



Heidelberg Center for American Studies

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

SPECIAL FEATURE

Natalie Rauscher

NARRATIVES OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

THE FUTURE OF WORK IN THE UNITED STATES



Ruprecht-Karls-Universität
Heidelberg, est. 1386



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

IMPRINT

Editor

Welf Werner

Editorial Staff

Wilfried Mausbach

Julian Kramer

Anja Schüler

Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA)

Curt und Heidemarie
Engelhorn Palais

Hauptstraße 120
69117 Heidelberg
Germany

T + 49 6221/ 54 37 10

F + 49 6221/ 54 37 19

hca@uni-heidelberg.de
www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Coverdesign

Bernhard Pompey

Adapted Design and Layout

Barbara Grobe

Christian Kempf

© Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) 2021. All rights reserved.
The HCA Annual Report is published yearly and is available free of charge.

ISSN 1862-1201

CONTENTS

Rector's Welcome	5
Preface	6

THE HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

Mission Statement	10
Benefactors	10
Organization	13
Board of Trustees	13
Board of Directors	19
Foundation and Development	24
The Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais	28
People 2020-2021	29
Cooperation and Support	43

AN INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in American Studies (BAS)	46
The BAS Class of 2024	47
Student Trip to Berlin	48
Exchange Opportunities for BAS Students	51
Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS)	51
MAS Graduates 2021	52
The MAS Class of 2022	53
The MAS Class of 2023	56
HCA Commencement 2021	56
Student Committee	62
HCA Social Activities	63

A CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Ph.D. in American Studies	66
HCA Graduate Blog	67
Ph.D. Candidates	68
Graduiertenkolleg Authority and Trust (GKAT)	86
GKAT Faculty	89
GKAT Researchers	91
HCA Research	114
HCA Spring Academy 2021	122
Conferences	128
Selected Publications	136
Selected Talks	150

SPECIAL FEATURE

Natalie Rauscher

Narratives of Technological Change:

The Future of Work in the United States

164

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC DEBATE

"Quo Vadis, USA?"

The Podcast of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies

180

Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung "Quo Vadis USA?"

203

Enjoy Jazz at the HCA

212

HCA Book Launch

213

HCA Fireside Chats

214

Encounters: New Perspectives on Asia, America, and Europe

215

Media Coverage

217

HCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

226



RECTOR'S WELCOME

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

Dear Reader,

After three semesters of remote teaching and online events due to the global Covid-19 pandemic, Heidelberg University has returned to an in-person modus. From spring 2020 to late summer 2021, we painfully missed the personal interaction that is the core of our academic community. We are thankful that some degree of normalcy has returned with the availability of vaccines. Few things could have demonstrated more aptly how innovative research spawns breakthrough discoveries and serves mankind.

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) braved the storm. In March, it moved its Spring Academy for international doctoral candidates online, with twenty participants from ten countries across seven time zones. In June, it successfully staged the 67th Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies as a hybrid event. The HCA's Research Training Group "Authority and Trust" (GKAT) is also going strong. The German Research Foundation (DFG) has just accorded more than four million euros to GKAT for its second funding period. Also, during the past year, the HCA has contributed significantly to the strengthening of area studies as interdisciplinary fields of research at Heidelberg University – a crucial component of our Excellence Strategy. The HCA has joined forces with the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS) in establishing the Junior Professorship "Migration and the Americas," and with the Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) in initiating the new event series "Encounters."

These are no small feats in light of an all-encompassing crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic. I am convinced that the HCA and the entire university will move forward confidently and vigorously, and that we will ultimately surmount the challenges posed by a still ongoing pandemic.

Kind regards

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

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



PREFACE

PROF. DR. WELF WERNER
DIRECTOR OF THE HCA

Dear Friends, Benefactors, Students, and Colleagues,

For the second time in a row, the past year was decisively marked by the Covid-19 pandemic. After a winter with lots of online teaching and events we gladly switched to hybrid and in-person formats when the summer finally arrived.

In June, we hosted the Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies (GAAS), originally scheduled for the previous year. For the first time since the founding of the GAAS in 1953, the gathering took place in a hybrid format. Of the more than 300 participants, only a few convened in the university's Neue Aula for the opening ceremony, while most followed the proceedings in front of their computer screens. The conference theme "Participation in American Culture and Society," while rooted in the social sciences, proved to be an important and timely topic that spoke to the full range of disciplines represented in the GAAS.

August saw another hybrid conference at the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais that was organized in cooperation with Princeton University. Ten years after the HCA and the Faculty of Theology established the James W.C. Pennington Award to commemorate the first honorary doctorate awarded to an African-American, Pennington Fellows gathered at the Engelhorn Palais and online. Generously supported by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation, this conference reassessed the life and work of the African American abolitionist and writer in the context of nineteenth-century transatlantic reform movements.

Just a few weeks ago, we received the exhilarating news that the German Research Foundation (DFG) approved a total of approximately €4.3 million for the HCA's Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT). This second funding period, which starts in April 2022, will enable a total of twenty doctoral candidates and two postdocs to engage in research at the HCA. Like the work of the first cohort, the new projects will focus on the emergence and transformation of authority and trust in government and civil society, social institutions and urban spaces, culture and religion. GKAT will continue its work with a sharpened profile, strengthened by more research on social philosophy and philosophy of religion (Magnus Schlette), on ethnicity and migration (Soledad Álvarez Velasco) and economic history (myself).

With the headwinds of the pandemic we further strengthened our digital formats, one of the strategic goals that we had formulated long before the virus hit in early 2020. Every other week, guests of the HCA podcast "Quo Vadis USA?" look at where the United States is heading. The HCA Graduate Blog is thriving with original and timely contributions, mostly by younger scholars from Heidelberg, and the video section of our website has expanded considerably with offerings such as the "HCA Fireside Chats" and our new "Encounters" series.

In the area studies of the university, we have cooperated closely with the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS) on research proposals and on teaching. Our institutes have also successfully cooperated to fill the new position of a Junior Professor for Migration and the Americas at HCIAS. We have also worked closely with the Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) and initiated – with considerable support from the university – a new series of conversations called "Encounters: New Perspectives on Asia, America, and Europe." This series looks at the two major rivals of the multipolar world of the twenty-first century, the U.S. and China – and at the consequences of this rivalry for Europe. Different area studies centers come together in endeavors such as these, demonstrating the potential for transdisciplinary cooperation at Heidelberg University.

We are convinced that the global expansion of our gaze at the U.S. has put us on the right path. Although a complicated presidency has ended in the United States, the world has proved to be no less complex. It looks as if the U.S. will not return to the hegemonic role that it played before the Trump presidency, with potentially serious challenges for a stable world order and especially for Europe.

As if this was not enough, the world is still battling the Covid-19 pandemic. But let me end on a more cheerful note: In the past year, we not only advanced our dual goals of expanding the digital HCA and our focus on Global American Studies. In mid-October, we also used the window of opportunity awarded by low Covid-19 incidences to hold the first HCA Commencement since April 2019. We cheerfully celebrated the achievements of some thirty graduates and brought HCA students, faculty, alumni, and sponsors together at the university's Neue Aula and the ensuing reception. In the following week, the HCA, like the university at large, commenced the vast majority of its winter term classes in-person, and we stay strongly committed to in-person teaching, conferences, and public events whenever the circumstances allow.

Kind regards,

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

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner
Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies



THE HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR
AMERICAN STUDIES

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Officially inaugurated in 2004, the HCA has become one of the leading centers for American Studies in Europe. It provides excellent research and education opportunities for scholars and students from all over the world. In addition, the HCA strengthens the profile of Heidelberg University as one of Germany's finest academic institutions. Heidelberg University's 635-year-old tradition of excellence, its international reputation, and its strong record in the study of the United States combine to create the ideal environment for the HCA.

BENEFACTORS

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

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

With exceptional generosity, Honorary Senators Curt Engelhorn (†) and Heidemarie Engelhorn have sown the seeds which enabled the HCA and Heidelberg University to globally make their mark in the fields of American Studies and transatlantic relations. In 2008, they committed to supporting the HCA with 400,000 EUR annually and have done so ever since. In addition, the Engelhorn family most hospitably put the Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais at the HCA's

free disposal and, moreover, underwrote construction of an annex to the landmarked palais that houses additional academic facilities and was dedicated in October 2009 (see p. 28).

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

One of the most active benefactors of American Studies in Heidelberg since 1991, Rolf Kentner, established the Rolf-Kentner-Dissertation Prize in 2010. This annual award recognizes an outstanding and yet unpublished dissertation in American Studies submitted to a German University. In 2010, the award went to Daniel Stein from the University of Göttingen; the 2011 recipient was Frank Usbeck from the University of Leipzig; in 2012, Leonard Schmieding, also from the University of Leipzig, received this award; in 2013, the Kentner Prize was awarded to Jasper M. Trautsch, who received his doctorate from the Free University Berlin; in 2014 the award went to Juliane Braun from the University of Würzburg; Tom Kaden from the University of Leipzig received the Kentner Prize in 2015; the 2016 recipient of the Kentner Prize was Birte Wege from the Free University of Berlin; in 2017, the Kentner Prize went to Annika Elena Poppe of the Hessische Stiftung Friedens- und Konfliktforschung (Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, PRIF), who received her doctorate from the University of Frankfurt. In 2018, the Kentner Prize was awarded to Jonas B. Anderson from the University of Jena, who completed his doctorate at the LMU Munich. The 2019 recipient was Maria Sulimma, who received her doctorate from the Free University Berlin. In 2020, the Kentner Prize went to Juliane Hornung of the University of Cologne, who received her doctorate from LMU Munich. The 2021 Kentner Prize went to Natalie Rauscher, a graduate of the HCA's Ph.D. program (see p. 66).

Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger and the Lautenschläger Foundation continued their longtime support of the HCA by providing funding for the James W. C. Pennington Award, set up jointly by the HCA and the Faculty of Theology. On the occasion of the award's inauguration, the HCA was honored to receive a message of greetings from U.S. President Barack Obama, acknowledging this new initiative (see HCA annual report 2010-11). In 2012, this prestigious award, named for the first African American to receive an honorary doctorate from a European University, brought the first preeminent visiting scholar in this program to the HCA, Professor Albert J. Raboteau from Princeton University, followed by Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham from Harvard in 2013, Professor Laurie Maffly-Kipp from Washington University in St. Louis in 2014, Professor William L. Andrews from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 2015, Professor John Witte Jr. from Emory University in 2016, Professor Harry Stout from Yale University in 2017, Professor Eddie S. Glaude from Princeton University in 2018, and Professor Paul Harvey from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in 2019. In August 2021, a number of awardees and other renowned

scholars in the field came together online and at the HCA to reassess the life and work of Pennington in the context of nineteenth-century transatlantic reform movements (see pp. 133).

During the academic year 2020-21, four MAS students and one Ph.D. candidates were privileged to enjoy the support of the BASF Group, Heidemarie Engelhorn, the Schurman Association, and the Andreas Dienerowitz International Fellowship. And once more, the 2021 Spring Academy was made possible by the generosity of the John Deere Company.

Two foundations, the Schurman Foundation and the Friends of the HCA, are responsible for managing parts of our privately donated funds. With a registered office in Heidelberg, the Schurman Foundation is in charge of tax-deductible contributions to the HCA from Europe and Germany.

Jacob Gould Schurman Stiftung,
c/o Heidelberg Center for American Studies
Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais
Hauptstraße 120
69117 Heidelberg
Germany
T +049 (0) 6221 543710
F +049 (0) 6221 543719
Mail to: clarenz@hca.uni-heidelberg.de
IBAN: DE 29600501017421501253
SWIFT: SOLADEST

Since the spring of 2004, the American counterpart of the Schurman Foundation, the FHCA, has administered tax-deductible donations to the HCA from the United States:

Friends of the Heidelberg Center
for American Studies (FHCA)
c/o Lucy Whitehead
Mannheim LLC
712 Fifth Ave., 32nd Floor
New York, NY 10019
U.S.A.
T +1 (212) 664 8600
F +1 (212) 664 8415
JP Morgan Private Bank
1211 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
ABA # 021000021
A/c # 739 178636

ORGANIZATION

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In November 2005, the HCA established a board of trustees. Today, it consists of eight members, all of them long-time supporters of the HCA and of the endeavor to create a leading center for American Studies and transatlantic exchange at Heidelberg University. Along with HCA Founding Director Professor Detlef Junker they are: Dr. Martin Bussmann, Carsten Brzeski, Ray Carrell, Heidemarie Engelhorn, Joachim Häger, Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, and the rector of Heidelberg University, Professor Bernhard Eitel. In 2014, and after rendering great service to the HCA since its inception, Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan left the Board of Trustees. His successor is Joachim Häger. In February 2018, the HCA's founding director became the chairman of the board of trustees. In May 2020, the HCA mourned the passing of its long-time trustee Rolf Kentner. Carsten Brzeski joined the board in November 2020. It meets at least once a year to discuss the institute's progress and to advise its future developments.



DR. MARTIN BUSSMANN

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



CARSTEN BRZESKI

Carsten Brzeski is Global Head of Macro Research and Chief Eurozone Economist for ING. He has been ING Germany's chief economist since 2013. His main areas of expertise are national, European and global economic and political developments with a focus on macroeconomics, monetary policies of the European Central Bank (ECB), and financial markets. As one of the most quoted economists in Germany, Carsten Brzeski frequently comments in international media. Prior to joining ING in the Brussels Economic Research Team in 2008, he worked at ABN Amro's Economics Department in Amsterdam and at the European Commission. From 2000 to early 2004, he was senior policy advisor at the Dutch Ministry of Finance. He is a Berlin-born German and has studied at the Free University of Berlin, Northeastern University, and Harvard University. In 2019 he was a John F. Kennedy Memorial Policy Fellow at Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies.

(Photo courtesy ING)



RAY CARRELL

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



PROF. DR. DR. H.C. BERNHARD EITEL

Professor Bernhard Eitel studied geography, German philology, and literature at the University of Karlsruhe. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Stuttgart in 1989 and his *venia legendi* for physical geography from the same university in 1994 with a study on calcium-rich cover beds and calcrete generations in Namibia. Prior to coming to Heidelberg, Professor Eitel taught at the University of Passau. Since 2001, he has held the chair in physical geography and has also acted as head of the Department of Geography at Heidelberg University. His major fields of research are in geomorphology, geoecology, the Quaternary research, soil geography, geoarchaeology, and dryland areas, particularly in Namibia, Peru, and China. In October 2007, Professor Eitel assumed the office of rector of Heidelberg University. He was reelected for a third term in 2019.



