the University of Heidelberg. Last year the Ruperto Carola was awarded the third funding line of the Excellence Initiative, which is – needless to say – a stunning success for the university’s concept of realizing the full potentials of a comprehensive university. Strengthening our disciplines while exploiting multidisciplinary opportunities in order to probe cross-cutting transdisciplinary issues are strategic aims to which we are deeply committed. The HCA embodies interdisciplinarity at its best. It brings together ten disciplines from six different faculties at Heidelberg University. Multidisciplinarity is featured in all of the HCA’s activities, from teaching and research to conferences and public lectures. The modern structure of the HCA is also reflected in its establishment as a public-private partnership. Without the support of its private and institutional donors and benefactors, the impressive growth of the HCA would not have been possible.

With “fundraising” being another buzzword in the contemporary debate on educational policy, the HCA again sets an excellent example. Tax-exempt foundations have been created in Germany and in the United States to support the HCA. Donations come in from private individuals as well as from corporations and charitable organizations. Benefactors that deserve special mention are (in alphabetical order): the BASF Group, Ray and Elfie Carrell, the John Deere Company, Deutsche Bank Group, Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn, the Ghaemian Foundation for the Arts and Sciences, Herbert A. Jung, the Ladenburg Foundation, Manfred Lautenschläger, MLP, Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan, the Schurman Foundation, Dr. Hans-Peter Wild and the Leonie Wild Charitable Foundation. In June of 2008, the Engelhorns provided yet another token of their generosity by agreeing to sponsor the HCA with an annual donation of 400,000 EUR over the next ten years. All these donors are a prime example of the charitable support the HCA has received. The HCA’s fifth and longest Annual Report gives testimony to another year of innovations and successes.

Kindest regards,

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Bernhard Eitel



Preface

Dear Friends and Benefactors, Colleagues and Students,

It is a great privilege and pleasure to present the fifth Annual Report of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. 2007-2008 was another exciting and successful year for the HCA, and faculty, students, and staff can look back with great pride and a feeling of accomplishment.

As far as the financial future of the HCA is concerned, the most important event was the decision of our outstanding benefactors, Honorary Senators of the University of Heidelberg Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn, to donate 400,000 EUR annually over a period of ten years to the HCA, putting our Center on a sound financial footing. Further funding beyond that point is possible.

As a token of the university's gratitude, the Ruperto Carola bestowed the title of "Honorary Senator" on Heidemarie Engelhorn, honoring her longstanding commitment to join her husband in supporting the HCA.

We are also very grateful for the generous support we received from the Ghaemian Foundation. Last year we reported that the Ghaemian Foundation established the Jolanta and Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars. Starting in the academic year 2009-2010, the Ghaemian Foundation will offer a Ghaemian Junior Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship with a stipend of 40,000 EUR. Furthermore, we are honored that Soheyl Ghaemian has accepted our invitation to join the HCA's Board of Trustees.

Moreover, we pride ourselves that we have gained support for two extensive research projects. The first project, "The Transcultural Atlantic: Constructing Communities in a Global Context," is funded by three institutions: the Transatlantic Program of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, the SDAW Foundation for German-American Academic Relations, and the Global Networks Program of the University of Heidelberg. The second project, "Images of America in the World after 9/11: A Data-Driven Approach to the Semantic Imprints of Texts," is funded by the FRONTIER program of the University of Heidelberg.

Last but not least, I would like to report that the University of Heidelberg and the HCA had the great privilege to host the 55th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies. More than 200 scholars and teachers accepted the Association's invitation to discuss "The American Presidency and Political Leadership."

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Detlef Junker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large, connected letters.

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



HCA

**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.

Founded in 2003, the HCA is well on its way to becoming one of the leading centers for American Studies in Europe. It strives to provide excellent research and education opportunities for scholars and students from all over the world. In addition, the HCA strengthens the profile of the University of Heidelberg as one of Germany's finest academic institutions.

Building on long-standing ties between Heidelberg and the United States, the HCA fosters interdisciplinary and intercultural exchange across the Atlantic.

The University of Heidelberg's 622-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 of the HCA

The HCA is a central academic facility of the University of Heidelberg with its financial support coming from a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP). Without the continual 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 described in 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, five Honorary Senators of the University of Heidelberg: Curt

Engelhorn, Heidemarie Engelhorn, Rolf Kentner, Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, Dr. Hans-Peter Wild. In addition the HCA gratefully appreciates the donations of Ray and Elfie Carrell, Jolanta and Soheyl Ghaemian, Herbert A. Jung, Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan and the Deutsche Bank AG, Dr. Kurt Bock and the BASF AG, Dr. Oliver Neumann and the John Deere Company, Claudia Bussmann, Dr. Martin Bussmann, and the Ladenburg Foundation. 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.

In May 2008, Honorary Senator Curt Engelhorn and the University's new Senator Heidemarie

Engelhorn have resolved to put the Heidelberg Center for American Studies on a sound financial footing for some time to come. Over a period of ten years they will be placing an annual 400,000 EUR at the disposal of the HCA.

This donation provides the HCA, a unique institution in Germany's humanities and social sciences landscape, with long-term financial security.

The Ghaemian Foundation, which last year established the Jolanta and Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars, decided to further support the HCA. Starting in the academic year 2009/2010, the Foundation will offer a Ghaemian Junior Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship at the HCA with a stipend of 40,000 EUR. Soheyl Ghaemian has accepted our invitation to join the HCA's Board of Trustees.

Thanks to the generous assistance of Deutsche Bank Group, the HCA was able to offer a full-year Deutsche Bank Junior Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship. The recipient of this fellowship, Professor Kirsten Fischer (University of Minnesota), is residing at the HCA during the entire term of award from September 2008 to August 2009. She is working on a major piece of scholarly research and is teaching a course as part of the HCA's Master of Arts in American Studies program.

Dr. Schröder-Wildberg and MLP Group joined the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation in supporting the 2008 Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies, hosted by the University of Heidelberg and the HCA.

An innovative improvement of our financial basis has been the joint decision of the state of Baden-Württemberg, the University of Heidelberg, and private benefactors to support the HCA on a

matching fund basis for three to five years. This support is enabling the HCA to administer and coordinate the Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy in Berlin and to bolster our multidisciplinary by adding three young scholars, a geographer, a historian, and a political scientist, to our team.

The European Union is currently funding an extensive research project administered by the HCA in cooperation with the universities of Zurich and Halle. The Federal Ministry of Science and Technology is supporting our project on "The Trans-cultural Atlantic". A research project "Images of America in the World after 9/11: A Data-Driven Approach to Semantic Imprints of Texts" is funded by the FRONTIER program of the University of Heidelberg.

We are very grateful for the special financial support we received from the University of Heidelberg, including the financing of the matching fund mentioned above.

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

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Since spring 2004, the American equivalent, the FHCA, has administered tax-deductible donations to the HCA from the United States:

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HCA Board of Trustees

In November 2005, the HCA established a Board of Trustees. It consists of ten 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 the University of Heidelberg. Along with HCA Founding Director Prof. Detlef Junker they are: Dr. Kurt Bock (BASF Group, Ludwigshafen), Dr. Martin Bussmann (Mannheim LLC, New York), Curt Engelhorn, Soheyl Ghaemian (Reutax Corp.), Rolf Kentner (BW-Bank, Mannheim), Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger (MLP Group, Heidelberg), Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan (Deutsche Bank Group, Frankfurt/Main), Dr. Hans-Peter Wild (Rudolf-Wild-Werke GmbH & Co KG, Eppelheim), and Rector of the University of Heidelberg Prof. Bernhard Eitel. The Board of Trustees meets at least once a year to discuss current developments of the institute and to give advice on future prospects.

Dr. Hans-Peter Wild serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Hans-Peter Wild

The HCA's Board of Trustees is headed by Dr. Hans-Peter Wild, owner and chairman of the Rudolf Wild GmbH & Co. KG. He studied law at the University of Heidelberg 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 worked at Diersch & Schröder, before joining his parents' company in 1974. Today, it is the world's largest private manufacturer of natural ingredients for food and beverages. Additionally, Dr. Wild has taught at the University of Sofia, giving students insights into the world of practical economics. He is also President of the Leonie Wild Charitable Foundation, which he established with his mother in 1997, supporting social and cultural projects. For a long time he has been supporting the University of Heidelberg which, in recognition of his services, named him Honorary Senator of the University in 1996. Based on his own experiences with foreign markets and other cultures Dr. Wild has always acknowledged the importance of paying attention to and respecting cultural differences. "If I want to do business in the U.S.A., I must be able to think like Americans," says Dr. Wild. 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, e.g. with the endowment of the Wild Scholarships for the M.A. in American Studies program.



Dr. Kurt Bock

Since 2003 Dr. Kurt Bock has been a Member of the Board of Executive Directors and Chief Financial Officer of BASF Group, responsible for Finance, Corporate Controlling, Global Procurement & Logistics, Information Services as well as for Corporate Audit. Furthermore, his responsibilities include the North America regional division and the Catalysts operating division. He was born in Rahden, Germany, in 1958. From 1977 to 1982, he studied business administration at the universities of Münster and Cologne as well as at Pennsylvania State University. After three years in research, he received his doctorate in economics from the University of Bonn in 1985. He joined BASF's Finance Division in 1985 and served as executive assistant to the CFO until 1991 and as Head of Technology, Planning and Controlling, Engineering Plastics division until 1992. In 1992 he joined the Robert Bosch GmbH in Stuttgart, first as Senior Vice President, Finance and Accounting, before becoming Managing Director of Bosch Brazil. In 1998 he returned to BASF, this time as CFO of BASF Corporation, Mount Olive, New Jersey, U.S.A. In 2000 Dr. Bock became President of Logistics & Information Services at BASF headquarters in Ludwigshafen. As a member of the Schurman Foundation he has been involved in promoting research and education in American history and culture at the University of Heidelberg for many years.



Dr. Martin Bussmann

Dr. Martin Bussmann is a Trustee of the Mannheim Trust in New York. He is Managing Director of Mannheim Holdings LLC, a member of Mannheim LLC. Dr. Bussmann is also active in other portfolio companies of the Mannheim Trust. He spent 15 years in the Healthcare and Chemical industry, working in different sales and marketing functions at Knoll AG, Abbott Laboratories, and at BASF AG, both in Europe and in the United States. Dr. Bussmann obtained his law degree from the University of Heidelberg in 1975, and was a Visiting Scholar at Harvard Law School in 1977. He received his Dr. juris. utriusque degree from the University of Heidelberg in 1978.



Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil. Bernhard Eitel

Prof. Eitel studied geography, German philology, and literature at the University of Karlsruhe. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Stuttgart in 1989 and his *venia legendi* from the same university in 1994 with a study on "Calcium-rich cover sediments and calcrete generations in Namibia: Origin and mobilisation of calcium carbonate." Prior to coming to Heidelberg, Bernhard 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 the University of Heidelberg. His major fields of research are in geomorphology, geoecology, the Quarternary period, soil geography, geoarchaeology, and dryland areas. In October of 2007, Bernhard Eitel assumed the office of Rector of the University of Heidelberg.



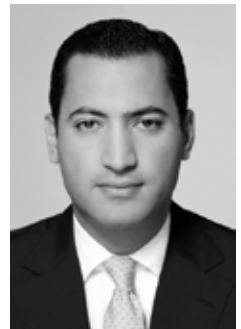
Curt Engelhorn

Curt Engelhorn was born in Munich. From 1947 to 1952 he lived in the U.S., where he studied chemical engineering at the University of Texas, Austin. After graduation and a traineeship at a pharmaceutical company, Engelhorn returned to Germany, working at the Munich-based chemical company Perutz. In 1955 he joined the pharmaceutical family business of C.F. Boehringer & Söhne GmbH, later called Boehringer Mannheim. From 1960 to 1990, Engelhorn served as the company's CEO, transforming it from a medium-sized manufacturer of therapeutics to a leading global producer of health care products. He retreated from operative business in 1990 to become Chairman of the Board of Corange Ltd., which held his and his partners' shares in Boehringer Mannheim. In 1997 they were sold to Roche. Curt Engelhorn is a patron of many projects in Germany and abroad, supporting arts and culture as well as research and education. He was named Honorary Senator of the University of Heidelberg in 1959. His support of the university includes the endowment of a Seminar Center, a Chair in American History, major donations to the Schurman Library for American History, the generous dedication of the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais to the HCA, and most recently an annual donation of 400.000 Euro over the next ten years.



Soheyl Ghaemian

Soheyl Ghaemian, born in Teheran, Iran, grew up in Heidelberg and studied computer science at the universities of Heidelberg and Karlsruhe. Prior to completing his studies, Ghaemian was already active in staffing projects and quickly recognized the trend toward increased flexibility in the German labor market, especially in the IT sector. In 2002, he founded his own one-man company, Reutax, which has now grown into a corporation, employing more than 200 people. Headquarters are located in Heidelberg with subsidiaries in Munich, Vienna, Zurich, Los Angeles, Wroclaw, and Prague. Reutax Corp. is not only the fastest growing company in the German staffing market, but also the only remaining independent company in the branch run by its founder. The Ghaemian Foundation supports activities in the fields of culture, sports, and the sciences. Furthermore, Ghaemian is an active member of the Rotary Club Heidelberg-Schloss and the Heidelberg Club International.



Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker

Detlef Junker was born in Pinneberg close to Hamburg. He studied history, political science, philosophy, and German philology in Innsbruck and Kiel, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1969. In 1974 he was appointed Associate Professor of the University of Stuttgart. He taught Modern History at the University of Heidelberg from 1975 to 1994 and held the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at this university from 1999 to 2004. From 1994 to 1999, Junker served as the Director of the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D.C. The foci of his research are U.S. Foreign Policy in the 20th Century, German History, International Relations and the history of transatlantic relations, and the Theory of Historical Science. His most important recent publications include the two volume handbook "The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War 1945-1990," which he edited, and his monograph "Power and Mission," which was published in 2003. On May 29, 2005, Detlef Junker was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the University of Maryland University College Europe (UMUC) in Heidelberg. Junker was recognized for his commitment to fostering German-American dialogue and cross-cultural understanding. In May 2007 Professor Junker was appointed Distinguished Senior Professor of the University of Heidelberg.



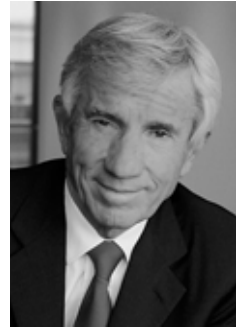
Rolf Kentner

Rolf Kentner studied business administration in Germany and the United States, graduating with the degree of Diplomkaufmann at the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in 1973. After holding positions for an international commercial bank in Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and the United States, he joined the Baden-Württembergische Bank AG in Mannheim in 1982 as a member of the general management. Since 2005 he is Head of Corporate Clients Key Account II of the Baden-Württembergische-Bank. Rolf Kentner is active in many charitable organizations, among others as Chairman of the Society for the Promotion of the Schurman Library for American History at the History Department of the University of Heidelberg, and as Chairman of the Jacob Gould Schurman Foundation. Both organizations are named after the Heidelberg Alumnus 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 the University of Heidelberg and of the Mannheim University for Applied Sciences.



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, Lautenschläger assumed the position of CEO, expanding the company to one of Germany's leading suppliers of financial consultation services. Since 1999, he has been Chairman of the Supervisory Board of MLP Group. For many years, Lautenschläger has been actively supporting the University of Heidelberg, e.g. 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, 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 the University of Heidelberg.



Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan

Dr. Bernd von Maltzan is the Vice Chairman of Deutsche Bank's global division Private Wealth Management. Before that, he was responsible for the build-up of the Private Banking division. Until 1996 he headed investment banking in Germany. Prior to that, Dr. von Maltzan held global responsibility for Deutsche Bank's Trading & Sales activities. He joined Deutsche Bank in 1978 after finishing his doctorate in Business Administration at the University of Bonn, Germany. He studied Economics in Munich and Bonn from 1971 to 1975. Before that he served as an Officer in the German Army. Dr. von Maltzan is a member of several Advisory Boards in privately held companies. Additionally, he is active in various international non-profit organisations. He has been nominated as Chairman of the Königswinter Foundation (German-British Society). Furthermore he is the Founding President of the American Berlin Opera Foundation, New York. A few years ago he won the Cultural Award of "Elyseum – Between the two Continents", a transatlantic cultural institution. Since its inception Dr. von Maltzan has been an avid supporter of the HCA, including his endowment of the Bernd von Maltzan Scholarships for students of the M.A. in American Studies program.



The Board of Directors of the Heidelberg Center of 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. The six representatives adopted the proposal of Prof. Dr. Hommelhoff, Rector of the University of Heidelberg until September 30, 2007, and named Professor Detlef Junker Founding Director. Professors Winfried Brugger and Michael Welker were named Deputy Directors.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker

(Biography see Board of Trustees, p. 16)

Prof. Dr. Winfried Brugger, LL.M.

Professor Winfried Brugger, representative of the Faculty of Law, holds the Chair for Public Law and Philosophy of Law and is a fellow at the Max Weber Center for Cultural and Social Studies at Erfurt University. He is a member of the board of the German-American Lawyers' Association (DAJV), a coeditor of the DAJV's quarterly Newsletter and has published numerous monographs and articles on American Law, including *Grundrechte und Verfassungsgerichtsbarkeit in den U.S.A.*, *Einführung in das öffentliche Recht der U.S.A.* and *Demokratie, Freiheit und Gleichheit. Studien zum Verfassungsrecht der U.S.A.* Brugger has taught as a guest professor in Houston, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Oxford (UK).



Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Welker

Professor Michael Welker represents the Faculty of Theology on the Board. He teaches systematic theology with a focus on new theories in Anglo-American theology at the University of Heidelberg. Welker has served as Director of the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg from 1996 to 2006. He taught at both Harvard and Princeton universities and currently is Administrative Director of the Forschungszentrum für Internationale und Interdisziplinäre Theologie in Heidelberg. Welker is co-editor of *The End of the World and the Ends of God. Sciences and Theology on Eschatology* (2002), and the third edition of his work *Gottes Geist. Theologie des Heiligen Geistes* was published in 2005.



Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg

Prof. Manfred Berg represents the Faculty of Philosophy. He was appointed Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History in October, 2005. From 1992 to 1997, Berg worked for the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. After completing his Habilitation in 1998 he taught at the universities of Berlin und Cologne. Berg also has served as head of the Zentrum für USA-Studien of the Leucorea Foundation of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The foci of his research and teaching are 20th century American History and Foreign Policy and Minority Studies. He is the author of *The Ticket to Freedom: The NAACP and the Struggle for Black Political Integration* (2005). In April 2006, Prof. Berg was awarded the David Thelen Award for the best article on American history published in a foreign language by the Organization of American Historians (OAH) for his article "Black Civil Rights and Liberal Anticommunism: The NAACP during the McCarthy Era."



Prof. Dr. Peter Meusburger

Professor of Geography Peter Meusburger, representative of the Faculty of Chemistry and Earth Sciences, has been teaching economic, social, and educational geography at the University of Heidelberg since 1983. Meusburger has examined the educational situation of ethnic minorities in the United States. The culmination of his work in this area is his *Bildungsgeographie. Wissen und Ausbildung in der räumlichen Dimension*. He also is co-editor of the *Lexikon der Geographie* (Vol. 1-4). From 2001 to 2002, Meusburger was president of the Verband der Geographen an deutschen Hochschulen (VGdH), and he served as president of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geographie (DGfG) from 2002 to 2003. In 2006 he was awarded the Franz von Hauer-Medaille, the highest award of the Austrian Geographical Society (ÖGG).



Prof. Dr. Manfred G. Schmidt

Professor Manfred G. Schmidt is the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and Professor at the Institute for Political Science at the University of Heidelberg. After a long and distinguished career he returned to the University of Heidelberg in 2000, where he had taught before, from the University of Bremen. Professor Schmidt has published extensively on the comparative study of the welfare state, on theories of democracy, on politics and policy in Germany in both English and German. One of the most respected political scientists in Germany and beyond, Manfred Schmidt, a winner of the prestigious Leibniz-Award, is a member of both the Heidelberg and the Berlin-Brandenburg Academies of Sciences.



Prof. Dr. Dieter Schulz

Professor Schulz represents the Faculty of Modern Languages; until recently he held the Chair of American Literature and Culture at the Institute of English and American Philology (Anglistisches Seminar) in Heidelberg. His publications include books on Transcendentalism and Romanticism: *Amerikanischer Transzendentalismus: Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Margaret Fuller* (1997); *Suche und Abenteuer: Formen der 'Quest' in der englischen und amerikanischen Erzählliteratur der Romantik* (1981). In his lecture courses, he covers the whole span of American literary history from colonial to contemporary. During the winter semester of 2003/04, Schulz taught a course on "American Literature between the Wars" as part of the HCA's M.A. in American Studies program.



Foundation and Development of the HCA

In January of 2002, a group of Heidelberg professors and administrators set up an interdisciplinary initiative with the aim of establishing a new center for the study of the United States of America at Germany's oldest university. Thus, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) was born, its first order of business being to develop a novel postgraduate 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 conceptual design of the MAS and the initial layout for future research projects and conferences.

Ten departments from six faculties committed themselves to the program, enabling a broad range of disciplines to be represented at the HCA: American Literature and Culture, Economics, Geography, History, Law, Musicology, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Sociology.

In December of 2003, thanks to the generous support of Heidelberg entrepreneur and philanthropist 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 to discuss their research and to meet peers and professors from both sides of the Atlantic.

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 the University of Heidelberg on October 20,

2004. Simultaneously, the first class of the MAS program enrolled. A Board of Directors was established, convening for the first time in December of 2004, and was subsequently joined by a Board of Trustees.

In 2005, aside from guiding the 15 students of the initial MAS Class of 2005 to the completion of their master's degrees and hosting the second Spring Academy on American History, Culture, and Politics, the HCA also laid the groundwork for an ambitious research agenda, including a major international conference. All this came to fruition in 2006 when the European Commission decided to support the research project "European Protest Movements since the Cold War. The Rise and Fall of a (Trans-) National Civil Society and the Transformation of the Public Sphere". The project is co-developed and coordinated by HCA fellow Dr. Martin Klimke as part of its Marie Curie Program for the Promotion of Scientific Excellence. Furthermore, renowned scholars from Europe and the United States assembled at the HCA from October 5-8, 2006 to discuss the relationship of "State and Market in a Globalized World: Transatlantic Perspectives" with special guest U.S. Ambassador to Germany William R. Timken. Also in October of 2006, the HCA celebrated the graduation of its second MAS class and proudly welcomed the first students to its new Ph.D. in American Studies program.

This substantial expansion of activities 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 world-famous historic city center, and dedicated it to the mission of the HCA. With meticulous restorations still under way, the HCA moved into its new home, now christened the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn

Palais, in May of 2006.

The Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais opened up a whole range of new possibilities for the HCA. In order to fully realize the new potential, Heidelberg University, the State of Baden-Württemberg, and private donors agreed to set up a matching fund for the future development of the HCA. This fund—pledged for three to five years—has enabled the HCA to initiate a joint venture with the American Academy in Berlin, bringing renowned fellows of that prestigious institution to the region by means of the Academy's Baden-Württemberg Seminar. In addition, the HCA was able to introduce a year-round Junior Fellow-in-Residence program in 2007 and add another three young scholars to its staff, thereby broadening its research and teaching capacities.

The EU-sponsored research project on protest movements convened two major international conferences in 2007, one at the University of Zurich, the other at the HCA. The center also hosted a seminal conference on "Global Dimensions of Racism in the Modern World: Comparative and Transnational Perspectives," organized by the Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History and generously supported by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and the Schurman Association for the Promotion of American History at the University of Heidelberg.

In November of 2007, the HCA participated in the Rhein-Neckar metropolitan region's "Night of Arts and Sciences," attracting several hundred visitors to its expositions and discussions on the presidential elections in the United States.

The year 2008 also was a busy one. Aside from its ongoing programs - the MAS and Ph.D. in American Studies, the Spring Academy on American History, Culture, and Politics, and the Baden-Württemberg

Seminar - the HCA launched a major new research project on "The Transcultural Atlantic: Constructing Communities in a Global Context – Past, Present, and Future". Funding for this project has been provided by the Global Networks branch of Heidelberg University's Excellence Initiative program as well as by the Stiftung Deutsch-Amerikanische Wissenschaftsbeziehungen and the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. In addition, the HCA acquired a grant from the FRONTIER program of Heidelberg University for a project examining "Images of America in the World after 9/11: A Data-Driven Approach to Semantic Imprints of Texts". Last but not least, the HCA supported Dr. Simon Wendt, assistant professor of American History at Heidelberg University's History Department, in his successful bid to become a research group leader in the university's Transcultural Studies program.

The highlight of the 2008 conferences and workshops at the HCA undoubtedly occurred in May, when the center and Heidelberg University were honored to host the 55th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA).

Finally, construction has progressed on an extension, which will add a new lecture room, a glass-covered atrium, and an elevator to our existing building. Outfitted with cutting edge media and technology, it will complement the historic palais in creating a small but exquisite conference center at the HCA. Work on the extension is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2009.

Organization and Staff

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, composed of longtime supporters of the HCA and chief executives of Heidelberg University, advises the HCA in structural and financial affairs as well as in the solicitation of donations. A Board of Directors, one from each of the six faculties participating in the HCA, provides advice on strategic decisions and supervises the center's academic activities. Founding Director Detlef Junker heads the HCA; daily business is managed by Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach.

Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker

See Biography "Board of Trustees" page 16.



Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

Wilfried Mausbach is the Executive Director of the HCA. Prior to assuming that position in 2005, he has been a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., and has held assistant professorships in history at both the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin and Heidelberg University. Wilfried Mausbach holds a Ph.D. from the University of Cologne where he studied History, Political Science, and Philosophy.



Dr. habil. Martin Thunert

Martin Thunert is a university lecturer and senior research fellow at the HCA. He teaches the MAS course in political science as well as the interdisciplinary seminar and is coordinator of the lecture series "Typically American". Martin Thunert studied political science, English and philosophy at the universities of Frankfurt, Tübingen and Glasgow. He received his Dr. phil. in Political Science from the University of Augsburg. He received his post-doctoral degree (habilitation) at Hamburg University.



Dr. Jana Freihöfer

Jana Freihöfer coordinates the Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy in Berlin and is responsible for public relations at the HCA. Jana Freihöfer studied geography, political science and economics at the University of Bonn. She received her M.A. in geography from King's College London in 2003. In April 2007, she successfully completed her Ph.D. thesis on the migration of international civil servants.



Dr. Thomas Gijswijt

Thomas Gijswijt was responsible for the coordination of the Ph.D. program and research activities at the HCA before he left the institute in the spring of 2008 to work at Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen. He completed his M.A. in modern history at the University of Amsterdam in 1999. In November 2007, Thomas successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis. Thomas Gijswijt continues to be affiliated with the HCA.



Dr. Mischa Honeck

Mischa Honeck joined the HCA as a research associate and full staff member in April 2008. Apart from administering the Ph.D. in American Studies program, he is responsible for coordinating the Center for Interdisciplinary Research as well as the HCA's visiting fellows program. Honeck studied History, Philosophy, and English at Portland State University and the University of Heidelberg, where he received his M.A. in February 2004 and completed his Ph.D. in June 2008 ("summa cum laude").



Alexander Vazansky, M.A.

Alexander Vazansky serves as the MAS Course Registrar. He studied history and American literature at the University of Heidelberg and at Miami University, Ohio. Alexander Vazansky received his M.A. from Miami University. He also spent time working as a teaching assistant for the Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History. He just handed in his Ph.D. thesis: "An Army in Crisis: Social Conflicts in the United States Army, Europe and 7th Army, 1968-1975."



Anne Lübbers, M.A.

Anne Lübbers is coordinator of the MAS program. She studied political science, German philology, and Romance languages (Italian) at the University of Heidelberg where, in the spring of 2006, she received her M.A. Since then she has been working on her Ph.D. thesis. Since August of 2003, she has been working as a student academic assistant for the HCA where she was responsible for organizing the Spring Academy and the Baden-Württemberg-Seminar of the American Academy in Berlin. Since October of 2007, she has been working as the MAS coordinator.



Jan Deuter

Jan Deuter is coordinator of the MAS program as well. He has been studying political science, economics and European law at the University of Heidelberg since 2003. From 2006 to 2007, he attended the ERASMUS-program at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland). Since 2005, Deuter has been working for the Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIK). Since April of 2008, Deuter has been working at the HCA.



Elena Matveeva, M.A.

Elena Matveeva is responsible for the HCA's publications as well as for the communication of institute information. She studied at Herzen University in St. Petersburg, Russia, majoring in English, German, and pedagogics. Since the summer of 2005, Elena Matveeva has been a Ph.D. candidate at the English Department of the University of Heidelberg. She has been working as research assistant at the HCA since 2004. Elena was a coordinator of the Spring Academy until September of 2008.



Sophie Lorenz

Sophie Lorenz coordinates the organization of the Spring Academy conference. She has been studying history, political science, and public law at the University of Heidelberg since 2003, where she will graduate in 2009 with a major in history and a focus on American history. In 2004, Lorenz started working at the HCA as student research assistant responsible for the organization of numerous social events. Since 2006, Lorenz has been part of the Spring Academy team.



Noemi Huber, Ass.Jur.

Noemi Huber studies Law at the University of Heidelberg. After passing the First State Exam, she started to work on her dissertation in Criminal Law. Noemi joined the HCA in 2003. She was in charge of administrative matters and accounting before leaving the HCA in June 2008 to assume new responsibilities as assistant to the Dean of Mannheim University's School of Mathematics and Computer Science.



Claudia Müller, M.A.

Claudia Müller graduated from the University of Heidelberg, having majored in history, English, philosophy, and German. She is currently writing her Ph.D. thesis entitled "The Staging of Remembering and Narrating in Günter Grass' *Die Blechtrommel* and Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*." From 2001 to 2004, she was a research assistant at the Curt Engelhorn Chair in American History. Since 2005, she has been working in the HCA's administrative office.



Dr. Ute Forster-Schwerk

Ute Forster-Schwerk joined the HCA as a staff member in July of 2008. She has studied geography, political science, and sociology in Vienna and Heidelberg and received her Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg. Aside from her responsibilities in the financial administration, her research interests are social geography, especially in population studies, geographies of travel, and the regional geography of the United States.



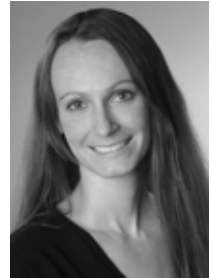
Christina Larenz

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.



Holly Uhl, M.A.

Holly Uhl assists in the coordination of the Ph.D. program. She left her home country of the United States to come to Germany and study at the University of Heidelberg where she received her master's degree in political science and history in 2008. She also spent a year studying Latin American studies at the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile. Holly Uhl began working for the HCA in February of 2004 as a translator. Since 2006, she has been partly responsible for the administration of the Ph.D. program.



Michael Tröger, Dipl.-Soz.

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



Johanna Bethge

Johanna Bethge is responsible for event management at the HCA. Since 2006, Bethge has been studying history and German at the University of Heidelberg. She joined the HCA in 2007 as an event coordinator and a student research assistant. Bethge is the recipient of a scholarship for students who are training to be teachers, which is funded by the Foundation of German Business (Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft).

**Anja Milde, M.A.**

Anja Milde joined the HCA in 2007. She has been working as a public relations assistant and a tutor for American history. Anja received her B.A. from the University of Erfurt in 2003, where she studied Linguistics and Communication Science. Before graduating from the MAS program in 2008, she spent a year at Trinity College in Hartford, CT, where she majored in American Studies. She is currently working on her Ph.D. thesis

**Sonja Döring, M.A.**

Sonja Döring organized the 55th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA) before she left the HCA to teach at the University of Landau in the spring of 2008. Sonja Döring studied political science and history at the University of Heidelberg and is currently writing her Ph.D. thesis.

**Rebekka Weinel, M.A.**

Rebekka Weinel joined the HCA in the fall of 2003. She is in charge of fundraising and the HCA alumni network. She is also administrative coordinator of the project "European Protest Movements." Since September of 2008, Weinel has also been a part of the Spring Academy Team. She received her M.A. in American History in 2006. Since 2007, she has been working on her Ph.D. thesis.



Dr. des. Noah Bubenhofer

Noah Bubenhofer is coordinator of the project “Semtracks: Tracking Meaning on the Surface” at the HCA in Heidelberg. In addition, he is a research assistant at the German Department at the University of Zürich. Noah Bubenhofer studied German, Communication and Media Studies, and Sociology at the University of Basel and Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg.

**Dr. Martin Klimke**

Martin Klimke is coordinator and scientist-in-charge of the Marie Curie project supported by the European Union on “European Protest Movements since the Cold War.” Klimke studied at the University of Göttingen, Amherst College and the University of Heidelberg, where he received both his M.A. and his Ph.D. in 2002 and 2005 respectively. Since 2007, Klimke has been a visiting research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C.

**HCA Visiting Professors****Prof. Elizabeth Borgwardt, Ph.D.**

Elizabeth Borgwardt studied history and law and earned her B.A. and M. Phil. in international relations at Cambridge University. She also received a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a Ph.D. from Stanford University. Prof. Borgwardt teaches history at Washington University, St. Louis. She was a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer at the HCA during the spring of 2008. She taught an interdisciplinary seminar for the MAS program and took part as a contributor in the Spring Academy conference.

**Prof. Jeannette Eileen Jones, Ph.D.**

Jeannette Eileen Jones from the University Nebraska-Lincoln was the first Deutsche Bank Junior Scholar-in-Residence. She earned her Master’s and Doctoral degrees in History from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She joined the faculty of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2004 and is currently Assistant Professor of History and Ethnic Studies (African American and African Studies). Her teaching specializations are in African American history and studies and the history of pre-colonial Africa.