HEIDEMARIE ENGELHORN

Heidemarie Engelhorn was born in Munich and lived there during her youth. In 1995 she was married to Curt Engelhorn. She has since been instrumental in selecting and shaping many philanthropic projects of her late husband, especially his extraordinary support of projects at Heidelberg University. They have included a chair in American history, major donations to the Schurman Library for American History, the generous dedication of the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais, including the new annex, to the HCA as well as an annual donation of 400,000 EUR to the center. In 2008, Heidemarie Engelhorn was named Honorary Senator of the university for her unflinching commitment to and support for the promotion of American Studies in Heidelberg. In 2011, on the occasion of the 625th anniversary of the Ruperto Carola, Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn funded the lavish renovation of the aula of the "New University."



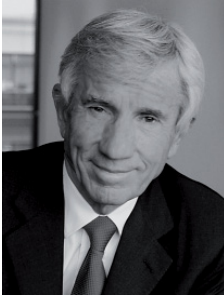
JOACHIM HÄGER

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



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

The HCA's founding director was born in Pinneberg near Hamburg. He studied history, political science, philosophy, and German philology in Innsbruck and Kiel, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1969. In 1974 Professor Junker was appointed associate professor at the University of Stuttgart. He taught modern history at Heidelberg University from 1975 to 1994 and held the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History there from 1999 to 2004. From 1994 to 1999, Professor Junker served as the Director of the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D.C. After his official retirement in 2004 he dedicated himself to founding and building the HCA and was instrumental in its institutional and academic success. The foci of his research are U.S. foreign policy in the twentieth century, German history, international relations and the history of transatlantic relations, and the theory of history. His most important publications are *Die Deutsche Zentrumspartei und Hitler 1932/33. Ein Beitrag zur Problematik des politischen Katholizismus in Deutschland* (1969), *Der unteilbare Weltmarkt. Das ökonomische Interesse in der Außenpolitik der USA 1933-1941*, (1975), *Kampf um die Weltmacht. Die USA und das Dritte Reich* (1988), *Power and Mission. Was Amerika antreibt* (2003), *Die USA und Deutschland, 1871-2021* (2021), and the two volume handbook *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War 1945-1990* (2004), which he edited. In 2005, Professor Junker was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the University of Maryland – University College Europe (UMUC) in Heidelberg, recognizing his commitment to fostering German-American dialogue and cross-cultural understanding. In 2007, he was appointed Distinguished Senior Professor of Heidelberg University. From 2009 to 2013, Professor Junker served as president of the American Studies Network Association (ASN) Europe. In 2010, he received the Federal Cross of Merit for his exceptional support of American Studies as a discipline, his academic teaching, and his entrepreneurial abilities. In 2014, he was named Honorary Roosevelt Fellow of the Roosevelt Study Center.



DR. H.C. MANFRED LAUTENSCHLÄGER

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies consists of members from the six faculties that contribute to the HCA. These are the Faculties of Chemistry and Earth Sciences; Economics and Social Studies; Law; Modern Languages; Philosophy; and Theology. In 2004, six representatives from these faculties adopted the proposal of Professor Peter Hommelhoff, then rector of Heidelberg University, and named Professor Detlef Junker the founding director of the HCA. The late Professor Winfried Brugger and Professor Michael Welker were named deputy directors. In February 2018, Professor Junker resigned from the Board of Directors to head the HCA's board of trustees. He is succeeded by Professor Welf Werner. Also, Professor Welker left the board of directors, and the Faculty of Theology designated Professor Jan Stievernemann to replace him. The current deputy directors are Professor Manfred Berg and Professor Ulrike Gerhard.



PROF. DR. MANFRED BERG

On the HCA's Board of Directors, Manfred Berg represents the Faculty of Philosophy. He has held the Curt Engelhorn Chair in American History since September 2005. From 1992 to 1997, Professor Berg was a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. Subsequently he taught at the Free University Berlin, Cologne University, and the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. He also served as executive director of the Center for USA Studies at the Leucorea Foundation of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The foci of his research and teaching are African American History, the history of mob violence, and the history of U.S. foreign relations. He is the author of *The Ticket to Freedom: The NAACP and the Struggle for Black Political Integration* (2005), *Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America* (2011), *Geschichte der USA* (2013), and *Woodrow Wilson. Amerika und die Neuordnung der Welt* (2017). In 2006 Professor Berg received the David Thelen Award from the Organization of American Historians (OAH) for the best article on American history published in a foreign language for his article "Black Civil Rights and Liberal Anticommunism: The NAACP during the McCarthy Era." In 2016 he won the Distinguished Historian Award of the Society of Historians of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era. In the spring of 2009 Manfred Berg was the Lewis P. Jones Visiting Professor of History at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina. From 2010 through 2012, Professor Berg served as dean of the Faculty of Philosophy of Heidelberg University. He was the speaker of the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT). In 2019 the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities made Professor Berg its regular member.



PROF. DR. ULRIKE GERHARD

Ulrike Gerhard is professor for human geography of North America at the HCA and the Institute of Geography. She studied geography at Marburg as well as Waterloo, Ontario, and Edmonton, Alberta, and received her Ph.D. in 1998 from Marburg University doing research on urban consumer landscapes in Canada and Germany. Since then she has analyzed political and socio-economic trends in U.S. American cities (see, for example, *Global City Washington, D.C. – eine politische Stadtgeographie*, 2007), spending several months in Washington, D.C., and other urban centers. Her most recent research topics deal with re-urbanization trends in North American cities, urban inequality in the Americas, and urban sustainable politics across the world. She aims at developing a planetary research perspective on urban theory that takes into account the wide array of urban developments in an increasingly urbanized world. She is the editor of *Inequalities in Creative Cities* (2017), a cultural geography of the U.S. (*Kulturgeographie der USA*, 2017) and *Die Stadt von morgen* (2020). Professor Gerhard was a visiting professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2015 and 2021 and a Marsilius Fellow at Heidelberg University in 2016-17 and 2020-21. She is co-speaker of the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT), principal investigator in the Thematic Research Network "Umwelten, Umbrüche, Umdenken," and director of the real world lab "Urban Office Heidelberg." She joined the HCA Board of Directors in 2011 and became deputy director in 2019.



PROF. DR. BERND GRZESZICK

Bernd Grzeszick studied law at the universities of Bonn, Freiburg, and Heidelberg. In 1992 he passed his first state examination. From 1992 to 1993, he worked as a research assistant at the University of Freiburg and pursued LL.M. studies at Cambridge University in 1993 and 1994. From 1994 to 1996, he completed his Referendariat, during which he also practiced in Paris and New York. In 1995, he was awarded a doctoral degree (Dr. iur.) for his dissertation on the development of federalist thinking in Germany, *Vom Reich zur Bundesstaatsidee. Zur Herausbildung der Föderalismusidee im modernen deutschen Staatsrecht* (1996). In 1996, after having passed the second state examination in Berlin, Bernd Grzeszick acceded to the position of assistant professor, first at Mannheim University, later at the University of Cologne. In 2001, Bernd Grzeszick received his *venia legendi*, having written a "Habilitation" thesis on rights, claims, and the reconstruction of state liability from individual rights (*Rechte und Ansprüche. Eine Rekonstruktion des*

Staatshaftungsrechts aus den subjektiven öffentlichen Rechten, 2002). Afterwards he was a visiting professor at the universities of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Bonn, and Münster where he was appointed professor for public law in 2003. In 2004, he assumed the chair for public law, international public law, and legal philosophy at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, where he also served as director of the Institute for Legal Philosophy and General Theory of the State. In 2009, Bernd Grzeszick was appointed professor for public law, international public law, and legal philosophy at the University of Mainz. Since 2010 he has held the chair for public law, international public law, and legal philosophy as well as the directorship of the Institute for Constitutional Law, Constitutional Theory, and Legal Philosophy at Heidelberg University. He joined the HCA's Board of Directors in 2011. In 2013, he was appointed an ordinary member of the social sciences class of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Since 2021 Bernd Grzeszick is a judge at the Constitutional Court of the Land Nordrhein-Westfalen and member of the Commission for Electoral and other Reforms of the German Federal Parliament.



PROF. DR. SEBASTIAN HARNISCH

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



PROF. DR. GÜNTER LEYPOLDT

Günter Leypoldt is professor of American literature and culture at the Faculty of Modern Languages. He taught American Studies at the universities of Tübingen, Maryland – College Park, and Mainz. Günter Leypoldt holds degrees in American, British, and German literatures from the University of Cape Town (B.A.) and the University of Tübingen (doctorate and "Habilitation"). He has published essays on literary transcendentalism, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century aesthetics, twentieth-century literary and cultural theory, a monograph on contemporary fiction, *Casual Silences: The Poetics of Minimal Realism* (2001), and a study on nineteenth-century U.S. literary culture and its modernist reconstruction, *Cultural Authority in the Age of Whitman: A Transatlantic Perspective* (2009). His present research interests include transatlantic romanticism and modernism, American pragmatism, transculturality, the borders between aesthetic and religious experience, and the sociology of knowledge formation. Professor Leypoldt joined the HCA Board of Directors in 2009. He is the speaker of the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT).



PROF. DR. JAN STIEVERMANN

Jan Stievermann is Professor of the History of Christianity in the U.S. at Heidelberg University and director of the Jonathan Edwards Center Germany. He has written books and essays on a broad range of topics in the fields of American religious history and American literature, including a comprehensive study of the theology and aesthetics of Ralph Waldo Emerson (2007) and *Prophecy, Piety, and the Problem of Historicity: Interpreting the Hebrew Scriptures in Cotton Mather's Biblia Americana* (2016). In the scholarly edition of the *Biblia Americana* manuscript, he is responsible for volumes 5 and 10 (the first came out in 2015, the other is scheduled for 2021) and serves as the executive editor of the whole project. Among other multi-authored volumes, he co-edited *A Peculiar Mixture: German-Language Cultures and Identities in Eighteenth-Century North America* (2013), *Religion and the Marketplace in the United States* (2014) and the *Oxford Handbook of Jonathan Edwards* (2021).



PROF. DR. WELF WERNER

Welf Werner was trained in economics, finance, management, and economic history at the Freie Universität Berlin and Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. Before joining the faculty of International University Bremen as Professor of International Economics in 2004, he taught U.S. economic policy and history as lecturer and assistant professor at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies. He received his Ph.D. and *venia legendi* from the Economics Department of the Freie Universität in 1992 and 2003, respectively. He was a John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow at Harvard University's Center for European Studies in 1994 and returned to the U.S. in 1997 as a research fellow at both Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and George Washington University. In February 2018, Welf Werner was appointed Professor of American Studies at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Universität Heidelberg and director of the HCA. His research and teaching focus on U.S. domestic and foreign economic policies while giving due regard to their intertwining with history and political science. His interdisciplinary cooperation has occasionally gone beyond the social sciences, as, for example, with the volume *Wie viel Ungleichheit verträgt die Demokratie? Armut und Reichtum in den USA*, co-edited with Winfried Fluck (2004). International dimensions of American decline are considered in a volume that he edited with Florian Böller, *Hegemonic Transition: Global Economic and Security Orders in the Age of Trump* (2021). Specific research interests have touched upon fields such as international trade in services, financial market globalization, monetary regime change, natural disasters and international risk management, globalization and inequality, welfare state reform, and the economic determinants of populism.

FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Initiated by Professor Detlef Junker, in January of 2002, a group of Heidelberg professors and administrators set up an interdisciplinary venture with the aim of establishing a new center for the study of the United States of America at Germany's oldest university. The first order of business of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies was to develop a novel graduate studies program: the Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS). To raise public awareness of its activities, the HCA initiative also organized a public lecture series, "Typically American," during the winter term 2002-03, which soon attracted a broad audience. Within a year of its creation, the HCA opened a small office from which it continued to develop the MAS and future research projects and conferences. To date, 225 students from 49 countries and six continents have graduated from the MAS.

Ten departments from six faculties committed themselves to the program, enabling a broad range of disciplines to be represented at the HCA: American literature and culture, economics, geography, history, law, musicology, philosophy, political science, theological studies, and sociology. In December of 2003, thanks to the generous support of Heidelberg entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, the HCA was able to settle into more spacious quarters in Heidelberg's beautiful Weststadt. Four months later, the center hosted its first conference, the HCA Spring Academy 2004 on American History, Culture, and Politics. Twenty-six European and American Ph.D. students from ten countries and six academic disciplines participated in this conference. The annual Spring Academy has since become a highly regarded forum for international Ph.D. students in the field of American Studies and has to date attracted over 1,600 applications from almost 80 countries.

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

During the following years, the HCA substantially expanded its activities. This would not have been possible had it not been for another major donation. In early 2006, Curt Engelhorn acquired the "Haus Neukirch," a beautiful baroque town house in the heart of Heidelberg's historic city center. With restorations still under way, the HCA moved into its new home, the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais, in May of 2006. The Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais opened up a whole new range of possibilities for the HCA. In order to fully realize the new potential, Heidelberg University, the State of Baden-Württemberg, and private donors agreed to set up a matching fund for the future development of the center. This fund enabled the HCA to initiate a joint venture with the American Academy in Berlin, bringing renowned fellows of that prestigious institution to the region as part of the Academy's Baden-Württemberg Seminar. In addition, the HCA was able to introduce a year-round Fellow-in-Residence program in 2007 and add another three young scholars to its staff, thereby broadening its research and teaching capacities.

These were much needed, as a year earlier, in 2006, the HCA had launched a three-year English-language Ph.D. program with a multidisciplinary curriculum. Currently, 18 students participate in our program while 25 have successfully completed their doctorate.

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

In late November of 2009, the HCA learned that its application – supported by Heidelberg University – for the creation of two professorships to be shared with the Institute of Geography and the Faculty of Theology, respectively, had been approved by the state government. These professorships were allocated under a special program designed to alleviate the impact of two classes of secondary school graduates hitting German universities in the same year, 2012. In the spring of 2011, Ulrike Gerhard came to the HCA as Professor of Geography of North America, and Jan Stievermann joined the HCA as Professor of the History of Christianity in the United States. A few months earlier, the HCA had successfully completed negotiations with the English Department over a joint appointment of Günter Leyoldt, Professor of American Literature and Culture. This was the second joint appointment after Manfred Berg, the Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History, in 2009. With two "bridge professors" and two joint appointments, the HCA has now established firm operational "bridges" to the Departments of History, English, Geography, and Theology. In 2015, Heidelberg University created a new professorship in American Studies to ensure the succession of the HCA's founding director.

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

The HCA also continued to expand its activities both as a center for interdisciplinary research and as a facilitator of transatlantic academic exchange. Since 2012, the HCA together with

Heidelberg University's Faculty of Theology has been annually awarding the James W.C. Pennington Award, generously endowed by the Lautenschläger Foundation. In the same year the Jonathan Edwards Center Germany was inaugurated. The center is a partnership between the Department of Theology and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies with the Jonathan Edwards Center at the Yale Divinity School. Together these institutions seek to further work on Edwards and early American religious history by supporting and advising related academic projects, by providing primary and secondary source materials, offering seminars, organizing lectures and conferences, as well as by engaging in student and faculty exchange both with Yale and the other international centers. In 2015 a new cooperation was initiated between the HCA and the University of Notre Dame, specifically its department of history and American Studies program. Its focus will be on doctoral and post-doctoral exchanges as well as on research collaborations. So far four joint colloquia took place, and several junior scholars have benefitted from the exchange. Since 2018, the HCA has also been participating in the doctoral summer school Notre Dame organizes with partners from Oxford and Edinburgh. In addition, the HCA has joined a new Notre Dame research-initiative on "Global 1776."

In 2021, the HCA launched its Fireside Chats. Here, Wilfried Mausbach welcomes Sigmar Gabriel for a (digital) conversation in front of the historic fireplace in the HCA Lounge.



In the fall of 2016, the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) approved a grant application worth 3.5 million EUR for a new research training group (Graduiertenkolleg) based at the HCA. The projects of the group focus on "Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History and Politics." It rests on the shoulders of ten researchers from different disciplines including geography, history, linguistics, literature, political science, and cultural and religious studies. In addition, associate scholars from Germany, Europe, and North America are involved in the new research training group. The emergence and transformation of authority in state and civil society, social institutions, urban spaces, culture and religion, are at the center of the group's research program, as well as the shifting trust relationships inside the United States and in the transatlantic world. Professor Manfred Berg (Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History) served as the first spokesperson of the research training group, Professor Günter Leyboldt (Department of English) as the deputy spokesperson. The first four-and-a-half-year funding period began in October 2017 and involved ten doctoral students, four research students, and one postdoctoral scholar. The research training group makes important scholarly contributions to this field and at the same time offers an innovative qualification program that will help young scholars to launch their careers inside and outside academia. The Grand Opening of GKAT took place in November 2017.

In the spring of 2017, Professor Welf Werner of International University Bremen accepted a position the university had created two years earlier to ensure the succession of the HCA's founding director, a joint appointment at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences and the HCA. In February 2018, the HCA board of directors designated him as the center's new director. Professor Werner has added economics to the center's portfolio, giving due regard to the discipline's intertwining with history and political science. Since then, the HCA has put a stronger emphasis on "Global American Studies," thus enlarging the traditional transatlantic perspective. One manifestation of this widened perspective is the Juniorprofessorship "Migration and the Americas," created in cooperation with the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS). HCA professors are also involved in the work of Heidelberg University's Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS). At the same time, the center moved towards establishing a "digital HCA" by increasingly documenting high-profile events through video on its website; in addition, HCA graduate students founded the HCA Graduate Blog. In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic amplified this development since it rendered all in-person teaching and events impossible for three semesters. Hence, while classes moved online, the HCA at the same time launched the Podcast "Corona in den USA" and conceptualized the Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung entitled "Quo Vadis USA?" as an exclusively online format.



A transatlantic history seminar co-taught by Michelle Nickerson and Anja Schüler held in a hybrid format during parts of the summer term 2021. The conference system in Oculus made this course format with students attending both in-person and online possible.

In November 2021, the DFG approved a second round of funding for GKAT. A total of 4.3 million EUR for a period of four and a half years will enable two additional cohorts with ten Ph.D. students each to gain fundamental insights into the relationship between authority and trust in the United States. Professor Günter Leypoldt and Professor Ulrike Gerhard serve as spokespersons for GKAT. The research training group sharpened its profile by adding three new principal investigators, Professor Welf Werner (economic history), PD Magnus Schlatte (social philosophy and philosophy of religion), and Junior-Professor Soledad Álvarez Velasco (ethnicity and migration in urban areas in Anglo and Latin America).

THE CURT AND HEIDEMARIE ENGELHORN PALAIS

The home of the HCA is a beautiful old Bürgerpalais with a long history. The location can be traced back to 1564. In 1699, the "Haus Neukirch" was purchased by Burkhard Neukirch. The current structure was built at the beginning of the eighteenth century, making the home of the HCA fifty years older than its subject of study, the United States of America. In 2006, the former "Haus Neukirch" was renamed in honor of Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn, who had bought the building and generously granted the HCA rent-free use of the rooms for ten years, a grant that has been extended to 2036.

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

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

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

PEOPLE 2020-2021



SOLEDAD ÁLVAREZ VELASCO, PH.D. HCIAS JUNIOR PROFESSOR "MIGRATION AND THE AMERICAS"

Soledad Álvarez Velasco is the Junior-Professor "Migration and the Americas" at the Heidelberg Center for Ibero American Studies, in cooperation with the HCA. She holds a Ph.D. in Human Geography from King's College London, a Master's Degree in Social Anthropology from the Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico), and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the Universidad San Francisco (Quito, Ecuador). Before joining the HCIAS in September 2021, she was a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies at the University of Houston. Professor Álvarez Velasco's research investigates the nexus between undocumented transit migration, border regime and the capitalist state. Her work also analyzes how the externalization of U.S. border enforcement policies impacts the South American region, the movement of unaccompanied migrant children, the role of transnational smuggling networks and of social and digital infrastructures of mobility enabling migrant mobilities. She is the author of *Frontera sur chiapaneca: El muro humano de la violencia: Análisis de la normalización de la violencia hacia los migrantes indocumentados en tránsito* (2016), and co-author of *Entre la violencia y la invisibilidad: niñas, niñas y adolescentes ecuatorianos no acompañados en tránsito a Estados Unidos* (2012).



IDA BAHMANN, M.A. SPRING ACADEMY

Ida Bahmann, a HCA graduate, spent the academic year 2015-16 as an Erasmus student at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, Greece. In August 2016, she started working as a student assistant at the HCA, where she supported Forum events, including writing retrospect reports for the HCA's website. She graduated from Heidelberg University with a B.A. in American Studies in 2017. After spending the academic year 2018-19 at Cornell University, she returned to the HCA to coordinate the Spring Academy (until 2021) and graduated with a Master's Degree in English Literature in 2021.

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

(see p. 19)



HANNAH DREES, B.A.
STUDENT ASSISTANT

Hannah Drees joined the BAS program in fall 2017 and graduated in 2021; her studies at the HCA focussed on American politics and history. She supported the HCA's founding director as a student assistant from April to September 2021.



DR. DOROTHEA FISCHER-HORNUNG
SENIOR LECTURER AMERICAN STUDIES

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung was Senior Lecturer in the English Department of Heidelberg University. Her research focuses on ethnic and post-colonial literatures and film in English as well as performance theories and practices. She has developed, taught, and published on international e-learning co-operations with universities in numerous countries. She is founding co-editor of the journal *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents* and former president of MESEA, Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas. For several years, Dr. Fischer-Hornung taught the MAS course "Methodology I: Introduction to American Studies." She has retired but continued to facilitate the HCA Spring Academy until 2021.

PROF. DR. ULRIKE GERHARD
PROFESSOR OF NORTH AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY

(see p. 20)

PROF. DR. SEBASTIAN HARNISCH
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

(see p. 21)

ANNABELLE HENNEMANN

STUDENT ASSISTANT FORUM

Annabelle Hennemann joined the HCA'S BAS program in the winter semester 2020-21. Since October 2021, she has been supporting the HCA's Forum events.



RYAN HOSELTON, M.DIV., TH.M.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Ryan Hoselton is a post-doctoral research associate and instructor at Heidelberg University with a dual appointment in the Faculty of Theology and at the HCA. Born in New Mexico, he earned his B.A. in history from the University of New Mexico, his M.Div. and Th.M. from Southern Seminary, and Ph.D. from Heidelberg University. His dissertation examined how early American evangelicals conceptualized the relationship between experiential knowledge and biblical interpretation in the context of the early enlightenment. His current research explores the global histories of early awakened Protestants. He teaches a range of courses on American religious history and assists Professor Jan Stievermann with the *Biblia Americana* project and administration of the Jonathan Edwards Center Germany.

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

FOUNDING DIRECTOR

(see p. 17)



JULIAN KRAMER, B.A.

PUBLISHING

Julian Kramer obtained a B.A. in North American Studies and geography from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich and continues his education in the HCA's MAS program. In October 2019, he started working at the HCA where he supports the publication of the annual report and is responsible for the photographic documentation of HCA events. He also provides technical support for the HCA podcast and various (online) conferences the institute facilitated, such as the Annual Meeting of the GAAS or the Spring Academy 2021.



CHRISTINA LARENZ

OFFICE MANAGER

Christina Larenz concluded her studies at the English Institute Heidelberg as a translator for English, French, and Spanish in 1988. Since then she has worked in various branches of industry and administration. She has also worked as a translator and a foreign language teacher. She joined the HCA team in September of 2008. Christina Larenz is responsible for the institute's administrative matters and is assistant to the director. In February 2009 she also took over the management of the office of the Schurman Foundation.

PROF. DR. GÜNTER LEYPOLDT

PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

(see p. 22)



PD DR. PHILIPP LÖFFLER

SENIOR LECTURER AMERICAN LITERATURE & GRADUATE ADVISOR

Philipp Löffler teaches American literary and cultural history, Revolution to Present. His work focuses on the history and sociology of reading, literary patronage, the professionalization of authorship, and the history of U.S. higher education. He has (co)-edited a number of books, most recently *The Handbook of American Romanticism* (2021) and *How to Read the Literary Market* (2021). His first monograph is *Pluralist Desires: Contemporary Historical Fiction and the End of the Cold War* (2016). His next book will be a cultural history of U.S. literary professionalism in the nineteenth century, tentatively titled *Publishing Scoundrels: American Literature and the Professionalization of Authorship, 1790-1915*. He is the graduate advisor at the HCA.



DR. WILFRIED MAUSBACH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wilfried Mausbach received his Ph.D. from the University of Cologne where he studied history, political science, and philosophy. From 1995 to 2000 Dr. Mausbach was a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC. Subsequently, he taught both in Heidelberg and at the Free University's John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies in Berlin. Dr. Mausbach has also been a Volkswagen Foundation Fellow, a Marshall-Monnet Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a visiting fellow at Carleton University in Ottawa. His dissertation on American economic postwar policy toward Germany was published as *Zwischen Morgenthau und Marshall. Das wirtschaftspolitische Deutschlandkonzept der USA 1944-1947* (1996). Next to authoring numerous articles, he has co-edited seven books, including *The Nuclear Crisis: The Arms Race, Cold War Anxiety, and the German Peace Movement of the 1980s* (2016; paperback 2019); *The American Presidency* (2012); and *Changing the World, Changing Oneself: Political Protest and Collective Identities in West Germany and the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s* (2010). He is also an adjunct editor of the two-volume handbook *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War, 1945-1990* (2004). Since 2005, Dr. Mausbach has been executive director of the HCA.



NIKOLAS MARIANI, M.A.

GRADUATE ADVISOR

Nikolas Mariani was born and raised in Germany to Croatian and German/American parents. In 2012, he graduated with a B.A. in English and philosophy from Heidelberg University. He subsequently received his M.A. at the HCA in 2015 with a thesis that dealt with emerging opportunities for independent news outlets in the media landscape after the Great Recession of 2008. Following his graduation, Nikolas Mariani worked at the German-American Institute in Heidelberg, where he coordinated Social Media and PR efforts, ran the project "U.S. Topics," an educational program for visiting German high-school classes, and helped organize a conference on "Journalism 2.0." In 2019, he joined the HCA's Ph.D. program where the subject of his research is examining which factors help predict audiences' formation of trust in alternative news media. Next to his own research, Nikolas Mariani served as a graduate adviser until September 2021.



HANNES NAGL, M.A.
**GKAT COORDINATOR & WEB CONENT
MANAGER**

Hannes Nagl studied English and American literature and political science at Heidelberg University. From August 2010 to July 2011 he was a research assistant at the English Department of Heidelberg University as part of the research project "Violence and the Hidden Constraints of Democracy: A New Civilization Studies Approach to American Literature and Culture." At the HCA, he serves as webmaster and as coordinator for the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority & Trust" (GKAT).



MICHAELA NEIDIG
ADMINISTRATION

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



PROFESSOR MICHELLE NICKERSON, PH.D.
FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Michelle Nickerson is a historian and author who specializes in the history of politics, women & gender, social movements, and religion in twentieth-century America. She is Associate Professor at Loyola University Chicago. Professor Nickerson received her Ph.D. from Yale University. She is the author of *Mothers of Conservatism: Women and the Postwar Right* (2012) and the co-author of a volume of essays called *Sunbelt Rising: The Politics of Place, Space, and Region* (2014). She is currently writing about the Camden 28, an anti-war group of the Vietnam era. Michelle Nickerson spent the summer semester 2021 at the HCA on a Fulbright Scholar Fellowship.



JULIA PATRICIA NOHLE, B.A. SPRING ACADEMY

Julia Nohle obtained her B.A. in American Studies in summer 2021 from Heidelberg University, specializing in political science, literature, and culture. She is currently pursuing an M.A. in American Studies at the HCA. Since May 2021 she has been part of the organizing team of the HCA's Spring Academy.