Prof. Kirsten Fischer, Ph.D.

Kirsten Fischer, associate professor of history at the University of Minnesota, is this year’s Deutsche Bank Junior Scholar-in-Residence at the HCA. She is researching “rational religion” in the early American Republic, with a focus on deists such as Thomas Jefferson and Thomas Paine. Her MAS seminar is titled “Religion and the U.S. Founding: Contests Then and Now over the Place of Religion in American Politics.”



HCA Affiliates

PD Dr. Philipp Gassert

Philipp Gassert was Managing Director of the HCA until 2005. Dr. Gassert studied history, economics, German philology, and public law at the University of Heidelberg, the University of Angers (France), and at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (U.S.A.). He received his Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg in 1996 and his post-doctorate degree of Habilitation from Heidelberg in 2004. Since January of 2008, he has been serving as Deputy Director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C.



The Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais: History and Architecture of Our Flourishing Home



The Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais on Hauptstraße 120.

The home of the HCA is a beautiful old Bürger Palais (town house), and one with a long history. The first known structure that stood at the location now occupied by the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais can be traced back to 1564.

Afflicted by fire on several occasions in the past, the eastern half of this four-story building was severely damaged in 1689 during the Palatinate War of Succession. Only four years later, the entire structure was apparently crippled even further as a consequence of the war.

In 1699, the “Haus Neukirch”, as the Curt and

Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais came to be called, was purchased by Burkhard Neukirch. Having already lived in parts of the old building for some years, he started to build a new house, using the fundamentals of the former building.

Having been subjected to manifold rebuildings, especially the fourth floor, during the following decades, it was at the beginning of the eighteenth century that the current structure was built. This makes the home of the HCA only around fifty years older than its subject of study, the United States of America.

Over the course of nearly 300 years, the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais has had a long list of - sometimes even weekly - owners. It has housed families, students, and several university departments. A bookstore and a jeweler as well as a butcher have occupied the retail units on the ground floor. Today a jeweler once again occupies part of the ground floor while the other ground-floor shop houses an Italian arts and crafts store.

The university first came to possess the property in 1942 when the Vereinigte Studienstiftung of Heidelberg University purchased the building. In 1961, the state of Baden-Württemberg bought the building, renting the rooms to several tenants. In the fall of 1970 the university became one of these tenants, when the Zentrale Universitätsverwaltung (Central University Administration) was housed on the second floor of Hauptstraße 120.

In the 1980s, the college of Jewish Studies (Hochschule für Jüdische Studien) moved into the third and fourth floors, after both stories had temporarily been used by the research group “stress” in

1979. After an interim period during which parts of the house were also used by the Student Services and by the Department of Sociology, the University Administration moved to other quarters.

Accompanied by massive demolitions in the backyard area and initial attempts at reconstructing and re-establishing at least part of the original eighteenth-century style, the Faculty of Philosophy moved into the building. The Faculties of Modern Languages and Social Sciences as well as the faculties' joint examination office, soon followed. These institutions used the facilities at Hauptstraße 120 until 2005 when the state of Baden-Württemberg decided to sell the building.

In 2006, the former „Haus Neukirch“ was renamed in honor of Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn who bought the building and generously granted the HCA rent-free use of the rooms for the next ten years.

Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn's gift allows the HCA to grow in ways that would otherwise have been impossible. The HCA will now be able to offer its services to a greater number of students and host international conferences and visiting professors. We are even aiming at becoming a "Center for Advanced Studies" in the not so distant future.

The HCA's new location is ideal for students and professors alike. The Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais is within short walking distance of the University Library, the Mensa, the New University, the Old University, and many important university departments. Here on the Hauptstraße, just a step away from University Square, student life thrives.

The Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais is an architectural gem. Particularly noteworthy is deco-

orative stucco on the walls and ceilings, which can especially be admired on the second floor. Similar decorations of such a remarkable quality can only be found very rarely in Heidelberg's old Bürger palais today. Done in the Louis-Seize style, the trim and decoration were likely added at the end of the eighteenth century. Proof of ample artistic activity can still be found throughout the building today.

For example, before reaching the salons in the second story, a series of five reliefs presents itself in the vestibule. The reliefs, though all depicting cherub activity, are believed to have been crafted by three different artists. Judging from style, composition, material, quality, and technique, the first and fourth reliefs are most likely the work of one artist, the second and third reliefs were done by another and the fifth relief by yet another artist. Nevertheless all these reliefs as well as the relief in the Salle Assemblé and most of the other ornaments indicate a close similarity to the art at the elector's court (Kurfürstenhof) in Mannheim.

The extensive restoration of the salons in the second story, the so-called Bel Etage, was finished only two years ago. The work has revealed carvings long lost to coats of paint. Lions' heads, musical instruments, roses and women's faces were literally coming out of the woodwork.

The rooms of the Bel Etage are used for conferences and lectures. Two of the Bel Etage's rooms, the Salon and the adjunct smaller Salle Assemblé, are furnished with historic fire places. Due to fire codes, fires may no longer be lit, but nevertheless the fireplaces have been designated for a special purpose. To facilitate the critical understanding of the United States, Professor Detlef Junker, a biographer of Franklin D. Roosevelt, introduced his own "Fireside Chats" at the HCA. With rooms for teaching and discussion, the Bel Etage is a



HCA Annex under construction

beautiful place to build and strengthen the HCA community and create a pleasant atmosphere for socio-academic gatherings.

A new addition on the back side of the building, now under construction, will give the HCA even more space to work with and provide another conference room. On October 17, 2008, with the outside walls properly erected, the HCA invited

supporters and friends to a traditional “topping-out” ceremony. As HCA founding director Detlef Junker mentioned in his speech, this new building, still to be furnished with a modern interior and cutting-edge technological equipment, will add a modern touch to the old bourgeois town house, thus enriching the venerable spirit of the Curt and Heidemarie Palais.



Curt Engelhorn addressing the HCA students and staff at the „topping-out“ ceremony on October 17, 2008.



**An Institute for
Higher Education**

An Institute for Higher Education

As an institute for higher education, the HCA trains American Studies specialists in response to increasing demand in academia, the public sector, and the business community.

The HCA provides interdisciplinary academic and cultural teaching on the United States for post-graduate students from around the world.

Currently, the HCA offers the Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) program. Beginning with the winter term of 2006/07, the HCA added a three year Ph.D. in American Studies program to its educational portfolio (see p. 72).

The Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS)

The Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) is a one-year, exclusive interdisciplinary program taught in English and aimed at qualified graduate students from around the world. American Studies in the MAS is defined by exemplary and interdisciplinary teaching of cultural knowledge about the United States of America. The program provides training in academic and practical skills tailored to meet the needs of future leaders in a transatlantic and global environment.

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) admits up to 30 students to the MAS every year. Admission is competitive and depends on the quality and academic merits of the candidates. Most candidates will have studied law, humanities, or social sciences at the undergraduate or graduate level. Participants are expected to bring to the program an outstanding academic record as well as work experience and demonstrable social commitment. Applicants should have successfully completed degree

programs involving a minimum of four years of study at recognized academic institutions.

The MAS begins in the fall of each year and is directed towards students who have already completed a four-year undergraduate studies program. The tuition fees for the MAS program are 2,500 EUR per semester.

The curriculum includes a selection of courses from economics, geography, history, law, literature, musicology, philosophy, political science, religious studies, and sociology. The MAS curriculum is limited to a selection of disciplines and topics to give the participating students both a sound scholarly grounding and opportunities for the professional application of what they have learned.

The winter semester (October to early February) begins with a two-week introduction followed by a weekly curriculum of six lectures, six tutorials, one interdisciplinary colloquium, and two additional

courses. Participation in all six courses is mandatory for all students, although students will choose only three courses to take oral exams and write final term papers.

There are no lectures during the winter break from mid-February to early April. During this period students are expected to write and hand in their term papers, and to develop an outline of their M.A. thesis. In early April, there is an excursion to Berlin.

During the summer semester (April to mid-July), students attend a weekly interdisciplinary seminar, one tutorial, and one colloquium. At the beginning of July they will present their thesis outlines.

The summer break (mid-July to September) is reserved for writing and finishing the M.A. thesis that is to be handed in by August 31. The graduation ceremony takes place at the end of October.

Below you will find information on the MAS program of 2007/08, including course outlines of the classes offered, portraits of the teaching staff, and short biographies of the students as well as an outlook onto the academic year 2008/09. Starting in the winter semester 2009/2010, the MAS will be restructured to become a three-semester program.

For more information please visit the MAS website at www.mas.uni-hd.de.

HCA Teaching Staff

Millie Baker, M.A.

Media and presentation skills (MAS and Ph.D.)

Millie Baker studied English and German philology and received her Master of Arts degree from the University of Heidelberg. She is currently working on her Ph.D. thesis "Englishness and the Empiricist Tradition in Contemporary Fiction" at Royal Holloway, University of London. Millie creates and presents seminars in academic communication skills for institutions such as the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), University of Konstanz, University of Heidelberg, Goethe University of Frankfurt, University of Bielefeld, and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA). She is also a freelance trainer for Business English and related skills - both privately and for the language consultants Com.be.nations GmbH, Com-Unic Language and Communication Consulting GmbH.

Prof. Manfred Berg

History (MAS and Ph.D.)

Professor Manfred Berg taught the course “The History of North America from the Beginnings of European Expansion to the Present: Part IV: Global Giant – Multicultural Society: The United States from the End of the Second World War to the Present” during the winter semester 2007/08. He is teaching the course “Reluctant Empire? U.S. Foreign Relations in the 20th Century” in the winter semester 2008/09. Biography see Board of Directors, p. 19.



Prof. Elizabeth Borgwardt, Ph.D.

Interdisciplinary Seminar (MAS, Spring Academy)

Professor Elizabeth Borgwardt taught the interdisciplinary seminar “Historical Perspectives on Human Rights & Globalization” during the summer semester of 2008. She also took part in the Spring Academy 2008. Biography see Research Staff and Research Fellows, p. 107.



Prof. Kirsten Fischer, Ph.D

Religious Studies, History (MAS)

Prof. Kirsten Fischer is teaching the course “Religion and the Founding of the United States: Contests Then and Now over the Place of Religion in American Politics” during the winter semester 2008/09. Biography see Research Staff and Research Fellows, p. 109.



Dr. Jana Freihöfer

Interdisciplinary Seminar (MAS)

Dr. Jana Freihöfer taught the interdisciplinary seminar “Domestic and international perceptions of the United States: political, social, economic and spatial perspectives” in the summer semester of 2008. Biography see Research Staff and Research Fellows, p. 110.



Prof. Jeannette Jones, Ph.D.

African-American Studies (MAS, Spring Academy)

Prof. Jeannette Jones taught the course "Introduction to African-American Studies" during the winter semester 2007/08. She also took part in the Spring Academy 2008. Biography see Research Staff and Research Fellows, p. 113.



Dr. Steven Less

Law (MAS)

Dr. Less is a senior research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, where he is also employed as the managing editor of the MPI's semi-annual bibliography of public international law. A member of the New Jersey and New York bar associations, Less worked for a general practice law firm before coming to Heidelberg on a DAAD grant. Beginning in 1999, he has offered a three-semester introduction to Anglo-American law and legal terminology, covering American constitutional law, at the University of Heidelberg. He has also lectured on Anglo-American civil law in the same context. In addition, Less has taught international law and international human rights at Schiller International University in Heidelberg. He obtained an undergraduate degree in history from Middlebury College in Vermont. After receiving a law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law in New Jersey, Less completed his doctorate at the University of Heidelberg with the support of a Max Planck Society fellowship. His comparative law doctoral thesis concerned involuntary commitment to psychiatric institutions in the United States and Germany. Less has also written articles on American and international law, including an extensive survey of American law on terrorism and, most recently, a case study on the international administration of Holocaust reparations.



Walther Kraft, M.A.

International Business Cultures (MAS)

Walther Kraft studied Philosophy, Literature, Political Science and Musical Sciences in Frankfurt am Main. His special scholarly interest is the interdisciplinary inquiry into the historical logic of conservative movements. He is also a specialist on European media marketing, global advertising and below-the-line communications. He has worked for more than 30 years in the communications business: as head of marketing at SAT.1, Germany's second biggest private TV network, as well as in some worldwide networks for marketing communications such as Ogilvy & Mather, EuroRSCG and Leo Burnett. Walther Kraft also consults international corporations and takes over the training of marketing departments in various subjects such as marketing effectiveness measurement, client profiling, customer relationship marketing, and brand campaigning. At the same time, he has long been active as a lecturer at several universities and colleges, including the University of Bucharest and the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin. From 1998 to 2005, he has been continuously teaching European Media Marketing and Global Below-The-Line Marketing as a visiting lecturer at the Johnson Graduate School of Management of the Cornell University in Ithaca/ New York. Since 2007 he teaches marketing as a fellow of the International University in Bruchsal and international business cultures as a lecturer at the HCA.

**Dr. Wilfried Mausbach**

History and Interdisciplinary Colloquium (MAS)

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach directed the interdisciplinary colloquium during the winter semester 2007/08. He moderates the same course in 2008/09. Biography see Research Staff and Research Fellows, p. 115.



Prof. Dietmar Schloss

Literaturer (MAS, Ph.D.)

Prof. Dietmar Schloss teaches American literature and culture at the English Department of the University of Heidelberg. He holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University (Evanston, IL.) and a postdoctoral degree (Habilitation) from the University of Heidelberg. As a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, he was a visiting scholar at the English and History Departments at Harvard University. He has published widely in the fields of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature and culture; his last book, *The Virtuous Republic* (2003), examines the political visions of American writers during the founding period of the United States. Recently he has edited 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; both will be published in 2009. 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

Academic Writing (MAS and Ph.D.)

Dr. Anja Schüler taught the course "Academic Writing" for both MAS and Ph.D. students during the winter and summer semester 2007/08. She teaches the same course again in 2008/09. Biography see Research Staff and Research Fellows, p. 116.



Dr. habil. Martin Thunert

Political Science (MAS and Interdisciplinary Seminar)

Dr. Martin Thunert taught the course "Government and Politics of the United States" during the winter semester 2007/08 and an interdisciplinary seminar "Domestic and international perceptions of the United States: political, social, economic and spatial perspectives" in the summer semester of 2008. He teaches the same course again in 2008/09. Biography see Research Staff and Research Fellows, p. 117.



Alexander Vazansky, M.A.

Methodology (MAS)

Alexander Vazansky studied History and American Literature at the Universities of Heidelberg and Miami University, Ohio. He received his Master of Arts from Miami University. He wrote his M.A. Thesis about "American Perceptions of Postwar Germany." He worked as a TA for the Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History. Furthermore, he was a Lecturer for German as a Foreign Language at the University of Heidelberg and Yale University. He just handed in his Ph.D. Thesis "An Army in Crisis: Social Conflicts in the United States Army, Europe and 7th Army, 1968-1975."



Prof. Alec Walen, Ph.D.

Law (MAS)

Alec Walen has a J.D. from Harvard Law School (1998) and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh (1993). He was recently a guest professor at the Institute for Philosophy at RWTH Aachen. He was a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Law. Before that he was an Associate Professor in the Division of Legal, Ethical, and Historical Studies at the University of Baltimore. He recently published "Unconstitutional Detention of Nonresident Aliens: Revisiting the Supreme Court's Treatment of the Law of War in Hamdi v. Rumsfeld" in the *Heidelberg Journal of International Law*. His general research interests are in constitutional law, and moral, political, and legal philosophy.



Winter Semester 2007/08

During the winter semester 2007/08, six lectures were offered as well as a methodology class and an interdisciplinary colloquium.

African -American Studies

“Introduction to African-American Studies”

Lecturer: Prof. Jeannette Eileen Jones, Ph.D.

Tutor: Robert Lee, M.A.

Against the backdrop of the early American primary season, the HCA offered its first “Introduction to African-American Studies” in the Winter Semester of 2007/08. The course, taught by Jeannette Jones, the HCA’s visiting Deutsche Bank Junior Scholar, was introduced on a reflective note, with a discussion of the origins of Black Studies and its efforts to establish its legitimacy within the university system.

The course met on Tuesday afternoons, followed by a discussion section for concentrators led by Robert Lee. Accounting for the spectrum of African American scholarship—and in essence reflecting the larger experience of students within the MAS program—the course had a decidedly interdisciplinary approach, drawing on both “traditional” and “newer” fields of study such as: history, political science, anthropology, literature, sociology, art history, music, religious studies, communications/media studies, sexuality studies, women’s studies, and hip-hop studies.

Each week highlighted an alternate methodological approach and set of problems. Topics ranged from the historiography of slavery, to Black feminism and literary criticism, to sociological

approaches to the study of the wealth gap and the aesthetics and economics of hip hop. Selections for readings came from both classic texts and acclaimed scholars like Robin D.G. Kelley and Michael Eric Dyson. Discussions on queer theory and cultural authenticity aimed at demonstrating the multiplicity of the African American experience proved particularly lively.

Politics came into consideration as well, and proved timely. Excerpts from *Race Rebels: Culture, Politics*, and the *Black Working Class and Barber-shops, Bibles, and BET: Everyday Talk and Black Political Thought* were considered not only from a theoretical perspective, but put into conversation with current voting patterns and diasporic perspectives culled from coverage of the primary election. Given the historic election of Barack Obama, the global reach and impact of issues related to the African-American experience has benefited from a higher profile, issues the “Introduction to African-American Studies” was designed to give its participants a basis to engage.

Business/Economics

“International Business Cultures”

Lecturer: Walther Kraft, M.A.

Tutor: Mischa Honeck, M.A.

With Walther Kraft, former head of marketing at SAT.1 and currently working as chief director of marketing communication at Ogilvy & Mather in Frankfurt, the HCA was able to recruit a member for its teaching staff who combines academic merit with far-reaching practical experience.

Proceeding along deductive lines, the lecture stressed that, in order to succeed in today's globalized economy, understanding different cultural expressions and forms of behavior has become indispensable. Corporations and companies around the world, according to Kraft, face ever-mounting challenges. Not only do they have to compete for the best brains, low production costs, cheap labor, and declining natural resources; they also need to immerse themselves at an increasing rate in the varying political, legal, and ethical norms of the societies in which they are doing business.

How does consumer behavior in France differ from that in the United States or China? What are the difficulties one is likely to encounter in the realms of international and transnational career planning and human resources management? Is there such a thing as "one international business culture" or do regional differences prevail? These and similar questions were largely discussed in a transatlantic framework and placed in a broad historical context that posited the rise of an old bourgeois business ethics and its demise in the face of current shareholder-value tenets.

Fourteen students majored in this course and wrote their term papers on a wide array of topics. Polina Sitkevich decided to write her M.A. thesis in the field of Business cultures writing on "Tourism Business and the Image of Place. Cultural and Heritage Tourism in Arizona, USA".

The accompanying tutorial was conducted by Mischa Honeck. The tutorial acquainted students with recent developments in the area of cultural studies and cultural theory, the contested meaning of terms such as Americanization, Westernization, and globalization. Moreover, it allowed students to further inquire into some of the lecture's key

concepts (power distance, high vs. low context communication, collectivism vs. individualism, masculinity vs. femininity).

History

"The History of North America from the Beginnings of European Expansion to the Present: Part IV: Global Giant – Multicultural Society: The United States from the End of the Second World War to the Present"

Lecturer: Professor Manfred Berg

Tutor: Anthony Santoro, M.A.

In the decades following the Second World War, the United States achieved unprecedented global power abroad and unprecedented levels of affluence at home. At the same time, American society underwent a series of sweeping changes, producing, for example, virtual revolutions in race relations and in the ethnic makeup of the population. New ideas about gender roles, sexual relations, right applications of political power, and privacy, to name but some of the most controversial issues, challenged dominant traditions and provoked a series of backlashes and culture wars. The liberal welfare state developed in the middle decades of the twentieth century increasingly came under attack by advocates of unfettered capitalism, as well as those who did not think the reforms radical enough.

From the end of the Second World War through the Cold War and into the War on Terror, Americans have debated, at times civilly, at times acrimoniously, how to utilize their immense military and economic power in international affairs, as well as how best to marshal political and economic power at home. This lecture course explored recent American history with these fundamental problems in mind. Focusing on such topics as the rise

of the Cold War, the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War and countercultural protest movements, and the rise of the Religious Right, this course provided a nuanced view of a complex and contradictory “postmodern” culture.

The accompanying tutorial provided students a forum within which to discuss and debate the issues raised in the lectures, as well as a venue within which to learn about the different approaches to historiography. Weekly reading assignments based on a combination of primary and secondary sources helped students refine what they learned from the lectures, and the weekly discussions provided an opportunity to ask specific questions related to the material, or to debate the historical documents in detail. The discussions were quite lively, with certain topics, such as Reaganomics, Star Wars/SDI, the 1960s student protests and the Clinton presidency provoking particular interest. The discussion also made use of recent films depicting topics under consideration, such as *Thirteen Days*, in order to discuss not only the historical events themselves, but also the way they are remembered and popularly depicted.

The diversity of the students’ backgrounds added to the depth of the discussions, while the differences in perspectives and approaches ensured that some of the discussions were collegially contentious and thus highly productive.

Law

“U.S. Constitutional Law”

Lecturer: Alec Walen, J.D., Ph.D.

This year’s course focused on the two main features of the U.S. Constitution: (1) the allocation of powers to different parts of the government, and (2) individual rights and liberties. In both areas the analysis was guided by four research questions.

What does the text of the Constitution state? What was the historical context in which that text was adopted? What is the case law interpreting that text? What moral and political issues are addressed by and implicated by that text? In this instance the tutorial was taught by Prof. Walen himself. The main purpose of the tutorial was to expand on the discussions of the lecture.

The specific topics covered were (1) Judicial Review (Article III); (2) Congress and its powers (Article I); (3) Executive power and shared power (Article II); (4) Checking of powers, federalism and state powers (Articles IV & VI); (5) Overview of the rights protected by Amendments to the Constitution; (6) 14th Amendment: Due Process; (7) 14th Amendment: Substantive Rights; (8) 14th Amendment: Equal Protection; (9) 1st Amendment: Freedom of expression; (10) 1st Amendment: Religion; (11) Criminal law: Process (4th – 6th Amendments); (12) Criminal law: Punishment (8th Amendment); (13) Constitutional Rights for Aliens.

The readings for the course included texts from *The U.S. Constitution: And Fascinating Facts About It* with Supplemental text by Terry L. Jordan, *Constitution Law in a Nutshell* by Jerome A. Barron and C. Thomas Dienes, *American Constitutional Law: An Overview, Analysis, and Integration* by William A. Kaplin, and *Constitutional Law: Cases – Comments – Questions* by Jesse H. Choper, Richard H. Fallon, Yale Kamisar, and Steven H. Shiffrin. Eight students decided to major in Law. All eight students of course were required to turn in research papers at the end of the term. A particularly noteworthy effort was turned in by Melanie Gish. She wrote her paper on the 2nd Amendment gun-control case, and did a sophisticated job, predicting accurately what the Supreme Court would hold a few months later, and providing good reasons in favor of that decision.

Literature

“American Modernism”

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

Tutor: Raluca-Lucia Cimpean, M.A.

The lecture course offered a panoramic description of American literary modernism. It opened with a discussion of key concepts such as “modern,” “modernity,” “modernist” and “modernism,” which served as a theoretical background for an analysis of major works from the American canon. The first section of the lecture focused on the so-called ‘expatriates,’ Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot and H.D., and their aesthetic beliefs, with particular emphasis on ‘tradition’ and the individual artist’s relation with it. The second part of the lecture dealt with the ‘nativist’ school of American poetry, Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams and Wallace Stevens, and their anti-traditionalist orientation. Thirdly, we tackled three seminal novels, *The Sun Also Rises*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Sound and the Fury*, and stressed their authors’ contributions to a new understanding of the notion of ‘mimesis.’ Last but not least, an overview of postmodernism was provided toward the end of the class.

The tutorial gave the students the opportunity to express their own thoughts and opinions and engage in debates. In addition to revising the lecture, the tutorial attempted to offer the students a theoretical framework for the particular works discussed by Prof. Schloss. Henry James’ short story *The Figure in the Carpet* and Harold Bloom’s essay “The Anxiety of Influence” helped clarify such terms as ‘tradition,’ ‘innovation,’ ‘objective correlative,’ ‘palimpsest literature,’ and ‘imagism.’ The ‘nativist’ poets’ section was prefaced by two influential essays, *Self-Reliance* and *The Poet* by Ralph Waldo Emerson. Excerpts from Wolfgang Iser’s and Umberto Eco’s theoretical writings articulate the interpretation of the three novels. The

movie *Modigliani* was shown as an illustration of the artistic community in Paris in the 1920s and as an example of the dialogue between a modernist and postmodernist work of fiction, respectively.

Methodology

Lecturer: Alexander Vazansky, M.A.

Since the central goal of the methodology class remains the same every year changes to the curriculum were minor. During the winter semester the methodology class provided students with an intense learning experience. The course met twice a week and students were required to read two to three essays in preparation for the different sessions. Methodology differs from other classes offered in the program during the winter semester in that it is not concerned with any particular aspect of American culture, such as history, religion or law. Instead, the course looks at American Studies as a discipline. What issues and questions inform the development of and the current debates in this field? What are the methods and skills students need to employ? During the course of the semester students read and analyzed not only articles on the origin, history, theory, and methods of American Studies, but also texts on the problems of academic writing.

From its inception in the mid-twentieth century American Studies has been a very introspective discipline. In order to discover “What’s American about America?”, as the title to John Kouwenhoven famous 1956 essay implies, the field was conceived as an interdisciplinary effort that combined disciplines such as history, literature, and sociology to analyze and describe American culture. Because of its interdisciplinary nature American Studies scholars struggled with the question whether American Studies could or should

develop its own original methodology. From Henry Nash Smith's "Can American Studies Develop a Method," to Gene Wise's "Paradigm Dramas in American Studies: A Cultural and Institutional History of the Movement," scholars debated theories and methods underlying the discipline. These debates gained even more facets when Women's and Gender Studies, as well as Minority Studies challenged previous assumptions about a coherent and unified American culture. Articles such as Nina Baym's "Melodramas of Beset Manhood: How Theories of American Fiction Exclude Women Authors" or Linda K. Kerber's "Diversity and the Transformation of American Studies" added new perspectives and approaches to the field. Collections such as Donald E. Pease's and Robyn Wiegman's *The Futures of American Studies* written over half a century after its beginnings show that viewpoints on theory and methods in American Studies have become ever more diverse. Globalization and the importance of United States culture for this process have forced scholars to acknowledge the importance of an international perspective on the field. Therefore one of the more recent trends in the scholarship has been calls for internationalizing the field. In this many of the most influential scholars have interpreted such a move as an act of opposition to the current U.S. government's unilateralism in international relations. The question over coherence versus diversity provided the guiding framework of most of the discussions. These readings and discussions in the Methodology course provided students with an introduction into the field and suggested perspectives and questions they needed to consider when conducting their own research.

Next to the more theoretical discussions on the development of the field the course was also concerned with more practical aspects of academic writing. Students were made aware of the choices they needed to make in writing their own texts.

Who were they addressing? What did they want to convey? What stylistic and vocabulary choices did they need to make? Several sessions were devoted discussing and reviewing the students' own writing. The class read excerpts from their colleagues' essays correcting mistakes and suggesting how the writing could be improved. For the student being reviewed this was of course often a painful but ultimately beneficial process.

Political Science

"Government and Politics of the United States"

Lecturer: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert

Tutor: Anne Lübbers, M.A.

The course "Government and Politics of the United States" taught American politics and government in a way that went beyond, but did not ignore the basics. The first goal was to introduce students to the fundamental principles of American politics and government. The second goal was to help students discern the logic or rationale embedded in the complex array of American political institutions and practices we can observe today. A third goal was to introduce students to different theoretical approaches to the study of American politics - especially "new institutionalism," "rational choice" and "elite theory."

We started by briefly exploring the foundations of American government in the Constitution and the country's unique cultural traditions. We then looked at the diverse and changing American electorate; analyzed the role of parties, interest groups, lobbyists, consultants and the media and the way in which average citizens participate in the political process. Thereafter, we explored the different institutions that make up the government in Washington, D.C.: Congress, the president, the bureaucracy, and the courts. The fourth segment of

the course looked at policy-making, mainly at foreign and defence policy. In January the class visited the U.S. consulate in Frankfurt and gained a fascinating insight on the U.S. electoral campaign (details see page 65)

The accompanying tutorial held by Anne Lübbers, M.A., served as a forum for informed debate and discussion. It also provided room for discussions that could not be thoroughly dealt with in the lecture. The tutorial looked at selected issues, debates and controversies in American politics, such as the role of the "Israel lobby," the function, significance, and influence of the parties, and the declining trust in political institutions in the U.S. The students' participation in the tutorial included a 15 min presentation in which most of the students decided to present their research papers. Accordingly, the class covered a wide range of research topics, such as "The Role of the Religion in the U.S. Presidential Campaign", "The US President as Popular Leader", "The Role of Congress", "The Politics of Interest Representation" and "Should the U.S. Supreme Court Be Given the Power to Solve Political Issues?" Especially interesting were the diverse perspectives on US foreign policy provided by the students analyzing the relations between the United States and their respective home countries, such as Turkey, China, Taiwan, Senegal, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

The tutorial was attended by almost all the students of the MAS class of 2008, sixteen all together. Six of them chose to write their M.A. thesis in the field of Political Science: Shenggu Chen: "America's Basic Policy Framework on Taiwan after the Cold War"; Melanie Gish: "Caring for Creation: How Evangelicals Contribute to Save the Planet (and the Environmental Movement)"; Juste Šimelyte: "Cultural Globalization: 'Made in the USA' or 'Made in Europe'"; Wan-Lin Tsai: "The

U.S.-Taiwan Political Relations with a Focus on the Time Period of 1979-2008"; Le Yu: "Tofu in the Hot Pot: The Political Participation and Acculturation of Chinese Americans"; and Yinyin Zhang: "From Containment to Compromises: Transatlantic Foreign Policy Towards China after the Cold War".

MAS Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Directed by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

After a general introduction to the course, Dorothea Fischer-Hornung from Heidelberg University's English Department provided the students with an overview of the historical development of the field of American Studies as it has progressed from the notion of American Exceptionalism and the first American Studies programs in the 1930s to the New Criticism of the 1950s and on to more recent postmodern approaches that particularly privilege ethnic and minority studies. In week 2, Christian Maul, a graduate of the MAS Class of 2007, presented the findings of his M.A. thesis on "Henry David Thoreau's Individualism." The following week, the class undertook a field trip to Heidelberg's German-American Institute (DAI) to discuss the work of "American Cultural Centers in Germany" with DAI director Jakob J. Köllhofer. Week 4 held a particular highlight in store with Harvard University's Akira Iriye's keynote address on "Protest Movements, Global Transformations, and World Orders Since the 1960s." No less fascinating, however, was the following week's presentation by one of Heidelberg's own, namely Simon Wendt, Assistant Professor of American History, who shared his research on "Violence and Black Manhood in the Civil Rights Movement" with MAS students. Another field trip took the class to a company owned by one of the HCA's major benefactors. The Rudolf-Wild-Werke in Eppelheim near Heidelberg is the world's lead-

ing manufacturer of natural flavor ingredients for the food and beverage industry. Its most popular product is Capri Sun, which is produced in 18 countries and continues to be the No. 1 children's drink, enjoyed around the world. Back in the classroom for the last presentation before the break for the holidays, Michael Butter (Bonn University) introduced students to representations of "Hitler in American Fiction, 1939-2002." After the holiday recess, HCA Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach offered a comparison of "European Reactions to the American Wars in Vietnam and Iraq," and HCA benefactor Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan (Deutsche Bank Group) explained why the recent trouble with subprime mortgages in the United States had the potential for a much larger financial crisis—a very accurate prediction, as it turned out.

Summer Semester 2008

Two interdisciplinary seminars were offered during the summer semester. The methodology class and the interdisciplinary colloquium continued from the winter term.

Interdisciplinary Seminar I

"Domestic and international perceptions of the United States: political, social, economic and spatial perspectives"

Lecturer: Dr. Jana Freihöfer (Geography)

Lecturer: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert (Polit. Science)

Since its founding more than 300 years ago, the United States of America has gained global pre-eminence in terms of political, military and economic power as well as cultural influence. Not surprisingly, no other nation has (had) such a powerful impact on the imagination of people throughout the world. This seminar aimed to analyze how the United States – its space and regions, its society,

culture and economy, as well as its politics and foreign policy – have been perceived both from a domestic and from an international perspective. Applying approaches from political and social science, geography and cultural studies, this interdisciplinary seminar focused on the evolution of images of the USA over time and space.

Interdisciplinary Seminar II

"Historical Perspectives on Human Rights & Globalization"

Lecturer: Prof. Elizabeth Borgwardt, Ph.D. (History, Law)

This course offered students historical perspectives on the modern international human rights regime, using materials drawn from diplomatic, legal, political, and cultural studies. Readings for the course included Lynn Hunt's *Inventing Human Rights: A History*, Rhonda Calloway's and Julie Harrison-Stephens' *Exploring International Human Rights: Essential Readings* and Paul Lauren's *The Evolution of International Human Rights: Visions Seen*. Among the issues discussed were non-Western perspectives in international human rights, legal perspectives on international human rights; war, atrocities against civilians, and international humanitarian law; human rights from the perspective of international institutions, as well as activists and non-governmental organizations. Successful completion of this course involved designing, researching, and writing a 2000-word book analysis focusing on a historically-oriented, human-rights-related topic of a student's choice. Three students decided to write their thesis with Prof. Borgwardt. Cassie Zhang wrote her thesis on "The Supreme Court As a Coequal Branch of Government: The Justices, Decisions, And Legacies of the Warren Court, 1953-1969." Esen Momunkulov wrote about "Fethullah Gülen vs. Samuel P. Hun-

tington: Shall Dialogue Prevail over Conflict." Alicia Talbot wrote on "A Historical Analysis of the Evolution of Organizations of American States and U.S. Influence."