BENJAMIN M. PIETRENKA, PH.D. RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

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



DR. NATALIE RAUSCHER
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE & PH.D. COORDINATOR

Natalie Rauscher received her Ph.D. from the University of Heidelberg in 2021. She is currently working at the HCA as a research associate in the field of political science and is coordinating the HCA's Ph.D. program. Her research interests include discourses around the future of work as well as the rise of the platform economy in the United States. She is also working on other topics like social movements, social media, American philanthropy and think tanks, and the impact of natural catastrophes in the United States. Natalie Rauscher is the author of *The Future of Work in the United States: Discourses on Automation and the Platform Economy* (2021). She is also co-founder and editor of the HCA Graduate Blog. For the year 2021-2022, Natalie Rauscher was admitted to the Young Marsilius Fellowship at Heidelberg University.



VIVIEN REINHARDT, B.A.
STUDENT ASSISTANT

Vivien Reinhardt pursued a Bachelor's Degree in American Studies at the HCA from 2018 to 2021. She worked as a student assistant at the HCA from spring of 2019 to spring 2021, supporting the founding director emeritus.



MAREN SCHÄFER, M.A.
UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR

Maren Schäfer is research associate at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies and undergraduate adviser. She holds a B.A. in International Business from Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University and Augsburg College, Minn., as well as an M.A. in American Studies from Heidelberg University. Maren Schäfer joined the HCA's Ph.D. program in 2017 and is associated with the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority & Trust." Her research interests include U.S. populism, rhetorical strategies in political discourse as well as the relationship between populist framing and anti-authority attitudes in the United States. She is also working on populists' and populist movements' use of visual media on Twitter. At the HCA, she teaches the seminar "Core Competencies / Soft Skills." Maren Schäfer co-founded and contributes to the HCA Graduate Blog.



PROF. DR. DIETMAR SCHLOSS

PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

Dietmar Schloss taught American literature and culture at both the HCA and the English Department of Heidelberg University until his retirement in 2021. He holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University and a postdoctoral degree ("Habilitation") from Heidelberg University. As a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, he was a visiting scholar at Harvard University. He has published widely in the fields of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century American literature and culture; his book *The Virtuous Republic* (2003) examines the political visions of American writers during the founding period of the United States. In 2009, he published a volume of conference proceedings entitled *Civilizing America: Manners and Civility in American Literature and Culture* as well as a collection of critical essays on the contemporary American novel. In his new project, entitled "Spaces of Decivilization," he explores the phenomenon of violence in American literature and culture from the vantage point of Norbert Elias's sociological theory.



DR. ANJA SCHÜLER

COORDINATOR FORUM & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anja Schöler studied history, American Studies, and journalism at the University of Münster, the University of Georgia in Athens, and the Freie Universität Berlin, where she earned an M.A. in American history. She was a DAAD Fellow at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and lived in Washington, D.C., for several years. She received her Ph.D. from the Freie Universität Berlin. She is the author of *Frauenbewegung und soziale Reform: Jane Addams und Alice Salomon im transatlantischen Dialog, 1889-1933* (2004) and the co-editor of *Social Justice Feminists in the United States and Germany: A Dialogue in Documents, 1885-1933* (1997), *Politische Netzwerkerinnen: Internationale Zusammenarbeit von Frauen 1830-1960* (2007), and *Forging Bonds Across Borders: Transatlantic Collaborations for Women's Rights and Social Justice in the Long Nineteenth Century* (2017). Her research interests include German and American social history, gender history, and transatlantic history. She has taught at the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt University, and the University of Education in Heidelberg. She started teaching at the HCA in 2006. Since 2009, she has also been coordinating HCA Forum events, including the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, and is responsible for public relations. Since April 2020, she has been hosting the HCA podcast.



FRANKZISKA SITTIG
STUDENT ASSISTANT

Franziska Sittig started studying English and economics at the Ruperto Carola in 2019. She worked at the HCA as a student assistant from July 2020 to September 2021. She also contributes to various blogs, among them ZEIT ONLINE.



CAITLIN SMITH, PH.D.
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Caitlin Smith is a postdoctoral scholar at Heidelberg University, working on the DFG Project "(Re-)Translating Scripture in Early American Protestantism: A Comparative Study of Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana* and Radical Pietist Revisionings of the Bible." In 2020, she completed her Ph.D. in American Literature from the University of Notre Dame. Her Ph.D. focused on doubt and skepticism in early American spiritual autobiography.

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

(see p. 22)



DR. HABIL. MARTIN THUNERT
SENIOR LECTURER POLITICAL SCIENCE &
SOCIOLOGY

Martin Thunert joined the HCA as research lecturer in political science in September 2007. He is a graduate of Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University Frankfurt, holds a doctoral degree from the University of Augsburg, and received his "Habilitation" in political science from the University of Hamburg, where he was an assistant professor. Martin Thunert was

an exchange student at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and did graduate work at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, and at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. He has held appointments in political studies at several German universities and spent four years (2002-2006) as visiting associate professor of political science at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He was a Kennedy Fellow at the Harvard Center for European Studies and gained practical experience as staff assistant in the U.S. Senate (Labor, Education, and Health Committee).



MICHAEL TRÖGER, DIPL.-SOZ. IT

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



CAROLINE WALTER, B.A. STUDENT ASSISTANT FORUM & CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Caroline Walter pursued a Bachelor's Degree in American Studies from 2017 to 2021. She specialized in history and geography. In October 2018, she joined the HCA Forum team and currently supports the Forum events as well as conference organization.

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

(see p. 23)



MAXINE WILDENSTEIN
STUDENT ASSISTANT

Maxine Wildenstein is currently a student in the American Studies B.A. program at the HCA, where she specializes in history and politics. She started to work as a student assistant for the HCA's founding director Detlef Junker in October 2021 and is responsible for publishing and administration.



EMMA WOLF, M.A.
STUDENT ASSISTANT FORUM

Emma Wolf graduated from the HCA's BAS program in the spring of 2018, after spending the academic year of 2016-17 at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. From April 2016 to September 2021, she worked for the HCA Forum where she supported both event management and public relations and wrote retrospect reports about the HCA's public events.



VIRGINIA ZENTGRAF
SPRING ACADEMY

Virginia Zentgraf has been a student at the HCA since the fall of 2017. Her studies for a Bachelor's degree focus on American religion, literature, and culture. In October of 2021, she joined the HCA as a student assistant for the Spring Academy, the HCA's annual conference for Ph.D. students.

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Judith Keller, M.A.
Teaching Assistant, Geography

Steven Less, J.D.
Lecturer Law

Dr. Everett Massamore
Methodology I & II

Daniel Sommer
BAS Debating Club & Presentation Skills

ASSOCIATED FELLOWS

Florian Boeller,
Junior Professor for Transatlantic Relations,
TU Kaiserslautern

Prof. Dr. Simon Wendt
Professor of American Studies, University of
Frankfurt

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

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

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

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

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

Prof. Dr. Mischa Honeck
Professor for the History of Great Britain and
North America, University of Kassel

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

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

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

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

COOPERATION AND SUPPORT

The HCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following institutions in facilitating its programs: The American Academy in Berlin; Max Kade Foundation; Andreas Henn Kunsthandel Galerie Stuttgart; The American Chamber of Commerce in Germany; Baier Druck, Heidelberg; the office of the Transatlantikbrücke e.V. in Berlin; Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen (ZDF) in Mainz; Rhein Neckar Fernsehen (RNF) in Mannheim; German Association for American Studies (DGfA); Heidelberg Program of Pepperdine University; University of Notre Dame; Yale Divinity School; Georgia State University; German American Institute Heidelberg (DAI); d.a.i. Tübingen; Mark Twain Center for Transatlantic Relations, Heidelberg; Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS), Heidelberg University; Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS), Heidelberg University; English Department, Heidelberg University; Zentrum für Europäische Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften (ZEGK), Heidelberg University; Institute for Geography, Heidelberg University; Institute for Political Sciences, Heidelberg University; Alfred Weber Institute for Economics, Heidelberg University; Faculty of Philosophy, Heidelberg University; Faculty of Chemistry and Earth Sciences, Heidelberg University; Faculty of Theology, Heidelberg University; Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, Heidelberg University; FoF 3, Heidelberg University; Heidelberg University Association, New York, and its executive director Amanda Dohm Daquila; Heidelberg Alumni International and its director Silke Rodenberg; American German Business Club, Heidelberg; German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); German-American Fulbright Commission; German Historical Institute (GHI), Washington, D.C.; the Amt für Wirtschaftsförderung und Wissenschaft of the City of Heidelberg and especially Irmintraud Jost; the Government of the State of Baden-Württemberg; the Canadian Embassy in Berlin; and especially the United States Embassy in Berlin and the United States Consulate General in Frankfurt/Main.

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



AN INSTITUTE FOR
HIGHER EDUCATION

AN INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Having offered a Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) program (see p. 51) from its inception and a three year Ph.D. in American Studies program (see p. 66) starting in 2006, the HCA completed its educational portfolio by adding a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies (BAS) in October 2010.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES (BAS)

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

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

Each year, the B.A. in American Studies consists of a small group of highly motivated students. It places a strong emphasis on intense one-to-one support and mentoring as well as on student responsibility within a research-oriented teaching program.

The BAS is a full-time program lasting six semesters. Students are admitted once a year at the beginning of the winter semester. For application deadlines, please go to www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/ba/zulassung.html.

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

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

THE BAS CLASS OF 2024

In 2021, 39 students joined the HCA's undergraduate program, the biggest class to date. The HCA welcomed the BAS class of 2024 in the second week of October with a two-day orientation session, and the students eagerly started their classes in the following week – in person for the first time since winter semester 2019-20.



Back, l-r: Nicole Hubert, Gjentele Bajra, Linnea Fischer, Luisa Mayerle, Marua Mahmud Merz, Franziska De Waard, Arne Kaiser, Paul Fiedeler, Finn Schwager, Volodymyr Burdanyi, Alfons Eggersmann, Max Rauhut, Hannah White, Sara Metzger, Charline Farin.
 Front, l.-r.: Amelie Vogl, Ilayda Serdar, Antonia Müllers, Jana Raaijmakers, Isabell Wallner, Rosa Peterson, Leon Reuter, Ben Unger, Fabienne Schäfer, Janina Rücker, Paul Blume, Lukas Mächtel, Leon Steinmetz, Sabrina Schmidt, Vanessa Schenk, Anouk Favre.
 Not pictured: Georg Sommer.

STUDENT TRIP TO BERLIN 2021

After bouts of postponement due to the Covid-19 pandemic, fourteen B.A. and M.A. students – led by Dr. Natalie Rauscher and Dr. Martin Thunert – undertook a weeklong excursion to Berlin in July 2021. A few months earlier, preparing for the trip, we had split into several groups researching and presenting the history of postwar Berlin and especially transatlantic relations.

After a six-hour train ride from Heidelberg to Berlin, we checked into H1 Hotel Berlin-Alexanderplatz before visiting the East Side Gallery, the remaining section of the Berlin wall with paintings that were the works of countless artists since reunification. We saw many murals, including the iconic "My God, Help Me to Survive This Deadly Love," featuring the socialist fraternal kiss between the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and his East German counterpart Erich Honecker. Afterward, we went for a drink and pizza at the East Side Gallery Bar on the Spree. At night, we sat down on the steps of the river to watch the light installation "Dem deutschen Volke – Eine parlamentarische Spurensuche. Vom Reichstag zum Bundestag" on Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus to learn about Berlin's – and indeed Germany's – key moments in the nineteenth and twentieth century. The documentary ended on a note on contemporary Germany – a vibrant democracy aware of its past that encourages lively, rational debate and exchange.

The BAS and MAS students together with Natalie Rauscher on the first day of the excursion at East Side Gallery.

Front row, l.-r.: Svea Donauer, Daniela Willmann, Vivien Reinhardt, Henry Chan, Fei Chang, Cynthia Tse.
Back row, l.-r.: Verena Höringer, Mike Andres, Michelle Vela, Alen Hasanovic, Natalie Rauscher, Laura Vogel, Nathalie Neuberth, Julian Kramer.



After breakfast at our hotel, we took a tram to Museumsinsel and went along Unter den Linden to the Brandenburg Gate, passing Humboldt University and Berlin's State Library. We took a group photo in front of Brandenburg Gate and split into two groups. The first group went into the Reichstag for a lecture in the chamber of the Bundestag; the other walked through Peter Eisenman's impressive Memorial to Europe's Murdered Jews, made up of more than 2,700 concrete steles forming a "place of no meaning," as the artist put it, while it forms the central lieu de memoire in Germany for the Shoah. Following the lecture or rather Q&A session, we went up to the infamous dome built by Norman Foster during the renovations of the Reichstag building

following reunification. Walking around Friedrichstadt and passing the American embassy, we went to explore the area surrounding Checkpoint Charlie before returning to our hotel at Alex. The whole group met up to have dinner at the Biergarten of BRLO Brewery at Gleisdreieck in Kreuzberg. Enjoying some cold pale ales and other beer specialties, we were very pleased to be surprised by our B.A. and M.A. coordinators, Maren Schäfer and Nik Mariani, who happened to be in Berlin at the same time. The night commenced with lively discussions on Berlin's past and exactly what beer tastes the best.

On Wednesday, after a short train ride, we arrived at Potsdam. Our first stop was Schloss Cecilienhof, where we spent an hour in an interactive museum that illustrated an important chapter in Germany's history: the leaders of the three Allied Powers, i.e., America, Britain, and the Soviet Union, came together for the Potsdamer Konferenz to decide on the fate of postwar Germany. The "Big Three" – Winston Churchill, Harry Truman, and Joseph Stalin – were extensively photographed; written records were displayed to us with ample, meticulous context. We learned about minor characters, such as the British secretary Margaret Joy Hunter who served as Churchill's typist in the conference, from her surviving diaries. We also learned about WW II's imprint in Asia. The second stop was Schloss Sanssouci, a magnificent castle built by Prussian King Frederick the Great to enjoy summer (after all, Sanssouci means "without worry"!).



Martin Thunert explaining details of the Potsdam conference at Cecilienhof Palace before the group visited the exhibition on the conference.