Methodology

Lecturer: Alexander Vazansky, M.A.

This class offered students practice in writing several types of texts and evaluating the writing of others. It employed the „process approach,“ used widely and successfully for a number of years in college writing courses in the United States, Britain, and other English speaking countries. The basic concept of this approach is that good writers go through a number of processes while composing a text before they produce their final product. The main underlying principles of this approach and this class are that writing is a recursive process, that it helps to share one’s writing with others and that a good writer is critical of his or her work.

In class, students went through the process of planning, drafting, editing, and proofreading. The format of the seminar consisted of individual work as well as whole-class and small-group discussions. In particular, work for this class revolved around conceptualizing, researching and drafting the M.A. thesis. Grammar problems and writing style were also addressed. Students shared their writings as well as their opinion of the writings of others, students and non-students and were encouraged to discuss any questions related to the academic writing process in class. At the end of the semester, all students participated in a number of peer review sessions that helped them to evaluate their own writing and the writing of others. This did not only improve individual drafts, but also enabled students to comment constructively on

the writing of others, an indispensable but often underdeveloped skill for an academic career.

MAS Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Directed by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

The major focus of the Interdisciplinary Colloquium during the summer was—as always—the presentation of the students’ thesis outlines, this time taking place on June 19-20. In addition, Edward J. Eberle of Roger Williams University, Bristol/USA, returned to the HCA to discuss different perspectives on religious freedom with MAS students. Finally, the class had the opportunity to listen to Dana D. Nelson (Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English, Vanderbilt University) who spoke about “Democracy – Presidentialism – War” on the occasion of the opening of the 55th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies.

Outlook on the MAS Course Outline 2008/09

Business/Economics

“International Business Culture”

Lecturer: Walther Kraft, M.A.

Tutor: Karsten Senkbeil, M.A.

International Business Culture is a course intended to increase student’s awareness of various business cultures all over the world. Special aspects will be the knowledge of differences between: the cultural implications of American business life and the business cultures of the main regions American corporations and companies are dealing with.

Objectives:

- to define the influences on a nation’s business culture
- to find out how much business relations are depending on basic cultural conditions in regions and nations
- to explain how these conditions bias or affect business relations
- to describe how cultural conditions influence corporate cultures, business activities and consumer behavior all over the world.
- introduction into culture related business skills in corporate communication, marketing communication, public relations, human resources management and sales.

History

“Reluctant Empire? U.S. Foreign Relations in the 20th Century”

Lecturer: Prof. Manfred Berg

Tutor: Anja Milde, M.A.

On the eve of the 20th century the United States emerged as a major player in world politics. A century later, America prides itself of being the sole remaining superpower. Surprisingly, Americans

continue to debate whether their country actually is or should be an empire. And if so, what kind of empire? A traditional empire driven by the quest for power and domination? A liberal empire committed to spreading freedom and democracy? An informal empire predicated on economic penetration and cultural attraction? Has the United States actively sought world hegemony or has it only reluctantly taken up the burdens of empire? This lecture course will attempt to provide an overview of America’s rise to world power in the 20th century. In addition to providing an outline of major developments and events, it will discuss the traditions, ideologies, and key interests that have shaped America’s interactions with the rest of the world. It will also introduce students to the most important historiographical approaches in interpreting U.S. foreign relations.

Law

“Introduction to American Constitutional Law”

Lecturer: Dr. Steven Less

Tutor: John Dingfelder Stone

The oldest written national constitution in the world – presently almost 220 years old – has been amended only 27 times. It owes its enduring relevance to continued interpretation – by the courts, by the federal government and state governments, by local governments, by administrative agencies, by the media and by private individuals. There is no clash of interests or values in American society which does not lend itself to formulation in constitutional terms. Constitutional law provides a fertile context for analysis and practical resolution of these conflicts, as well as for further consideration with respect to the requirements of justice. This survey course aims at exposing students to American constitutional law’s history, structure, processes, major principles and concepts, ana-

lytical methods and interpretive approaches. The intention is to provide the basis for an „integrated understanding“ of the American constitutional system, while introducing the main substantive areas of US constitutional law: Federal court jurisdiction and judicial review; executive power and the separation of powers; congressional power and federalism; equal protection and affirmative action; substantive due process and privacy; free speech; and freedom of religion. Students will be assigned reading from the course textbook (Kaplin) as well as excerpts of court opinions which they are expected to be able to discuss actively during the lecture classes. A weekly tutorial will provide an opportunity for closer examination and more thorough discussion of the cases and issues mentioned during the lectures.

Literature

“Visions of America: Nineteenth Century”

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

Tutor: Raluca-Lucia Cimpean, M.A.

America has never been just a geographical place; rather, it has also always been a focal point of visions and dreams. This is the second part of a three-semester lecture course examining the changing conceptions of America from the seventeenth century to the present. Based on close readings of selected literary and expository texts, the lectures will try to assess the various idealistic conceptions of America and the United States and their social, political, and cultural functions. Critics have given different reasons for the persistence of these idealisms: Some consider them ideologies (in the Marxist sense) masking self-interested economic practices. Others perceive them as instruments of modern nationalism; as these visions draw their readers into an imaginary identification with the nation state, they perform ‘cultural work’.

Still others view these idealistic visions as the outgrowth of a deep human need.

This semester we will be concerned with conceptualizations of America from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Among the works to be analyzed are James Fenimore Cooper’s *The Pioneers* (1823), Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “The American Scholar” (1837) and “Self-Reliance” (1841), Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* (1850), Frederick Douglass’s *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845), Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1861/62), William Dean Howells’s *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885), and F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *The Great Gatsby* (1925).

Methodology I

Introduction to American Studies

Lecturer: Alex Vazansky, M.A.

The methodology class will undergo some changes during the winter semester 2008/09. In preparation for the switch from a two to a three semester program the methodology class will be divided into an “Introduction to American Studies” and an “Academic Writing” section. The “Introduction to American Studies” will take place once a week. Students will be required to read two to three essays in preparation for the different sessions. The readings will cover the same debates and developments as in the methodology course of previous years.

Methodology II

Academic Writing

Lecturer: Dr. Anja Schöler

This course offers students practice in concep-

tualizing and writing their terms papers (and eventually their M.A. thesis) as well as in evaluating several types of English texts. Following the „process approach,“ students explore the process of planning, drafting, editing, and proofreading their texts. They are expected to share their writings as well as their opinion of the writings of others, students and non-students. The format of the seminar consists of individual work as well as both whole-class and small-group discussions. At the end of the semester, students should be ready to start conceptualizing, researching and drafting their M.A. theses. They will then also participate in a peer review workshop to help them evaluate their writing. Students will exchange drafts of term papers and consider the topics, the theses, structure, paragraph construction, evidence, and sentences and practice how to comment constructively on the writing of others.

Political Science

“Government and Politics of the United States”

Lecturer: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert

Tutor: Florian Pressler, M.A.

This course attempts to teach American politics and government in a way that goes beyond the basics, but without ignoring the basics. The first goal is to introduce students to the fundamental principles of American politics and government. The second goal is to help students discern the logic or rationale embedded in the complex array of American political institutions and practices we can observe today. A third goal is to introduce students to different theoretical approaches to the study of American politics - especially “new institutionalism”, “rational choice” and “elite theory”.

We will start by briefly exploring the foundations of American government in the Constitution and

the country’s unique cultural traditions. We will then look at the diverse and changing American electorate, analyze the role of parties, interest groups, lobbyist, consultants and the media and the way in which average citizens participate in the political process. Thereafter, we will explore the different institutions that make up the government in Washington, DC: the Congress, the president, the bureaucracy, and the courts. The forth segment of the course will look at policy-making in the two key areas: economic and social policy as well as foreign and defense policy. Finally, we will evaluate the larger context of American politics in the world by asking whether we are entering a post-American era. This course will be taught as a lecture class with opportunities for questions and answers at the end of each session.

Religious Studies

“Religion and the Founding of the United States: Contests Then and Now over the Place of Religion in American Politics”

Lecturer: Prof. Kirsten Fischer, Ph.D.

A heated debate rages in the U.S. today about the proper role of religion in American politics. After the 2004 presidential election in which, as victorious Republicans claimed, “values won,” many liberals wonder whether and how to use a language of religion in the public sphere. Their answer, in part, was to begin the Democratic National Convention in August 2008 with its first-ever “Interfaith Gathering.” In arguing about the appropriate relationship of church and state, contenders on all sides frequently reference the writers (or framers) of the U.S. Constitution, known as the “Founding Fathers,” to support their claims. Some see these men as devout Christians intent on establishing a Christian Nation. Others see secularists focused on separating church and state. All sides use direct

quotes to make their case.

What religious beliefs did the “Founding Fathers” of the United States have, and how and why should this matter in America today? This Master’s level seminar explores how leading political figures wrote about religion during and after the framing of the U.S. Constitution. The course also investigates historical and contemporary debates over the proper role of religion in American politics. In this course we will:

- Investigate “deism” and Enlightenment-era discussions and disagreements about “rational religion”
- Explore the beliefs of prominent figures such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, John Adams, and James Madison
- Discuss scholarly arguments about the “wall of separation between church and state,” and the framers’ “Original Intent” for the Constitution’s first Amendment
- Examine the modern-day claims of scholars, think-tank pundits, and a Supreme Court justice weighing in on the debate
- Analyze the relationships between religious beliefs, political convictions, and histories of religion. This course is as much about the modern-day uses and abuses of history as it is about religion in the 18th century.

MAS Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Directed by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

For the Class of 2009, the Interdisciplinary Colloquium will kick off with a talk by David B. Oppenheimer (Golden Gate University School of Law, San Francisco) on “Affirmative Action in the United States.” Then, Dorothea Fischer-Hornung (English Department, Heidelberg University) will ask “What

is/are American Studies?” Afterwards, the imminent U.S. presidential elections will dominate the colloquium with journalist Katja Gelinsky talking about “Obama v. McCain – A Historic Decision?” Stefan Prystawik (Republicans Abroad) and John McQueen (Democrats Abroad) will outline the candidates’ major policy stands. Finally, Michael Pfau (University of San Diego) will analyze “Elections California Style: Parties, Propositions, and Presidents.”

However, not all of the classes will be taken up by the elections. Hans von Sponeck, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations and former UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, will provide his assessment of the past, present and future of that country. David Abraham, formerly with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and now a Bundeskanzler Fellow with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation will explain “The Current Financial Crisis and the Role of the U.S. Government” – an event that will be moderated by the Deutsche Bank’s Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan. Leora Auslander (Department of History, University of Chicago, and Berthold Leibinger Fellow, American Academy in Berlin) will offer her perspective on “American Exceptionalism? Politics and Material Culture in Colonial and Revolutionary America,” and Ulrike Gerhard (Department of Geography, Heidelberg University, Justus-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg) is going to address “Urban Development in a Political World City: The Case of Washington, D.C.” Finally, Pablo Dominguez of the newly established Transcultural Studies Research Group at Heidelberg University will explore the relationship between “German Nationalism, Gender, and American Popular Culture.” A field trip to Reutax Corp., owned by HCA benefactor Soheyl Ghaemian, will complete the program of the colloquium during the winter term.

Shenggu Chen

(China)

Shenggu, originally from Hainan Province, where he was born in 1985, moved on to Beijing to study English Literature and Culture at Beijing Jiaotong University. He was working as translator and language tutor before coming to the MAS. In Heidelberg he chose Political Science, International Business Cultures and Law as his majors and wrote his M.A. thesis on "America's Basic Policy Framework on Taiwan after the Cold War".



Arzu Isik Ellialtioglu

(Turkey)

Born in Ankara in 1983, Arzu studied International Relations at Bilkent University, where she received her B.A. in International Relations in 2007. After having spent one year on an exchange program in Frankfurt a.M., she decided to return to Germany to join the MAS program in Heidelberg. To broaden her horizon she chose Law, International Business Cultures and Political Science as her majors, writing her thesis about "Turkish-American Relations and the Iraq War 2003".



Melanie Gish

(Germany)

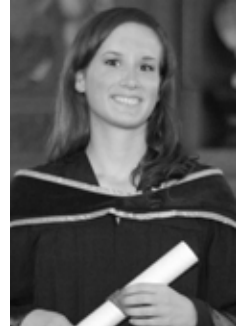
Born in Sinsheim in 1976, Melanie received her B.A. in German from the University of Mannheim in 2003. She continued her education at the University of Waterloo (Canada) where she graduated in 2004 with an M.A. in German with a focus on Cultural and Film Studies. Melanie first worked as a research assistant and then joined the Denver Public Library as Education Program Assistant before enrolling in the MAS. In Heidelberg she chose Political Science, Law and International Business Cultures as her majors and wrote her M.A. thesis on "Caring for Creation: How Evangelicals Contribute to Save the Planet (and the Environmental Movement)". Graduating at the top of her class, Melanie delivered the valedictory address at the commencement ceremony. She is now enrolled in the HCA's Ph.D. program, where she is the recipient of the Curt Engelhorn scholarship.



Gretchen Greywall

(USA)

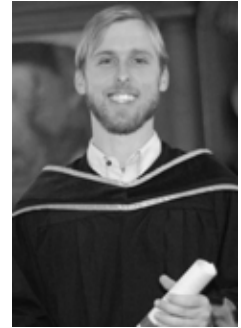
Originally from New Jersey, where she was born in 1985, Gretchen went to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, to receive her B.A. majoring in Political Science with a minor in German. Gretchen worked for Green Mountain Munchies and Camp Danbee before joining the MAS. In Heidelberg she chose African American Studies, International Business Cultures and Political Science as her majors. She wrote her M.A. thesis on "American Cookie Cuts: A Look at the Stagnant Role and the Traditional Image of the American First Lady".



Giles Daniel Harber

(USA)

Born in 1978, in Kansas City, Missouri, Dan graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.A. in Modern Western European History. Before joining the MAS, he has traveled independently throughout various parts of the world. To broaden his horizon he took African American Studies, History and International Business Cultures as his majors. As a topic for his M.A. thesis he chose " 'Ho! For Kansas!': The Sunflower State in American History, Myths, and Memory". After the MAS, Dan decided to stay in Germany and is now living in Marburg.



Kamila Janiszewska

(Poland)

Kamila, born in 1984, studied at the University of Vienna and Uniwersytet IM. Adama Mickiewicza (Poznan) where she graduated in 2006 with a B.A. in English. Before joining the MAS, Kamila was trained as an English teacher. In Heidelberg she majored in Literature, African American Studies and International Business Cultures, writing her M.A. thesis on "Black Feminism in the Blogosphere: Identity, Inspiration, Dialog". Graduating as one of the best in her class, she is now pursuing a Ph.D. in Literature at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.



Gulchekhra Abutalibovna Makhkambaeva

(Uzbekistan)

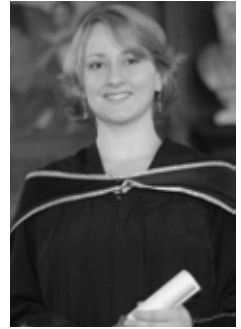
Gulchekhra was born in Termez, Uzbekistan, in 1968. She studied at Tashkent State University where she focused on languages and pedagogy. Previous to the MAS, Gulchekhra worked as a teacher at the Tashkent International School. At the MAS program she chose African American Studies, International Business Cultures and Political Science as her majors and wrote her M.A. thesis on "From Timbuktu to the American Metropolis: The African American Muslim Experience, from 1625 to 2007, A Literature Review."



Anja Milde

(Germany)

Anja was born in Weimar, Germany, in 1980. She received her B.A. in linguistics and communication sciences at Erfurt University in 2003. Since fall 2003 she has been a student at the University of Heidelberg, majoring in history and art history. Before joining the MAS, she spent a year at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. At the HCA Anja chose History, Law and Political Science as her majors. With her M.A. thesis titled "We know we are the same, no different than anyone else: Gay Rights Activism in the United States between World War II and Stone Wall" she qualified for the HCA Ph.D. program where she is now writing her Ph.D. in history.



Esen Momunkulov

(Kyrgyzstan)

Born in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, in 1978, Esen went to American University in Central Asia to study Political Science. In 1999, he spent a year at the University of Washington in Seattle as an exchange student. Coming back to Kyrgyzstan, he finished his studies at Osh State University. After his studies he has worked for non-governmental and international organizations and an American company that provides linguistic services for United States Air Force bases in Kyrgyzstan. For the MAS he chose History, Law, and Political Science as his majors and graduated with an M.A. thesis on "Fethullah Gülen vs. Samuel P. Huntington: Shall Dialogue Prevail over Conflict".



Joanna Peplinska

(Poland)

Joanna was born in Gdynia in 1982. She studied English Philology at Jagellonian University where she graduated in 2006. Before coming to the MAS, Joanna worked as a teacher in Krakow. In Heidelberg she chose History, Literature and Political Science as her majors. With her M.A. thesis "Protest and Prayer: The American Catholic Church and the African American Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s" Joanna graduated as one of the best of her class. She is now teaching again at a Polish university.



Juste Šimelyte

(Lithuania)

Juste was born in Lithuania in 1983. In June 2007 she received her degree from the Law Faculty at Vilnius University. Previous to the MAS, Juste worked as a legal consultant in the Vilnius University Law Clinic where she offered pro bono legal advice. In the MAS program she majored in Law, International Business Cultures, and Political Science, writing her M.A. thesis on "Cultural Globalization: 'Made in the USA' or 'Made in Europe'". Now she is writing her Ph.D. thesis at the HCA, receiving scholarship from the Landesgraduiertenförderung.



Polina Sitkevich

(Russia)

Polina, born in 1985, studied at the University of New Mexico and graduated in 2007 from St. Petersburg Herzen Pedagogical University with a specialization in English. She is a trained fitness instructor and worked in this capacity before joining the MAS. To broaden her horizon she chose History, International Business Cultures and Political Science as her majors. She decided to write her M.A. thesis on "The Tourism Business and the Image of Place".



Hamadou Sow

(Senegal)

Born in 1977 in Thiés, Senegal, Hamadou graduated with an M.A. degree in humanities from Cheikh Anta University of Dakar. Before studying at the HCA, Hamadou had been an exchange student at the University of Heidelberg. In the MAS program he chose African American Studies, International Business Cultures and Political Science as his majors, and wrote his M.A. thesis on "When American Democracy Faces Islam: American Muslims Building Bridges Between Citizenship and Faith".



Alicia Christine Talbot

(USA)

Alicia Talbot was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. She grew up going to schools in both France and in the United States. She attended several universities including one in Oviedo, Spain. She graduated in 2007, with a B.A in history with a minor in anthropology from Michigan State University. During her study, she volunteered at a Respiratory Camp hosted by the University of Michigan's Mott's Children's Hospital, and has done volunteer projects for Volunteers for Peace in Spain and Italy. In Heidelberg she majored in Law, International Business Cultures, and Political Science, writing her thesis on "A Historical Analysis of the Evolution of the Organization of American States and U.S. Influence".



Annie Wan-Lin Tsai

(Taiwan)

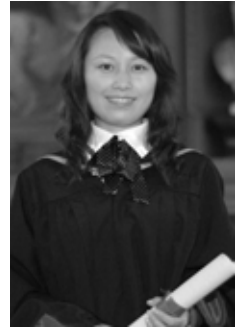
Born in Taiwan in 1984, Annie received her B.A. from the National Yunlin University of Science and Technology in 2007 where she was a member of the Buddhist Club, the Flute Club and a Volunteer at the Yunlin International Puppet Festival 2006. In Heidelberg she decided to focus on International Business Cultures, Political Science, and African American Studies. She wrote her M.A. thesis on "The U.S.-Taiwan Political Relations with a Focus on the Time Period of 1979-2008".



Emma Le Yu

(China)

Emma was born in Xuyi (Jiangsu Province) in 1983. She graduated from the University of Science and Technology of Suzhou in 2005 and moved on to work in Shenzhen before joining the MAS. In Heidelberg Emma majored in Law, International Business Cultures and Political Science. Combining her original background with the new field of study she wrote her M.A. thesis on "Tofu in the Hot Pot: The Political Participation and Acculturation of Chinese Americans".



Cassie Lin Zhang

(China)

Cassie Zhang Lin was born in Fuyang (Anhui Province) in 1982. In 2005 she received her B.A. in English from Shandong University. Before joining the MAS, Cassie worked as a trainer for ReSource Pro (Qingdao), developing and delivering training on American Insurance Knowledge. Cassie is interested in enhancing cross-cultural communication and she holds an official Qualification Certificate of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. In Heidelberg she chose to major in African American Studies, Law, and International Business Cultures, writing her M.A. thesis on "The Supreme Court as a Co-equal Branch of Government: The Justices, Decisions, and Legacies of the Warren Court, 1953-1969".



Iris Yinyin Zhang

(China)

Yinyin was born in Tianjin (a city nearby Beijing) in 1985. In 2007 she received her B.A. from Beijing International Studies University (The Second Foreign Language University Beijing). She majored in Chinese Language and Literature. During her study she worked as a teacher in the MEA Language Center and served as an interpreter and a coordinator in varied types of international cultural and political activities. In Heidelberg she focused mainly on Law, International Business Cultures, and Political Science, and wrote the M.A. thesis on "From Containment to Compromises: Transatlantic Foreign Policy Towards China after the Cold War."



Outlook on the MAS Class of 2009

Sarah Alexander (UK)

Sarah was born in London in 1984 and grew up in the South East of the United Kingdom. She has a B.A. in American Studies (History) from the University of Kent in Canterbury and also spent a year at Purdue University in the U.S. as a part of her undergraduate studies. Sarah was an intern at the Benjamin Franklin House in London and likes to pursue a career in the heritage sector after her studies.

Thi Diem Ngoc Dao (Vietnam)

Thi Diem Ngoc, born in 1984, graduated from the College of Foreign Languages, Vietnam National University with a B.A. degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) in 2006. Since then, she has been working as a lecturer of English at this college. Apart from teaching English, she also worked as an interpreter for short-term projects and a collaborator and translator for a publishing house in Hanoi.

Jordan Dubin (USA)

Jordan was born in Arizona in 1985. He grew up in the Phoenix metropolitan areas of Chandler and Cave Creek. After graduating from high school, he attended the University of Arizona in Tucson and graduated in May of 2008 with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in Philosophy.

Yulia Egorova (Russia)

Yulia, born in 1986, grew up in Yaroslavl, Russia. She graduated from high school in 2003 with a silver medal and entered two Universities: Yaroslavl State Teacher Training University, with the majors in English, German and Education and International University of Business and New Technologies with a Finance major. She finished both Universities this year with Specialist Diplomas with honors.

Yulia also worked with the charitable organization Cross-Cultural Solutions as a translator.

Marianne Fleurimont (USA)

Marianne was born in 1981 in Shanghai, China, grew up in Ithaca, NY and studied Architecture, History, French, and International Communications Management. Marianne spent the last 7 years in Europe, first in Strasbourg and then in Neckarsteinach. She has received her B.A. in International Communication Management from the International University in Bruchsal. Last year she completed a six-month internship at Lufthansa Cargo's marketing communications department at Frankfurt Airport.

Nastasja Gerlach (Germany)

Nastasja was born in Limburg/ Lahn in 1985, from where she moved to Bruchsal to pursue a B.A. in International Communication Management. Before she came to join the MAS Class 2009, Nastasja spent five months as an exchange student in Singapore at the Nanyang Technological University and worked for the Heidelberg software company zetVisions AG.

Stephanie Johnson (USA)

Born in 1987, in Indianapolis, Stephanie graduated from secondary school early, and at age 15 she entered Indiana University where she graduated with a B.A. in English. After spending the summers of 2006 and 2007 studying Hebrew at Haifa University, Stephanie returned to Indianapolis and interned at the State Treasurer's Office.

Balazs Kantor (Hungary)

Balazs was born in 1983, and studied at Trinity College in Hartford, CT and at the University of Budapest (Eötvös Loránd University) where he finished his dual M.A. in English and American Studies in 2008. Before joining the MAS, he worked as

an English teacher and an intern/lecturer at the University of Budapest. In his free time, he is also an aspiring journalist.

Carrie Khou (Germany)

Carrie was born in Hamburg in 1983, and received her B.A. in American and British Studies from the University of Mannheim in 2006. Afterwards she continued her education abroad at the University of Massachusetts, Boston and studied Media Studies, Spanish and American Studies. Back in Germany she pursued experience on the job at BASF SE and ABB AG before joining the American Studies program at the HCA.

Melanie Lewis (USA/ Germany)

Born to a German mother and an American father in the southern U.S. state of Georgia in 1986, Melanie was raised in a small town in southwest Germany. In 2000, she returned with her family to America where she lived and studied in Arizona. She received her B.A. in British and American Literature at the University of Arizona, Tuscon in 2008. After years of living in the States, Melanie has returned to Germany to join the HCA and be reunited with her family.

Mahshid Mayar (Iran)

Mahshid, born in 1982, received her B.A. in English language and literature from the University of Tehran. First pursuing a M.A. in the same field, she then switched to a 2-year program in the newly established program in American Studies at the same university. In 2008 she received her M.A. in American Studies. Mahshid has also worked as an English teacher and translator. She has also been a researcher at the University of Teheran.

Rafal Milerski (Poland)

Rafal was born in Warsaw in 1982, and received a Bachelor in Philosophy at the Catholic University

of America in Washington, D.C. in 2008. Before joining the MAS he was an intern at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Department of America., and completed diplomatic protocol training at the Polish Institute of International Affairs.

Anne-Kathrin Pusch (Germany)

Anne-Kathrin was born in Bendorf, Germany, in 1983, attended the University of Constance, Germany, where she received a B.A. in British and American Studies (major) and Sociology (minor) in 2007. During her studies, she spent one year abroad at the University of Richmond, VA to study English and Anthropology. During her stay there she also worked for the Institute of Modern Languages where she was an instructor for German as a Foreign Language. In Germany, Anne-Kathrin has also worked as a journalist.

Zeynep Selen Saydam (Turkey)

Zeynep Selen was born in Ankara, Turkey, in 1986. In 2008 she graduated from Ankara University with a B.A. in American Culture and Literature. She has worked as a student assistant at the American Studies Association of Turkey and as a translator for the Turkey Maritime Affairs Office.

Erhan Simsek (Turkey)

Erhan was born in Ankara, Turkey, in 1986. He received his B.A. in English Language Teaching from Middle East Technical University with a minor degree in European Studies from the department of International Relations. Before coming to the MAS, Erhan acted as the president of METU Book Club and worked as an English tutor.

Silvia Toma (Romania)

Silvia was born 1986 in Resita, Romania, and grew up speaking Romanian and German. She studied German Language and Culture with a minor in English at the University of Bucharest, where she

received her B.A. in 2008. During her studies, Silvia has worked as a translator and interpreter. She has also been working as a journalist at the newspaper of the German minority in Romania.

Ruhuan Wang (China)

Ruhuan was born in 1986 in Sichuan, China. In July 2008 Ruhuan graduated from Peking University (Beijing, China) where she specialized in German in her freshman year and English in the remaining three years. She participated in an exchange program at Bryn Mawr College in Maryland and was an intern at DaimlerChrysler Northeast Asia Ltd.

Fei Ye (China)

Fei was born in China in 1986 and studied at China Foreign Affairs University, from which she graduated in 2007 with a B.A. in English and International Studies. Before joining the MAS, she

took several internships in news agencies, corporations, and non-governmental organizations. Besides, Fei also worked as an interpreter and translator for English.

Joseph Zane (USA)

Joseph was born in Rochester, Michigan, north of Detroit. For his undergraduate degree he went to Annapolis, MD to attend the US Naval Academy, and in 2007 completed his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. At the same time, Joseph received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. Since graduating, he has been in Heidelberg, for the past year attending classes at the Islamic Studies department.

MAS Social Activities: TGIF and other Gatherings

The tradition of the TGIF, "Thank God It's Friday," was continued during the past winter semester. Students and staff of the HCA met one Friday of every month for food, drinks, and conversation.

The first TGIF at the end of the MAS orientation weeks took place in the Bel Etage of the HCA, a first. It has also become a tradition that professors host some of the special TGIFs at their homes.

For the third year in a row Prof. Manfred Berg and his wife Dr. Anja Schüler invited students and staff to their house for the first TGIF of the New Year. Guests were treated to the now traditional chilli and hot dogs. The class of 2008 was rewarded for its hard and dedicated work with the final TGIF of the winter semester at the end of exam

week. Students were treated to a performance of Senegalese songs and percussion music by MAS student Hamadou Sow who had brought along fellow Senegalese students. Annie Tsai introduced her class mates to the art of Chinese Calligraphy.

While the TGIF is the most frequent social gathering at the HCA, it is not the only one. On October 31 the MAS students organized a Halloween get together at the HCA. Under the guidance of Alicia Talbot students carved pumpkins.

On November 24, 2007 the HCA had its fifth Thanksgiving dinner. As an institution devoted to the study of the United States with a large number of American students and staffers the observance of American holidays as become part of the HCA's

traditions. This year's dinner once again took place at the restaurant "Die Backmulde" offering the essential holiday fair of turkey, mashed and sweet potatoes, stuffing and assorted vegetables. The food was excellent and left little to be desired.

Social events like these form an integral part of the HCA's agenda. The close interaction between

students, staff and teachers deepens their ties to the HCA and helps to create a sense of community that hopefully outlasts an individual's stay at this institution.

MAS Berlin Excursion

In spite of challenges from the weather and public transport, the 2008 MAS class trip to Berlin went according to plan and exceeded expectations. The five days we spent in the capital showed as yet unexplored aspects of American Studies in Germany. The city's impressive architecture and the culinary charm of Currywurst and beer made us want to echo JFK's "Ich bin ein Berliner."

During the visit to the Kennedy museum, we had the chance to see how impressive and meaningful President Kennedy's visit to Berlin really was. The tour of the library of the Bundestag offered us another – by no means final – peek into the world of "high politics," while the meeting with Mr. Stanley Otto at the U.S. Embassy shed more light on German-American relations and the challenges and rewards of a career in diplomacy. Other highlights of the trip were a guided tour of the Jewish Museum and the JFK Institute library. On our way to the latter, we were caught in traffic and soaked by rain but fortunately made it without losses in people and battle spirit.

The most exciting event for most of our class was the evening at the American Academy. We had the honor to attend former Senate Majority header Thomas Daschle's lecture on solutions to the global energy crisis. Introduced by former German Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker, Senator Daschle



MAS Students visiting the American Academy in Berlin with Tom Daschle, former Senate Majority header

spoke about shared responsibility and the importance of an international exchange of ideas concerning energy solutions and answered questions from the audience. After the lecture, we had the opportunity to speak with him and take a photograph for the HCA archives. Mr. Daschle has since been designated as Secretary of Health and Human Services in the incoming Obama administration.

Crowning this extraordinary evening was our run for the S-Bahn, fast and swift, high heels and elegant dress notwithstanding. Suffice it to say that we concluded our visit in Berlin with humor and gusto.

MAS Visit to the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt

On January 23, 2008 the MAS class of 2008 visited the U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt. After the group had cleared security procedures, after a warm welcome on an otherwise cold January afternoon and a brief introduction into the work of the largest U.S. consulate in the world by James W. Seward, then Head of the Press and Culture Section, MAS students and accompanying instructors and staff (Martin Thunert and Anne Lübbers) conducted a workshop with a Washington-based political consultant, Daniel Gotoff of Lake Associates, a consulting firm specializing in supporting so-called „underdog candidates“ of the Democratic Party. The workshop started with a 20 minute presentation by Daniel Gotoff, in which he analyzed the current political climate in the United States at the start of the 2008 primary season. Later his talk focused on the work of a political consultant in the busy political environment of the U.S. capital. In the ensuing discussion Daniel Gotoff painted an attractive picture of the profession

of political consultants, even though he admitted that he had entered the profession after his college years at the University of Michigan partly by accident. He answered many questions of MAS students on the busy life of a political consultant and encouraged them to apply for internships at his or other consulting firms. As political consulting is a multi-skills and multi-tasking job, no single program of study can adequately prepare for this business. He acknowledged that beside more professional M.A. programs, American Studies may be the right path to prepare for a career in political consulting.

The HCA thanks the Frankfurt U.S. Consulate General's academic director, Dr. Gerhard Wiesinger, for helping us arranging the visit to Frankfurt.

MAS Commencement 2008

On October 16, the HCA celebrated the graduation of the MAS class of 2008 in the Alte Aula of the University of Heidelberg. Of the 18 graduates from China, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Taiwan, Turkey, the United States, and Uzbekistan, 13 were present to receive their diplomas.

The HCA continued its tradition of wearing formal academic attire for the occasion, which started in 2005. Graduates as well as HCA faculty and staff wore traditional gowns and hoods for the ceremony.

The graduates were welcomed and congratulated by Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Bernhard Eitel, Rector of the University of Heidelberg, Prof. Dr. Heinz-Dietrich Löwe, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Karl Albrecht, Acting Deputy Consul General of the United States of America in Frankfurt, and Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker, Founding Director of the HCA. The keynote speaker of the evening was Dr. Katja Gelinsky, LL.M., who came from Washington, D.C. where she works as a journalist for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Melanie Gish, one of the graduating students and winner of the HCA book prize, delivered the valedictory. Sara Jeffe (violin), Dorothea Krimm (violin), and Lilian Peter (piano) provided the wonderful musical accompaniment to the commencement, playing works by Franz Anton Hoffmeister (1754 – 1812).

Rector Eitel heartily congratulated the graduates on their academic and personal achievements. At the same time, he congratulated the HCA on its many successes since its foundation in 2002. In particular, he emphasized the importance of the public-private structure of the HCA and expressed special gratitude to the many private supporters

of the Center.

Prof. Löwe also congratulated the graduates and emphasized the increased importance of multicultural abilities and understanding in our world. Expressing the concern that many students today seem to lack a deeper understanding of the United States, he particularly stressed the significance of programs such as the MAS.



(from left to right) Prof. Junker, Prof. Berg, Prof. Meusburger, Rector Prof. Eitel and Dean Prof. Löwe

Acting Deputy Consul General Karl Albrecht joined the previous speakers in commending the achievements of the MAS graduates. After highlighting the strong ties between Germany and the United States over the past 50 years, he praised the internationality of the MAS program. Drawing on his experiences as a student in the United States and



Acting Deputy Consul General Karl Albrecht

Europe, Karl Albrecht argued that in a globalized world the increasing flow and exchange of ideas is essential to producing excellent scholarship and helping young people succeed in their future careers.

Prof. Junker expressed his warm congratulations to the graduates of the MAS Class of 2008 and welcomed the 19 new students of the Class of 2009, as well as the 6 students who had joined the Ph.D. in American Studies program. He said that the HCA could look back on an exciting and successful year and thanked all those involved in running and supporting the Center. Prof. Junker then introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Katja Gelinsky.



Dr. Katja Gelinsky

Born in Osnabrück, Katja Gelinsky studied Law at the University of Münster as well as Journalism at Dortmund University. After completing her First State Exam in Law in 1992, Dr. Gelinsky worked for the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg. As a German Academic Exchange Service scholar, she successfully participated in the LL.M. program in Comparative, European and International Law at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. Her legal clerkship included stints at the German Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels and the German University for Administrative Studies in Speyer. She obtained a doctoral

degree from the University of Münster with a dissertation on property rights in the European Convention on Human Rights. Dr. Gelinsky joined the newsroom of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in 1997. She is currently reporting for the paper from Washington D.C.

In her speech “Obama vs. McCain – A Historic Decision?” Dr. Gelinsky said that the upcoming presidential election in the United States deserved the label “historic” for a simple reason: Americans will either vote the first African-American into the White House or bestow this honor upon the first female vice-president. While most ratings at the time gave Obama a slight lead over McCain, Dr. Gelinsky sounded a note of caution. Because the American constituency is divided into so many different social and ethnic subgroups and political developments can be so erratic, the outcome would be difficult to predict.

Following the keynote address, the Class of 2008 received their diplomas. Melanie Gish from Germany was awarded with the HCA Book Prize for the best diploma of the year. She also gave a brief and thoughtful valedictory, the text of which is printed below (see next page). After the commencement ceremony, all participants were invited to a reception with food and drinks in the Bel Etage of the HCA.



The graduates of the MAS Class of 2008 in the “Alte Aula” of the University. Back (l. to r.): Shenggu Chen, Hamadou Sow, Arzu Isik Ellialtioglu, Gretchen Greywall, Giles Daniel Harber, Melanie Gish, Cassie Lin Zhang. Front (l. to r.): Juste Simelyte, Polina Sitkevich, Emma Le Yu, Iris Yinyin Zhang, Emmanuelle Catherine N’na Sané, Anja Milde. Not present at the commencement ceremony: Kamila Janiszewska, Gulchekhra Makhkambaeva, Esen Momunkulov, Joanna Peplinska, Selime Soyucok, Alicia Christine Talbot, Annie Wan-Lin Tsai.

MAS Commencement 2008 Valedictorian Speech Delivered by Melanie Gish

Distinguished guests, benefactors, faculty, family and friends, new and current students, and fellow graduates. I am honored to speak to you tonight, although I ought to let you know that I was unable to come up with such a sophisticated speech as Robert Lee, who set the bar high during last year’s commencement ceremony. Nevertheless, I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to express my gratitude to some of you in particular, and to all of you for being with us today.

First of all, I would like to thank the two persons without whom I would not be here tonight, and without whom I might have never pursued a degree in American Studies: Prof. Junker and my husband Charles Gish.

I have to admit that my interest in the object of our

studies was very marginal before Charles introduced me to his country in 2001. It was then that I started studying American culture, admittedly in a very haphazard and unstructured way, as our methodology tutor Alex Vazansky could attest to. Fortunately, I discovered the HCA a few years later and decided to study American Studies in an academic setting that stands above most. And I am indebted to Prof. Junker and the HCA for making this possible, not only in a financial way.

Furthermore, I would like to thank the faculty and staff of the HCA, in particular my supervisor Dr. Thunert. All of you have been very supportive and inspiring, and I think that I can speak for the MAS 2008 class by saying that we truly enjoyed the opportunity and the challenges of being a part of an international class taking courses from a wide

variety of academic disciplines taught by outstanding scholars. How often do you get the chance, as a literature major for instance, to take a constitutional law class taught by a professor who holds his degree from one of the best law schools in the world? And how often do you get the chance to discuss matters of American law, politics, literature, history, and culture with fellow students from China, Germany, Poland, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Senegal, Lithuania, Russia, Turkey, the U.S., and Taiwan, who have academic backgrounds reaching from history, literature, and political science to linguistics, geography, and anthropology?

This brings me to the most important group of tonight – my fellow classmates. I would like to thank all of you for joining the MAS program and making the past year such an enriching and exciting one by bringing all of your unique backgrounds to the HCA.

High levels of diversity are certainly not always easy to handle, and declaring that everything always worked out in perfect harmony would not only entail dishonesty but also a denial of the power of culture and essentially the purpose of the HCA. People disagreed, misunderstandings occurred, feelings were temporarily hurt. However, I think over the course of the year we did not

only become quite effective in managing our own diversity, but we also grew and prospered from our experiences of cultural difference.

All of us have our own reasons why we became interested in the United States and in American Studies. All of us and our respective countries, however, have unique ties to this 'Global Giant,' as Prof. Berg referred to the U.S. in our history class. And all of us know that the never-ending process of understanding is the biggest challenge when we are dealing with culture, especially with a culture that is not our own. With pursuing this degree, however, I think all of us have made a commitment to keep being engaged in understanding not only America but other cultures as well. Congratulations and all the best for the future!



**A Center for Inter-
disciplinary 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 as well as its visiting researchers, the HCA hosts and organizes international conferences, symposia, workshops, and seminars.

Ph.D. in American Studies

In October 2006, the HCA inaugurated its Ph.D. program in American Studies. Currently 16 students from 7 different countries are enrolled in the program, working on projects that bring various perspectives from cultural studies, political science, history, literature, linguistics, and film into a fruitful dialogue.

The Ph.D. in American Studies offers a structured three-year, English-language program to students who wish to earn a research-oriented academic degree. The program aids students in acquiring the skills to conduct major scholarly research in the fields of American history, politics, geography, literature, and cultural studies. It not only offers a modern multidisciplinary curriculum but is also committed to building a true community of scholars by fostering academic debate and continual exchange among students and faculty members. Graduates are awarded either a "Doktor der Philosophie" (Dr. phil.) or a "Doctor of Philosophy" (Ph.D.) according to their choice.

To apply successfully, a candidate needs to fulfill not only the general entrance requirements, but he or she also must present a meaningful proposal that sketches the guiding questions of the disserta-

tion project while embedding them in the current academic debates. 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 the University of Heidelberg that she or he is willing to be their advisor for the project. In addition to the letter of intent, candidates must provide two letters of recommendation that not only assess the applicants' academic qualifications but also evaluate the proposed dissertation projects.

In October 2006, the HCA welcomed the first class of six Ph.D. students – the class of 2009. In October 2007, four students formed the class of 2010; and in October 2008, six students were admitted as the class of 2011, raising the total of all students to 16. The majority of the students are alumni of the MAS program and several have acted as teaching assistants for the MAS 2006/07 and the MAS 2007/08.

Ph.D. Curriculum

Once admitted, students are expected to take one class on method and theory, one class on academic writing, and one presentation and media skills class. For the entire duration of their enrollment, students are required to attend the Ph.D. colloquium. Regular progress reports and orientation talks with advisors are also an integral part of our Ph.D. program.

Method and Theory

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

Although the Ph.D. candidates at the HCA pursue their studies in different academic disciplines (history, sociology, political science, law, literature, and linguistics), they direct their efforts towards the same 'object', namely "geschichtliche Realität" or "culture." The theory seminar adopts a historical and transnational perspective, focusing on those thinkers of the past two hundred years who have given the discussion of what culture is and how to investigate it a new and original turn. Among the theorists discussed are Matthew Arnold, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Max Weber, Sigmund Freud, Norbert Elias, Clifford Geertz, Raymond Williams, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Fredric Jameson, Edward Said, and Benedict Anderson. The seminar addresses issues such as cultural knowledge and rationalism; culture and "reality;" culture and democracy; culture and modernity; high culture, popular culture, and media culture; the linguistic turn; culture and power; and culture and modern nation building.

Academic Writing

Lecturer: Dr. Anja Schöler

A successful doctorate depends on good research ideas and hard work, but also on careful planning, drafting, writing, revising, improving, and finishing your text. This class focuses on the academic writing process. This includes planning a sequence of chapters, organizing chapters and papers, writing in a clear professional style, managing the writing process, and pulling together a final draft. The course also addresses problems of grammar and style and gives many practical suggestions students can try out and adapt to their own needs. In addition, many Ph.D. students find that dealing with these issues as a group helps them to confront and solve the dilemmas every author must confront. The HCA also supports a more informal writer's group for second and third year Ph.D. students.

Media and Presentation Skills

Lecturer: Mille Baker, M.A.

This course is a four-day seminar split into two modules in which students are encouraged to gain insight into the subtleties of verbal and non-verbal communication to help get their message across. They learn how to assess their own presentation strengths and weaknesses and experiment with new communication strategies. Furthermore, this course helps students to develop a critical awareness of their own and each other's presentation styles; to build on and practice the English phrases of academic presentation; to develop strategies for dealing with unexpected or difficult situations, e.g. answering questions, technical problems, audience hostility; and to develop confidence and enjoyment in public speaking. For this purpose, it is essential that participants receive not only

verbal feedback from the instructor and each other, but also see themselves presenting on video (each student receives a copy of this video on disk to study at home).

Ph.D. Colloquium

The Ph.D. colloquium is a joint endeavor by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies and the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History and gives Ph.D. candidates the opportunity to present and discuss their research projects in an interdisciplinary setting and a highly cooperative atmosphere. Participants are expected to engage in scholarly debate and give informed advice to presenters from various disciplines in the field of American Studies. The Ph.D. colloquium takes place on a weekly basis during the winter term and convenes in the summer term for one extended two-day session at the Curt Engelhorn Seminar Center in Oberflockenbach.



Curt Engelhorn Seminar Center in Oberflockenbach

Presentations 2007/08

Ray Eberling, Shuge Wei, Stefan Kieninger, and Christian Maul presented their research to the HCA community during the weekly Ph.D. colloquium during the Winter Semester 2007/08. In addition to the student presentations, Axel Utz (Pennsylvania State University) talked about "The End of Dialogue in an 'Age of Reason: South Indian and Native North American Communities Experience Imperialist Violence in the Mid-Eighteenth Century"; Martin Thunert (HCA) gave a speech on "Red and Blue America? How Polarized is Contemporary U.S. Politics?"; Inger Dalsgaard (Aarhus) ruminated over "The History and Media Presence of Wernher von Braun in the Third Reich and the US Space Program"; Thomas Gijswijt (HCA/Nijmegen) explored "The Informal Alliance: Elite Networks and Transatlantic Relations in the Cold War"; Uta Balbier (GHI Washington) shared her thoughts on "US Protestant Fundamentalist Discourse on Military Service and Political Participation in the First Half of the Twentieth Century"; and Jeanette Jones revealed some of her ideas on "Race, Empire, and the Congo Question, 1876-1917." On June 6 and 7, 2008, the Curt Engelhorn Seminar Center once again hosted the traditional summer colloquium in Oberflockenbach. In a pleasant and inspiring atmosphere, Cristina Mustea, Karsten Senkbeil, Jiawei Mao, and Anja Milde presented and discussed their projects with members of the HCA academic community.

Maria Andrei (Romania)

Class of 2011 / Heidemarie Engelhorn Ph.D. Scholarship

Maria Andrei received her B.A. from the University of Bucharest, Romania, in 2004. She majored in English and minored in American Studies, focusing on American literature with a B.A. thesis about the Beat Generation writers and American avant-garde art and music. After completing her studies in Bucharest, she decided to continue her education in Heidelberg and was awarded a full scholarship from the HCA. In 2005, she received her M.A. in American Studies with a thesis entitled "Narrating Memory: A comparative study of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*". She presented the paper "Andrei Codrescu's New Identity for the New World" at the 2006 RAAS-Fulbright Conference in Bucharest. She has also been employed as a copywriter with an advertising agency.



Her dissertation "The Literature of Trauma: Perspectives on 9/11" explores the various literary responses to September 11, including references to 9/11 poetry, film, art, and popular culture. In the aftermath of September 11, many voices pronounced irony and postmodernist playfulness dead and hailed a return of the Real. Are we witnessing a turning point in American culture and literature, "a return of the real", as some critics seem to suggest, or are these new literary works simply using 9/11 as a background for reenacting the same major themes of pre-9/11 literature? This is the main question that the dissertation intends to answer by offering an overview of the major 9/11 literary works, which Andrei has divided into three categories that often overlap and that serve as the basis for a more comprehensive analysis. Due to the complexity and the wide variety of literary responses to the event, Andrei's methodology encompasses an extensive array of recent cultural studies' theories ranging from literary trauma theory and transnationalism to the representation of terrorism. While never losing sight of the differences between the approaches of the works it deals with, the dissertation nonetheless attempts to offer a unitary perspective on the subject.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

Yuyun Chen (China)

Class of 2009

Yuyun Chen got her B.A. in international journalism at the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST). After working at the Shanghai Global Harmony Public Relations Company for a year and a half, she decided to return to the academic world and subsequently received a master's degree in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics at USST. In 2005, she received an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Heidelberg. Yuyun's dissertation explores the use of "master texts" in the process of newspaper text production and dissemination in two contexts. The first context is the free press model in the United States, where the press is designed to be a locus for the exchange of different points of view, and, therefore, a well-informed public is fostered to promote a democratic society. The second context is the controlled press model epitomized by the People's Republic of China, where the press serves the Chinese Communist government. Since April of 2008, Yuyun has been working with CrossAsia, a project financed by the German Research Association (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and led by the Berlin State Library (SBB). CrossAsia is the East and Southeast Asia Virtual Library, aiming at offering a central access point for online research on information about East and Southeast Asia. Yuyun was engaged in the preparation for the Cross Asia symposium, which was held on November 7 and 8, 2008 in Heidelberg. She co-presented the project with her colleagues at the meeting. Yuyun is currently planning to go to the Harvard-Yenching Institute to conduct research for her dissertation project at the beginning of 2009.



Primary supervisor: Professor Dr. Rudolf G. Wagner.

Raluca-Lucia Cimpean (Romania)

Class of 2009 / HCA's Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg

Born in 1981 in Blaj, Romania, Raluca-Lucia Cimpean studied English and Romanian language and literature at the Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, where she earned her B.A. in 2004 and an M.A. in American Studies in 2005. Before coming to Heidelberg, she was an English teacher in the Department of Computer Science and Mathematics at Babes-Bolyai University. In 2006, she received an M.A. in American Studies at the University of Heidelberg. In April of 2007, she participated in the Ph.D. Seminar which prefaced the 8th Middelburg Conference of European Historians of the United



States, "Democracy and Political Repression in U.S. History", organized by the Roosevelt Study Center, Netherlands. In 2008, she received research grants from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. From April to October of 2008, she researched for her project in Boston and Washington, D.C.. In September of 2008, she participated in the "John F. Kennedy: History, Memory, Legacy" conference at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. Since 2007, Cimpean has been the literature teaching assistant for Prof. Dietmar Schloss.

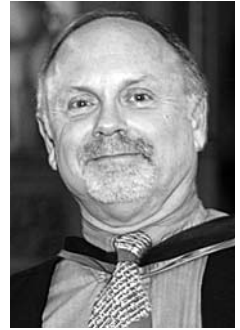
Cimpean's Ph.D. project is entitled "The American Camelot: the Kennedy Myth through a Fictional Glass." Broadly speaking, the American Camelot could be defined as the belief that the Kennedy years were the peak of prosperity in American history and held hope for a better future in foreign as well as domestic affairs. The dissertation maps the development of the Kennedy image on three levels: pre-presidential, historiographic, and fictional. The first part traces the strategies the Kennedy family, the campaign staff, and the candidate himself devised in order to capture the highest office in the United States; the second part deals with the main trends in the Kennedy historiography, from the celebratory school, through several waves of revisionism, to the more balanced accounts, and determines which of the above mentioned approaches found their way into fictional cultural products and why; the third part studies the way in which the American Camelot has been portrayed in works of fiction and the narrative and character patterns on which they rely. Some of the novels and feature movies the dissertation draws upon are: *Libra* by Don DeLillo; *Flying into Love* by D. M. Thomas; *La Malediction D'Edgar* by Marc Dugain; *Resurrection Day* by Brendan Dubois; *It Rained in Dallas* and *The Conspirator's Tale* by Robert Rienzi; *Winter Kills* by Richard Condon; *JFK*; *The Missiles of October*; *Seven Days in May*; *Thirteen Days*; *Kennedy*; *Path to War*; *The Rat Pack*; *In the Line of Fire*. The aim of this interdisciplinary project is to analyze fictional representations of people's enduring fascination with President John F. Kennedy and his short-lived, yet consequential administration.

Primary advisor: Professor Dr. Manfred Berg

Raymond Eberling (USA)

Class of 2010

Raymond Eberling was born in 1948 in Suffern, New York and is a retired Air Force officer who spent the majority of his career as a navigator. He has also done tours of duty at the Pentagon, the U.S. Special Operations Command and Headquarters, and the United States Air Forces Europe. Ray has a B.A. in Education from the University of Florida, a B.A. in Creative Writing from Eckerd College, (St. Petersburg, Florida), and an M.Sc. in Systems Management from the University of Southern California. In 2006, he received his M.A. in American Studies at the University of Heidelberg, where his thesis dealt with the religious right in the U.S. military. The working title of his dissertation is "Come on Down! The Selling of the Florida Dream, 1945-1965?", and deals with the promotion of the state during its explosive population growth during the immediate post-World War II period. For the past two years, Eberling has been an adjunct instructor in the American Studies program at Eckerd College, Florida, where he will also teach a course on the U.S. military in American society in 2009. In April of 2008, he presented his dissertation topic at the HCA's annual Spring Academy. Eberling is a member of the Southern Historical Association, the Florida Historical Society, and the Florida Humanities Council.



Primary supervisor: Professor Dr. Manfred Berg

Melanie Gish (Germany)

Class of 2011 / Curt Engelhorn Ph.D. Scholarship

Melanie Gish was born in 1976 in Sinsheim, Germany, and graduated from the University of Mannheim with a B.A. in German and Geography in 2003. From 2003 to 2004, she received a scholarship to participate in the exchange program of the University of Mannheim with the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario/Canada. At Waterloo, Gish worked as a research assistant in the linguistics department. She graduated from the university with an M.A. in German in 2004. In 2007, Melanie received the HCA Director's Fellowship to participate in the MAS program. Prior to joining the HCA as a member of the Class of 2008, she lived in Colorado and worked at the Denver Public Library as a cultural program coordinator. Gish is enrolled in the Ph.D. Class of 2011 and the working title of her dissertation is: "A Green Gap? Conservative Skeptics, Evangelical Environmentalists, and the Dilemma of Global Climate Change."



Her general interest in stereotypes and their refutation has led Gish to the intersection of evangelical religion, American politics, and the environment. Her M.A. thesis analyzed the resources, the discourse, and the lobbying strategies of the Evangelical Environmental Network (EEN), an evangelical environmental interest organization which made the national and international news in recent years. Although founded as early as 1993, the EEN has only recently been able to broaden its influence among evangelicals, especially with an initiative that declares global climate change a moral issue and urges fellow believers to respond to the problem as mandated by scripture. The environmental activism of the EEN, however, has not only gained the support of influential, left-leaning or centrist evangelical leaders, but has also inspired a counter-movement initiated by adherents of the religious right. Gish's dissertation explores what might be a 'green gap' within the evangelical community.

Primary Supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert

Iris Hahn-Santoro (Germany)

Class of 2010

Iris Hahn-Santoro received her M.A. in Linguistics, Scandinavian Studies and Philosophy from the University of Cologne in 2002. She wrote her thesis on anglicisms and neologisms in contemporary Icelandic, focusing on computer terminology. As part of her research, she spent a year at the University of Iceland as the recipient of scholarships from the German-Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Icelandic Ministry of Culture and Education. After receiving her M.A., Iris served as a research assistant at the Arctic Studies Center at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. There she researched, wrote, and lectured on the Kensington Runestone and the question of its authenticity. Her dissertation is currently entitled "Mi'kmaq: A Case Study of an Endangered Language", but will soon change to reflect the wider scope the project has taken to include the several languages undergoing a distinct and successful revival movement.



An extensive research trip to the United States, from June of 2008 to February of 2009, is giving her the opportunity to speak and work with scholars who specialize in Indian languages and heritage revival. To date, she has also had the opportunity to visit the Iroquois Indian Museum in Howes Cave, NY and the Smithsonian's National Museum for Natural History in order to speak with linguists in the anthropology department and scholars in the repatria-

tion office. She is also making use of the available journals on the subject of Native American heritage, language, culture, identity, and revival projects. For her remaining time in the U.S., she is planning to contact and visit universities that offer Native American language courses in order to see how the languages are taught, what course material is used, and how the value of the language in question is represented by the teachers and students.

Primary supervisor: Professor Dr. Joern Albrecht

Barbara Kujath (Canada)

Class of 2011

Born in 1979 in Calgary, Canada, Barbara Kujath studied German as a foreign language and English philology with a focus on literature at the University of Heidelberg. She earned an M.A. in English Philology in 2007. She has been working as an assistant lecturer at the English Department at the University of Heidelberg since 2007.

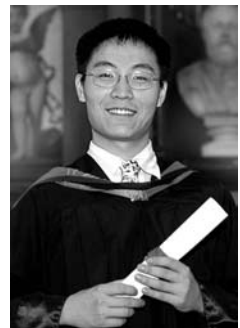
Kujath's Ph.D. project is entitled "The Emergence of a New Concern with and Understanding of Violence in American Culture of the 1960s and 1970s". The 1960s and 1970s were decades of change in America on many levels and witnessed the advent of scientific and cultural discourse on the subject of violence. Kujath's project deals with the role played by both serious and popular literature of the 1960s and 1970s in shaping American cultural perceptions and attitudes toward violence. Some of the more central novels that will be analyzed include *The Executioner's Song* by Norman Mailer as well as Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*; *The Family* by Ed Sanders, *Helter Skelter* by Vincent Bugliosi as well as Robert Bloch's *Psycho*.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

Jiawei Mao (China)

Class of 2010 / HCA's Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg

Born in 1983 in Ningbo, China, Jiawei Mao received his B.A. in English and International Relations from the China Foreign Affairs University in 2006. During his undergraduate studies, Mao was actively engaged in various academic contests involving English public speaking and international relations.



He received the "Best Speaker Award" at the FLTRP Cup National English Debating Competition in 2005 and attended the English Speaking Union's International Relations Conference at Oriol College at Oxford University in 2006, representing China. He was also a participant in the Harvard Model United Nations Conference in 2006. Mao worked as a journalist with the *New Beijing Daily* in 2004 and 2005 and as a freelance writer and translator. His Chinese translation of Jane Austin's *Sense and Sensibility* was recently published by the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press in Beijing, China.

Jiawei Mao entered the HCA's MAS program in 2006 as recipient of the LBBW Scholarship 2006/07, majoring in law, history, and international business culture. In 2007, he earned his M.A. with a thesis entitled "Honeymoon Turned Nightmare: Why the Neoconservative US Foreign Policy Is Doomed to Fail?"

Mao is currently working on his dissertation entitled "Chronicle of a Long March Retold: A Political-Economic Analysis of the Sino-U.S. Negotiations on China's Resumption of the GATT Contracting Party Status and Its Accession to the World Trade Organization", which aims at integrating political science and economic history in the context of the relationship between today's sole superpower and a potential one of tomorrow. Mao has conducted a few interviews with members of both Chinese and American delegations about various stages of the negotiation and has been in close contact with scholars at relevant institutions such as the Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C., and the Chinese Academy of Social Science in Beijing. Having presented the theoretical framework and the methodological approach of his project at Oberflockenbach in June of 2008, his most recent research has been done at the JFK library of the Free University in Berlin and the library of the Max Planck Institute for Public and Comparative International Law in Heidelberg. He is studying the dramatic institutional change in the world trade regime which took place in the early 1990s and its far-reaching impact on the principle, pattern, and priorities of early stages of the negotiations by analyzing the causal links between seemingly separate issues. Mao plans to put his working hypotheses to further test, using data he collects from more extensive archival research.

Primary supervisor: Professor Dr. Detlef Junker

Christian Maul (Germany)

Class of 2010 / HCA's Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg

Christian Maul studied English and German literature and linguistics at the University of Heidelberg and at San Francisco State University. He graduated in April of 2006 and subsequently pursued a Master's degree in American Studies at the HCA. He has worked as a teaching assistant at the English Department of the University of Heidelberg and as a trainer for Business English, and has produced various drama and musical theater projects with the drama group of the English Department.



Maul's thesis, "One World at a Time" – Henry David Thoreau's Individualism in the Light of Communitarian Theory", seeks to shed new light on Henry David Thoreau's concept of individualism. While many of Thoreau's critics have reproached him for his escapism and isolationism, Maul's project aims to illustrate that Thoreau's spiritual and intellectual autonomy prepared him for his existence as a socially responsible citizen who, after periods of detachment from his society and reassessment of ultimate American values, returns to the community and contributes to its stability. Thus, Thoreau becomes a prominent representative of community-oriented, democratic individuality and anticipates communitarian thinking. During the last academic year, Maul has been developing a model for the interpretation of the relationship between the individual and society by tracing fundamental characteristics of an American self that interacts with the social forces surrounding it. This model is based on communitarian theory. Maul spent October, November, and December of 2008 in the U.S. doing research at Princeton University, the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, and the Concord Public Library. There, he traced unpublished correspondences, diaries, and newspaper articles that reveal that Thoreau's contemporaries had already discovered communitarian impulses in his social behavior. During his research trip, Maul also had the opportunity of interviewing Michael Walzer and Robert N. Bellah, leading figures of communitarian thinking, as well as George Kateb, one of the most determined critics of communitarianism.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dieter Schulz

Mohamed Metawe (Egypt)

Class of 2011

Mohamed Metawe, born in 1979 in Dametta, Egypt, is an assistant lecturer at Cairo University at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Political Science department. He received his M.A. in Political Science and International Relations from Cairo University in 2005. He wrote his thesis on the effects of the Eastern enlargement of the EU on the European security and defense policy. After receiving his M.A., Metawe worked for the National Democratic Party (the ruling party in Egypt) for two years and was an instructor at Cairo University. On many occasions, Metawe attended conferences in the U.S., France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, and Lebanon.



His Ph.D. dissertation is entitled "The Middle East issues in transatlantic relations: 2003-2009." The key question of the thesis is why European and American policies toward Middle Eastern issues converge and diverge despite their agreement on common goals. The thesis has two main arguments: the first argument is that transatlantic differences concerning the Middle East manifest themselves in details but not in the substance of policies. The second argument contends that transatlantic convergences regarding the Middle East make their policies more coherent.

The thesis seeks to explain the reasons for the divergences and convergences in American and European policies regarding the Middle East. This is to be done, firstly, through reviewing some of the theoretical perspectives that have been employed to analyze and explain the differences and agreements between the transatlantic allies. Secondly, the thesis will explore the points of convergence and divergence in the United States' and Europe's strategies and priorities toward the Middle East. By focusing on some case studies, e.g. Iraq, Iran, and the Middle East peace process (Palestinian-Israeli peace process) the thesis seeks to analyze the Middle East point of view regarding transatlantic convergences and divergences.

Primary supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert

Anja Milde (Germany)

Class of 2011 / HCA's Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the BASF Group

Anja Milde received her B.A. from the University of Erfurt in 2003, where she studied linguistics and communication science. Since the fall of 2003, she has been a student at Heidelberg University, majoring in history and art history. Before joining the MAS program in 2007, she spent a year at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where she majored in American Studies. Since fall 2008, Milde has been working at the HCA as public relations assistant and tutor for American history.



Milde's Ph.D. project is entitled "Pansies, Dikes, and Panthers: Coalitions in the Civil and Gay Rights Movements." Her research focuses on the interface between the African American Civil Rights Movement and the Homosexual Rights Movement in the United States. She argues that the organizations and activists of the Civil Rights Movement paved the way for the gay liberation movement in the late 1960s, and indeed provided the framework in which gays would structure their advocacy for sexuality-based civil rights. Certainly, veterans of the Civil Rights Movement often served as vanguard of the Homosexual Rights Movement. It is here that this project seeks to make its greatest contribution to the scholarly literature on both movements. Milde demonstrates that the shifting cultural context of African Americans' long struggle for civil rights, from Dr. King's commitment to nonviolence to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's demand for black power, gave momentum to the Homosexual Rights Movement.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg

Amy Foster Parish (USA)

Class of 2009

Amy Foster Parish was born in 1978 in Frankfort, Kentucky. She obtained her B.A. in 2000 from the University of Louisville, where she majored in English. She received an M.A. in American Studies with the HCA's inaugural class in 2005. She is currently living in Olympia, Washington while writing her dissertation, "Petticoat Governments: Representations of Female Presidents in American Fiction and Film," in which she explores fictional representations of female presidents in an attempt to connect these representations to answer two key questions. First, in what ways do these representations reflect (and



perhaps perpetuate) existing gender stereotypes concerning women and their ability to function in positions of political power? Secondly, is it possible that these representations could pave the way for the ascendance of a woman to the office of the president? In May of 2008, Amy had the opportunity to present a chapter of her dissertation at the DGfA Conference held in Heidelberg. The presentation, entitled "Madam President and the First Family: The Private Public Lives of Fictional Female Presidents in American Popular Culture," explored the often contentious relationship depicted as existing between female presidents and their husbands and children. In addition, the presentation considered the gendered lens through which these familial relationships are often viewed and the resultant difficulty in separating a female president's political and personal lives.

Primary supervisor: Professor Dr. Dietmar Schloss

Anthony Santoro (USA)

Class of 2009 / HCA's Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the BASF Group

Anthony Santoro was born in Newport News, Virginia, in 1978. He received his B.A. in 1999 from the University of Virginia, where he double majored in English and history. Santoro was a member of the first MAS Class of 2005, where he wrote his M.A. thesis on the prophetic elements of Nat Turner's rebellion. Santoro received the 2005 HCA Book Prize. His article "The Prophet in His Own Words: Nat Turner's Biblical Construction," appeared in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* in 2008. Santoro's dissertation, entitled "Exile or Embrace: Religion, Community and the Death Penalty in Virginia, 1976-2006," explores metaphoric constructions of community in religious discourse on the death penalty. Specifically, the dissertation examines the ways in which the "other" is created and rhetorically located via exilic and embracing metaphors. During the second half of 2008, Santoro undertook an extensive research trip to the United States. This entailed archival research and numerous interviews, including governors, attorneys general, and various bishops. In addition to the BASF scholarship, Santoro's research has been supported by a fellowship from the German Historical Institute, a grant from the Ghaemian Travel Fund, and a grant from the University of Heidelberg's Graduiertenakademie.



Primary Supervisor: Professor Dr. Manfred Berg

Karsten Senkbeil (Germany)

Class of 2009 / HCA's Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg

Karsten Senkbeil, born in 1981, studied at the University of Osnabrück, Germany, and the City College of New York, New York. He received his M.A. degree at the University of Osnabrück in 2006, his majors being English/American studies and physics.

Since October 2006, Senkbeil has been enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the HCA. His dissertation entitled "The Language of American Sport – A Corpus-Aided Discourse Study" analyzes the discourse of American sport journalism to extract and interpret the dominant ideological patterns of Americans' favorite pastime. The methodological approach of this project is an innovative linking of quantitative linguistic research, based on a large text corpus, with qualitative methods of critical discourse analysis to embed the linguistic findings in a larger cultural studies context. For his doctoral research, Senkbeil received a scholarship from the John-F.-Kennedy-Institute in Berlin in the spring of 2008 to make use of its extensive library and archives. Furthermore, he spent the summer of 2008 at Doshisha University of Kyoto, Japan, as a fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). By adding a trans-pacific perspective to his project, he has been able to broaden the transnational horizon of his American Studies research. Senkbeil used his fellowship in Japan to present his ongoing research at interdisciplinary conferences in Kyoto and Tokyo and developed friendly contacts with senior and junior scholars from Japan for promising cooperation with Doshisha University in the future. Senkbeil has already published a book entitled *Sport in Journalism and Fiction in the United States Today*, Munich: GRIN Verlag, 2007.

Primary supervisor: Professor Dr. Marianne Hundt

Cristina Stanca Mustea (Romania)

Class of 2009 / HCA's Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the BASF Group

Cristina Stanca-Mustea was born in Bucharest, Romania, in 1982. She received her B.A. in Romanian and American Studies from the University of Bucharest in 2005. Stanca-Mustea was the recipient of the DAAD Fellowship as part of the STIBET program and received her M.A. in American Studies



from the University of Heidelberg in 2006. She majored in literature, religious studies, and law. Her thesis was entitled “Carl Laemmle and the Making of Hollywood”.