Interestingly we came across a round pavilion called "Chinesisches Haus," built in the Chinoiserie style, a mixture of rococo elements coupled with Oriental architecture, and surrounded by various gilded Asian statues of figures. Not only are those statues gilded, but the entire outer wall of the pavilion is indeed decorated with gilding. On the top of the building, there is a statue of the Monkey King made based on Chinese legends. Few buildings embodied the preference for Chinese art style at the time like the Chinese House in the Sanssouci Palace Garden, despite limited exchanges between Europe and China at that time.

On our last full day, we met in the morning to gather at the Friedrichstraße Piers to set out for a boat excursion along the Spree, between the Reichstag and Nikolai Quarter. The tour took us past the German parliament building through the new government quarter all the way to the Haus der Kulturen der Welt. On the return trip, after turning at the Luther Bridge, the cruise ship passed by landmarks such as the Berliner Hauptbahnhof, Berliner Dom, and Museumsinsel.

While taking in the view of the attractions along the banks, we also learned quite a lot of interesting facts about the city's history. In the afternoon, we headed toward Teufelsberg to visit the abandoned NSA Field Station sitting atop an artificial hill in the Grunewald on the west edge of Berlin. To get there, we walked up a mysterious winding path toward the Devil's Mountain, where we were ambushed by swarms of mosquitoes. Those of us with shorts fell prey to the buzzing bloodsuckers.

Teufelsberg has a noteworthy history. Created from the post-WW II debris of desolated Berlin, it is the highest point in West Berlin. Perched atop this man-made hill now sits the old deserted listening and intelligence-gathering station used during the Cold War, run by the U.S. National Security Agency to eavesdrop on communist East Berlin. The station was abandoned after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the base's radar domes have become graffiti-spattered ruins and a haunting pilgrimage for urban explorers and street art fans. Quite a few graffiti works convey intense political messages; others are just beautiful images, including some surreal ones.

On Friday, we had leisure time in the morning, which some of us used to go back to Brandenburg Gate one last time. We then took the S-Bahn to Hauptbahnhof, had a quick lunch there, and met up with the rest of the group to take the train back to beautiful Heidelberg.

In the garden at Sanssouci Castle after the group had visited Potsdam.



Germany's capital city has so much to offer – more than we could experience in one short week. Nevertheless, we left with a deeper understanding of German history and the transatlantic friendship between Germany and America that was and still is so vital to our lives. We are very grateful to the university and the HCA – especially Dr. Rauscher and Dr. Thunert – for making this trip possible. Reading about history is one thing; experiencing it is quite another. It is for certain: we will be back!

EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BAS STUDENTS

With travel restrictions being lifted after the pandemic, our B.A. students were able to seize the unique opportunity provided by Heidelberg University's exchange programs to spend a year studying abroad. These international exchanges strengthened the students' intercultural expertise and allowed them to obtain skills for their further studies and their future professions. The B.A. student who went to the United States is spending her year at Wesleyan University, Connecticut.

MASTER OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES (MAS)

In 2017-18, the MAS was offered for the last time as a three semester program. Its final cohort graduated in 2019. In the winter term 2018-19, the HCA launched a newly designed four semester master's program, giving the students more choices among the course offerings and the opportunity to delve deeper into their chosen disciplines and research areas.

At the start of the program, students will choose two of the HCA's academic disciplines (history, human geography, literature and cultural studies, political science, and religious history) as their core disciplines. One of these two core disciplines will receive further emphasis in the research module, which is meant to prepare students for the writing of their M.A. thesis. The flexibility module gives students the opportunity either to take American Studies courses outside their core disciplines in order to broaden their understanding of the comprehensive field of American Studies, or to attend additional classes in one of their two core disciplines for a deeper engagement with their primary fields of interest. The interdisciplinary module is designed to bring the perspectives and methods of the various disciplines into dialogue with one another.

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

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

MAS GRADUATES 2021

Hamid Abud (Mexico/U.K.)

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

Esteban Bernal Carrasquilla (Columbia)

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

Michelle Choi (Hong Kong)

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

Hannah Konradt (Germany)

Junxan Li (China)

Junxuan comes from China. In June 2019, she graduated from the Department of Business English at Sichuan International Studies University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts. Her focus in the MAS is on human geography and political science. Her interests include U.S. economic and political policies, Silicon Valley, the modern culture, and societal changes in the United States.

William Sain (United States)

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

Cansu Yilmaz (Turkey)

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



Four of the MAS graduates, l.-r.: Junxuan Li, Chau Tran Bao Pham, Siriu Wang, Wing Kei Choi.

THE MAS CLASS OF 2022

Eylül Begüm Salam

Eylül Begüm was born and raised in Ankara, Turkey. She graduated from Middle East Technical University (METU) with a grade point average (GPA) of 4.00/4.00, as the highest ranked student among the bachelor's degree graduates. In addition to her undergraduate studies in political science and public administration, she completed a minor program in European Studies. During her undergraduate studies, she completed an internship at Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the winter intern. She was also a nature protection program volunteer for the WWF Turkey and a volunteer for Foundation for Children with Leukemia (LÖSEV). Her academic interests include comparative politics, U.S. foreign policy, public policy and poverty studies.

Annie Michelle Caldwell

Born to an American father and a Bulgarian mother, Annie originally comes from Regensburg, Bavaria, where she obtained her B.A. in American Studies. Besides American Studies, she also studied art history and political science to gain knowledge in other fields. Interested in the concepts of 'race' and gender, she wrote her B.A. thesis titled "Deconstructing Slavery's Culture of Silence and Shame: Transgenerational Trauma and Self-Empowerment in Tyler Perry's *For Colored Girls*."

Artemis Dobri

Born in Mainz and raised in a small town nearby, Artemis earned her Bachelor's degree in American Studies and English Studies at the Goethe University Frankfurt. A devoted British rock music fan, she studied at the University of Sheffield, U.K., for two semesters as part of an Erasmus exchange program. After years of devouring dystopian literature, Margaret Atwood's fascinating speculative fiction novel *Oryx & Crake* became the main subject of her B.A. thesis. Her main academic interests include twentieth-century American literature, drama, environmental fiction literature, sociology, and history. She is a pop-culture enthusiast, a singer, and a published romance author.

Silvia Rodriguez-Garcilazo

Silvia was born and raised in a small town named Othello located in Washington state. She attended Whitworth University and obtained a B.A. Degree in Sociology - Criminal Justice Track and Spanish. During her undergraduate studies, she was a research assistant for a two-year grant that helped evaluate the effectiveness of the Adult, Juvenile, Mental Health, and Family Drug Treatment Courts in Snohomish County, Washington. While at Whitworth University, she took a year of German in preparation for coming to Germany. Outside of academics, she enjoys cooking and trying new dishes from different cultures, traveling, dancing, and participating in various sports.

Max Schiersner Caodaglio

Max was born in Brazil in a city near São Paulo called São Bernardo do Campo. Having German grandparents, he and his sister Amanda would often hear their mother and her siblings speaking German with his grandparents. He completed his B.A. Degree in Social Sciences at Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo (PUC-SP) in 2016. In his second year at the university, he was deeply influenced by one of his professors, Antônio Pedro Tota, leading to an eventual friendship and academic collaboration. His lectures and topics influenced Max in becoming more and more interested in American society, which would then become essential for his choice to pursue a graduate degree in American Studies.

Nan Song

Nan Song grew up in Shanghai and graduated from the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology (USST) with a Bachelor's Degree in English (Sino-U.S. Joint Project) in 2019. Through her studies she had been inspired and deepened her understanding of various cultures. During her undergraduate years, she had worked as an intern in the quality assurance group in

GE (China) Research and Development Center Co., Ltd for about six months to better apply her English skills into practice.

Cynthia Tse (Xinyi Xie)

Cynthia grew up in Guangdong, China and graduated from Sun Yat-sen University. She chose to major in English Language & Literature because it is a fascinating area of gaining creative thoughts through literature and language. Eventually, she was fortunate to study at the University of Augsburg in Germany as an exchange student. It wasn't until her studies at Augsburg that she realized that American Studies with insights into social sciences was something she was interested in. Apart from her passion for economics and politics, she decided to study American Studies at Heidelberg for various reasons, mainly to reach her career goals through intensive study and experiencing international exposure in Germany again.

Philipp Zeifang

Philipp grew up in Reutlingen, Germany, where he went to high school as well. He received his B.A. in Interdisciplinary American Studies from the University of Tübingen. His research interests focus mainly on U.S. politics and history as economic and electoral issues, as well as the presidency and U.S. foreign policy.

THE MAS CLASS OF 2023

In October 2021, the HCA admitted fifteen students from seven different countries to its MAS program: Nino Basaria (Georgia), Hafsa Canan (Turkey), Keryl Diedhiou (France), Jacob Hawkins (United States), Katharina Henze (Germany), Zihan Huang (China), Karolina Kubik (Poland), Julia Nohle (Germany), Amy Ruckes (United States), Callahan Shelley (United States), Kaiwen Yao (China), Yu-Ching Tzou (Taiwan), Max Wolfspurger (Germany), Xiaowei Zhang (China), Xudong Zhu (China).



L.-r.: Jakob Hawkins, Max Wolfspurger, Julia Nohle, Callahan Shelley, Amy Ruckes, Kaiwen Yao, Karolina Kubik, Keryl Diedhiou, Xudong Zhu, Katharina Henze, Nino Basaria, Huang Zihan, Xiaowei Zhang.
Not pictured: Hafsa Canan, Yu-Ching Tzou.

HCA COMMENCEMENT 2021

On October 15, HCA students, faculty, alumni as well as family and friends gathered for the first time since April 2019 to celebrate the achievements of thirty-eight graduates of the HCA's B.A., MA., and Ph.D. programs as well as GKAT. To provide for ample space and social distancing, the HCA commencement took place at the Aula of the Neue Universität, and everybody masked up. Music by Dietmar Fuhr (double bass) and Riaz Khabirpour (guitar) set the tone for the festive ceremony. The dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, Professor Katja Patzel-Mattern, warmly wel-

comed the graduates and guests and congratulated them on finishing this leg of their academic journey in such difficult times. HCA Director Professor Welf Werner then addressed the graduates, emphasizing how happy he was about the first in-person commencement after a far too long pandemic hiatus. He also pointed out some particular challenges the Covid-19 pandemic posted to students: In a decisive phase of their lives, they had to forego traveling abroad for research or internships and could not building academic and professional networks personally. Many qualities of the academic community that facilitate knowledge acquisition were lost during this time, especially in online teaching. And yet, HCA graduates successfully completed their studies and in many cases already made the transition to professional life or an advanced degree program. The HCA director then turned to congratulating five Ph.D. graduates: Natalie Rauscher, who graduated in 2020 from the HCA's Ph.D. program and is this year's recipient of the Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize for an outstanding dissertation in American Studies at a German University (to be awarded in April 2022). Four Ph.D.s graduated from the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust," (GKAT), a research training group at the HCA generously funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (see p. 86): Kristin Berberich and Georg Wolff from Germany, David Eisler from the United States, and Aleksandra Polinska-Nestmann from Poland.



Some of the BAS graduates of 2021. Front row, l.-r.: Caroline Walter, Vivian Reinhardt, Vanessa Veith, Leo Kempe, Theresa Steinhoff, Hannah Drees. Back row, l.-r.: Michelle Widmann, Betty Schauemburg, Dennis Tim Nusser, Corinna Pfadt, Julia Patricia Nohle.

Professor Werner proceeded to introduce the 2021 commencement speaker, Ambassador Daniel Benjamin, president of the American Academy in Berlin. Ambassador Benjamin had planned to be at the Neue Aula for the occasion, but unfortunately could not return from the United States as planned and thus addressed the audience from Vermont. In his commencement speech, he

complimented the graduates on a degree that focused on the mastery of knowledge and critical thinking in an era obsessed with the size of fortunes and the creation of new technologies. He emphasized that their skills are especially valuable for a vital democratic society, which is held alive by the intellect and moral sensibility of the electorate. This gained special importance in times of global polarization, when countries are torn apart by social inequality and identity issues fueled by Social Media. Developments in the United States show how easily democratic principles and practices can become the handmaid of conspiracy theories. Nevertheless, Ambassador Benjamin sees reason for hope: transatlantic cooperation can be a tool to overcome global polarization, and the relation between Germany and the United States is strong and durable, making a profound difference.

Ambassador Daniel Benjamin giving his address to the 2021 graduates and their families and friends.



The HCA commencement continued with the awarding of the degrees and the recognition of two B.A. valedictorians, Dennis Tim Nusser, who wrote his thesis on “Michigan’s 1990s State Education Reforms and their Impact on Public Schooling in Detroit,” and Julia Patricia Nohle, whose thesis was entitled “Nothing New in the ICU: Wartime Rhetoric and the Framing of U.S. Nurses during the Covid-19 Pandemic.” Professor Werner was delighted to present both with a book prize. The ensuing student commencement address by Julia Nohle and Caroline Walter was followed by enthusiastic applause, and the HCA director invited everyone to a festive reception in the downstairs foyer, which felt like a homecoming to many participants.

STUDENT ADDRESS

BY JULIA PATRICIA NOHLE AND CAROLINE WALTER

Dear graduates of the B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. programs,

Dear families and friends,

Dear faculty,

Thank you all for being here today and for celebrating this very special commencement with us, the first graduation ceremony in two and a half years. Some of us graduates have made it here today, as well as some HCA alumni from previous years, while others, by now, have discovered new grounds outside of Heidelberg. We both have been studying at the HCA for the past four years, taking courses, among other disciplines, in urban geography, which is why, today, I'd like to talk to you about space.

Since we are in a lecture hall, I will give you an extensive introduction to Lefebvre's oeuvre on the production of space... No, just kidding, I saw the scared looks on a couple of faces! But yes, we want to explore how the HCA as a space has taken on different dimensions over the course of the past years that we spent here, becoming lived space and important for so many of us.