The title of her dissertation is “Carl Laemmle – A Transatlantic Mediator.” The thesis explores the ways in which the life and career of Carl Laemmle, a German immigrant of Jewish origin, changed the American and European entertainment landscape through the founding of the first major film studio in Hollywood in 1912 – Universal Pictures. Moreover, it analyzes Carl Laemmle’s intensive support for saving more than 200 German Jews on the eve of World War II by paying affidavits and offering jobs at Universal Pictures. Cristina has conducted research in Berlin, in the archives of Die Deutsche Kinemathek, and at the Library of the John-F.-Kennedy Institute. She also spent one month at the New York Public Library and the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts in New York and another month at the Center for Motion Picture Research at the Margaret Herrick Library in Hollywood, Los Angeles. Cristina found evidence of Carl Laemmle’s extensive involvement in the German and American political and cultural life and his support for German Jews living under the Nazi regime. Furthermore, she had the chance to consult rare documents of early film history, which provided a clearer insight into the beginnings of the business of motion picture. The archival research in the United States was supported by the Ghaemian Travel Fund.

Primary supervisor: PD Dr. Philipp Gassert

Juste Šimelyte (Lithuania)

Class of 2011 / HCA’s Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg

Juste Šimelyte was born in Kaišiadorys, Lithuania, in 1983. She studied law at the University of Vilnius where she specialized in commercial law. In 2007, she received her master’s degree in law. In Lithuania, Šimelyte also worked as a legal consultant in the Vilnius University Law Clinic, where she offered pro bono legal advice. In October of 2007, Šimelyte began her studies at the HCA, majoring in law, political science and international business cultures. In 2008, she received her M.A. in American Studies with a thesis entitled “Cultural Globalization: ‘Made in the USA’ or ‘Made in Europe’?”



The working title of Šimelyte’s dissertation is “Americanization and Europeanization: Two Faces of Cultural Globalization in Latvia and Lithuania.” Her

dissertation examines to what extent Latvia and Lithuania have undergone the process of cultural globalization. Specifically, it analyzes cultural changes in Latvia and Lithuania after these two countries had regained their independence and became open for Western cultural influences.

Primary supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert

HCA Research Projects

African Americans Civil Rights and Germany

In 2008, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies has entered a joint initiative of Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, NY) and the German Historical Institute, Washington D.C. to foster research and create a digital archive on "African American Civil Rights and Germany."

Together with these two institutions, the HCA supported Maria Höhn (Vassar) and Martin Klimke (HCA/GHI Washington) in gathering documents, images and oral history to document the role of African American GIs in bringing the civil rights movement to Germany during the Cold War.

By illustrating the untold story of African American GIs and the transnational implications of the African American Civil Rights movement, this project hopes to advance a more nuanced and sophisticated sense of how America's struggle for democracy reverberated across the globe.

First results can already be visited at www.projects.vassar.edu/africanamericansoldiers. A joint application for a digitization grant from the German Science Foundation (DFG) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) was filed in October 2008.

As part of this research concentration, the HCA also supports a conference on "Black Diaspora and Germany Across the Centuries" at the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. from March 19-21, 2009, organized by Anne Kuhlmann-Smirnov (History Department, University of Bremen), Mischa Honeck (HCA), and Martin Klimke (HCA / GHI Washington).

A second conference on "African American Civil Rights and Germany in the 20th Century" organized by Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke will take place at Vassar College from October 8-10, 2009.

Sustainable Governance Indicators 2009 (formerly: Bertelsmann Reform Index 2008)

HCA faculty member Dr. Martin Thunert is regional coordinator North America (Canada, Mexico, United States) of an international and comparative research project, which is conducted and sponsored by the Bertelsmann Foundation in Gütersloh – the Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI).

The SGI-project, launched in 2006/07, analyzes and compares the need for reform in the 30 member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as their ability to respond to current social and political challenges. The project is designed to create a comprehensive data pool on government-related activities in the world's developed, market democracies – among them the United States, Canada and Mexico. In addition, it uses international comparisons to provide evidence-based input for reform-related public discourse taking place in these countries.

Using qualitative and quantitative data, SGI measures the current need for political, economic and social reform in all 30 OECD member states. At the same time, it examines to what extent the countries' governments are able to tackle pressing problems and implement effective solutions. SGI thus makes use of a multi-dimensional approach that goes beyond the informational impact supplied by current rankings and indexes.

Project Description

Most indexes and rankings that assess market democracies usually limit themselves to individual policy fields (such as economic policy, education or the environment) or to examining governmental performance based on abstract concepts such as organizational structures and procedures. Until

now, there has been no index that combines both aspects - a gap that SGI has been explicitly designed to fill. This new "democracy ranking" will be published every two years beginning in 2008/09.

Conceptual underpinnings

SGI identifies the need for reform in the 30 OECD member nations by comparing their performance in 13 policy areas (outputs and/or outcomes), a process meant to ensure political nonpartisanship. In order to assess the quality of the nations' reform management, SGI focuses on the most important political actor -- the government -- by examining its organizational structures and its ability to implement policy-related strategies. At the same time, SGI does not assume that observed political outcomes derive solely from current government efforts. It does, however, assume that national policymakers are capable of effective leadership and that their chances of success stem from the executive branch's strategic capabilities, meaning that the more able a government is to take strategic action, the better its chances are of successfully implementing reform -- regardless of the actual reforms in question. The BRI's objective is to shed light on those strengths and weaknesses within the governance process that have resulted in each nation's current state of affairs.

How SGI is structured

SGI comprises two indexes calculated using a total of 153 indicators. The first is the Status Index, which measures key outputs and outcomes in the political, business and social arenas. The second is the Management Index, which evaluates the government's ability to create change. Both indexes are highly correlated. The Status Index shows where

the need for reform is greatest. The Management Index identifies how successful policymakers have been in implementing reforms. A key assumption is that, over the medium term, positive values in the Management Index will also lead to positive values in the Status Index.

The Status Index

The Status Index summarizes each democracy's development status, meaning to what extent citizens participate in the political process and the degree to which each country guarantees basic rights and freedoms. Based on this, quantitative measurements are carried out in 13 political and economic policy areas: employment, business, taxes, budgets and finance, health, social cohesion, families, pensions, security, integration, environment, research and education. These fields have been selected since they provide key answers to four challenges currently facing all OECD member nations: economic globalization, demographic change, new security challenges and ever-scarcer resources.

The Management Index

The Management Index examines government performance from two vantage points. Executive Capacity analyzes a government's organizational structures and processes in the categories of governance capabilities, efficient use of resources, international cooperation and capacity for self-reform. The second dimension, Executive Accountability, looks at how the government interacts with external state and nonstate actors (parliament, political parties, trade associations and the media) and measures to what extent these actors positively influence the executive branch -- and how.

Calculating SGI

Current political, economic and social develop-

ments in the 30 OECD member states can be quantitatively assessed through a range of data made available to the public by a number of independent institutions. SGI uses these data in the Status Index directly as part of its indicators and indirectly as background information in the three expert reports prepared for each country.

Country Specialists and Regional Coordinators
In all, 90 country experts assess, for the Status Index, the current performance in each of the 13 policy fields and, for the Management Index, the internal processes taking place within governance bodies and their interactions with external actors. The expert reports are based on a catalogue of questions and standardized responses, which are answered on a scale of 1 to 10. In addition, each country specialist – under the guidance of a regional coordinator - provides a detailed country report. The findings of country specialists are summarized by 7 regional coordinators into 30 synopses reports, with the regional coordinators comparing the assigned points among countries and regions. Finally, the results are vetted by SGI Board, made up of leading international specialists, before the individual points are tallied into the separate rankings for the Status Index and Management Index. The three-tier assessment process is meant to ensure the greatest possible level of objectivity.

Current Status of the Project

The role of the regional coordinator for North America (Canada, Mexico, and the United States) is to synthesize 9 expert assessments written by nine recognized country specialists—three for each country, representing at least two academic disciplines (e.g., Economics and Political Science) and two nationalities, including the subject nation. The end results are three separate country reports on reform capacities of the United States, Canada

and Mexico incorporating quantitative data interpreted through the lenses of the qualitative expert assessments.

The project is now nearing completion. In 2008 nine country specialists (three each for the U.S., Canada and Mexico) completed their expert reports under the guidance of regional coordinator Martin Thunert. The regional coordinator himself wrote three synopsis country reports of appr. 30-50 pages each. The rankings, synopses, coun-

try reports and individual analysis of select issues will be published as: Bertelsmann Foundation (ed.): Sustainable Governance Indicators 2009. Policy Performance and Executive Capacity in the OECD, Gütersloh 2009.

Outline at www.sgi-network.org.

Images of America in the World after 9/11: A Data-Driven Approach to Semantic Imprints of Texts

Texts have semantic imprints on their surfaces that can be read as indices for their pragmatic, social or cultural function. These imprints lie beyond traditional concepts of meaning and have so far neither been systematically identified nor analysed. Using transformations in images of the U.S. since 2001 as a case study, this project will develop categories for the description of semantic imprints with a data-driven approach and integrate them into a model that allows an automatic semantic analysis of texts. In doing so, the project will explore possible applications of these models for a semantisation of the internet and methodological innovations in the social sciences and cultural studies.

The project started in August 2008. Until now, the project team has been completed with a computational linguist and two student researchers and preliminary work has been done. In addition, a case study on the analysis of the U.S. Presidential Campaign 2008 has been published on a weblog (<http://semtracks.com/politicaltracker/>). The weblog and the results of the analysis were widely perceived by the press. Newspapers like *Die Zeit*, *Die Welt*, *Tages-Anzeiger* (Zürich), *Stut-*

tgarter Nachrichten, *Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, but also television (Swiss TV Tages-schau) and radio (WDR, SWR, radio eins, World Radio Switzerland etc.) reported on the semtracks political tracker (cf. <http://semtracks.com/index.php?id=Press>).

This research project is funded by the FRONTIER program of the University of Heidelberg. The project is coordinated by Martin Klimke (HCA), Joachim Scharloth (Freiburg/Zürich), Noah Bubenhofer (HCA/Zürich).

Protest, Culture, and Society: Europe and North America

Protest movements have been recognized as significant contributors to processes of political participation and transformations of culture and value systems as well as to the development of both a national and transnational civil society. This research endeavor brings together the various innovative approaches to phenomena of social change, protest and dissent which have emerged in recent years from an interdisciplinary perspective. It contextualizes social protest and cultures of dissent in Europe and North America within larger political processes and socio-cultural transformations by examining the influence of historical trajectories and the response of various segments of society, political and legal institutions on

a national and international level. In doing so, this research endeavor offers a more comprehensive, multi-dimensional, and transnational view of historical and cultural change in the 20th and 21st century.

The research project “European Protest Movements since the Cold War. The Rise of a (Trans)national Civil Society and the Transformation of the Public Sphere,” which is coordinated by Dr. Martin Klimke within this research framework, is supported by the European Union’s Marie Curie Program for the Promotion of Scientific Excellence.

The Transcultural Atlantic: Constructing Communities in a Global Context

This multidisciplinary and multinational research project (current members hail from the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, and Israel) explores the Transcultural Atlantic as a realm of cross-cultural interaction throughout the period of the Cold War and beyond.

More precisely, it investigates various processes of transatlantic networking and community-building in the realms of business, academia, foundations and think tanks, the media, popular culture, government, the military, and elsewhere. The project seeks to shed new light on the men and women who shaped this culture of transatlantic exchange and cooperation; on the transfer and adaptation of ideas and values across the Atlantic; and on the changing nature of the Atlantic space in an increasingly globalized world. It is neither to be limited to diplomatic history and political science studies dealing with alliance politics nor to cultural

studies that have long focused on the construction of national identities. Instead, the project aims at synthesizing both research areas, thus trying to arrive at a fuller understanding of processes of transatlantic community-formation since 1945. By covering a broad period of time, it will be possible to trace changes in the culture of different, sometimes competing Atlantic communities – to highlight continuities and ruptures; to show the effects of increased flows of goods, services, information, ideas, and identities; and to reassess the impact of major historical developments throughout the era of the Cold War, not least its unexpected end.

This project is funded by the Transatlantic Program of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, the SDAW Foundation for German-American Academic Relations, and the Global Networks Program of the University of Heidelberg.

The Conference

The HCA Spring Academy on American History, Culture and Politics is an annual international conference that aims to broaden the existing cross-disciplinary network of young scholars. Spring Academy has been successfully expanding since the first Spring Academy took place in 2004.

From April 21 to the 25, 2008 the Heidelberg Center for American Studies hosted the Spring Academy conference for the 5th time at the University of Heidelberg. Out of 52 applications, twenty participants from Europe and the United States were invited to attend the Spring Academy in order to present and discuss their dissertation projects.

The interdisciplinary conference was attended by doctoral students from ten different countries including Germany, Britain, Mexico, Poland, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the USA as well as from several different research areas such as African American literature, cultural studies, economics, history, law and political science. Due to the wide range of papers presented, there was no central theme of the conference. Instead, the conference aimed to give twenty Ph.D. candidates the possibility to present and discuss their research projects in ten panels which were constructed around the themes addressed by the participants' projects.

The ten panels organized the papers into sub-themes entitled as follows: Constructing Images of Democracy, Southern History, (De)Constructing Race, African American Visual Culture and Literature, Ethnic Identities, American Society and

Public Opinion, U.S. Legal Regulations, Trade and Politics, 19th century U.S. History, and U.S. and the Far East.

In addition, four experts from the research fields of African American studies, American studies, history and law gave workshops on different topics related to the twenty dissertation projects. Thus, the participants could discuss different themes connected to American Studies in a historical as well as in a contemporary context.

The conference program was rounded off by several evening events where the participants had the opportunity to further discuss their projects or to make contacts for their future academic careers.

The Venue

The HCA Spring Academy 2008 took place at the University's Internationales Wissenschaftsforum (IWH). Located in Heidelberg's old city center, this beautiful villa provides ideal conditions for the conference, offering comfortable accommodation and well-equipped assembly rooms.

Support

John Deere has been generously supporting the HCA Spring Academy since 2005. As in past years the participants of the HCA Spring Academy 2008 were invited to visit the John Deere European Headquarters in Mannheim.

Founded in 1837 John Deere is today the world's leading producer of farm equipment. In 1956, the company purchased a major share of a tractor factory in Mannheim, Germany, taking its first

steps towards becoming a multinational corporation. Today, John Deere does business around the world and employs approximately 52,000 people worldwide.

The HCA Spring Academy 2008

On Monday morning the conference commenced with an opening session at the HCA's Bel Etage. PD Dr. Philipp Gassert welcomed the participants to the 2008 Spring Academy and gave them a short introduction to the Heidelberg Center of American Studies. Prof. Vera Nünning, Vice Rector for International Relations of the University of Heidelberg, Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker, also gave a warm welcome and wished the participants an exciting and informative week.

Following the introduction session Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung started the conference program with the first workshop "What is/ Are American Studies?" During this workshop Dr. Fischer-Hornung gave an overview of the development of the discipline from its beginnings in the 1940s to the present. By calling contemporary American Studies a "utopian project with shifting utopias" that deals with such issues as race, gender, ethnicity, class, and media studies, Dr. Fischer-Hornung opened the discussion about the future direction of the field of American Studies. She also discussed the function of American Studies as well as the question of a transnational shift in the field. Dr. Fischer-Hornung ended her workshop with the conclusion that the field of American Studies supplies scholars with a lot of "tools" which can be used to analyze developments and problems not just in the American but also in the European context. However, she also added that European Americanists are still organized along national lines, and that there is still a need to develop a

trans-European dialogue in the American Studies discourse. Thus, the workshop became an impulse for the further discussion about similarities and differences between the topics of the participants.

The first panel of the conference addressed the topic of "Constructing Image of Democracy". The two papers re-examined the general idea of American policies of democratization. In his project entitled 'To the Heart of Europe: American Studies and Cultural Diplomacy, 1939-1955', George Blaustein (American Studies, Harvard University) examines the role of American Studies scholars and scholarship in the broad effort to rebuild and rehabilitate Germany and Austria after World War II.



George Blaustein from Harvard presenting his topic

Jorrit Van den Berk (Diplomatic History, University of Leiden) followed with his dissertation project entitled 'Close encounters with the caudillos: American diplomats meet political bosses in Central America, 1933-1952'. Examining the American policy towards dictatorships in the developing world, Van den Berk argues that American policy towards Caribbean dictators is largely shaped by the perceptions, the "mindset", and the intellectual outlooks of policymakers in Washington.

The second panel examined different aspects of "Southern History". In his project 'Between Party

and Principle: the Political Life of James Eastland', Maarten Zwiers (History, University of Groningen) through the study of James Eastland's career, explores how conservative southerners adjusted their segregationist views to new realities, and how politicians used their power to defend the white southern way of life. In his project "'Come on down!': The selling of the Florida Dream in the Post-War years.", Ray Eberling (American Studies, University of Heidelberg) explores the "selling" of the "Florida Dream" in the twenty-year period following the end of World War II. By analyzing the image of a "Florida Dream" and its impact during this timeframe, Eberling argues that it was also sold in a twofold way, in a literal as well as figurative sense.

Yuliya Kozyrakis (American Studies, University of Hannover) opened the third panel "(De)Constructing Race". In her dissertation project 'Post-Racial Realities: Passing Narratives in Contemporary U.S. Fiction', she explores not only the turn of American literature towards the questions of ethnic identity, but also looks into the generic developments that these works put forth. In her dissertation Kozyrakis aims to do a literary analysis of the manifold narrative strategies in current U.S. fiction as well as a cultural studies analysis of ethnic self-fashioning, race and identity. Her study tries to broaden the definition of passing and its understanding not only as literary and social practice but as a new form of identity.

With her research project entitled 'Localizing Literary Whiteness: Post-Critical Whiteness Studies in the Contemporary American Novel', Katharina Bick (Literature, University of Bremen) contributes to critical whiteness studies, a new academic field that has complemented minority studies of radicalization. By analyzing the literary representation of whiteness in six contemporary American novels,

Bick's project focuses on the discursive process of developing a white racial identity.



Julia Kozyrakis, Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, Carmen Dixel

The fourth panel African American Visual Culture and Literature was opened by Rebecca Cobby (American Studies, University of Nottingham). In her dissertation project 'Emperors of Masculinity: The Staging and Spectacle of the Black Male Body in the Works of Roy DeCarava, Goron Parks, and Jean Michel Basquiat', she focuses on the representation of the black male subject in African American visual culture. Carmen Dixel (Literary and Cultural Studies, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg) discusses in her project 'Ethics and Aesthetics of Violence in African American Literature, 1855-1988' the various aesthetic forms and social functions of representations of violence in African-American fiction. By comparing novels from different historical eras and distinct narrative genres, she plans to make new conclusions about the change of violent representations in African-American literature from 1855 to 1988.



Rebecca Cobby from the University of Nottingham answering questions after presenting her thesis

The second workshop 'The Place of Ethnic Studies in American Studies' was held by Dr. Jeanette Eileen Jones (African-American and African Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln), 2007/08 Deutsche Bank Junior Fellow at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

In her talk, Dr. Jones introduced ethnic studies as a discipline by tracing its development since the 1960s and 1970s. By arguing that the genealogy of ethnic studies reveals the political struggle which took place in academia and society during this time to move the experiences of "ethnic" Americans from the periphery to the center of scholarly inquiry, Dr. Jones also critically reflected on the impact of this genealogy on American studies.

Dr. Jones explained that by often ignoring or understating the importance of race, gender, ethnicity and sexuality in shaping the understanding of American experience, early American Studies did little to challenge the dominant theme of American exceptionalism. By considering transnational approaches, "whiteness" studies and borderland theory as the critical turning points in ethnic studies she asked what American studies have learned and what they still can learn from this development. Dr. Jones also emphasized that ethnic studies had in many ways pioneered research that embraced diaspora as a category of analysis,

destabilized whiteness as an immutable category and challenged the nation-state as a sole category for understanding the "ethnic" experience.

The fifth panel Ethnic Identities was opened by Kathleen Look (American Studies, University of Göttingen). In her research project entitled 'The Ethnicization of Christopher Columbus: From U.S. National Icon to Immigrant Hero, 1892-1929', she investigates the shift between the peak of his popularity in 1892/93 and the symbolic moment when Columbus was removed from the five-dollar banknote in 1929. In her project 'Generation at the Crossroads: The Policy of Constructing Ethnic Identity of Immigrants' Children and Youth: the Case Study of the Swedish- American Publishing House Augustana Book Concern, 1889-1962', Agnieszka Stasiewicz (American Studies, Jagiellonian University) analyzes the components of children's ethnic identity promoted by the Swedish-American publishing house Augustana Book Concern. The process of constructing "hyphenated identity" is of a special interest for this project since it was a long-lasting ambition of Swedish-American leaders to create and support this type of ethnicity.

The sixth panel examined different aspects of American Society and Public Opinion. In her project "The Sixth Estate: The 'Hollywoodization' of American Politics", Kathryn Brownell (History, Boston University) explores the convergence of political practices and Hollywood celebrities over the course of the twentieth century, investigating the way entertainment has emerged as a defining component of the American political process. Elizabeth More (History, Harvard University) discusses in her dissertation project 'Social Scientist, Public Policy, and the Revaluing of Working Mothers': the intellectual and political history of working mothers in the United States. By focusing on the post-war period, class and race dimensions also

come into discussion since the experience of black working women differed significantly from that of their white peers.



Boat trip to Neckarsteinach on Wednesday afternoon

The seventh panel addressed U.S. Legal Regulations. In her project entitled "Alternative Sanctions: An Overview and Comparison of Sentencing Practices in United States and Europe", Alicja Sommerfeld (Criminal Law, Nicolaus Copernicus University) examines alternative sanctions in comparative American-European context. Asim Jusic (Juridical Science, Central European University of Budapest) followed with his project entitled "Comparative Law and Economics of Religion". In comparing legal regulation of religion in the U.S., Germany, France and Hungary from the perspective of the economic analysis of law, Jusic argues that "traditional" modes of regulating religion are not adequate anymore. Instead, he focuses on the conceptualization of a new "expressive model of law" which allows an increased coexistence of different religious groups in today's multicultural societies.

The eighth panel examined different aspects of Trade and Politics. In her project entitled "Chinese Trade Policy towards the United States and its Implications for the Mexican Exports: The Case of the Furniture Industry", Lidia Martinez Murillo

(Public Policy, University of Leipzig) focuses on the furniture industry as a case study. She analyzes Chinese trade policy towards the United States and the competition between China and Mexico within the American market from 1979 to 2005. In his dissertation project "The Transatlantic Business Dialogue and the Principal Agent Model: Implications for Transatlantic Inter-Governmental Relations", Oliver Ziegler (International Political Economy, Free University Berlin), analyzes the role of business actors in transatlantic regulatory cooperation. Based on a state-centric approach, in which the EU Commission and the U.S. government remain the predominant actors in regulatory matters, one central question of this project is how and under what conditions the Transatlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) has changed or has been used to change the power play between the EU and the U.S. in regulatory coordination.

In the third workshop, Prof. Elizabeth Borgwardt (History, Washington University in St. Louis), who was serving as a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies during the summer semester 2008, gave a presentation entitled "All the clauses in the Preamble of the Constitution are worth fighting for: FDR's 'Four Freedom as a Human rights instrument". Drawing on her latest book, *A New Deal for the World: America's Vision of Human Rights, 1941-1946*, Prof. Borgwardt started her talk with a short introduction into the history of ideas. She also discussed the problem of legal history being absent in much of today's historiographical discussions. Central to her talk was the question of where the idea of Roosevelt's four freedoms came from, not in regards to global philosophy but in terms of the political and social context during this period.

The ninth panel examined different aspects of 19th century U.S. History. In her project entitled

"Cosmopolitan Republics: The Gulf of Mexico between 1783 and 1836", Vanessa Mongey (History, University of Pennsylvania) engages revolution, race and republicanism during the Age of Revolution. Vanessa traces the activities of revolutionary agents, including Haitian soldiers, Latin American insurgents, French privateers and Spanish rebels, who attempted to overthrow the Spanish crown and establish cosmopolitan republics in Colombia, Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico. Drawing from sources like memoirs and diplomatic correspondence, Mongey argues that these Republicans became "ambassadors of culture". In the presentation that followed, "Wires that Bind: Democracy and Nationhood on the American Periphery, 1877-1914", Torsten Kathke (History, University of Munich) addressed issues of democratic understanding, local identity and nationalism on the American periphery in the timeframe from 1877 until the end of the "long 19th century". Conducting a microhistoric study of three towns along the erstwhile Southern Pacific Railroad line, Kathke seeks to discover how spreading technology affected and altered discourse among rural intellectual elites.

The last panel addressing the U.S. and the Far East was opened by Adam Burns (History, University of Edinburgh). In his dissertation project entitled "Race, Empire and Immigration: The Case of William Howard Taft, 1900-1921", Burns focuses on William H. Taft because of his centrality to the advent of U.S. overseas imperialism as the first Civil Governor of the Philippines, later as Secretary of War and finally as U.S. President. Using Taft's correspondence, Burns aims to demonstrate the way in which Taft influenced the nature of imperial and immigration policy in U.S.-East Asian policy during this important period and how some of his policies offer important comparison to the direction that U.S. foreign relations were to take

in the following decades. Ariane Knüsel (History and Sinology, University of Zurich) concluded this last panel with her project entitled "China Images in Britain, Switzerland and the USA, 1900-1949". In her dissertation Knüsel analyzes how China was portrayed in British, Swiss, and U.S. newspapers and journals between 1900 and 1949. Based on the assumption that Chinese images were always cultural constructs, she argues that the way China was portrayed in a specific country at a certain time was always influenced by various aspects like publications and films about China, economy, politics, religion, and racial theories.



The interdisciplinary profile of the conference enabled participants to discuss their research projects from various angles and methods.

The fourth workshop entitled "Existential Enemies and American Political Culture" was held by Prof. Benjamin L. Alpers (History, University of Oklahoma), who is currently spending the 2007-2008 academic year as a Fulbright Professor in American Studies at the University of Leipzig. With regard to his book, "Dictators, Democracy, and American Public Culture: Envisioning the Totalitarian Enemy, 1920-1950s" Prof. Alpers gave a short introduction of the understanding of mid-twentieth century European dictatorships and the impact this understanding had on the vision of American democracy. Focusing on this history and its post- Cold War legacy, Prof. Alpers also discussed recent conceptions of a new "existential

enemy." In the discussion that followed he also asked what these conceptions of America's enemies, for example "Islamofascism", might mean for U.S. political culture and the world.



Participants, organizers, and contributors of the HCA Spring Academy 2008.

Back (l. to r.): Maarten Zwiers, Adam Burn, Philipp Gassert, Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, Wilfried Mausbach, Asim Jusic, Torsten Kathke; third row (l. to r.): Oliver Ziegler, Alicja Sommerfeld, George Blaustein, Katharina Bick, Ariane Knüsel, Nimue Müller, Vanessa Mongey, Kathleen Lock, Kathryn Brownell; Second row (l. to r.): Detlef Junker, Rebecca Cobby, Yulia Kozyrkis, Elena Matveeva, Carmen Dixel, Jorrit Van den Berk, Agnieszka Stasiewicz; front (l. to r.): Sophie Lorenz, Jeannette Eileen Jones, Elizabeth More, Lidia Martinez Murillo, Ray Eberling, Elizabeth Borgwardt.

Conference's Outcome/ Conclusion

The conference concluded with a roundtable discussion where the participants together with all the contributors discussed the future of American Studies. Despite the diversity of projects and research fields presented during this conference week, all participants could gain new and fruitful insight into the different fields of American Studies and at the same time received useful feedback for their own dissertation projects.

Outlook: Spring Academy 2009

The sixth Spring Academy will take place from March 30 to April 4, 2009. Prof. Kirsten Fischer, the current Deutsche Bank Junior Scholar-in-Residence at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, already agreed to hold one of the planned workshops at the 2009 Spring Academy.

Conferences

Workshop in Madison, Wisconsin, March 13-14, 2008.

On March 13 and 14, 2008, a delegation of current and former HCA scholars – Wilfried Mausbach, Martin Thunert, Jana Freihöfer, Martin Klimke, Thomas Gijswijt, Mischa Honeck, and Philipp Gassert – joined a group of researchers from the United States, Canada, and Israel for an investigative workshop at the University of Wisconsin-Madison entitled “New Directions in Transatlantic History, Politics, Culture, and Society.” During an intensive two days of deliberation and debate, the workshop participants explored new ways to analyze the culture of transatlantic alliances from the onset of the Cold War to the present. Eager to “think big,” those present did not shrink big questions such as “Does the West still exist?” or “If there is such a thing as transatlantic culture, how does it change in an increasingly globalizing world?”

The workshop kicked off with two opening presentations by Jeremi Suri (Madison) and Wilfried Mausbach (HCA). Arguing for a more holistic understanding of transatlantic relations, Suri sees the Atlantic Community less as a hierarchical unit than a complex web of relationships in which different parties can have the upper hand on different issues. Suri’s call for an agenda combining politics, economy, and culture was echoed by Wilfried Mausbach, whose speech focused on deliberate attempts by Western elites after 1945 to forge a transnational identity conducive to the success of institutions like NATO. Mausbach argued that studying narratives and cultural practices that promoted the idea of an Atlantic Community might help us better understand what it was that kept “the West” together for more than

half a century and, some might say, continues to do so today.

The second panel dealt with transatlantic group- and community formation on an elite level. Building on his own research on the Bilderberg Group, Thomas Gijswijt (HCA/Nijmwegen) stressed the need to examine informal, interpersonal processes of alliance-building as one way to gauge the extent to which discourses of democracy may become transnational and, in the case of Bilderberg, “Western.” Jana Freihöfer (HCA), on the other hand, pointed out that the Atlantic Community can also be envisioned as a social space constituted by traveling people. According to Freihöfer, it is important to look more closely at prevailing degrees of social and economic mobility in the Atlantic realm to recognize the growing significance of high-skilled migration and the diffusion of skills and knowledge.



Martin Thunert and Eric Jarosinski

After a short break, Martin Thunert (HCA) and Eric Jarosinski (Philadelphia) approached the subject matter from the angles of political science and the history of ideas. In his speech about the place of German Studies in the Atlantic Community, Jarosinski stressed that every investigation of transatlantic exchange processes in a globalized world must also consider conflict, tension,

and dissent. Thunert, on the other hand, called attention to the inherent difficulties surrounding the terms “community” and “alliance,” especially if viewed in the light of recent controversies among political scientists. Thunert argued that such conceptual quandaries, coupling varying interests and outlooks among different actors, remind us of the pluralist and protean nature of the transatlantic partnership.

The concluding panel of the first day revolved around intellectual exchanges and transactions across the Atlantic. Adi Gordon (Madison/Jerusalem) used the Jewish-American writer Hans Kohn as a case in point to illustrate that different ideas of community and belonging can coexist, intersect, and influence each other in the work of one and the same transatlantic scholar. The belief that intense contestation and productive adaptation are trademarks of transatlantic culture was echoed by Philipp Gassert (GHI Washington). Drawing on the Euro-American biographies of thinkers like Hannah Arendt and Leo Strauss, Gassert reinforced the notion that the Atlantic is a cultural highway that goes both ways, that Europeanization in North America and Americanization in Europe are closely intertwined.

The second day started with a panel that gauged the impact of activist networks on emerging transatlantic identities. Martin Klimke (HCA/GHI Washington), outlining the ideas, practices, and protest techniques that bound together leftist groups in the United States and Europe, interpreted the 1960s and 1970s as an age in which traditional concepts of the “West” were challenged by a budding transnational counter-alliance. While new social movements like anti-colonialism, feminism, the Civil Rights movement in the United States, and student protesters in Western Europe did not destroy the Atlantic alliance, as Klimke pointed

out, they did eventually change the Western fabric as a whole. The panel’s second paper, delivered by Sean Mills (Madison), used Francophone Quebec as a case study to further elaborate on the appropriation of decolonization and civil rights doctrines in a transatlantic context. Similar to other contemporary sites of agitation, Franco-Canadian supporters of Quebec independence established ties with likeminded intellectuals in Europe, hoping to find broader international legitimacy for their cause.



Round table discussion

The fifth and last panel addressed developments in transatlantic communication and travel. Capt. Scott Mobley (Madison), a retired navy officer, reflected on transatlantic naval cooperation in the era of the Cold War and beyond. Mobley underscored that communication on the high seas during that period was never simply limited to members of the Atlantic Alliance but oftentimes included other maritime powers, betraying silhouettes of a global community of mariners and naval forces. Marcus Funck (Toronto), who joined the study group via video connection from Toronto, gave a survey of his current research project, which scrutinizes the creation of the international air-traffic system and the experiences of modern air travel as part of a general history of globalization.

At the end of the second day, time was set aside

for a concluding session which allowed the participants to dwell on the workshop results and think about ways to improve their research agenda intellectually and practically. All agreed that a project committed to mapping transatlantic culture(s) in a global age should be both multinational and multidisciplinary and that it should emphasize the processes of community-

building as much as the results. Finally, the study group resolved to apply for funding at various European and North American foundations in order to sustain and, in the long run, expand their cooperation by involving scholars from other European countries as well.

Confronting Cold War Conformity – Peace and Protest Cultures in Europe, 1945-1989 Summer School at the Charles University Prague , August 18 – 25, 2008

The Czech and formerly Czechoslovak capital city of Prague was the site of this year's conference of the European Union-funded Marie Curie research network "European Protest Movements since 1945," which was jointly organized by the Charles University Prague and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. Prague was an obvious choice for hosting the annual meeting for this group, which has emerged as the major cross-disciplinary platform for the study of protest movements in postwar Europe. After all, both the "Prague Spring" of 1968 and Velvet Revolution of 1989 had their central localities in Prague's Wenzel Square. Today, these historical events are thoroughly embedded in the European memorial landscape. Images of Prague citizens demonstrating in front of Red Army tanks in late August of 1968 have acquired iconic status in many European contexts. From coast to coast, similar commemorative footage was broadcast this summer. "Prague '68" images are being reproduced in schoolbooks all across Europe. The highly celebrated intellectual protagonists (as well as historic antagonists) of both events, Milan Kundera and Vaclav Havel, are towering European emblems of the "struggle of man against power" (Kundera).

The choice of Prague in August 2008 was auspicious not only in terms of location, but also with respect to timing. While conference participants discussed the history of European protest movements in the halls of the venerable Charles University (the oldest of central Europe), current events at times almost seemed like a running commentary on the past. Even as conference participants discussed the Warsaw Pact invasion of August 21, 1968, Russian troops were on the march in Georgia. While some quickly drew parallels to events 40 years earlier, contemporary Prague dissidents had different lessons to offer. Although the Polish government had initially been reluctant to support American efforts to build a NATO missile defense system, it had agreed to do so, with plans calling for a radar facility in the Czech Republic. Protestors built a human chain stretching from Wenzel Square to the Czech foreign ministry to fight off an impending American invasion (albeit a rather limited one in the guise of a few specialists manning the radar stations). Street activists clad in German Wehrmacht, Soviet Red Army, and U.S. military uniforms stomped on a map of the Czech Republic that had been drawn on the pavement of Wenzel Square.

The conference was organized by Kathrin Fahl-
enbrach (University of Halle-Wittenberg), Martin
Klimke (Heidelberg Center for American Studies,
and German Historical Institute, Washington,
D.C.), and Joachim Scharloth (University of Zurich)
in cooperation with Milos Havelka, Michal Pull-
mann, and Zdenek Nebrensky (all Charles Univer-
sity Prague). It boasted a whopping 80 papers
presented in 7 plenary meetings, a stunning 21
panels running in 3 parallel sessions, as well as
8 workshops, to which all the participants were
asked to contribute.

The conference opened on a somber note that
looked back to "1968." The question of what
"Prague '68" had in common with contemporary
events in the West took center stage during the
opening ceremony in the adorned Patriotic Room
of the Charles University. Petr Pithart, Vice Chair-
man of the Senate of the Czech Republic and
himself a former participant of both the 1968 and
1989 uprisings, painted a melancholy picture of
the late 1960s "as a dim yet beautiful dream."
Although Prague protesters barely took notice of
what was happening all around (in Vietnam, Paris,
even neighboring Berlin, Vienna, and Warsaw), for
a moment they could believe that Prague was the
epicenter of world history. Invoking Milan Kun-
dera's assertion that "the Paris May was an explo-
sion of revolutionary lyricism while the Prague
Spring was an explosion of revolutionary skepti-
cism," Pithart saw the Czech 1960s as a (mostly
unacknowledged) longing to return to the hal-
cyon days of the interwar period. He concluded,
however, that all the 1968 movements in East
and West shared a utopian dreaminess that later
movements would not replicate. This was espe-
cially true, Pithart concluded, for the "realistic"
1989, whose main Czech protagonists famously
rejected the legacies of '68: "Perhaps even the
skeptics would still agree with the lyrics that the

sixties and their culmination in 1968 were the time
of hope that would never come back."

The opening keynote lecture took participants to
familiar territory. Luisa Passerini's (Turin Univer-
sity) talk on "Memory and Utopia: Intersubjectiv-
ity in European Protest Movements, 1960-1980"
stressed the novel character of the 1960s, '70s,
and '80s because of the emergence of new actors
such as women and minority groups. The other
seven thematic lectures, which structured the
program during the following six days, also were
stock-taking exercises. Ruth Kinna (Loughborough
University) went back to the early 20th century,
when avant-garde artists and thinkers, on the one
hand, and anarchist movements, on the other,
were exploring the tension between theory and
social practice that would beset later movements
as well. Sven Reichardt (University of Constance)
explained why it makes sense to analyze European
fascism with models developed for social move-
ment research. Thomas McDonough (Binghamton
University) explored radical architectural agendas
in postwar Europe that were close to trailblaz-
ing intellectual groupings such as the Situationist
International.

The keynote lectures on the three following
days by Lawrence Wittner (SUNY Albany), Ingrid
Gilcher-Holtey (University of Bielefeld), and Frank
Zelko (University of Vermont) mapped postwar ter-
ritories, and Jenny Pickerill (University of Leicester)
took the conference into the new world of internet-
based protest. Wittner explained the historically
unprecedented rise of large-scale peace move-
ments in the postwar period with three factors:
a) the sheer destructiveness of modern warfare; b)
the existence of political alternatives to war (such
as the United Nations) as a means of international
conflict resolution; and c) the democratization of
the public sphere, which was disproportionately

a middle-class phenomenon. Gilcher-Holtey maintained that even though Hans-Magnus Enzensberger and others were later quite critical of the utopian overshooting of the 1968 movements, the cognitive revolution that had been started by the 1960s avant-garde quite thoroughly transformed (Western) modernity, which took on a more self-reflective stance. Zelko presented his findings on the rise of environmental protest and Greenpeace in West Germany. He stressed the interaction between movements and high modernist state intervention schemes as “instrumental in giving rise to new forms of direct action.” Pickerill, finally, picked up on the theme of environmental protest and demonstrated how different technologies shape the expression of dissent in transnational as well as in national contexts.

War borders, even though most individual papers were structured along national lines.

On the last day, the conference returned to local Prague events 40 and 20 years ago (which also had been the focus of a well-attended public eyewitness panel moderated by Milos Havelka on Friday night with former Czech 68ers Jri Kosta, Jaroslav Sabata, and Milos Barta at the podium). In revisiting the famous exchange between Milan Kundera and Vaclav Havel, Milos Havelka (Prague) explained the events in 1968 with a generational model. Kundera, who had come of age during World War II and thus had experienced communism as a liberating force, defended the “Czech Deal” of reform communism against the critique of young intellectuals like Vaclav Havel, who had



Participants and contributors of the Prague Summer School

Twenty-one individual panels and workshops were organized around specific themes, which mostly transcended chronological and national, as well as disciplinary, boundaries. They included but were not limited to urban fashion, spaces, music, cyberprotest, gender, protest techniques, transnational protest, violence, terrorism, and youth cultures. Most panels easily transcended the old Cold

come of age during Stalinist rule. The skeptic Havel thought Kundera’s praise of the Czech people’s uprising historically obsolete. These different generational ideas about the capacity of Czech society to reform itself had significant long-term repercussions. In 1989, few still saw reform communism as a viable model, as Michal Pullmann explained in his lecture on the “Dynamics of Perestroika in

Czechoslovakia." With the "normalization" (a contemporary euphemism for Communist suppression) of the late 1960s and early 1970s, ideas of a "third way," which had been a prominent theme of the 1968ers in East and West, seemed to have been buried by the events themselves.

In short, the summer school was both an impressive demonstration of the vitality of protest movement research and a vibrant network that by now has more than 250 affiliates from more than 30 countries and numerous disciplines. The network, which is housed by the HCA continues to produce companion volumes, online guides, and reference books, has just launched its own publication series, *Protest, Culture and Society* at Berghahn Books,

The American Presidency and Political Leadership

55th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA), May 15–18, 2008

In mid-May, Heidelberg University and the HCA had the pleasure and privilege to host the 55th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA). Befittingly in this year of U.S. presidential elections, the Association had chosen as the theme of its annual meeting "The American Presidency and Political Leadership." As Rüdiger Kunow, president of the DGfA, explained in his preface to the program, "The American Presidency has been regarded as the pinnacle of political power, the symbol of the American polity, and a cultural myth. All these representations have circulated widely in the United States and all around the world."

More than 200 teachers and scholars flocked to Heidelberg to discuss this unique phenomenon. Four renowned keynote speakers set the topic in perspective. Following the welcoming addresses

New York/Oxford, and will thus certainly have a significant impact on how we interpret postwar European protest movements in the future.

by DGfA president Rüdiger Kunow, Heidelberg University's Vice Rector for International Relations Vera Nünning, U.S. Consul General Jo Ellen Powell, and HCA Founding Director Detlef Junker, Dana D. Nelson (Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English, Vanderbilt University, Nashville) delivered the opening address, analyzing the nexus between "Democracy – Presidentialism – War." In other featured lectures, Michael A. Genovese (Director, Institute for Leadership Studies, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles) argued that "Presidential Power in an Age of Terrorism" has come to resemble the very imperial government that the Founding Fathers of the United States rejected and overthrew, thus bringing the American political process full circle from 1776. Andreas Falke (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg) offered some comparative reflections on whether the presidency was prone to failure.

Finally, H. W. Brands (Dickson Allen Anderson Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin) revisited “The Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.”

As a special feature of the convention’s program, Pulitzer Prize winning author Annie Proulx read from “Just the Way It Is,” her latest collection of short stories. The event was open to the public and brought a packed house to Heidelberg’s German-American Institute (DAI), with its director Jakob J. Köllhofer and Peter R. Claussen, Cultural Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Berlin, introducing the speaker.

The convention’s workshops provided platforms for both well-established and up-and-coming scholars to present their latest research. Workshop themes ranged from “Ranking and Rating Presidencies” and reevaluations of the concept of “The Imperial Presidency” to “Representations of the Presidency in American Literature and the Visual Arts,” “The Cultural and Aesthetic Work of Filming the President,” “Family Values and the Pol-

itics of Private Representation” of U.S. presidents, and “Poetry and the Presidency.”

The meeting was capped by a roundtable discussion on “The American Presidency: Mission Impossible” featuring the convention’s four keynote speakers who were joined by Manfred Berg (Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History, Heidelberg University) and by moderator Stefan Kornelius, editorial page editor of *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

Generously sponsored by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation, the Embassy of the United States of America in Germany, MLP financial services group, and the Jacob Gould Schurman Society, Heidelberg, and ably organized by the HCA’s Sonja Döring and her team of cheerful helpers, the DGfA’s 55th Annual Convention turned out to be a huge success, setting—as one participant remarked—“a new gold standard” for the Association’s annual meetings.



The Workshop „Portraying Leadership, Narrating Crisis: Representations of the Presidency in American Literature and the Visual Arts.

HCA Research Staff and Research Fellows

Prof. Elizabeth Borgwardt

Fulbright Visiting Professor

Elizabeth Borgwardt studied history and law and earned her B.A. and M.Phil. in international relations at Cambridge University. She also received a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a Ph.D. from Stanford University.

Her permanent position is in the Department of History at Washington University in St. Louis, where she is associate professor of international history. She specializes in the history of the United States' role in world affairs, historical perspectives on human rights, and the history of international law and institutions.

Her first book, *A New Deal for the World: America's Vision for Human Rights*, published by Harvard University Press in 2005, analyzes how planning for postwar international institutions transformed the idea of human rights in wartime American political thought. It has garnered several prizes.

Currently, she is working on a second book project tentatively titled "Nuremberg: The Trial of the Century in History and Memory." Borgwardt is the co-winner of the OAH Merle Curti Award for the best book in the history of ideas and the Stuart L. Bernath Book Prize for the best first book on the history of U.S. foreign relations, awarded by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations.

She has received multiple teaching awards and spent time at the HCA as a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer during the spring of 2008.



Dr. des. Noah Bubenhofer

Research Associate

Noah Bubenhofer is the coordinator of the project “Semtracks: Tracking Meaning on the Surface” at the HCA in Heidelberg. In addition, he is research assistant at the German Department of the University of Zürich.

In his Ph.D. thesis “Muster an der sprachlichen Oberfläche” (patterns at the linguistic surface), he develops corpus linguistic methods for discourse and cultural analysis. As a linguist, he is mainly interested in computer based semantical text analysis and the relation between text and culture.

The methods Noah Bubenhofer developed in his Ph.D. thesis aim to put discourse and cultural analysis on an empirical foundation. Modern approaches in corpus linguistics make it possible to analyse enormous amounts of text using tools of computational linguistics and statistics. These tools can be used to study language use which is typical for certain text domains like newspaper articles, web discussion forums, blogs etc. Furthermore it is also possible to compare the change of language use over time: Which patterns of language use are specific for a certain time period?

In co-operation with researchers from Germany and Japan, Noah Bubenhofer is also developing a search engine for foreign language learners. The core of this search engine is an algorithm which evaluates the readability of a given text using linguistic and statistical methods of text evaluation.

Noah Bubenhofer recently received a post-doctoral fellowship for foreign researchers from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and will therefore leave Europe for 2 ½ months to work on the automatic text evaluation for foreign language learners.



Prof. Kirsten Fischer

Deutsche Bank Junior Scholar-in-Residence

Kirsten Fischer received her Ph.D. from Duke University in 1994 and taught at the University of South Florida before moving to the University of Minnesota in 2000, where she is now an associate professor of history.

Her first book, *Suspect Relations: Sex, Race, and Resistance in Colonial North Carolina* (Cornell, 2002), draws on court records and travel literature to show how notions of racial difference were shaped by illicit sexual relationships and the sanctions imposed on those involved. In North Carolina's developing slave society, attempts to regulate the sexual practices of ordinary people, especially those of lower-class white women and free black women, were crucial to the making of a racial hierarchy.

Fischer's current research focuses on religion in the early Republic, especially the contests over "rational religion" and the place of religion in American politics. She teaches courses on religious history, radicalism in early America, religion and the U.S. founding. She has published essays in a number of anthologies and journals, and she co-edited *Colonial American History* in the series *Blackwell Readers in American Social and Cultural History* under the general editorship of Prof. Jacqueline Jones (2002).

Her work has been generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, post-doctoral fellowships at the University of Utah and the Newberry Library in Chicago, and the McKnight Research Foundation at the University of Minnesota. Fischer is delighted to be this year's Deutsche Bank Junior Scholar-in-Residence at the HCA. Her MAS graduate seminar is titled: "Religion and the U.S. Founding: Contests Then and Now over the Place of Religion in American Politics."



Dr. Jana Freihöfer

Research Fellow

Jana Freihöfer joined the HCA as a full staff member in June 2007. She coordinates the Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy in Berlin and took over responsibilities for Public Relations.

Jana Freihöfer studied geography, political science and economics at the University of Bonn. She received her M.A. in Geography from King's College London. Before receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg, she worked with the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Vienna and with the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York. In April 2007, she successfully completed her Ph.D. thesis. Her past accolades include scholarships from the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).



In her thesis entitled "Karrieren im System der Vereinten Nationen. Am Beispiel hochqualifizierter Deutscher, 1973-2003" she explores the spatial development of international civil servants' careers and their determining factors. Regional mobility has become a facet of contemporary world economy, especially of highly skilled labor markets. Trans-national companies transfer their staff around the globe. While it has been shown for many business sectors that high-skilled workers are usually highly mobile in the course of their career, this study illustrates that the labor market of international organizations is characterized by a high amount of immobile employees. Drawing on a case study of German international civil servants, this paper argues that this distinct career pattern is mainly a result of personnel policies together with spatial and hierarchical post-structures as well as individual career aspirations. The dissertation was published in 2007 (Heidelberg: Heidelberger Geographische Arbeiten 124, ISBN: 978-3-88570-124-8).

Jana Freihöfer's research interests lie within the broad scope of social geography, with a specific focus on migration issues, labor market studies, international tourism and transnational networks.

Dr. Thomas W. Gijswijt

Associate Researcher

Thomas W. Gijswijt was a research fellow at the HCA from September 2007 until April 2008. He was responsible for coordinating the HCA Center for Interdisciplinary Study as well as the Ph.D. in American Studies. Thomas Gijswijt left the HCA to become a researcher at the Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

After completing his M.A. in Modern History at the University of Amsterdam in 1999, Thomas worked as a researcher at the Germany Institute Amsterdam. In 2001/2002 he was a visiting NAF/Fulbright scholar at Columbia University, New York City. In October 2002 he received a Curt Engelhorn Ph.D. Scholarship at the University of Heidelberg. He also spent a year as a research fellow at the Institut für Europäische Geschichte in Mainz in 2004/2005.

In November 2007, Gijswijt successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis, entitled “Uniting the West. The Bilderberg Group, the Cold War and European Integration, 1952-1966”, at the University of Heidelberg. Throughout its history, the Bilderberg Group has been widely recognized as one of the most important transnational elite networks in the West. The extraordinary quality and influence of the Bilderberg participants – from Henry Kissinger to Helmut Schmidt, David Rockefeller to Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands – has led to a plethora of conspiracy theories. Remarkably, however, there is no serious, archive-based history of the Bilderberg Group. “Uniting the West” fills this gap. It is a truly transnational history, based on archival sources from over twenty archives in six different countries, including the Bilderberg Group’s own archives in the Netherlands. A thoroughly revised version of Gijswijt’s thesis was submitted for publication to a major academic publisher in September 2008.

His research interests include: transatlantic relations during the Cold War, the history of European integration, transnational elite networks and nuclear strategy.



Dr. Mischa Honeck

Research Associate

Mischa Honeck joined the HCA as a research associate and full staff member in April of 2008. Apart from administering the Ph.D. in American Studies program, he is responsible for coordinating the Center for Interdisciplinary Research as well as the HCA's visiting fellows program.

Honeck studied history, philosophy, and English at Portland State University and the University of Heidelberg, where he received his M.A. in February of 2004 and completed his Ph.D. in June of 2008 ("summa cum laude"). For his doctoral studies, he was awarded the Kade-Heideking Fellowship of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. and the University of Wisconsin-Madison as well as a dissertation stipend from the Schurman Foundation. A specialist in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American history, Honeck has taught courses on the abolitionist movement, the Old South, and the Jacksonian Era.

His dissertation "We Are the Revolutionists: Forty-Eighters, Abolitionists, and the Struggle to Overthrow Slavery" offers a fresh appraisal of the transnational dimensions of American abolitionism in the run-up to the American Civil War and beyond. Not limited to one locality or one group of activists, the study depicts interactions between German-speaking immigrant radicals, refugees of the failed European Revolutions of 1848/49, and American abolitionists. It probes how individuals from both camps joined forces in the long, often dangerous battle to end slavery and argues that cooperation helped these activists mitigate their differences in a society steeped in racist and nativist thought. Despite their small numbers and proclivity to condemn slavery in different ideological languages, abolitionists and Forty-Eighters reached out to one another to guarantee civil rights to all Americans, regardless of skin color and national origin. In telling the story of the bridges they built as well as the barriers they failed to tear down, Honeck reveals the extent to which their alliance challenged narrower notions of citizenship in a transatlantic age of race- and nation-making.

Honeck recently submitted his manuscript for publication consideration to a major university press in the United States. Together with Martin Klimke (GHI Washington) and Anne Kuhlmann-Smirnov (University of Bremen), he is also the organizer of the international conference "Black Diaspora and Germany Across the Centuries," which is scheduled to take place next spring in Washington, D.C.



Prof. Jeanette Eileen Jones

Deutsche Bank Junior Scholar-in-Residence



Dr. Jeannette Eileen Jones arrived at the HCA in 2007 with a rigorous research agenda and teaching portfolio. During her residency, Jones revised and submitted her book manuscript, *In Search of "Brightest Africa": Reimagining Africa in American Culture, 1884-1936*. The book examines efforts by Americans in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century to challenge the popular Western image of Africa as the "Dark Continent," focusing on the activities of American naturalists and African American public intellectuals. The University of Georgia Press will publish the book in fall 2009.

Dr. Jones also co-edited *Descent of Darwin: Evolutionary Visions of Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Circum-Atlantic Culture* (forthcoming: Routledge Press). The volume brings together an international group of scholars whose works address the myriad ways in which Darwinian theories of evolution, sexual selection, the "missing link," and survival of the fittest, to name a few, influenced transatlantic culture in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Lastly, while in residence at the HCA, Jones conducted research for her second manuscript, *Locating Lord Greystoke: Race, Empire, and the Congo Question, 1876-1917: A Transnational Cultural and Intellectual History*. This project explores trans-Atlantic Western (European and American) responses to the "Congo Question" - the debates surrounding the founding of the Congo Free State and the accusations surfacing in the early twentieth century that King Leopold of Belgium's colonial administrators perpetrated atrocities against the Congolese people. Specifically, Jones examines the impact of the Congo controversy on literature, film, and museum culture.

Dr. Jones taught "Introduction to African American Studies" for the HCA Master's program, directed two Masters Theses and served as second reader on three other theses. She continues to advise one student in the Master's program.

Dr. Jones was an active participant in the Spring Academy and participated in several HCA sponsored-events.

Dr. Martin Klimke
HCA Research Fellow



Martin Klimke is a research fellow at the HCA. Since May 2006, he has been the coordinator of the international Marie-Curie project "European Protest Movements Since 1945: The Rise of a (Trans-)national Civil Society and the Transformation of the Public Sphere" which is supported by the European Commission. Together with Noah Bubenhofer and Joachim Scharloth, he also co-directs research projects: a SEMTRACKS-project on "Perceptions of America after 9/11" and the "SEMTRACKS Political Tracker" at the HCA.

Klimke studied History and English at the University of Göttingen, Amherst College and the University of Heidelberg, where he received both his M.A. and his Ph.D. (2002/2005). He has taught at college and high school level in the U.S. and Germany and was a Research Fellow at the History Department at the University of Heidelberg in an international research project sponsored by the Volkswagen Foundation entitled "The Other Within Us: Collective Identities, Intercultural Relations, and Political Protest in West Germany and the U.S. During the 1960s and 1970s."

His 2005 dissertation, "The 'Other' Alliance: Global Protest and Student Unrest in West Germany and the U.S., 1962-1972," was awarded the prestigious Ruprecht-Karls Prize for best doctoral thesis at Heidelberg University in 2006, and will be published by Princeton University Press in 2009. Klimke has been working extensively in the area of transnational history and social movements and has published numerous articles on processes of cultural transfer and global protest networks. He is the co-editor of the publication series "Protest, Culture and Society" (Berghahn Books, New York/Oxford) and, among others, *1968 – Handbuch zur Kultur- und Mediengeschichte der Studentenbewegung* (Stuttgart: J. B. Metzler, 2007; Bonn: BpB, 2008), as well as *1968 in Europe. A History of Protest and Activism, 1956-77* (London/New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

Klimke's research interests are contemporary German and U.S. history, German-American relations after 1945, protest movements and social dissent, cultural transfer and processes of globalization. He is currently on leave and a Visiting Fellow for North American History at the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C., where he is working on his second book entitled "The African-American Civil Rights Struggle and Germany after 1945."

Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

HCA Executive Director

Wilfried Mausbach received his Ph.D. from the University of Cologne where he studied history, political science, and philosophy. He has been a research fellow at the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D.C., and has held assistant professorships in history at both the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin and Heidelberg University, where he has also been a Volkswagen Foundation fellow.

His major research interests are in transnational and intercultural history with a focus on German-American relations during the twentieth century.

He is the author of *Zwischen Morgenthau und Marshall: Das wirtschafts-politische Deutschlandkonzept der USA 1944-1947* (Düsseldorf: Droste, 1996), co-editor of *America, the Vietnam War, and the World. Comparative and International Perspectives* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003), and an adjunct editor of *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945-1990. A Handbook*, 2 vols. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004). He is currently at work on a book about Germany and the Vietnam War.



Dr. Anja Schüler

Lecturer and Research Fellow

Anja Schüler is a lecturer and a research fellow at the HCA. She also teaches English at Heidelberg Teacher's College.

Schüler studied History, American Studies, and Journalism at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, the University of Georgia, Athens, and the Free University of Berlin, where she received her M.A. in 1991. For her dissertation research, she spent a year at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and lived in Washington, D.C., for several years. She received her Ph.D. from the Free University of Berlin in 2000. Her dissertation, *Frauenbewegung und soziale Reform im transatlantischen Dialog: Jane Addams und Alice Salomon, 1890-1933*, was published by Franz Steiner in 2004.

Schüler has published a number of articles on women's activism and social reform in the United States and Germany. She also is the co-editor of two volumes in comparative and transnational history, respectively: *Social Justice Feminists in the United States and Germany: A Dialogue in Documents, 1880-1930* (with Kathryn Kish Sklar and Susan Strasser, Cornell University Press, 1998) and *Kommunikation – Mobilität – Netzwerke: Zur internationalen Dimension der Frauenbewegungen 1830-1960* (with Eva Schöck-Quinteros, Annika Wilmers and Kerstin Wolff, trafo verlag, 2007).

Schüler's research interests include progressive movements of the nineteenth and early twentieth century in the U.S. and Germany and the transnational dimensions of feminism. She is currently conceptualizing a project on gender and Americanization in Weimar Germany.



Dr. habil Martin Thunert

HCA Political Scientist in Residence

Martin Thunert joined the HCA as university lecturer and senior research fellow in political science in September 2007. He is a graduate of Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University Frankfurt, holds a doctoral degree (Dr. phil) from the University of Augsburg and received his habilitation from the University of Hamburg, where he was an assistant professor. He was an exchange student at the University of Glasgow and did graduate work at Queen's University, Kingston, Ont. and at McGill University in Montreal. He has held appointments at the University of Mannheim, at Bremen University of Applied Sciences, and at the Center for North American Studies (ZENAF) University of Frankfurt. Between 2002 and 2005 Thunert was Visiting Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. At Heidelberg Thunert teaches at the HCA as well as in the Political Science department. In 1991 he participated in the Congressional Fellowship Program of the American Political Science Association and worked for nine months as a staff assistant for the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee for Labor and Human Resources, Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA). In 1996-97 Thunert spent one academic year at the Minda de Ginzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University as a John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow.

His areas of teaching and research are comparative politics – with a regional focus on the NAFTA countries U.S., Canada and Mexico – as well as public policy and lobbying. Among other activities Martin Thunert serves as the head of the section “Political Science and Sociology” of the Association of Canadian Studies in the German-Speaking Countries (GKS). Thunert's other major research field is “Politikberatung”, (policy advice and political consulting). He has completed a comparative study on the role of think tanks in North America and Europe and is founder and section chair of the Working-Group ‘Policy Advice and Political Consulting (Politikberatung)’ in the German Political Science Association. In 2006 he co-edited the *Handbuch Politikberatung* (Handbook of Policy Advice and Political Consulting). In 2008 Martin Thunert was among the four founding editors of a new quarterly journal, *Zeitschrift für Politikberatung* (ZP) (Policy Advice and Political Consulting), published by VS-Verlag Wiesbaden.



Dr. Simon Wendt

Transcultural Studies Research Group Leader

Simon Wendt earned an M.A. in Afro-American Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and holds a Ph.D. in modern history from the Free University of Berlin. His research areas are African American history, gender and memory, nationalism, and the history of heroism and hero-worship in the United States. Wendt has received numerous fellowships and awards, including the "Memphis State Eight" Paper Prize (2001), research fellowships from the German Historical Institute (2002, 2009), and the Presidents' Memorial Award of the Louisiana Historical Association (2004). He is the author of *The Spirit and the Shotgun: Armed Resistance and the Struggle for Civil Rights* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2007).



Since July 2008, Wendt is a research group leader in University of Heidelberg's newly created Transcultural Studies Program, supervising several Ph.D. students who work on gender and nationalism in the United States, Germany, and Japan. The research group explores the influence of certain notions of femininity and masculinity on collective identities and societal visions of radical nationalist ideologies in the United States, Germany, and Japan between 1890 and 1945. In addition, the group analyzes the role of processes of exchange, translation, and adaptation in the emergence and evolution of such ideologies.

Wendt's own research project, which focuses on the United States, will be the first full-scale history of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the largest and best-known hereditary patriotic organization in the United States. Founded in 1890 in Washington, D.C., the DAR accepts only women who can prove lineal descent from American patriots of the American Revolution. It promotes American patriotism and the preservation of American history through commemoration and education. The study will focus on the gendered dimensions of American nationalism in the DAR's commemorative activities. Students of nationalism have long pointed to the use of the past in the process of creating national "imagined communities." Reevaluating the conclusions of previous studies on the DAR's attempts to promote American patriotism, Wendt's project will examine how the organization utilized memory to define the American nation and what it means to be American. The study will make an important contribution to the study of American nationalism, gender history, and American memory.

Individual Research

The following HCA staff members and associates are currently working on their Ph.D. projects which deal with different aspects of American Studies:

Tobias Endler, M.A.

“The Public Intellectual Debate over American World Leadership after September 11”

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss (English Department)

Since September 11, 2001, the book market has been flooded with publications discussing the United States’ position as the world’s last remaining superpower. Their authors’ professional backgrounds are as diverse as their ideological orientations. While most of them agree that America should have a leadership role in the world, differences arise as to how the ‚American way’ can be disseminated most effectively. The publications are geared to a mainstream audience: the broad educated public. The authors also use other media to spread their message (TV and radio interviews, internet blogs, reading events, etc.). This study considers the authors as intellectuals who mediate and ‚moderate’ processes of public opinion formation. It will describe the complex structure of public intellectual work under postmodern conditions. Will America’s leading thinkers be able to continue their work in the tradition of the Enlightenment intellectual – which seems to be their intention – in the world of today?

During a Research and Teaching Fellowship at Yale, almost twenty of America’s most prominent public intellectuals were interviewed on their self-perception, their working conditions, the state of the nation, and the present American mindset. The results, together with the authors’ publications, will provide a comprehensive illustration of intellectual life in 21st-century America. With the end of the Bush-administration era at hand, this study also offers an up-to-date evaluation of acknowledged experts as well as an extensive basis for future discussion.



Elena Matveeva, M.A.

„Going East: American Journalists and the Soviet Experiment, 1921-1934.“
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss (English Department)

This project focuses on four American intellectuals and foreign correspondents – William Henry Chamberlin, Louis Fischer, Eugene Lyons, and Maurice Hindus – who traveled and lived in the Soviet Union during the 1920s and the early 1930s. It examines the books and articles they wrote about their host country. While other historical studies have used these journalists merely as sources, this dissertation portrays the group as an intellectual network that aimed to influence America’s perception of the Soviet Union by presenting it as a possible and attractive alternative to Western capitalism.

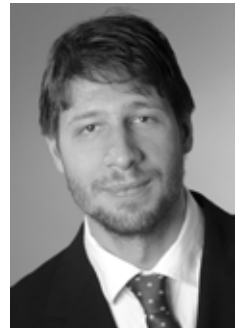
Since 2007, the project has been supported by a scholarship from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. In November of 2007, Elena Matveeva took part in the international conference “200 Years of American-Russian Relations” which took place in Moscow. In March of 2008, she researched at the Historical Society of the University of Wisconsin in Madison and in September, she spent two weeks at the Mudd Library archive in Princeton where she worked with the papers of Louis Fischer. Elena is currently in the third year of her Ph.D. project.



Florian Pressler, M.A.

“The Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), 1981-2005: From the Reaganomics of Development to the Rise of the US-Caribbean Apparel Circuit and the Logic of Free Trade”
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker (History Department)

The CBI was a geo-politically motivated U.S. trade and development program for the countries of Central America and the Caribbean started by the Reagan administration in the early 1980s. This study investigates the expansion of this program after the end of the Cold War in the new context of emerging trading blocks and global economic rivalries. It shows how the CBI instituted an international division of labor between the U.S. and the smaller countries in its southern periphery, which helped U.S. labor intensive industries to survive in an increasingly competitive global environment. Being the first major deviation from the most-favored-nation principle in U.S. trade policy since the Second World War, the CBI must also be seen as a precursor to the rise of free trade agreements in the Americas during the 1990s and as a stepping



stone towards a projected Free Trade Area of the Americas. Florian Pressler is the recipient of a scholarship from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. For his project, he has done archival work in the United States, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Costa Rica.

Rebekka Weinel, M.A.

„The Depiction of Religion in the TV-shows of David E. Kelley and Dick Wolf in the Reflection of Their Historical Context (Working Title).“

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker (History Department)

The project analyzes the relationship between religion and television in the United States. Contrary to the well-discussed topic of television as a substitute for religion, this thesis discusses how religions are portrayed in U.S. popular culture and how this reflects, if at all, the importance of religion in the U.S. American society. This will be done by exemplarily studying the oeuvres of David E. Kelley and Dick Wolf whose work covers a period of nearly thirty years and represents some of U.S. television’s most successful and influential shows.



Selected Publications

The following list includes books and book chapters, articles and entries for reference works that have been published by HCA faculty and staff in 2007/08. For the same period, it furthermore encompasses publications relevant to the field of American Studies that have been published by scholars from the academic departments affiliated with the HCA.

Manfred Berg

(Department of History)

(with Andreas Etges), eds., *John F. Kennedy and the 'Thousand Days': New Perspectives on the Foreign and Domestic Policies of the Kennedy Administration, American Studies – A Monograph Series* (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2007).

"Thomas Paine: Common Sense," in Manfred Brocker, ed., *Geschichte des Politischen Denkens: Ein Handbuch* (Frankfurt/M.: Suhrkamp Verlag, 2007), 334-348.

"Ink for Jack: John F. Kennedy and the Promise of Racial Liberalism," in Manfred Berg and Andreas Etges, eds., *John F. Kennedy and the 'Thousand Days': New Perspectives on the Foreign and Domestic Policies of the Kennedy Administration, American Studies – A Monograph Series* (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2007), 221-242.

"Black Civil Rights and Liberal Anticommunism: The NAACP in the Early Cold War," *The Journal of American History* 94/1 (2007), 75-96.

Manfred Berg und Bernd Schaefer. *Historical Justice in International Perspective: How Societies are Trying to Right the Wrongs of the Past. Publications of the German Historical Institute, Washing-*

ton, D.C. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008).