We all arrived at the HCA from very different places; some of us grew up in Heidelberg, some of us in the region, but many of us are also from other places in Germany or came from abroad to study here. The HCA became our first anchor point in this new chapter of studying, be it as a Bachelor, Master or Ph.D. student. When we all arrived as first-years, I am sure that the historic building, the light-filled Atrium, and the classrooms, one modern, one historic, left us all a little in awe. The HCA would also leave us thankful for its proximity to Triplex and Marstall mensa, various coffee shops and the Edeka market next door where we could get snacks and lemonade before heading to three-hour Grundlagenkurs on Tuesday evenings (okay, maybe this is my very personal memory that sneaked in here), or to other HCA events.

Speaking of events: the Baden Württemberg Seminar, the Kentner Prize, the Pennington Award, and other evening lectures, that pre-COVID happened twice a week, are among the memories that, at least for us, and I am sure many of you share these thoughts, are typical of the HCA. And, even though, once or twice, we would not remember the content of the lecture, we would excitedly await the receptions, the casual talks with professors, and Frau Schüler, offering us another glass of wine, all of which made these evenings very memorable.

Some of us joined the HCA student committee and began organizing events themselves. The Christmas Party and the Summer BBQ would be fixed annual appointments organized by the

student committee. With changing members each year, some of the details would slip, and each year we would wonder again how the grill worked, how much Glühwein we would need, and where the microphones for the traditional Christmas caraoke sessions were (answer: they were in the only room we certainly did not check that night). Those events enabled us to appropriate the space of the HCA from a place of knowledge transfer to a space where we as students could experience community and companionship, work together to organize, decorate, and party, host ugly socks contests, put up a Christmas tree, and hang a piñata.

Caroline Walter and Julia Nohle.



The previous stories show you that space changes its meaning with the people who are in it, with their experiences and stories. And so, while the HCA was often a space of acquiring knowledge, of good times, and new friendships, our time studying here was also about searching for our place in life – not the easiest task. Our friend and fellow student Oleg Schulenburg did not find his place; he died on November 24, 2019. On December 4, 2019, many of us came together at the HCA Atrium to commemorate and share stories of him. Today would have been his commencement, too, and we dearly miss him.

In March 2020, the space of the HCA transformed once again; it became empty of people, albeit not of stories and experiences that, for three semesters, relocated to the virtual space. It was a tough time, for students and teachers alike, in which we all learnt a lot about ourselves but also about the capacities of heiCONF and how many people could turn on their camera before the program crashed. We wrestled our way through connection issues, through isolation, uncertainties, missing our loved ones – and found new ways to reconnect. Together with the B.A. and M.A. program coordinators the student committee continuously worked on a feedback mechanism that would try to take our wishes and needs into account. And the Virtual Christmas Party as well as an online get-together in Gathertown in June showed us that in the midst of chaos and online awkwardness there is always someone who has a cat or a dog they could hold up to the camera and make us all smile.

I hope that future generations of HCA students will discover this place in similar ways as we did but also create new paths, appropriate this space, and fill it with their stories. I hope that this

space will always be open for learning, for knowledge acquisition, but also for friendship, mutual understanding, and a safe space to share our fears and uncertainties. Before we take off to enjoy one of those famous in-person HCA receptions, I want to take the chance and thank the HCA staff for all their work in making today's event possible. I know it has not been easy, but I think that all the work has paid off, as we are here today to celebrate, once again, HCA-style.

Thank you all for being here and thank you for your attention!

STUDENT COMMITTEE

Throughout the years, the annual Christmas party and the summer barbecue have become staple events at HCA, all organized by the institute's Student Committee. Starting out as a group of BAS students representing the student body, the American Studies Student Committee ("Fachschaft") became officially recognized with the founding of the general student council ("Studierendenrat/ StuRa") at Heidelberg University in 2013. Joined by a growing number of dedicated students from both the BAS and MAS programs, the Student Committee kept planning events and social activities despite the Covid-19 pandemic and moving online for the majority of the 2020-2021 academic year. This also brought new opportunities, for example, fruitful exchange among Student Councils of the Faculty of Philosophy as well as monthly online meetings of the HCA's Student Committee. However, in fall 2021, we finally resumed our bi-weekly meetings in person and were able to welcome new B.A. and M.A. students with various activities such as a pizza party and a Heidelberg rally during the institute's orientation days. As every year, the Committee represented the American Studies programs at Heidelberg University's 2021 information days for high school students. Additionally, we continued issuing our regular newsletter to inform HCA students about talks, subscriptions, and other activities. After a year with many restrictions and online classes, we are grateful for many new students that joined the student council and others who take part in our activities. For the summer term of 2021, Michelle Vela and Julian Kramer were elected student council chairs. For further information, please contact the new 2021-22 Student Committee chairs, Maxine Wildenstein and Patrick Schollmeier, at fachschaft@hca.uni-heidelberg.de.

Members of the student council at the 2021 orientation days.



HCA SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Virtual Christmas Party

In 2020, the famed HCA Christmas Party had to take place online. Below one of the submissions to the photo contest with the topic "Most important accessories for the holidays during a global pandemic."



HCA Barbeque

The 2021 HCA Barbeque was special as it marked the first in-person get together of the HCA faculty and staff since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Even as a partial construction site, the HCA backyard provided the perfect location for a safe and fun gathering with cold drinks and delicious food.





A CENTER FOR
INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

A CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

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

PH.D. IN AMERICAN STUDIES

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

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

To apply successfully, candidates need to fulfill the general entrance requirements and must present a meaningful proposal that sketches the guiding questions of the dissertation project while embedding them in the current academic debate. The project proposal should demonstrate that the dissertation will make an important and original contribution to the field. The proposal should also outline the source materials that will be used and provide a realistic timetable for the completion of the project.

Furthermore, applicants need a letter of intent from a professor at Heidelberg University, stating that she or he is willing to be their advisor for the envisaged project. In addition, candidates must provide two letters of recommendation that assess their academic qualifications and evaluate the proposed dissertation project.

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

THE HCA GRADUATE BLOG

The HCA Graduate Blog was founded in 2018 by and for the Ph.D. and graduate students of the HCA. Since then, the blog has grown tremendously, and the editors want to thank all of the authors and readers who have contributed, read, and shared articles. If you are interested in what the up and coming researchers at the HCA are doing, don't look any further! Articles on specific research interests concerning the United States, as well as current and up-to-date topics are part of the HCA Graduate Blog. You can read, for instance, about conservative ideas of motherhood in the (current) U.S. in "The Woman Who Knows Who She Is: Conservative Motherhood and the Politics of the 'Home'" by Kristin Berberich, Claudia Jetter, Maren Schäfer and Aline Schmidt. Or you might be interested in historical research such as in "From the Chicago 8 to the Camden 28: Some History of the Great 'Political Trials' of the Long 1960s" by Michelle Nickerson or "A Burnt Child Fears the Fire: Ku Klux Violence Against African American Children in the Reconstruction Era" by Max Gaida. 2021 also saw some articles by the master students of the HCA, such as "Twilight Zone, Paranoia, and Conformity in 1950s America" by Max Schiersner Caodaglio or "Memory-Based Urban Planning: A Case for Memory Culture in German Military Conversion" by Julian Kramer. More recently, the blog has featured several articles on the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences such as "Falling into the Crevice – Covid-19 Pandemic Puts Spotlight on Housing Disparities in the U.S. Capital" by Judith Keller and Lauren Rever.

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

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



The HCA Graduate Blog was launched in the fall of 2018 with a design relaunch in fall 2020.

Check it out under:

hcagrads.hypotheses.org

Get in touch:

hcagrads@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Twitter:

[@blog_hca](https://twitter.com/blog_hca)

PH.D. CANDIDATES



ANDREAS BALZ (GERMANY) LANDESGRADUIERTENFÖRDERUNG

Andreas Balz was born in Mainz, Germany, in 1987. He studied English philology and biology at Heidelberg University as well as Scottish literature and British history at the University of Edinburgh. Besides a B.Sc. in biology, he holds a Staatsexamen in English and biology. His final thesis accomplished to reconcile his two major subjects by approaching two works by Cormac McCarthy, *The Orchard Keeper* and *The Road*, from an ecocritical perspective. After his graduation in December 2014, Andreas Balz first started to work as an academic advisor at the International Relations Office of Heidelberg University while pursuing his doctoral studies on authorship in contemporary American literature. In 2016, he received a scholarship from the Landesgraduiertenförderung of Baden-Württemberg and joined the HCA's Ph.D. program.

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leyboldt



ANASTASSIA BIEDERSTAEDT (GERMANY) BASF SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard



LOUIS BUTCHER (U.K.)

CURT ENGELHORN PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP

Louis Butcher was born and raised in London to an American mother and English father. He spent most of his childhood holidays with family in Detroit and Los Angeles. He graduated with a B.A. in (modern European) history from the University of Bradford, which included a year abroad at Clarkson University in upstate New York. Louis spent a further seven months backpacking across Latin America in an effort to improve his Spanish before returning to the U.K. to work in Bath for a year. In 2015, he moved to Heidelberg to enroll in the HCA's MAS program. While there, he majored in political science, history, and law, and graduated in early 2017. Since then, Louis has occupied his time in Heidelberg by starting up an online business.

Louis Butcher's project is titled "How 'Policing's New Visibility' and Body-Worn Cameras Have Impacted Police-Citizen Relations in the U.S." It will seek to determine whether the growing use of police body-worn cameras (BWCs) in the United States has reduced the police's use-of-force – and excessive force, in particular – thus positively impacting relations between the police and the public at large.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard



THI DIEM NGOC DAO (VIETNAM)

HEIDEMARIE ENGELHORN PH.D. SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg



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

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

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leyboldt



ANTHONY LIVANIOS (GREECE)

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

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

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



JULA MAASBÖL (GERMANY)

Jula Maasböl studied English language and literature and art history at Heidelberg University and Durham University. Her B.A. thesis examines the performativity of gender and witchcraft in the work of Terry Pratchett. She received her M.A. in German literature and English Studies from Heidelberg University. Her M.A. thesis analyzes human-animal relations as a vehicle for ethics and morality in contemporary role-playing games. During her studies, Jula Maasböl was active as a student council representative and worked as a tutor and research assistant at Heidelberg University's English Department. Upon completing her M.A. in 2020, she joined the research tandem "Culture Wars: Contested Cultural Heritage" within Heidelberg University's flagship initiative "Transforming Cultural Heritage" as a doctoral research assistant. She is an associated Ph.D. student in the HCA's Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT).

Jula Maasböl's dissertation project investigates the depiction of cultural heritage in the secondary worlds created by writers emblematic of a recent shift in Black Speculative Fiction: N.K. Jemisin, Nnedi Okorafor, and Tochi Onyebuchi. Using the genres of science fiction and fantasy, the works of these authors depict processes of heritage-making and the contention of cultural heritage that are thoroughly enmeshed with the fantastical elements of their worlds. The project seeks to elucidate the intersections of the representation of contested cultural heritage, processes of heritage-making, and challenges to heritage with issues such as race and racism, oppression and displacement, and intergenerational trauma and identity, which are at the heart of these texts.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leyboldt



NIKOLAS MARIANI (GERMANY)

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

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

Primary supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



SINA MOVAGHATI (IRAN)

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

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss



HANNES NAGL (GERMANY)

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

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

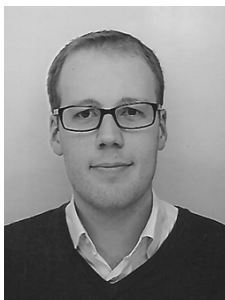


AMRA ODOBASIC (GERMANY) **FRIEDRICH-EBERT-STIFTUNG**

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

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Beatrix Busse



MAARTEN PAULUSSE (THE NETHERLANDS) BASF SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Inken Prohl



HIEN LE PHAM (VIETNAM)

Hien Le Pham (Le is her first name) was born in Da Nang, a beautiful city in central Vietnam. She graduated from Foreign Trade University with a major in international economics. Le worked for HSBC Bank Vietnam for over one year after graduation and started to collaborate with some publishing companies as a freelance book translator. Before moving to Germany for her graduate study in 2016, she was a fulltime corporate trainer at a U.S. software company for over three years. Le Pham received her master's degree in American Studies in April 2018 and decided to go further on her academic journey by joining the HCA's Ph.D. program.

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg



JONATHAN PIKE (USA)

BASF SCHOLARSHIP

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

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

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann



BARIAH ALTAF QADEER (CANADA)

Bariah Altaf Qadeer is a Ph.D. student at the HCA and the Institute of Geography at Heidelberg University. Her dissertation focuses on community building in different housing forms in mixed-use areas of Toronto. She was born and raised in Toronto where she received her bachelor's degree in English. After analyzing the themes of alienation in the city in various forms of literature, she wanted to research this idea further. She then completed a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies (MES) with a specialization in urban planning from York University. The aspect of community building has been central through an interdisciplinary lens in her master's project and also in her Ph.D. studies. Bariah believes that places are reshaped through the experiential perceptions of residents, and understanding these perspectives is key in bringing positive change in neighborhoods for better community building. Although Bariah grew up in a mixed-use neighborhood, she has seen the impact that various societal changes have brought in community building. People do not interact in the same way due to various complex issues in housing. She is interested in analyzing these various issues through an interdisciplinary lens because she sees the clear bridge between academic fields and human societies. By constantly travelling in North America and Europe, she has developed a keen interest in different housing models. Architecture based on New Urbanist ideas can enhance the residents' experience for developing a sense of community, but it is not the only factor. However, an interdisciplinary approach with the fields of psychology, sociology, and geography can provide some answers.

In her Ph.D. project, Bariah Altaf Qadeer uses the multidimensional lens of community and trust to analyze planning practices in mixed-use neighborhoods. Bariah acknowledges that community is not an object but rather an experience. She specifically focuses on different forms of housing to learn how residents feel about their community. Communities are the core unit that people are a part of and tend to define their relations with the greater surroundings, based on social processes that usually impact geographical processes. Urban planning, architectural design, geographical location, and psychological/sociological processes are all key elements that need to be analyzed in this project. Our lives are connected to the environment as we experience community through our choice of social interactions, which defines our identity in the city.