"'A Great Civilized Power of a Formidable Type': Theodore Roosevelt, die USA und der Russisch-Japanische Krieg," in: *Der Russisch-Japanische Krieg 1904/05 - Anbruch einer neuen Zeit?* Hrsgg. von Maik Hendrik Sprotte, Wolfgang Seifert und Heinz-Dietrich Löwe (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz), 2007, 241-258.

Manfred Berg und Dieter Gosewinkel. "Recht: Verfassung und Kultur," in: *Wettlauf um die Moderne: Die USA und Deutschland 1890 bis heute.* Hrsgg. von Christof Mauch and Kiran Patel (München: Pantheon Verlag, 2008), 155-185.

"Historical Continuity and Counterfactual History in the Debate over Reparations for Slavery," in: *Historical Justice in International Perspective. How Societies are Trying to Right the Wrongs of the Past.* Hrsgg. von Manfred Berg und Bernd Schäfer. *Publications of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008), 69-91.

"'What we are fighting for...': Die Bedeutung der afroamerikanischen Bürgerrechtsbewegung für die US-amerikanische und internationale Politik," in *Martin Luther King - Leben, Werk und Vermächtnis.* Hrsgg. von Michael Haspel and Britta Waldschmitt-Nelson (Weimar: Wartburg Verlag, 2008), 55-65.

"We shall overcome... some day: Dieser Tag könnte mit der Wahl Barack Obamas zum Präsidenten der USA nahe gerückt sein. Es wäre ein Meilenstein auf dem langen Weg der Afroamerikaner zu ihrer Emanzipation", in: *DIE ZEIT* (2008) 19. 06. 2008, 82.

“Wer ist Herr im Weißen Haus? 1961 warnte General Dwight D. Eisenhower in seiner letzten Rede als US-Präsident eindringlich vor dem Einfluss des „militärisch-industriellen Komplexes“ auf die amerikanische Politik. Seine Abschiedsworte bleiben aktuell,” in: DIE ZEIT (2008) 04. 09. 2008, 94.

Winfried Brugger

(Law Department)

“On the Relationship between Structural Norms and Constitutional Rights in Church-State-Relations,” in Winfried Brugger and Michael Karayanni, eds., *Religion in the Public Sphere: A Comparative Analysis of German, Israeli, American and International Law* (Springer Verlag, Heidelberg 2007), 21-86.

“Varianten der Unterscheidung von Staat und Kirche: Von strikter Trennung und Distanz über gegenseitiges Entgegenkommen bis zu Nähe, Unterstützung und Kooperation,” *Archiv des öffentlichen Rechts* 132 (2007), 4-43.

“Von Feindschaft über Anerkennung zur Identifikation. Staat-Kirche-Modelle und ihr Verhältnis zur Religionsfreiheit,” in Hans Joas and Klaus Wiegandt, eds., *Säkularisierung und die Weltreligionen*, 2007, 253-283.

“Moderner Konstitutionalismus am Beispiel der US-Verfassung, des Grundgesetzes und der brasilianischen Verfassung,” in: *Jahrbuch des öffentlichen Rechts. Neue Folge*, Band 56 (2008), S. 613-638 (zusammen mit Ingo Wolfgang Sarlet).

“Neuere Rechtsprechung des U.S. Supreme Court,” *Juristenzeitung* 63 (2008), S. 773-784.

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung

(Department of English)

“Now we know that gay men are just men after all: Abject Sexualities in Leslie Marmon Silko’s ‘Almanac of the Dead’,” in Monika Mueller and Konstanze Kutzbach, eds., *The Abject of Desire: The Aestheticization of the Unaesthetic in Contemporary Literature and Culture* (Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi, 2007).

“Facts of the mind made manifest in a fiction of matter: Writing a Life in Maya Deren’s Early Films,” in Rosalia Baena, ed., *Transculturating Auto/Biography: Forms of Life Writing* (London, New York: Routledge, 2007).

“Doppelmarginalisiert: Barbara Neely”. Vera Nünning (Hg.): *Der amerikanische und britische Kriminalroman*. Trier: WVT Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2008, 105-119.

“Transbodied/Transcultured: Moving Spirits in Katherine Dunham’s and Maya Deren’s Caribbean”. Annalisa. Oboe and Anna. Scacchi (Hg.): *Recharting the Black Atlantic: Modern Cultures, Local Communities, Global Connections*. New York: Routledge, 2008.

Kirsten Fischer

(HCA)

“‘As Near to Atheism as Twilight is to Darkness’: Thomas Paine’s Deism in a Religious Republic,” in *Thomas Paine: Common Sense for the Modern Era*, ed. Ronald F. King and Elsie Begler (San Diego State University Press, 2007), pp. 260-273.

Review of Sharon Block, *Rape and Sexual Power in Early America* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006), *Journal of Social History*

41:3 (Spring, 2008): 775-778.

Jana Freihöfer

(HCA)

Karrieren im System der Vereinten Nationen. Das Beispiel hochqualifizierter Deutscher, 1973-2003 (Heidelberg: Heidelberger Geographische Arbeiten 124, 2007).

Interactive comment on "Un-restricted agents" International migration of the highly skilled revisited," by H. Pethe, *Social Geography Discussions*, 3, (2007), 141-144.

Philipp Gassert

(German Historical Institute)

"The Study of U.S. History in Germany," in Silvia Horton and Kees van Minnen, eds., *Teaching and Studying U.S. History in Europe: Past, Present, and Future* (Amsterdam 2007), 117-132.

"Vom Nationalsozialismus zur Demokratie: Kurt Georg Kiesinger in der deutschen Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts," *Geschichte und Politik in der Schule* 44, 2007, 3-15.

"Die Klarsfeld-Ohrfeige," in Stiftung Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, ed., *Begleitbuch zur Ausstellung „Skandale“* (Bonn 2007), 89-95.

"Sammelbesprechung: 1968' in der Bundesrepublik," *H-Soz-u-Kult*, 25. Juni 2007.

Kleine Geschichte der USA, co-authored with Mark Häberlein und Michael Wala, Stuttgart: Reclam, 2. Auflage: paperback-Ausgabe 2008.

"Blick über den Atlantik: Die ZEIT und Amerika in

den 1960er Jahren." In *Die Zeit und die Bonner Republik: Eine meinungsbildende Wochenzeitung zwischen Wiederbewaffnung und Wiedervereinigung*. Ed. by Christian Haase and Axel Schildt, 65-83. Göttingen: Wallstein, 2008.

"Kein annus mirabilis: 1968 in den USA." In *Auslandsinformationen* 24 (2008): 7-36.

Thomas Gijswijt

(HCA)

"Beyond NATO: Transatlantic Elite Networks and the Atlantic Alliance," in Andreas Wenger, Christian Nuenlist and Anna Locher, eds., *Transforming NATO in the Cold War. Challenges Beyond Deterrence in the 1960s* (London and New York: Routledge, 2007), 50-63.

Mischa Honeck

(HCA)

"'Towards a More Fortunate Land': Christoph Daniel Ebeling and the American Republic," in *Transatlantic Negotiations*, ed. Christa Buschendorf and Astrid Franke (Heidelberg, 2007), 41-59.

"Free-Soilers and Forty-Eighters: The Anglo- and German-American Campaign Against Slavery in Western Texas, 1854-1856," *Proceedings of the South Carolina Historical Association* 2007, 41-51.

"Abraham Lincoln and the German-Americans," in *The Political Lincoln: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Paul Finkelman and Martin Hershock (Washington, D.C., 2008).

Detlef Junker

(HCA)

“Die Amerikanisierung Europas,” in Joachim Brügge and Ulrike Kammerhofer-Aggermann, eds., *Kulturstereotype und Unbekannte Kulturlandschaften am Beispiel von Amerika und Europa* (Salzburg 2007), 19-39.

“Der Fundamentalismus in den USA und die amerikanische Sendungsidee der Freiheit,” in Katarzyna Stokłosa and Andrea Strübind, eds., *Glaube – Freiheit – Diktatur in Europa und den USA. Festschrift für Gerhard Besier zum 60. Geburtstag* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2007), 643-657.

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“Kommt Obama als Heilsbringer zu spät?” in *Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung* 276, 26. November, 2008, S. 20.

Martin Klimke

(HCA)

(with Joachim Scharloth) 1968. *Ein Handbuch zur Kultur- und Mediengeschichte* (Stuttgart: Metzler Verlag, 2007).

(with Kathrin Fahlenbrach and Joachim Scharloth) “Macht Happening und schmeißt Genossen raus’: Internationale Protestkulturen um 1968 und ihre kulturgeschichtlichen Folgen,” *Magazin der Kulturstiftung des Bundes* 10 (Oktober 2007).

“Plötzlich gehört die Strasse uns’: Die ‚Schwabinger Krawalle‘ und die Geschichtswissenschaft,” *Review of Gerhard Fürmetz ‚Schwabinger Kra-*

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“Sit-In, Teach-In, Go-In: Die transnationale Zirkulation kultureller Praktiken in den 1960er Jahren,” in Martin Klimke and Joachim Scharloth, eds., 1968. *Ein Handbuch zur Kultur- und Mediengeschichte* (Stuttgart: Metzler, 2007), 119-135.

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“1968 als transnationales Ereignis,” in: *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 14-15/2008, 22-27.

Steven Less

(HCA)

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Wilfried Mausbach

(HCA)

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"Kampf der Kulturen," *Spiegel Special: Geschichte* 4/2008, 24-35.

Peter Meusbürger

(Department of Geography)

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Anthony Santoro

(HCA)

"Hanjour, Hani," in Rodney P. Carlisle, ed., *One Day in History: September 11, 2001* (New York: Harper-Collins, 2007).

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Dietmar Schloss

(English Department)

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Manfred Schmidt

(Department of Political Science)

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Dieter Schulz

(English Department)

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Jolanta and Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars

In January of 2008, the Ghaemian Foundation established the Jolanta and Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars as part of its commitment to promote the arts and sciences in Heidelberg.

The purpose of the Fund, which is administered by the HCA, is to facilitate research and scholarly exchange in the field of American Studies by providing grants for travel to a library, an archive, or academic conference. The Fund is able to make annual allocations up to a total amount of € 15,000. Grants are awarded in a speedy and unbureaucratic manner. Especially in the humanities, and in particular for graduate students and younger scholars, the challenge to procure funds for research-related travel is ever recurrent and often insurmountable.

The Jolanta and Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars helps alleviate this condition by assisting scholars with the expense of travel. Grants from the Jolanta and Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars are awarded by the HCA on a competitive basis. Eligibility is limited to graduate students, Ph.D. candidates, and postdoctoral scholars at the University of Heidelberg who work on topics related to the United States, Canada or transatlantic relations.

To date, the Ghaemian Travel Fund has sponsored the following young scholars and their research projects:

Raluca Cimpean (HCA):

"Camelot Revisited: Facets of the Kennedy Myth."

Jana Dorband (Institute for Geography):

"Security Through Democracy? The Legacy of the Bush Administration and the Future Role of Demo-

cracy Promotion in American Foreign Policy."

Raymond Eberling (HCA):

"'Come on Down!' The Selling of the Florida Dream."

Hilka Eckardt (Juristisches Seminar)

"Wettbewerblicher Dialog und Competitive Negotiation-Verfahren"

Elena Matveeva (English Department):

"Going East: American Journalists and the Soviet Experiment, 1921-1934."

Christian Maul (HCA):

"Henry David Thoreau's Concept of Individualism in the Light of Communitarian Theory."

Amy Parish (HCA):

"Madam President and the First Family: The Private Public Lives of Fictional Female Presidents in American Popular Culture."

Anthony Santoro (HCA):

"'With Justice Shall You Judge Your Neighbor:' Religion and the Death Penalty in Virginia, 1976-2006."

Cristina Stanca-Mustea (HCA):

"Carl Laemmle – A Transatlantic Mediator"

Alexander Vazansky (HCA):

"An Army in Crisis: Social Conflicts in the United States Army, Europe and 7th Army, 1968-1975"

Simon Wendt (History Department):

"Gender, Memory, Nation: A History of the Daughters of the American Revolution."



HCA
Special Feature

“The Joy of Cosmic Kinship: ‘Wonder’ in the Writings of Thomas Paine and Elihu Palmer, American Deists”



This essay was written by Deutsche Bank Junior Scholar-in-Residence, Prof. Kirsten Fischer. Another version of the paper was presented at the Second Biennial Conference in Early American and Atlantic History, organized by the European Group in Early American History and held at the University of Warwick in Venice, Italy, December 13-14, 2008.

In scholarship on American religion in the revolutionary era, deists usually come across as sober rationalists, as level-headed intellectuals whose faith in reason trumped any sensibility of the miraculous, and whose mental vigilance resulted in an anemic version of spirituality. While deists did consider themselves entirely rational, this paper argues that America's most radical deists, Thomas Paine and Elihu Palmer, imagined the universe in ways that led to an enchantment with the world, even with the cosmos. Their ideas differed significantly from Christian belief in Biblical miracles, as they made very clear, yet both Paine and Palmer developed worldviews that were infused with wonder and that produced amazement, gratitude, and a strange delight. They were not the hard-boiled rationalists they are often reputed to be.

This essay resulted from the curiosity piqued in me by modern-day dismissals of deism as merely an intellectual exercise and as a socially acceptable cover for atheism. The hubris some scholars see in the Enlightenment's celebration of human reason they see repeated in the deist notion of a benevolent First Cause who left humanity fully equipped to fend for itself. To its modern-day critics, deism served as the religious arm of

a social and cultural movement that encouraged human arrogance by touting a misplaced and over-inflated estimation of human capacity for rationality and self-improvement. To make matters worse, deists combined overweening confidence in human reason with disdain for those who believe in Scripture. In the scholarly literature one finds deists who are snide, sardonic, and mocking in their attacks on the Bible. Arrogant and self-aggrandizing, the deist program is ultimately one of self-deification, of the worship of human reason, with only tokens of respect for the displaced Creator, now called "Nature's God," who has not really been relevant since the world began. In these contemporary accounts, the 18th-century slur of atheism has returned in more polite form: deists offered lip-service to the Divine Architect, but they had no real religion to speak of. They were entirely if covertly secular, offering a secularist's fantasy of a good religion, namely one that is a religion in name only.¹

Reassessing the place of wonder in the writing of the two most outspoken deists in the early Republic accomplishes a number of things. First, I hope to restore their sense that they were onto something exciting, even thrilling. They were not merely destructive debunkers; they hoped to

replace Christianity with something better. Their own utopian vision of humanity's place in and connection to the universe seemed to them an awakening from the nightmare of Christianity with its concern about sin, hell, and sacrifice. Palmer and Paine passionately promoted this liberation. It was part of the larger political revolution they envisioned. Second, a focus on deist forms of wonder helps us rethink deism as a religion. It complicates our understanding of deism as bone-dry rationalism and as the antithesis to an emotionally experienced faith.

Who were these two, Elihu Palmer and Thomas Paine? Elihu Palmer, the once famous and now barely-known deist, was a Dartmouth-trained minister who preached against the basic tenets of Christianity and was soon chased from his Presbyterian pulpits in New York and Philadelphia. Returning to Philadelphia a few years later, Palmer lost both his wife and his vision in the yellow fever epidemic of 1793. He was 29 years old. Undaunted, Palmer went on to found deistic societies in a number of states. He started and edited deist newspapers, and he is credited with being the organizing force behind the deist movement in America until his premature death in 1806.²

Thomas Paine is familiar to us, of course, as the most popular propagandist of the American Revolution. After the war Paine moved to France and championed its more thorough-going revolution until he was thrown in prison by his former political comrades. In the mid-1790s, Paine published [The Age of Reason](#), his long treatise against Christianity, which is why he found himself persona non grata upon returning to the United States in 1802. There, Paine and Palmer combined their efforts to tear down Christianity and promote deism in its place.

Both Palmer and Paine took up the cause of 17th- and 18th-century English and European writers who had challenged the authority of the Bible and denied its status as the revealed word of God. In their analysis of the Bible, deist critics found inconsistencies and improbabilities that seemed conclusive evidence of corruption. Deists blamed these corruptions on an obscurantist "priestcraft," both Catholic and Protestant, whose Trinitarian doctrine served only to confuse the people and keep the clergy in positions of power. Deists wanted to expose this clerical fraud and replace all sectarian doctrine with a religion based entirely on the empirical observation of the Supreme Being's bountiful and orderly work in nature.³

Deist were opposed by Christians who themselves also held a broad range of views, doctrinally speaking, and disagreed with one another heartily over them, but who affirmed the divinity of Jesus and accepted the Bible as divinely inspired. The immense alarm with which Christian ministers responded to the appearance of deist thought in America would make it appear that deism had become widely popular. In fact, it inspired relatively few. Numbers are hard to come by since deist societies did not keep extensive membership records or meeting minutes. In America, most of the activity centered in Philadelphia and New York, and working men and mechanics apparently attended society meetings as did men of elite standing. Deists published a few newspapers between 1800 and 1805 that suffered chronic under-funding, and by 1815, the deist societies had dissolved. On the whole, it was a movement made famous by its enemies, who rightly saw that deist ideas posed a serious intellectual challenge to orthodoxy, and who feared deism might gain broad appeal in a revolutionary and irreverent age.⁴

Deism was not a system of faith as much as it was an attitude of skepticism and defiance toward religious establishments. Its adherents disavowed sectarianism of all kinds, endorsed only the most basic statements of faith, such as, that there is a God who should be worshipped, and they never established themselves institutionally as a church. No deist doctrine appeared, and people who identified themselves as deists held widely differing views about the nature and activity of what they variously called the Supreme Being, First Cause, Creator of the Universe, Nature's God, the God of Nature, Divine Providence, Great Principle, or Grand Architect – terms that purposefully set the deist deity apart from the Judeo-Christian God of the Bible.⁵

Individualism was certainly part of the allure. "My own mind is my own church," wrote Thomas Paine. "I am of a sect by myself, as far as I know," said Thomas Jefferson. Freethinkers in America like Jefferson, Paine, James Madison, Ethan Allen, Elihu Palmer, Benjamin Franklin, and the poet Philip Freneau each had distinctive religious understandings that changed over their lifetimes, and the differences among them in theological opinion are striking. For example, Paine and Palmer were not impressed with the moral teachings ascribed to Jesus, whereas Jefferson and Franklin considered Jesus the world's greatest role model of morality. Franklin had his doubts about Jesus's divinity but refrained from "dogmatizing" upon the subject, while Jefferson decided he could be a Christian without believing in the divinity of Jesus, his resurrection, or any other miracles described in the Bible. Most deists agreed—or hoped—there was some kind of life after death, but Elihu Palmer did not believe in a soul's existence separate from the body. A common image of the deists' Supreme Being is the distant "watchmaker God" who once started the universe and no longer intervenes

in its workings or in the lives of individuals. But Jefferson was among those who believed the Supreme Architect needed to intervene regularly to keep the universe in motion. Franklin allowed for divine intervention in human history, Palmer did not, and Paine believed that a female Providence protected him in his endeavors.⁶

Clearly, these men did not agree in their theological opinions. Yet they did share certain assumptions that mark them as deists. Their way of questioning inherited beliefs and doctrines, their penchant for relying on reason to find answers to metaphysical questions, and their skepticism toward any religious authority, created an intellectual culture of freethought in which they were peers, if not always friendly companions. Like their English forebears, American deists cherished the freedom to investigate religion critically, and some of them subjected the Bible to irreverent and even hostile analysis. Rather than see God in any book, these men preferred to see the divine First Cause revealed in the immutable laws of the universe.

Fascination with the workings of nature was not the purview of deists alone, of course, and believers of all kinds made different theological sense of the scientific discoveries of the age. The Reverend Cotton Mather, Boston's influential Puritan minister, contemplated the distance of the stars in 1721 and proclaimed: "*Great God*, what is thy Immensity!" Mather's wonder at the infinitude of space did not weaken his Christian faith. But for others, the vastness of the universe fanned doubts about the centrality of the human drama in the cosmic scheme of things and in particular the notion that the Creator would be concerned with human weakness. Benjamin Franklin, for example, in thinking, as he said, "thro and beyond our System of Planets, beyond the visible fixed Stars themselves, into that Space that is every

Way infinite” considered “this little Ball on which we move...almost Nothing, and my self less than nothing, and of no consequence.” From this it followed for Franklin that it would be “great Vanity to suppose, that the *Supremely Perfect*, does in the least regard such an inconsiderable Nothing as Man.” Franklin concluded that “He, the Infinite Father, expects or requires no Worship or Praise from us,” being “infinitely above it.”⁷

Like Franklin, Thomas Paine was among those who thought divine attention would unlikely center on this earthly speck alone, if at all. The “christian system of faith,” Paine wrote in *The Age of Reason*, had developed “the solitary and strange conceit that the Almighty, who had millions of worlds equally upon his protection, should quit the care of all the rest, and come to die in our world, because, they say, one man and one woman had eaten an apple.” Using the universe as a framing device to put earthly concerns into perspective, Paine ridiculed as conceited fantasy the Christian idea of God’s preoccupation with human sin.⁸

Having dispatched with a narrow-minded focus on planet Earth, Paine could have felt isolated and alone in the universe, filled with the existential angst that some experienced when they tried out such ideas.⁹ But rather than feel dismayed by the size of the universe, Paine found his awe for divine power only increased. “Our ideas, not only of the Almightyness of the Creator, but of his wisdom, and his beneficence, become enlarged in proportion as we contemplate the extent and structure of the universe.” Furthermore, Paine perceived a fellowship with the universe, which he conceived as a “society of worlds.” This idea made him comfortable, even cheerful, in the face of cosmic immensity: “The solitary idea of a solitary world rolling, or at rest, in the immense ocean of space, gives place to the cheerful [sic]

idea of a society of worlds, so happily contrived, as to administer, even by their motion, instruction to man.” Paine felt that in learning about the regular motion of the planets and the celestial order of the universe, one could feel oneself to be in excellent company, part of an amazing whole.¹⁰

Thomas Paine’s view of the universe led him to see miracles everywhere - although not, of course, the Biblical kind. Whereas the Bible posited singular miracles that had occurred at a specific time in history, Paine saw all around him a recurrence of miracles. His was a democratic view of miracles not at all confined to humans. “[I]t may be said, that every thing is a miracle, and that no one thing is a greater miracle than another. The elephant, though larger, is not a greater miracle than a mite; nor a mountain a greater miracle than an atom. To an Almighty power, it is no more difficult to make the one than the other, and no more difficult to make a million of worlds than to make one. Every thing therefore is a miracle in one sense; whilst, in the other sense, there is no such thing as a miracle. It is a miracle when compared to our power, and to our comprehension. It is not a miracle compared to the power that performs it.”¹¹

Paine’s perspective on the inconceivable immensity of the created universe led him to see everything as miraculous, nothing as dreary or dull. In this, Paine was very much in line with natural philosophers in eighteenth-century Europe, who saw in even the most ordinary matter, and most especially in the routine and regular movement of planets, evidence of a divine hand. Creation was sublime, and its very order attested to its Maker. Paine’s universe was an enchanted one precisely because the reliable and orderly workings of nature served everywhere as manifestations of awesome divinity.¹²

Elihu Palmer developed a more distinctive version of humanity's place in the universe. Where Paine imagined a society of co-existing worlds, each one presumably coherent and self-contained, Palmer imagined a web of life in which all things, organic and inorganic, were made of the same substance. Not only that, everything rotated through various forms of existence, changing shape, morphing from one thing into another, without any evolutionary logic. The matter of which a person was made might reappear next as an insect or a rock or as air, before it moved on to becoming something else. Palmer saw humanity very literally as part of nature—there was ultimately no difference between human life and everything else. That insight led Palmer to a great feeling of connection. He saw the universe as “a vast assemblage of living creatures, whose relations are reciprocal and reciprocated under a thousand different forms, and supported by a thousand different ligaments of an imperceptible nature.” All was connected, he thought, and all, therefore, relevant. “Nothing is foreign or irrelative in the vast fabric to which we belong. Union is most intimate...” In Palmer's view, humanity was not elevated above other life forms and certainly held no legitimate claim to dominion over the rest. Instead, the constant recombination of matter led Palmer to perceive everything around him as part of a living whole. “There is no such thing as dead matter; all is alive, all is active and energetic.” Palmer saw in this the “consoling secret” that “man's highest happiness” would come from “discovering his true connection with Nature, and the eternal duration of this connection.”¹³

Palmer's worldview was an expression of “vitalism,” an idea that gained currency in Europe in the mid-eighteenth century. There were many variations of the idea that life force pervaded all matter. The idea of an endless cycling of all

matter into and out of different life forms, made everything—earth, atmosphere, plant and animal life—connected, even familiarly related. Palmer deplored the culturally sanctioned “contempt” for material substance “and our ignorance of an important and indestructible connection with the great body of Nature.” An understanding of the “renovation of organic forms” and the “successive changes through which [man] is destined to pass” would clarify “the connection between man and Nature” and would, Palmer believed, produce inner peace and generosity, “respect for the aggregate of existence to which [man] belongs, and tranquility at the idea of an eternal interest in this indestructible mass.” Feelings of “universal sympathy” and “universal benevolence” would follow, fundamentally altering people's behavior toward each other and “the whole animal world, . . . so as to exclude acts of cruelty and . . . injustice.”¹⁴

Palmer's view of humans as part of and interchangeable with all else, led him to a sense of relatedness and belonging on a cosmic scale. The world - everything in the universe - was kin. Granted, in Palmer's view there would be no self-awareness in the afterlife, no immortality of a self-conscious soul. But matter was eternal and time was unlimited, so the perpetual recombination of matter meant eternal presence of a different sort. Palmer experienced delight and solace in the connection among all things. His modest evaluation of human life in relation to all other life forms led not to a feeling of worthlessness but rather to a joyful sense of connectedness and wonder.

Scholars who study wonder and religion have much to say about the relationship between the two. Robert Fuller's recent book, Wonder: From Emotion to Spirituality, combines the insights of philosophers, theologians, and neuropsychologists to show that wonder is valuable for the distinctive

way it invites us to think about “an order of reality that lies beyond or behind sensory appearances.” Importantly, wonder does not induce action so much as thoughtfulness. It “promotes contemplation of how the parts of life fit into some larger whole,” and it brings with it “an unusual receptivity and radical openness.” As we know, moving beyond the ordinary and mundane is an important aspect of religious experience. Wonder is not only a religious experience, but it does share with most religions an expansive view of the world beyond oneself.¹⁵

The wondrous joy that Paine and Palmer experienced was opposite the emotions evoked by Christian belief, at least as Paine and Palmer understood it. In their view, the idea of original sin squashed natural delight in a bountiful universe along with appropriate gratitude toward its Creator. The notion of eternal damnation, like atonement through sacrifice, they considered grotesque and unworthy of a benevolent God. The Bible was worse than useless, it was a harmful fabrication, illogical, and blasphemous to boot. In sum, as Paine put it: “Of all the systems of religion that ever were invented, there is none more derogatory to the Almighty, more unedifying to man, more repugnant to reason, and more contradictory in itself than this thing called Christianity.”¹⁶

Paine and Palmer carefully honed their attacks on Biblical authority and on Christian doctrine, not as an end in itself, but as the necessary means to a completely different kind of religion. The powerful hold of revelation had to be loosened before the common sense *and the wonder* of deism could prevail. The stakes could not be higher. As Paine wrote: “Whence arose all the horrid assassination of whole nations of men, women, and infants, with which the bible is filled, and the bloody persecutions and tortures unto death, and religious

wars, that since that time, have laid Europe in blood and ashes? Whence arose they, but from this impious thing called revealed religion: and this monstrous belief that God has spoken to man.”¹⁷ But over and over again, the dark vitriol of these two writers gives way to a bright vision of the future. Palmer made his urgent appeal: “Man! If thou wouldst be happy, thou must come home to Nature, admire her splendid beauties, develop truth from the permanence of her laws...”¹⁸ Wonderment at nature would be the first step toward virtue. Nature said nothing about original sin, unavoidable depravity, or utter helplessness. The creation had nothing to say about redemption or atonement, and it did not feature resurrections. If Christians could wrench their attention away from their distorted self-image, reduce human foibles down to size, and make room for other aspects of creation, they might see that the world was not simply a vale of tears. And they would be able to turn their attention toward making it a better place for all living things.

Indeed that was the point, the political program of wonder. Palmer and Paine sought to replace a Christian morality based on fear of hell with a morality based on good will toward all fellow creatures. Both writers assumed generosity would naturally follow from perceiving the Creator as benevolent, nature as immense and marvelous, and humanity as an integral (but not primary) part of the web of life. Placing humanity in a cosmic frame reduced the significance of human accomplishments and foibles alike, leading to increased gratitude and joy. Paine and Palmer promoted a humanism that was not anthropocentric: a broad-minded humanism that valued all life rather than just human life. The recognition that humanity was neither more nor less significant than everything else would, these writers believed, produce a greater degree of

human kindness and a benevolence toward all living creatures.

Theorists say the emotion of wonder is centered on something other than oneself and works against narcissism.¹⁹ The particular humanism of Palmer and Paine reduced the significance of humanity in the overall scheme of things and emphasized the larger web of life of which humanity is an intrinsic part. From their perspective, Christianity's concern with human frailty and ultimate salvation is narcissistic and obscures the interdependence between humanity and nature. Palmer's alternate view of human beings cycling in and out of other life forms encouraged his own ethical engagement in the world that was aided by the perception of humanity as only a tiny part of a larger whole. When Thomas Paine and Elihu Palmer considered the universe in this light, they were infused with wonder. Enchanted deists, Paine and Palmer were as wondrous in their religious views as they were passionate in their revolutionary politics. Indeed, it remains to be seen just how their deist views shaped their platforms for wide-ranging social reform in the new American nation.

Notes:

1 Leigh Eric Schmidt, Hearing Things: Religion, Illusion, and the American Enlightenment (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000), pp. 27 (snide), 87 (sardonic), 91 (mocking). Susan Juster sees "the Enlightenment faith in pure reason" as a "spiritual dead end." She goes on to say that the "unstated promise of the scientific and intellectual achievements of the eighteenth century was the deification of the self," with man as "God's equal." Susan Juster, Doomsayers: Anglo-American Prophecy in the Age of Revolution (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003), pp. 261, 270-71. The only scholar to have published

book-length studies on the American deists since the 1930s, Kerry S. Walters describes deism as "spiritually impoverished," "starkly lifeless," "austerely cerebral," spiritually and ethically bankrupt," and the "Enlightenment worldview" in general as "cold, indifferent, alienating, and psychologically damaging." See Walters, Benjamin Franklin and his Gods (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1999), pp. 12, 18, 34, 74, 109. Walters was more impressed with deism in his earlier books, but its proponents were still thoroughly rational. Accusations of covert atheism are commonplace, but American deism's best historian to date, G. Adolf Koch, states: "Contrary to common assertions both then and now, the movement to establish deism as a religion in America had little to do with philosophical materialism... In this country, the movement was really an anti-clerical theism." G. Adolf Koch, Republican Religion: The American Revolution and the Cult of Reason (NY: Henry Holt and Co., 1933), pp. 287-88.

2 For biographical material on Palmer, see Koch, Republican Religion, chapter 2, Kerry S. Walters, Rational Infidels: The American Deists (Durango, CO: Longwood Academic, 1992), chapter 6, and Walters, The American Deists: Voices of Reason and Dissent in the Early Republic (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1992), pp. 240-244. For a history of deism as a social movement in America, see Herbert Morais, Deism in Eighteenth Century America (NY: Columbia University Press, 1934). See also Roderick S. French, "Elihu Palmer, Radical Deist, Radical Republican: A Reconsideration of American Freethought" in Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture, ed. Roseann Runte, Vol. 8 (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1979), pp. 87-108.

3 My understanding of deism in England has been most informed by Sir Leslie Stephen, History of English Thought in the Eighteenth Century, Vol. 1, (London: Smith, Elder & Co., 1902); Robert E. Sullivan, John Toland and the Deist Controversy: A Study in Adaptations (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1982); Peter Byrne, Natural Religion and the Nature of Religion: The Legacy of Deism (London: Routledge, 1989); Peter Harrison, "Religion" and the Religions in the English Enlightenment (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990); J. A. I. Champion, The Pillars of Priestcraft Shaken: The Church of England and Its Enemies, 1660-1730 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992); James A. Herrick, The Radical Rhetoric of the English Deists: The Discourse of Skepticism, 1680-1750 (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1997).

4 On the spread of Deism as an organized movement and its defeat by Christian opponents, see Koch, Republican Religion, pp. 74-113, 239-284. Along with Koch, Morais's Deism in Eighteenth Century America provides the most detail on the spread and collapse of deism as a movement. See especially pp. 130-138 on the founding of generally short-lived deist societies in Philadelphia and New York (one in Baltimore) and the publication of deist newspapers between 1800-1805. On the perceived threat of deism in America, see Gerald R. McDermott, Jonathan Edwards Confronts the Gods: Christian Theology, Enlightenment Religion, and Non-Christian Faiths (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000); Colin Wells, The Devil and Doctor Dwight: Satire and Theology in the Early American Republic (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2002).

5 Pierre Viret coined the term *déiste* in 1564 to refer to a group neither Christian nor atheist. In 1660, Blaise Pascal used *déisme* to describe the

belief in a religion based on reason alone, without revelation. Seventeenth-century critics often viewed deists as atheists in practice because they denied God's (interventionist) government of the world. See Sullivan, John Toland and the Deist Controversy, pp. 206-209.