Primary supervisor: Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard



CHITRA SANAM (INDIA)

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

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

Primary supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



MAREN SCHÄFER (GERMANY)

BASF SCHOLARSHIP

Maren Schäfer studied International Business in cooperation with ALDI SÜD, graduating from the Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University in 2011. After receiving her B.A., she managed key accounts and international projects in an online marketing agency before she joined the MAS program at the HCA. As part of her studies, she spent a year at the University of New Mexico as a recipient of the Baden-Württemberg-Stipendium. In 2016, she graduated with a M.A. in American Studies. Her master's project reflected her interest in political rhetoric, dealing with "The American Presidency and the 'Power to Persuade.'" While working as a program coordinator at the SRH University in Heidelberg, Maren joined the HCA's Ph.D. program in 2017 to further pursue her interest in political rhetoric.

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

Primary supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert



JUSTE ŠIMELYTE (LITHUANIA) LANDESGRADUIERTENFÖRDERUNG

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

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

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

GRADUIERTENKOLLEG AUTHORITY AND TRUST (GKAT)

Four (and a half) more years for GKAT! – The Graduiertenkolleg “Authority and Trust in American Culture, Society, History, and Politics” (GKAT) is set to continue its successful work until October 2026. In November 2021, the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) approved the group’s renewal application worth 4.3 million euros. GKAT’s second funding period of four and a half years, which starts in April 2022, will bring two postdoctoral researchers (2022), a third and final group of ten doctoral researchers (2023) as well as four research students per year to the Ruperto Carola. Located at the HCA and initiated by an interdisciplinary group of ten Heidelberg professors and researchers, the Graduiertenkolleg had effectively launched and extended its program since the fall of 2017. During the first four-and-a-half-year funding period worth 3.5 million euros, the research training group was comprised of a total of twenty doctoral researchers as well as numerous research students and several postdoctoral researchers. In addition, the group profits from a network of renowned associated scholars from Germany, Europe, and the United States.

The GKAT program is designed to inspire innovative research and doctoral dissertations within the broad field of American Studies, focusing specifically on questions of authority and trust – two central concepts which have come under scrutiny in recent decades during which American society and culture have become increasingly polarized. The group aims at a systematic and interdisciplinary inquiry into the emergence and transformation of authority and trust in the U.S. from the nineteenth century to the present. The doctoral candidates funded by GKAT conduct research in three broad areas: “The Authority of the Modern State and Trust in Public and Social Institutions,” “The Urban Dimension of Authority and Trust,” and “Authority and Trust in Culture, Literature, and Religion.” These research areas not only offer platforms for cooperation between diverse fields (such as geography, history, linguistics, literary studies/cultural studies, political science/social science, economics, and religious studies/theology), but also allow the project to go beyond popular notions of crisis and decline and probe the complexities and contradictions of authority and trust in American life. In the second funding period the group will build on these foundations with a sharper profile, strengthened by the addition of scholars from the fields of economic history (Prof. Dr. Welf Werner, HCA), social philosophy and philosophy of religion (PD Dr. Magnus Schlette, Philosophisches Seminar and Forschungsstätte der Evangelischen Studiengemeinschaft), as well as Ibero-American and migration studies (Jun.-Prof. Soledad Álvarez Velasco, Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies).

GKAT researchers, with personal and academic backgrounds in Europe, Asia, and the United States, approach these topics in the HCA’s interdisciplinary tradition and bring inter- and transnational perspectives to their projects. They profit from a multi-level mentoring and qualification program, which combines clear-cut structures and cooperative research with a maximum of intellectual freedom. Innovative elements such as thesis advisory committees, peer mentoring, and interdisciplinary courses and workshops are designed to support junior researchers in the successful completion of their individual projects as well as to provide them with a set of theoretical

and methodological skills in the interdisciplinary foundations of American Studies and the basic concepts of authority and trust.

Apart from the work on the renewal application, which involved all current and former GKAT members and culminated in a virtual “on-site” assessment by the DFG in June, the academic year 2020-21 was marked by some other milestones toward the end of GKAT’s first funding period. First and foremost, the group congratulates seven members of the first cohort of doctoral researchers on successfully finishing their dissertation projects:



The 2021 GKAT and HCA Ph.D.s:
L.-r.: Aleksandra Polinska-Nestmann,
Kristin Berberich, David Eisler,
Natalie Rauscher, Georg Wolff.

Tim Sommer, “Transatlantic Authority: Carlyle, Emerson, and Nineteenth-Century Anglo-American Literary Space” (published as *Carlyle, Emerson and the Transatlantic Uses of Authority* with Edinburgh University Press in October 2021)

David Eisler, “Unburdened: Civil-Military Relations, Cultural Authority, and Contemporary American War Fiction”

Kristin Berberich, “Discursive Construction of Neighborhood Across Brooklyn: A Corpus Ethnographic Approach”

Cosima Werner, “Constitutions of Convenience Stores in Impoverished U.S.-American Urban Neighborhoods”

Georg Wolff, "American Conservatism and the Struggle against Federal Authority: Grassroots Organizing, Activism, Discourse"

Aleksandra Polinska-Nestmann, "Understanding Asymmetries: Distinct Qualities of Media Distrust Between Progressives and Conservatives in the United States and their Implications for the Future of American News Media"

Claudia Jetter, "Sacred Texts and the Transformation of Religious Authority in Mid-Nineteenth Century America"

At the same time the research group continued its focus on the project's key concepts – "authority" and "trust" – most notably by (virtually) hosting renowned guest lecturers such as Barbara Buchenau (University of Duisburg-Essen), Kai Sina (Universität Göttingen), David Wilson (University of Illinois) and Martin Hartmann (University of Luzern), who discussed his influential book *Vertrauen: Die unsichtbare Macht* with the GKAT researchers. Two online conferences – "Authority and Trust: Comparative and Interdisciplinary Perspectives" (October 2020, organized by the group of GKAT doctoral researchers) and "Gendered Charismas: Historical and Transnational Perspectives" (March 2021, organized by Claudia Jetter and Benjamin Pietrenka) – provided the doctoral researchers not only with first-hand experience of the organizing process for an academic conference, but also with the opportunity to finally present and discuss the findings and insights of three years of research on authority and trust in the United States. In addition, GKAT's mentoring and qualification program offered the researchers a number of opportunities to not only discuss their own projects but to also deepen their understanding of the interdisciplinary research endeavor as a whole. This eventually led to a collection of essays written by both GKAT faculty members and researchers and edited by Günter Leyboldt and Manfred Berg, which was published in March 2021 by Transcript Verlag as *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives*.

In the fall of 2020, the HCA welcomed the second cohort of ten doctoral researchers from Germany, the U.S., China, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the United Kingdom. During a two-day welcome event, the junior researchers were introduced to GKAT and the HCA and as well as to relevant Heidelberg University services such as the Graduiertenakademie and the university library. During the winter term and summer term, GKAT offered regular seminars on the basic theoretical concepts "Authority and Trust" and on the interdisciplinary foundations of "American Studies," complemented by workshops on "soft skills" such as "Communication Skills for Virtual Conferences" or "Presenting at International Conferences." While most of these activities had to be moved once again into the virtual realm due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual HCA/GKAT "retreat" could take place as a face-to-face event in July 2021 (albeit not at its traditional location at Annweiler, Pfalz, but at the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais); all new GKAT researchers finally had the opportunity to present their research projects and discuss their plans with their peers and the GKAT faculty in person.

GKAT FACULTY

Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt (GKAT Speaker / GKAT Co-Speaker until October 2020)

Professor of American Literature, see p. 22.

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard (GKAT Co-Speaker)

Professor for Human Geography of North America, see p. 20.

Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg (GKAT Speaker until October 2020)

Curt Engelhorn Professor of American History, see p. 19.

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Harnisch

Professor for International Relations and Comparative Foreign Policy, see p. 21.

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

Professor of American Literature, see p. 37.

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann

Professor of the History of Christianity in the U.S., see p. 22.

Dr. habil. Martin Thunert

Senior Lecturer Political Science, see p. 38.

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

Professor for American Studies, see p. 23.



PD DR. MARGIT PETERFY
SENIOR LECTURER AMERICAN LITERATURE

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

GKAT RESEARCHERS



DAVID EISLER, M.A. (USA) POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

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

David Eisler's dissertation, completed in the fall of 2020, is titled "Unburdened: Civil-Military Relations, Cultural Authority, and Contemporary American War Fiction." From the war in Vietnam to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the work examines the dynamic between the military and American society to understand how that relationship has influenced the literary fiction written about the wars. The project opens by tracing the evolution of the soldier-author's cultural authority over the literary representation of war throughout the twentieth century before showing how the end of the draft and the shift to an all-volunteer force has affected the authorship, content, and form of contemporary war fiction.



DR. GORDON FRIEDRICHS (GERMANY) POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Gordon Friedrichs studied political science and South Asia Studies at the universities of Frankfurt am Main, Arizona State, and Heidelberg. From 2013 to 2019, he was a research associate at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies as well as the Institute of Political Science at Heidelberg University, where he taught courses on international relations, U.S. foreign policy, and conflict and cooperation in the Asia Pacific. In 2019, he received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences at Heidelberg University with a thesis on domestic polarization and U.S. global leadership. From October 2019 to September 2021, he was a GKAT postdoctoral researcher.

Gordon Friedrichs specializes in international relations, comparative foreign policy analysis, and mixed-methods. His research focuses on (1) the impact of polarization and populism on democracies' foreign policymaking; (2) resilience and transformation of inter-state order; and (3) international relations of East Asia and the Asia-Pacific. More generally, he is interested in how the interplay between domestic and international politics affects states' roles in the areas of security and trade. He has published three books: *U.S. Global Leadership Role and Domestic Polarization: A Role Theory Approach* (2020), *The Politics of Resilience and Transatlantic Order* (co-edited with Sebastian Harnisch & Cameron Thies, 2019), and *National Role Conceptions in a New Millennium: Defining a Place in a Changing World* (co-edited with Michael Grossman and Francis Shortgen, forthcoming). His research has been published in the *India Review*, *ASIEN*, and *The Korean Journal of International Studies*.

In his postdoc project, Gordon Friedrichs investigates the role of trust in U.S. global financial authority. The aim of this research is to develop an interactionist, relational understanding of U.S. global authority across different case studies over time. Accordingly, U.S. financial authority and the stability of the global financial system (currency exchange, financial governance, and regulation) are contingent on the degree and kind of trust exchange between the U.S. and other geo-economic actors. U.S. global financial authority consists of two main pillars: a responsibility for management of sustained global imbalances and a responsibility for systemic financial stability. Both pillars have undergone severe shifts, for example when the U.S. turned from a creditor to a debtor or when the U.S. stopped ensuring financial stability through tying the U.S. dollar value to the gold standard, fundamentally changing the authority structure, which, in turn, required new sources of trust like that of non-state actors such as banks and private investors.



ASAF ALIBEGOVIC, M.A. (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

Asaf Alibegovic studied political science at the University of Sarajevo. He earned his first Master's Degree in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva followed by the Master's Degree in Chinese Politics and Foreign Policy from Tsinghua University in Beijing. Asaf also attended Sciences Po in Paris. His principal academic interests include foreign policy analysis and East Asia international relations.

Asaf Alibegovic's Ph.D. project at GKAT and the Institute for Political Science at Heidelberg University aims to understand the dynamics of social processes of transformation of U.S. authority in East Asia during the Obama and Trump administrations. Attempting to develop a theory of practice-induced international social change, this project argues that presidential practices have decisive influence on the overall manifestation of U.S. authority in the region. The way presidential practices are performed and perceived shapes the social field of international life and contributes to renegotiation of roles and strategic positions of states within.



DR. KRISTIN BERBERICH (GERMANY)

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

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



NICOLE COLAIANNI, STATE EXAM (GERMANY)

Nicole Colaianni studied English and history with a focus on education in Heidelberg. During her studies she gravitated toward American Studies, an interest that was furthered by the year she spent studying at the University of New Mexico. Her Zulassungsarbeit focused on the framings and conceptualizations of sexual harassment as part of the culture wars in the United States. She has worked as a teacher for English and history and as a student assistant at the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History at Heidelberg University.

In her Ph.D. project, Nicole Colaianni is continuing her research on the concept of sexual harassment. She aims to shed light on a so far unacknowledged aspect of the discussion on sexual harassment: one that engages with the topic as a matter of employment in which authorities are de facto transferred from the federal government to the private sector, causing a great shift in the power relationship between the federal government, employers, and their employees. She argues that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as well as the judiciary, by demanding private organizations to employ anti-sexual harassment policies, preventative measures, and grievance procedures, inadvertently relinquished much of their authority regarding this topic, transferring it to the organizations in question. In short, she hypothesizes that employers found themselves in a position of taking over government authorities within their microcosm of a company. The ensuing changes of trust relationships among those involved shall be a core part of her project.



ELIZABETH CORRAO-BILLETER, M.A. (USA)

Elizabeth Corrao-Billeter, a native to Ohio, studied psychology, art, and English literature at Ursuline College (B.A.) and English literature and composition at the University of Akron (M.A.) before earning a certificate in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from INTESOL Worldwide and relocating to Heidelberg in 2013. Since 2008, she has held editorial roles at various research institutions and private publishers including Cleveland Clinic, Wolters Kluwer, and EMBO Press. She has taught English conversation and academic writing and was a writing consultant at Heidelberg University's Academic Writing Support office from 2013 to 2016. She was also a member of the founding editorial team at Heidelberg University Publishing (heiUP), a DFG-funded Open Access humanities publishing project, where she helped to produce articles, monographs, and edited volumes for the book series "Heidelberg Studies on Transculturality" and "Transcultural Research" (Springer), as well as the Open Access e-journal *Transcultural Studies*.

Elizabeth Corrao-Billeter's dissertation identifies an emerging subgenre in contemporary American non-fiction, the voluntary simplicity memoir, and explores how these works advocate what can be called a pastoral of practice. In this context, voluntary simplicity refers to the deliberate adoption of a lifestyle that is materially simpler than that which mainstream American culture typically encourages. While the extent and modes of these practices vary, voluntary simplicity memoirs argue the need for a quiet form of subversion against mainstream authority by calling the value of consumerism and globalization into question. Voluntary simplicity does not, however, disdain authority or contemporary culture in general: it merely shifts the placement of trust to alternative outlets by focusing on one's personal response, as well as emphasizing the importance of collaboration, community, and traditional skills. These memoirs provide a backdrop for the cultural history of voluntary simplicity as a social movement, as well as a context for the recent re-emergence of pastoral ideals and voluntary simplicity's shift in status from fringe movement to general acceptance by mainstream culture. In recent years, this acceptance has become so widespread that the movement itself is subject to commoditization—a development that may negate its original function. Finally, this project examines the impact that this mainstreaming effect has had on American popular culture and public perceptions of what constitutes "the good life."