6 Paine's quote is from The Age of Reason, in Eric Foner, ed., Thomas Paine: Collected Writings (NY: The Library of America, 1995), p. 666. Hereafter cited as Paine, Age of Reason. Thomas Jefferson to Ezra Styles Ely, June 25, 1819, in Jefferson's Extracts from the Gospels, ed. Dickinson W. Adams (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1983), p. 387. For the "necessity of a superintending power to maintain the Universe in its course and order," see Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, April 11, 1823, in Lester J. Cappon, ed., The Adams-Jefferson Letters: The Complete Correspondence Between Thomas Jefferson and Abigail and John Adams (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, reprint ed., 1988), p. 592. Franklin's idea that "the Deity sometimes interferes by his particular Providence and sets aside the Events which would otherwise have been produc'd in the Course of Nature" is in Benjamin Franklin: Writings (New York: Library of America, 1987), p. 167. Franklin expresses his doubts about Jesus's divinity in a letter to Ezra Stiles, March 9, 1790. For Paine's notion of a female Providence, see Paine, To the Citizens of the United States, in Foner, ed., Thomas Paine: Collected Writings, p. 514.

7 Mather, The Christian Philosopher (London, 1721), quoted in Douglas Anderson, The Radical Enlightenment of Benjamin Franklin (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 1997), p. 64. Franklin, "Articles of Belief and Acts of Religion, November 20, 1728," in Walter Isaacson, A Benjamin Franklin Reader (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003), p. 40. Franklin maintained nonetheless that people

were naturally inclined to “Devotion or Worship of some unseen Power,” and he found this entirely appropriate for himself as well. *Ibid.*, pp. 40-41.

8 Paine, *Age of Reason*, p. 710. Similarly, John Adams considered “awful blasphemy” the idea that the “great principle, which has produced this boundless Universe, . . . came down to this little Ball, to be spit-upon by Jews.” John Adams to Thomas Jefferson, January 22, 1825, in Cappon, ed., *The Adams-Jefferson Letters*, p. 607.

9 In the 1650s, for example, Blaise Pascal, the French physicist, mathematician, and theologian, felt overwhelmed. “When I see the blind and wretched state of man, when I survey the whole universe in its dumbness and man left to himself with no light, as though lost in this corner of the universe, without knowing who put him there, what he has come to do, what will become of him when he dies, incapable of knowing anything, I am moved to terror, like a man transported in his sleep to some terrifying desert island, who wakes up quite lost with no means of escape. Then I marvel that so wretched a state does not drive people to despair.” Quoted in Karen Armstrong, *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1993), p. 298.

10 Paine, *Age of Reason*, pp. 709-710. In this, Paine and others who were enthralled by the findings of the scientific revolution anticipated the development described by Michael Saler: “Rather than disenchanting the world, modern science has become a central locale of modern enchantment. It may not provide the transcendent meanings and purposes of a religious world view, but that does not mean that the modern world is bereft of wonders, enchantment defined as ‘delight.’” Michael Saler, “Modernity and Enchantment: A

Historiographic View,” *American Historical Review* 111:3 (June 2006): 692-716, quote on p. 714.

11 Paine, *Age of Reason*, p. 713.

12 Lorraine Daston and Katharine Park historicize Paine’s Aristotelian preference for the wonderfully regular as opposed to the wonderfully unusual. Daston and Park note that after 1700, expressions of wonder among the learned “were almost invariably lodged in passages glorifying God through his works. Moreover, the works glorified—the geometry of snowflakes, the anatomy of the human eye, the celestial mechanics of the solar system—” were “commonplace objects praised as marvels of divine handiwork.” “Natural theologians, natural philosophers, and natural historians glorified the meanest of God’s works as the true wonders, bestowing their full measure of wonder on the Workman rather than on the works.” Daston and Park, *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750* (NY: Zone Books, 1998), quotes on pp. 322, 323, 324. This is not to say that wonders of the unusual kind, namely miracles that *broke* the laws of nature, ceased, but that there were arguments over which kinds of wonders were real. On the supernatural kind, see, for example, Jane Shaw, *Miracles in Enlightenment England* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006) and Juster, *Doomsayers*.

13 Elihu Palmer, *Principles of Nature; or, a Development of the Moral Causes of Happiness and Misery among the Human Species* (orig. publ. 1801; ninth ed., Granville, NJ: published by George H. Evans, 1840), pp. 169, 171-73, 197.

14 Palmer, *Principles of Nature*, pp. 169, 171-173. On vitalism, see Peter Hanns Reill, *Vitalizing Nature in the Enlightenment* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005). The form of vitalism

closest to what Elihu Palmer proposes is that of Diderot in his D'Alembert's Dream (ca 1769). According to Reill, Diderot "constructed a vision of endless natural transmutations far more radical than anything advocated by the major proponents of Enlightenment Vitalism." Ibid., pp. 186. Palmer's vitalism is also akin to the radical thought of Spinoza and may have come to Palmer through Anthony Collins's A Discourse of Freethinking (1713) which argued, as Spinoza did, that there is only one substance in the world. On Spinoza's influence on English deists, see Jonathan Israel, Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity, 1650-1750 (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).

15 Robert C. Fuller, Wonder: From Emotion to Spirituality (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2006), pp. 13, 38, 41.

16 Paine, Age of Reason, quote on p. 825. On original sin and atonement, see p. 685. Palmer, Principles of Nature, pp. 40, 121.

17 Paine, Age of Reason, p. 821.

18 Palmer, Principles of Nature, p. 56.

19 In The Enchantment of Modern Life: Attachments, Crossings, and Ethics (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), Jane Bennett argues that enchantment with the world leads to attachment to this life (rather than absorption with ideas of an afterlife), and that attachment to life is necessary for an ethics based on generosity. Bennett notes that theism is not required for such enchantment and such an ethics.



**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.

The forum serves to present issues of contemporary research in the field of American Studies to the public through activities such as the lecture series "Typisch Amerikanisch" ("Typically American"), the Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy in Berlin, individual lectures on the United States, high-profile keynote addresses on U.S. and transatlantic affairs, debates and panel discussions.

Strongly believing that mutual respect and consideration can only be achieved through 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.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy in Berlin

Baden-Württemberg Seminar

Inaugurated in the spring of 2007, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy in Berlin brings selected fellows and other visitors of the Academy to various institutions in Baden-Württemberg in order to present their current work and discuss issues of transatlantic interest. This lecture series is coordinated by the HCA and consists of two program series per year – one during the spring semester and one during the fall semester.

The profound interest in the United States in Baden-Württemberg is reflected in the state's myriad cultural, political, and economic institutions, companies, museums, and libraries. Thus, when the American Academy decided to direct its network of American scholars, writers, journalists

and policy experts to another German Bundesland, Baden-Württemberg was the obvious candidate.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy is funded by the state of Baden-Württemberg as part of the matching fund described in the preface.

Spring Seminar

Following the well-received start of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy in Berlin last year, this bi-annual lecture series continued its success story in 2008. Consisting of 10 lectures, the spring seminar 2008 offered a huge variety of topics ranging from Muslim integration in Europe and America to the demographic changes and their economic implications on both sides of the Atlantic. The high-quality speakers in conjunction with the exciting topics kindled con-

siderable interest among Baden-Württemberg's scholars and public.

Law Professor Claire Finkelstein, University of Pennsylvania Law School and Siemens Fellow of the American Academy, kicked off the Baden-Württemberg Seminar 2008 with a talk entitled "Contracts under coercion: Should one keep an agreement with a robber?" The lecture – a joint project of the American Academy, the HCA, and the German-American Lawyers Association – was held on February 7 in Heidelberg. In her speech, Claire Finkelstein discussed how coercive contracts (those made under duress) are dealt with in the political philosophy of the seventeenth-century thought of Thomas Hobbes. Claire Finkelstein has published extensively in the areas of criminal law theory, moral and political philosophy, philosophy of law, and rational choice theory, all within the framework of legal theory. She has held various fellowships, including one at the Princeton Center for Human Values and at the Center for Social and Political Theory at the Australian National University.



Claire Finkelstein and Prof. Dr. Winfried Brugger at the HCA

On February 29, Steven Simon, Hasib J. Sabagh Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations and Bosch Fellow in Public Policy of the American Academy, addressed the question of long-term implications of Mus-

lim immigration for Europe. How, he asked, can American policy respond to a more heterogeneous Europe? Should the West rethink its security strategies? This lecture was hosted by the Robert Bosch Foundation in its beautiful venue in Stuttgart. Prior to joining the Council on Foreign Relations, Steven Simon focused on Middle Eastern affairs at the RAND Corporation. He joined RAND after moving from London where he was the deputy director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Carol Deane Senior Fellow in U.S. security studies. Before moving to Britain in 1999, Steven Simon served in the Clinton administration for over five years as director for global issues and senior director for transnational threats.



Steven Simon at the Robert Bosch Foundation in Stuttgart

Another highlight event of the Spring Seminar of the Baden-Württemberg Program of the American Academy took place at the James-F.-Byrnes-Institut / Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum in Stuttgart on April 4. David Mayers, Haniel Fellow of the American Academy, gave a lecture on "Neither War Nor Peace: US Policy toward Germany, 1933-1941". Professor and chair of the political science department at Boston University, David Mayers' specialties range from the history of U.S. foreign relations, to international history of Europe since 1789, to the diplomatic histories of China and the U.S.S.R. He has been the recipient of numerous

fellowships from Oxford University, the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, and the Hoover Institute at Stanford University, among others.

The next two lectures given by Kenneth Gross, Professor of English at the University of Rochester, and Ellen Maria Gorrissen Fellow of the American Academy, were devoted to literature. On April 22, Kenneth Gross spoke on "The Presence of Shylock" in Heidelberg, supported by the English Department of the University of Heidelberg. In his talk, Gross elaborated on the particularity and power of Shylock's character in "The Merchant of Venice", his explosive force within the play itself, his verbal and intellectual energy, his quickness of mind, his talent for improvisation and dangerous, even self-destructive masking and dramatic scene-making. In his second lecture a day later in Stuttgart, Gross presented his interdisciplinary project, "The Art of the Puppet," which took him from Europe to Asia, from comparative literature to the study of dance and performance, in search of a better understanding of the nuance, function, and fascination of puppetry.



Kenneth Gross

How are monetary interests, technological developments and political agendas challenging the traditional notions of free speech in America? This was among the questions addressed by Dr. William F. (Bill) Baker in his talk entitled "Risks affecting freedom of speech in the U.S. media" on May 8, at

the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum in Tübingen. Drawing on his first-hand experience as a CEO of the Educational Broadcasting Corporation (EBC), a licensee of Thirteen/WNET and WLIW21 New York, Baker discussed the current state of journalism and the media in the United States. Thirteen/WNET is the flagship public broadcasting station, the premier national public television producer, and the most-watched public television station in the United States. He has been at the head of EBC since 1987. Baker was a guest at the American Academy in spring of 2008.



William F. (Bill) Baker

The philosophy of art history was next on the schedule of the spring program of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy. Gregg Horowitz, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Vanderbilt University and Berthold Leibinger Fellow of the American Academy, presented his ideas on the art of Tony Oursler, a New York-based video artist on May 15, at the Staatsgalerie in Stuttgart. Horowitz is interested in Oursler's art, which announces the freeing of video from its traditional means of presentation, the T.V. Gregg Horowitz's area of specialization in the field of philosophy extends to aesthetics and the philosophy of art history, cultural theory, and philosophy and psychoanalysis. His most recent publication, "Sustaining Loss: Art and Mournful Life" (Stanford University Press, 2001), explores the intertwining of the living and the dead in art and the eerie fasci-

nation it holds for modern philosophical aesthetics.



Gregg Horowitz

At the same time but in a different venue – the Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach/Neckar – art historian Elizabeth Sears elaborated on the legacy of Aby Warburg and his passion for images. Sears, Professor of Art History at the University of Michigan, held an Anna-Maria Kellen Fellowship of the American Academy in spring. Dr. Sears has received a number of research fellowships from such institutions as the Getty Research Institute and the British School at Rome and has twice been a visiting fellow at Oxford University.



Elizabeth Sears

There are similarities between post-WWI Germany and New York, specifically Harlem, claims historian David Levering Lewis, an Ellen Maria Gorrissen Fellow at the American Academy in spring 2008. At an evening lecture on May 20, at the HCA, Lewis spelled out the symmetries, personalities, and cultural prototypes remembered from both arenas of

burgeoning Atlantic modernity. Professor of History at New York University, David Levering Lewis is an expert on the Harlem Renaissance and on twentieth-century U.S. social history. His scholarly interests extend to nineteenth-century Africa and twentieth-century France. The author of seven books (among them “The Portable Harlem Renaissance Reader”, and “W.E.B. Du Bois: A Reader”), Lewis received the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 1994 and again in 2001 for his two-volume work on Du Bois.

“While Europe’s demographic profile will age markedly over the next generation, America is likely to remain the most ‘youthful’ of any major developed society,” argued Nicholas Eberstadt in his talk on May 27, in Mannheim. In particular, he addressed the question as to how these changes might affect the relationship between the U.S. and Europe. This event was sponsored by John Deere.



Nicholas Eberstadt

Fall Seminar

Race, the current financial crisis, and thoughts on American exceptionalism – the fall program of the American Academy's Baden-Württemberg Seminar brought these and other fascinating topics and voices together for another semester of intellectual surprise and variety. Once again, this lecture series paired American Academy Fellows with various institutions throughout the state.

The fall program began with a lecture by historian Heide Fehrenbach (Presidential Research Professor, Northern Illinois University, and Haniel Fellow, American Academy in Berlin). In her talk, delivered on November 5, Heide Fehrenbach explored the puzzling history of race after 1945 and considered its effects on the understanding of America, Germany, and Europe more generally. This lecture was hosted by the Graduate Program "Globalization and Cultural Studies" of the University of Mannheim. Heide Fehrenbach stands at the forefront of her generation of social and cultural historians of the Federal Republic and was recently awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2007–2008. Her scholarship probes the social and cultural effects of Nazism and World War II, post-war experiences of military occupation and democratization, and transitions in racial and gender ideologies after 1945.



Heide Fehrenbach

Drawing on observations from his ground-breaking book "The Problem of Race in the 21st Century", Professor Thomas C. Holt (University of Chicago, and Citigroup Fellow, American Academy in Berlin) interpreted recent developments in light of the long history of race in America and contemporary social transformations since the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. This presentation, held in Tübingen on November 10, was jointly hosted by the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum, the Department of History, and the Department of American Studies at the University of Tübingen. Thomas Holt, a former president of the American Historical Association, has engaged in research on questions of race and racism and the ambiguities and contradictions of racial thinking for three decades. He has held several major fellowships from organizations such as the Guggenheim Foundation.



Thomas Holt

In view of the global financial crisis, the presentation on "The current financial crisis in the U.S. and the role of the U.S. government" in Heidelberg attracted considerable interest among scholars, journalists, and the public. David Abraham, Research Fellow, Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, and former Project Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, provided insight into the roots of this financial crisis in general and into the subprime mortgage meltdown in the U.S. in particular. The subsequent discussion was moderated by Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan, Vice

Chairman, Private Wealth Management, Deutsche Bank AG. In 2008, David was awarded the German Chancellor Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation to study the relationship between political parties and minority groups in Germany.



David Abraham

On December 5, New York-based writer Joel Agee (Holtzbrinck Fellow, American Academy) read from his recent memoir "In the House of my Fear: A Memoir of Sanity Lost and Recovered in the late 1960s, Set in Cuba, New York, London, Ibiza, and some Strange Places in the Mind". This event was hosted by the James-F.-Byrnes-Institut / Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum in Stuttgart. Joel Agee is widely known for his other memoir, "Twelve Years: An American Boyhood in East Germany" (University of Chicago Press, 2000).



Joel Agee

Historian Leora Auslander (Berthold Leibinger Fellow, American Academy) closed the fall seminar of the Baden-Württemberg Program with a talk on "American Exceptionalism? Politics and Material Culture in Colonial and Revolutionary America." This lecture was held in Heidelberg on December 11. Leora Auslander, Professor of European social history and Jewish studies at the University of Chicago and an expert on material culture and gender in Europe, has been a consistent advocate for a culture-focused approach to writing history. She is best known for her expansive history on changing furniture style in France, "Taste and Power: Furnishing Modern France."



Leora Auslander

Outlook

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the American Academy in Berlin will continue with its spring program in 2009. Among others, Donald Komers (Professor of Political Science, Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame Law School), Charles Lane (Journalist, Washington Post), and Susan Pedersen (Professor of History, Columbia University) have been invited to deliver lectures throughout Baden-Württemberg.

To learn more about our cooperation partner, please visit the American Academy in Berlin at www.americanacademy.de.



Lecture Series "Typisch Amerikanisch"

The annual lecture series "Typisch Amerikanisch" ("Typically American") has been hosted by the HCA every winter term since 2002. The series aims at providing its audience with multidisciplinary perspectives on issues dealing with American culture and society, past and present.

Each annual series is organized around a different central theme. Scholars, professionals, and other experts from Germany and abroad are invited as guest lecturers. Thereby, each series offers lectures from various academic disciplines and other areas of expertise, exploring and illuminating the respective main topic from multiple angles.

The first series in 2002/03 introduced the Heidelberg audience to the activities of the newly established HCA. It featured ten lectures, one from each department contributing to the HCA's founding initiative. Further previous series focused on "Power, Mission, and Morals - U.S. Foreign Policy" (2003/04), "Nation and Multiculturalism in

the U.S" (2004/05), and "The U.S. and the Global Economy" (2005/06), and "Latin America and the United States" (2006/07). A selection of Typisch Amerikanisch Lectures from 2003 to 2007 will be published in German as a book under the title "Was Amerika ausmacht" in mid-2009.

For more information on past series as well as on former guest speakers, please log on to the HCA's website.

"Typisch Amerikanisch" 2007/08: The U.S. Presidency and the U.S. Presidential Election of 2008

In 2007-08 "Typisch Amerikanisch" focused on the U.S. presidency and on presidential elections in 2008 and came in a different format from previous years. In lieu of a strict lecture series this year's Typisch Amerikanisch came in a mixture of formats: (i) a number of debates between repre-

sentatives of Democrats Abroad and Republicans Abroad hosted by the HCA at the Engelhorn Palais, (ii) briefings by HCA experts on the U.S. primaries and U.S. elections for the regional media and the public at the HCA as well as at several other places in the region (e.g. the Atlantic Academy in Kaiserslautern, (iii) panel discussions embedded into other HCA-hosted public events.



John McQueen during the debate at the HCA

Next to resident HCA and Heidelberg experts Detlef Junker, Manfred Berg, Wilfried Mausbach, and Martin Thunert, external speakers and panelists included Richard Reeves (University of Southern California (see Annual Report 2006-07, pp. 125-26), John McQueen (Democrats Abroad), and

Distinguished Visitor Dr. Robert Gerald Livingston

Dr. Robert Gerald Livingston (German Historical Institute, Washington D.C.) was HCA Senior Visiting Scholar from November 3 through November 7, 2008. For many decades Dr. Livingston has been America's pre-eminent expert on German politics, society and economics – including the former German Democratic Republic.

Dr. Livingston received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and had a long and distinguished career as a U.S. diplomat in postwar Europe – especially in former Yugoslavia and in Austria – before he

Eric Staal (Republicans Abroad). For a detailed description of U.S. election-related events, see below.

In 2008-09 „Typisch Amerikanisch“ will concentrate on the „United States after the Bush Era“. Once again, the format will be a mixture of free-standing lectures, debates, public briefings and media-specific briefings, and panel discussions as well as lectures organized jointly with other HCA event series such as the Baden-Württemberg Seminar or the MAS and Ph.D. colloquia. In the early fall of 2008 speakers included Robert Gerald Livingston on the results of the U.S. 2008 elections and what they mean for Europe, Hans von Sponeck (former U.N. official) on Iraq – Past, Present and Future, and Professor Michael Pfau (University of San Diego) on “Elections – California Style”.

became involved in the founding of the German Marshall Fund of the United States in 1972 and later its president. Together with the then president of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, Dr. Livingston In the early 1980s founded the American Institute of Contemporary German Studies (AICGS), which became the most important U.S. think tank on Germany located in Washington, D.C. “Gerry” Livingston – as he is known among his many friends – served as director of AICGS until 1996. Ever since, he has affiliated with the German Historical Institute in Washington,

D.C. On various occasions during his stay at the HCA Dr. Livingston shared his vast knowledge and experience on transatlantic issues and world politics with members of the HCA and the wider Heidelberg public.

In a three-hours-long “Eyewitness Seminar” on November 4, 2008 as part of the HCA’s “Transatlantic Cultures” research project, Dr. Livingston answered questions of HCA researchers Dr. Jana Freihöfer, Dr. Mischa Honeck, Dr. Wilfried Mausbach and Dr. Martin Thunert about his active involvement in German-American and European-American relations as a U.S. diplomat in post-war Europe, as a member of the leadership of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and as the founder and president of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Livingston’s “testimony” including his assessment of contemporary transatlantic relations were recorded on tape and will thus be made available to the researchers of the “Transatlantic Cultures” project.

On November 5, 2008 – shortly after the results of the U.S. 2008 presidential and congressional

elections became available – Dr. Livingston analyzed the results of the elections exclusively for the MAS class of 2009. A lively discussion with students on the meaning of Barack Obama’s victory for different parts of the world ensued. After his return to Washington, D.C., Dr. Livingston had this to say about his experience with the HCA’s MAS and Ph.D. students: “I greatly enjoyed the time, especially the opportunity to talk with your students, whose questions I found apt and interesting.” Later on November 5, 2008 Gerald Livingston was of course one of the panelists at the HCA “Fireside Chat” on the results of the historic 2008 elections.



Dr. Livingston, Prof. Berg, Dr. habil. Thunert

The HCA and the U.S. Presidential Elections

One of the most hard-fought and thrilling election campaigns ever took place this year in the United States. On November 4, it culminated in the historic victory of Barack Obama, the first African-American to be voted into the White House. "It's been a long time coming," Obama declared in his acceptance speech, "but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America."

The presidential election not only attracted monumental interest inside the United States but captured the attention of the whole world. The Heidelberg Center for American Studies was no exception. Throughout the year, the HCA hosted a number of well-received events on the presidential race and updated its website on a regular basis with information on the candidates and their campaigns.

The HCA's presidential election season opened with a debate on and an exhibition of the American presidency and the U.S. election system as part of the "Nacht der Wissenschaft" in November 2007. On February 5, 2008, the day following America's "Super Tuesday," the HCA invited journalists for a press briefing to evaluate the results of the late primaries. When the presidential campaign was approaching its final phase, the HCA organized a series of successful events on this phenomenon. Among these events was a debate on October 23 between representatives from German chapters of the two major American parties, the Democrats and Republicans. John McQueen, speaking for the Democrats, squared off against Republican Dr. Stefan Prystawik over issues ranging from domestic policy to U.S. foreign relations. On November 5, the day after Obama's victory, the HCA hosted a panel of experts featuring

Robert Gerald Livingston (Senior Visiting Fellow at the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.), Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg, Dr. Wilfried Mausebach, and Dr. Martin Thunert, who put the election results into a broader perspective. Inspired by the political fervor in the United States, Heidelberg students and the public showed great interest in the presidential election in general and related events at the HCA in particular.

To inform on the presidential elections, HCA did not just offer a forum for public debate but conducted innovative research on the political rhetoric of both candidates. The HCA's "Semtracks" project produced semantic analyses of the debates and speeches of Barack Obama and John McCain. The project's results triggered a lot of interest in the media and received widespread national and international press coverage.

The HCA's presidential election season will close with an event on January 20, 2009, devoted to covering and discussing the inauguration of President Barack Obama. We cordially invite the public to join us in watching the event live on television and witness the ceremony which marks the final chapter of this historic race.

Guest Lectures

The HCA had the great privilege to welcome renowned scholars as guest lecturers in 2008.

Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan

(Deutsche Bank Group, Frankfurt)

"The U.S. Subprime Mortgage Crisis of 2007"

January 24, 2008.

Prof. Edward J. Eberle

(Roger Williams University, Bristol, USA)

"Religious Freedom: Viewed from the Perspective of an Individual or the Community?"

April 30, 2008.

Prof. Dana Nelson

(Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English, Vanderbilt University)

"Democracy – Presidentialism – War"

Keynote Address at the 55th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA)

May 15, 2008.

Prof. Paul Finkelman

(President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy, Albany Law School, Albany, NY)

"A Covenant With Death and an Agreement in Hell - Understanding the Proslavery Constitution"

Workshop: Legacies of Racial Slavery in American History (organized by the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History)

May, 27, 2008.

Prof. John David Smith

(Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, NC)

"Reading the Language of Reparations and the Meaning of Emancipation, 1865-1917"

Workshop: Legacies of Racial Slavery in American History (organized by the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History)

May, 27, 2008.

Prof. Adam Fairclough

(Leiden University)

"Too many guns, too many Communists, too much time: Why revisionist histories of the civil rights movement miss the point"

December 16, 2008.



The Alumni Network for American Studies

The Alumni Network for American Studies invites scholars in the field of American Studies to stay in touch with the University of Heidelberg in general and with the Heidelberg Center for American Studies in particular. We have begun realizing our aim of creating an online community consisting of HCA staff members, researchers and scholars.

Open to all graduates and researchers of the University of Heidelberg in the field of American Studies –this includes all scholars writing their M.A. thesis, Diplomarbeit, doctoral dissertation, or Habilitation in one of the disciplines that make up the HCA and whose research deals with the United States– the Alumni Network is especially popular among the graduates of the HCA's Master of Arts in American Studies program. The members are kept up to date on the latest news concerning American Studies in Heidelberg via our regular electronic newsletter. We were happy to see that again this year some alumni became frequent visitors to several of the HCA's academic and social events.

After the graduation of the MAS Class of 2008 this autumn, we were able to welcome a number of new alumni to the network. We hope that the Alumni Network will continue to grow and prosper even more in the years to come. This past year has shown that the Alumni Association is slowly but steadily becoming a network on which HCA Alumni not only depend when they want to stay in contact with the HCA, but in which the Alumni also help each other and exchange information regarding issues like house hunting or recommendations for job or internship applications.

And although the Alumni Association has only been in existence for four years now, it is interesting to hear about what has become of the

HCA graduates and how they have established themselves in their professional lives. This not only proves to be of great help for our recent Alumni, who can profit from the experiences made by their predecessors, but it had also caught the interest of a local newspaper. Very recently, an article based on interviews with some of our alumni was published in the Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung relating what one can do with an HCA Master in American Studies degree. The experiences described there very clearly show that the world is open for HCA Alumni.

If you are thinking of becoming a member of the Alumni Network for American Studies please do not hesitate to contact:

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Or visit the HCA website for the online application.

Cooperation and Support

The HCA is grateful for the cooperation and help that it has received over the past year from the following institutions:

The American Academy in Berlin; the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany, Frankfurt/Main; the German-American Center / James-F.-Byrnes Institute e.V., Stuttgart; the Marie-Curie-Actions for the Promotion of Scientific Excellence of the European Commission; the Fund for American Studies, Washington, D.C.; Fritz Thyssen Foundation; the German American Institute Heidelberg (DAI); the Carl-Schurz-Haus / German American Institute Freiburg (DAI); the German American Institute Tübingen (DAI); the German-American Lawyers Association (DAJV); the Linden-Museum Stuttgart / Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde; the Literaturhaus Stuttgart; the Georg von Holtzbrinck Publishing Group, Stuttgart; the Department of Art History, University of Karlsruhe; the Husserl-Archiv and the English Seminar, University of Freiburg; the Max-Planck-Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law; the Staatsgalerie, Stuttgart; the Zentrum für Altertumswissenschaften, University of Heidelberg; the American-European Friendship Club, Heidelberg; the American German Business Club, Heidelberg; the Institut für deutsches und europäisches Gesellschafts- und Wirtschaftsrecht (IGW), University of Heidelberg; the Democrats Abroad Germany; the Republicans Abroad Germany; the Kunstverein Neuhausen; the Ludwig-Uhland-Institut für Kulturwissenschaften, University of Tübingen; the Colloquium Politicum of the University of Freiburg; the Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg; the German Foreign Office, Berlin; the German Embassy in Washington, D.C.; the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); the German-American Fulbright Commission; German Historical Institute (GHI),

Washington, D.C.; the Government of the State of Baden-Württemberg; the Humboldt Foundation; the Robert Bosch Foundation; 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 the University of Heidelberg for their support:

The Computing Center, the Guest House of the University, the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH), the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, the Press Office, the Rector and the Rectors's Office, the Studentenwerk Heidelberg, the University Library, and the Zentrale Universitätsverwaltung (ZUV).

Furthermore, special thanks go out to the administrative staff of the Schurman Foundation and the FHCA (Tanja Hönninger, Lucy Whitehead, Silke Ruh-Simon), to the office of the Engelhorn family (Gunda Baumgartner), to attorney at law Klaus-Dieter Freund, to Klaus Kettner for his advice on accounting, and to architect Horst Müller.

HCA Interns

In 2008, the HCA successfully extended its internship program, which began in the fall of 2005. We were very fortunate to host even more excellent interns during the year, who provided valuable support for our work. We would like to thank:

Nina Beckmann (Alma College, Alma, Michigan), who spent nearly three months at the HCA during her participation in the American Junior Year at Heidelberg University Program (winter term). Nina assisted the HCA staff with various aspects of the organization of the Spring Academy and the EU Project on "European Protest Movements."

Peter Bloom (Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania), who assisted the organizers in preparing for the summer school "Confronting Cold War Conformity: Peace and Protest Cultures in Europe, 1945-1989." Peter also supported the organizers in hosting the 2008 Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies on "The American Presidency and Political Leadership". He spent three months at the HCA as part of his participation in the American Junior Year at Heidelberg University Program (summer term).

Martina Hettich (University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany), who spent four and a half months at the HCA. She supported the MAS team in preparing for the arrival of the new MAS students and in the organization of this year's commencement ceremony. She continued her internship in the public relations department where she, among other things, worked on the "Presidential Election Website."

Nimue Müller (University of Hildesheim, Hildesheim, Germany), who assisted the Spring Academy Team in the organization of the fifth Spring Aca

demy. During her three-month internship, she was also partly responsible for the organization of the 2008 Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies on "The American Presidency and Political Leadership" and continued her work on the American Presidency by contributing to the "Presidential Election Website" project.

Carolina Solis (Monterrey, Mexico), who spent eight months at the HCA. Two months in the public relations department, where Carolina mainly worked on the "Presidential Election Website", were followed by a wide variety of activities within the EU Project on "European Protest Movements." She especially supported the organizers of the summer school "Confronting Cold War Conformity: Peace and Protest Cultures in Europe, 1945-1989". She also assisted the MAS team in some electronical research work.

Adela Piatek (University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany) spent six weeks at the HCA. She mainly worked for the "Presidential Election Website" project.

Timo Widmaier (University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany), whose internship lasted three months. During his internship Timo worked on the organization of the 2008 Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies on "The American Presidency and Political Leadership" and assisted in a variety of tasks within the research project "The Transcultural Atlantic". Timo also supported the HCA staff in compiling the institute's new website.

If you are interested in applying for an HCA internship or in further information please contact: Rebekka Weinel at rweinel@hca.uni-heidelberg.de.

Media Coverage

During the past year, reports on the HCA, its faculty and staff, and its activities have appeared in the following media:

20 Minuten, *Abendzeitung*, *Badische Neueste Nachrichten*, *Berner Zeitung*, *Bild*, *Blick*, BR-Online, Campus-Report Universität Heidelberg, *Der Spiegel*, der Standard.at, Deutsche Welle, Deutschlandfunk, DiePresse.com, *Die Welt*, *Die Zeit*, dolomiten.it, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, Friedrich-Nauemann-Stiftung, *Greenpeace-Magazin*, *Heidelberg Aktuell*, Heidelberg Alumni International, HR-Info, Lausitzer Rundschau, lu-aktiv.de, *Mannheimer Morgen*, net-tribune.de, *Neue Presse*, PR-inside.com, Radio aktiv, Radio Eins (RBB), *Reutlinger General-Anzeiger*, Rhein-Neckar-Fernsehen, *Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*, *Rheinischer Merkur*, *Ruprecht-Heidelberg's Campus Newspaper*, Semtracks Political Tracker, Spiegel Online, *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, suite101.de, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, swissinfo.ch, Swiss TV Tagesschau, SWR, *Tagesanzeiger*, *UniSpiegel*, *Welt am Sonntag*, WDR and World Radio Switzerland, zoomer.de, *Zürcher Unijournal*.

Heidemarie Engelhorn “Honorary Senator” of the University of Heidelberg



Honorary Senator Heidemarie Engelhorn (left), Professor Bernhard Eitel, Rector of the University of Heidelberg (right), Vice Rector Prof. Pfeiffer (back left) and Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger (back right). Foto: Dagmar Welker.

On October 18, 2008, during the University of Heidelberg’s anniversary celebration, Rector Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel conferred the title of “Honorary Senator” upon Heidemarie Engelhorn.

In bestowing this title, the Rector pointed out, the University of Heidelberg paid tribute to Heidemarie Engelhorn’s unflinching commitment to support her husband, Honorary Senator Curt Engelhorn, in promoting American Studies in Heidelberg.

This is one of the reasons why the HCA’s new abode, the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais, bears her name as well. Heidemarie Engelhorn has also supported the extension to the main building, which is currently under construction and awaits completion in the summer of 2009. Outfitted with cutting-edge media and technology, it will com-

plement the historic Palais in creating a small but exquisite conference center at the HCA.

In June 2008, the Engelhorns again testified to their generosity by agreeing to sponsor the HCA with an annual amount of 400,000 EUR over the next ten years.

Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn’s decisions exemplify continuity and foresight. Apart from supporting the Schurman Library and endowing the Curt-Engelhorn Chair for American History, they have been critically involved in expanding the University of Heidelberg’s American Studies Program.

For more information on the HCA and its M.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies programs, as well as on its other activities in the areas of higher education, interdisciplinary research, and public forum, please log on to our website at www.hca.uni-hd.de and subscribe to our quarterly newsletter.