JOHANNA DECKER, STATE EXAM (GERMANY)

Johanna Decker was born and raised in the Black Forest (Germany). After spending an exchange year in Odessa, Texas, she studied German and English Studies at Heidelberg University and at Bristol University (U.K.). She received a scholarship from the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (German National Academic Foundation) and graduated with a teaching degree from Heidelberg University in the fall of 2020. Her thesis combined literary studies and linguistics to accomplish a fusion between hermeneutical linguistics and close reading. After getting to know the DFG-Graduiertenkolleg “Authority and Trust” as a research student in 2018, she joined GKAT as a doctoral candidate in October 2020.

In her dissertation project, Johanna Decker analyzes the representation and deconstruction of informal public gathering places in contemporary American literature. The spatially-oriented literary studies project examines the struggles to create, preserve, and defend these “third places” that exist separated from the home and the workplace. By combining sociological and geographical theories with close reading, the project attempts to understand the complex and dynamic relation between space and literature. With space as a contested good in the urban context of modernity, the fight for authority over public space is showcasing social injustice and segregation in postmodern times, problematizing the notion that public spaces are accessible to all citizens. Within literary texts, these informal public gathering places, in which trust and mistrust emerge and accessibility and exclusiveness are contrasted, serve as a plot-driving and character-defining tool. Classical settings, like the bar around the corner or the hairdresser next door, are not merely a backdrop, but employed to criticize the social dynamics of the city, providing a deeper understanding of the personal, individual, and socio-economic consequences of spatial injustice.



AYLIN GÜNGÖR, M.A. (GERMANY)

Aylin Güngör majored in British and American Studies with a minor in sociology at the University of Konstanz and received her B.A. in 2017. She then moved to Heidelberg for her M.A. in English Studies, focusing on American literature and culture, and joined the HCA's GKAT as a student assistant in 2019. Intrigued by the intersection of literature and geography, her M.A. thesis focused on the figuration of mobilities and immobilities in twenty-first century fiction of the Black Atlantic.

Aylin Güngör's dissertation investigates how the contemporary artistic and cultural spheres of two American cities, Los Angeles and Atlanta, influence civic participation. Through the lens of performance, she analyzes how various cultural productions and their creators with strong ties to local communities can contribute to mobilizing people in minority neighborhoods. Against the backdrop of the current racial reckoning in the USA, Aylin Güngör hypothesizes that certain creators and cultural productions with specific urban affiliations contribute to the formation of practices of trust and civic participation through performances of race. To find answers, she provides hermeneutic and contextual analyses of contemporary cultural productions. She also conducts interviews that provide further insight and shed light on the role of urban politics in the formation of said practices of trust and civic engagement.



CLAUDIA JETTER, STATE EXAM (GERMANY)

Claudia Jetter was born in Stuttgart, Germany. After working in Bristol and Liverpool (U.K.), she studied Protestant theology and English literature at Heidelberg University. In the academic year 2010-2011, she worked as a German language assistant at a boarding school in the United Kingdom. In 2016, she graduated with a teaching degree. Her research interests include gender and religion, the formation of new religious movements, and the intersection of American religion and politics. Claudia Jetter has presented conference papers at meetings of the Ecclesiastical History Society, the American Society of Church History, the American Academy of Religion and the Methodist Studies Seminar and has been a visiting scholar at the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship at Brigham Young University.

Claudia Jetter's dissertation focuses on the transformation of religious authority in mid-nineteenth century America. The project investigates the complex dynamics between prophets, new sacred writing, and followers to more adequately describe the charismatization of religious leaders. Highlighting the interplay between the performance of prophets through textual production and the followers' response to these texts through textual practice, the project seeks to provide a comparative framework that helps to contextualize the striking increase of new leaders like the evangelical revivalist Phoebe Palmer, the Transcendentalist R.W. Emerson, or the Mormon founder Joseph Smith Jr. in antebellum America.



JUDITH KELLER, STATE EXAM (GERMANY)

Judith Keller studied geography and English at Heidelberg University, Germany, and Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio, graduating with a double major in 2019. In her thesis “The Spatiality of Trust” she already explored different spatial aspects of trust using the example of urban redevelopment in post-Katrina New Orleans. After her graduation she became a research associate in Professor Ulrike Gerhard’s “Geographies of North America” working group before joining GKAT in the fall of 2020.

In her Ph.D. project Judith Keller focuses on the importance of trust for urban development, especially with regard to home and housing in the city. In a rapidly changing urban environment, many cities are facing a housing crisis. Fearing for one’s home or losing that home is thus part of the everyday reality of many urban residents who live on the flip side of urban redevelopment projects. She argues that these processes cause trust relations to shift, affecting the homes of individuals, entire neighborhoods, and urban society at large. Trust and solidarity do not only erode but are undermined by practices of un-homing such as evictions and forced displacements that lead to increasing inequalities. In her dissertation, Judith Keller analyses various case studies situated in U.S.-American cities.



SASHA LIN, M.A. (CHINA)

Born and raised in Guangdong, China, Shasha Lin earned her B.A. in English Language and Literature at Sun Yat-Sen University in 2017 and completed her M.A. in American Studies at the HCA in 2019. She wrote her master's thesis on "Racial Balancing Versus Racial Discrimination: Asian Americans and Affirmative Action" and situated Asian Americans within the legal and political discourse on affirmative action looking at a case study of *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard College*.

Shasha Lin's dissertation is tentatively titled "Trust in the Fairness of College Admissions and Policy Acceptance." Public trust in higher education, or lack of it, has been a crucial topic among policymakers and educators. Higher education institutions in the U.S. have been facing outrage and questions about the fairness of their college admissions practices, fueled by the 2019 college admissions bribery scandal and the U.S. Department of Justice's investigations into admissions at Yale and Harvard universities. The project, by disaggregating the category of "Asian Americans" and focusing on Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese Americans, explores differences within a population that is often perceived and studied as a monolith. Since disaggregated data is limited, Shasha Lin will collect data from online surveys and in-depth interviews with experts in affirmative action, representatives of civil rights organizations, and students concerned with race-conscious admissions policies. The project compares and contrasts the extent to which Chinese, Filipino, and Vietnamese Americans trust the fairness of college admissions and its link to their support of affirmative action. The interdisciplinary project, which combines sociology, law, and political science, offers unique and refreshing perspectives on the decline of trust in the admissions system and the authority of higher education institutions.



VALENTINA LÓPEZ-LIENDO, M.A. (GERMANY)

Valentina López Liendo studied English philology and East Asian Studies at Heidelberg University and Osaka University. Her B.A. thesis analyzes Rudyard Kipling's depiction of Japan in his travel writing. After her B.A. degree, she continued to pursue her interest in literature with a Master's Degree in English Philology and Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University. Her M.A. thesis centers on Colson Whitehead's literary strategies in his zombie novel *Zone One*, drawing from discussions on literary writers' use of genre elements and post-soul conceptualizations of African American identity. She has worked as a language teacher for English, Spanish, and German and as a student assistant at Heidelberg University's English Department and East Asian Studies Department. Before joining GKAT in October 2020, Valentina López Liendo coordinated the Bachelor in American Studies program at the HCA.

In her Ph.D. project, Valentina López Liendo seeks to position Colson Whitehead in the literary field. Following Whitehead's publication and reception history, she aims to analyze the different themes and genres he explores in each of his novels, as well as the varying contexts and frameworks within which his work has been received. She aims to examine how Whitehead can function in the media and scholarship as the literary successor of authors such as Ralph Ellison and Toni Morrison, as a representative literary voice of Obama-era America, and as the politically aware prize winner. In order to trace Whitehead's position in the literary landscape, she draws from current research in literary and relational sociology which focuses on the workings of literary prestige as well as African American studies and its contemporary discussions on how to conceptualize African American literature at this moment. She is interested in Whitehead's self-fashioning as a multifaceted literary author as well as the different (and shifting) contexts in which his work has been and is read, interpreted, and reviewed. By tracing Colson Whitehead's literary career and understanding the various positions he inhabits throughout, this project aims to elucidate processes of authorial legitimization and how they reverberate outside of canonizing institutions.



EDWARD MANGER, M.A. (U.K.)

Edward Manger earned his B.A. from the University of Kent in the United Kingdom in 2010 before completing a M.A. in History at the University of Edinburgh in 2012. His thesis examined the periodical literature produced by missionary societies during the 1857 “Indian Mutiny.” His research highlighted the use of providentialist discourses and rhetoric of Christian militarism that reinforced British rule in the Indian subcontinent as a divinely instituted Christian mission. His research interests focus on Victorian Christianity in Britain and the United States, particularly the intersection of religion and military conflict. Flowing from this is an emphasis on the impact of romanticism and medievalism on the language, architecture, and visual culture of Christian communities and the role of those communities in shaping and reacting to historical narratives that formed the basis for national identity in the nineteenth century.

For his dissertation research, Edward will explore the role of the church in the Antebellum South and in the development of Southern Nationalism in the lead up to and during the course of the American Civil War. He will unpack the discourses used by church leaders regarding the American Revolution, which was widely cast in a theological light, to show how those narratives were re-purposed to fit the cause of the South and how preachers were able to draw upon a preexisting rhetorical tool kit in order to theologize their contemporary political and military situation. Alongside this will be an exploration of the use of “church history” more broadly to see the complex and sometimes self-contradictory nature of the identity perpetuated by southern clergymen in the reinforcement of “traditional” southern authority structures and social hierarchies. The impact of many clergymen serving in the military and the perceived “Christian” nature of the armed forces of the Confederacy will also form a central theme of the research. The decades prior to the Civil War were a time of stark religious development in the American context, the growth of populist religious movements, the Second Great Awakening and evangelistic enthusiasm as well as romanticism and the beginnings of biblical criticism. Edward Manger will seek to elucidate how these trends affected the church’s position in the South and its relation to Southern Nationalism and the Confederacy.



ALEKSANDRA POLINSKA-NESTMANN, M.A. (POLAND)

Aleksandra Polinska-Nestmann was born in Warsaw, Poland. In 2013, she earned her B.A. in English Philology from the Warsaw School of Applied Linguistics. Her thesis focused on the translation of culture-specific items and the assessment of the understanding between American and Polish cultures such renderings offer. In 2015, she received her M.A. in American Studies from the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw. In her thesis, she analyzed the process of gentrification in two Brooklyn neighborhoods as well as the powerful role played by real estate developers and, most notably, the media. Aleksandra Polinska-Nestmann joined GKAT in October 2017.

In her recently completed doctoral dissertation, Aleksandra explored the mechanisms of public distrust of the institutional news media in the United States and provided original insights into its ideologically asymmetrical nature. While the decline of trust in the mainstream news outlets has been expressed across the American electorate, it has followed significantly different trajectories on each side of the political spectrum. This development, embedded in the changing news media landscape, has had considerable impact on the country's political and social dynamic, including during the last two presidential elections. The complexity and gravity of these circumstances have been further increased by the ongoing proliferation of – both domestic and foreign – conspiracy theories and disinformation efforts as well as the (asymmetrically) growing political polarization. As it deals with historical, socio-cultural, and political matters, Aleksandra Polinska-Nestmann's project is of a highly interdisciplinary character.



LAUREN REVER, M.A. (USA)

Lauren Rever is a public historian whose work at GKAT focuses on authority and trust in U.S. historical institutions. Since 2012, she has worked at museums, historic sites, and cultural institutions, often as a public-facing staff member. Originally from New Hampshire, Lauren Rever received her bachelor's degree from Boston College in 2014 with a double major in history and German. She then spent a year teaching English on a Fulbright Scholarship in Ahrensburg, Germany. In 2017 she completed a Master's Degree in American Studies, Museums and Material Culture from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. This degree provided a strong foundation in the scope and methods of public history, as well as a chance to explore a personal research interest in popular music fandom. During and after graduate school, she stood as a gallery aide at the National Gallery of Art, gave tours at the U.S. Capitol, worked with toddlers at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, edited lesson plans for the National Park Service, and ran educational programs at historic houses. While crafting these visitor experiences, she formulated a question that brought her to GKAT: what role do these complex interactions at historical institutions play in the larger notion of U.S. history-making?

Lauren uses the lens of authority and trust to unpack what happens at these points of contact between historical institutions and "the public." Breaking down these points of contact is a starting point to explore tourism, the history profession, labor, identity, and space – key components of historical institutions. Her interdisciplinary approach draws from geography, American studies, and public history. Furthermore, Lauren continuously strives to place visitors and public history workers at the center of her research in order to upend traditional institutional hierarchies. Lauren believes museums are not neutral, and she stands with history professionals against the notion of "patriotic education."



ALINE SCHMIDT, M.A. (GERMANY)

Aline Schmidt majored in English Studies with a minor in political science at Heidelberg University. She graduated with a B.A. in 2014 and an M.A. in English Linguistics in 2017. As she focused on American politics and sociolinguistics throughout her studies, her master's thesis examined the performative authenticity of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump during the 2016 primaries. Aline's research interests include critical discourse studies, pragmatics, social media discourse, and urban linguistics. In this research area, she supported Professor Beatrix Busse's team at the English Department in the compilation of a multimodal corpus to investigate discursive place-making in Brooklyn, NY. In 2017, she joined the HCA's Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust."

In her dissertation, Aline investigates the construction of a charismatic relationship between Donald Trump and his followers from a linguistic angle. She draws on social-constructionist perspectives in Max Weber's work, integrating language as a meaning-making resource that constructs and construes social reality and Weber's classic framework of charismatic authority as a highly personalized form of political leadership. Charisma is conceptualized as a social relationship between leader and followers, which is ultimately negotiated in discursive interaction. Considering the impact of social media on political action and on the dissemination of discourses and ideologies, Aline emphasizes the role of social media for the construction of the charismatic relationship. Synergizing methods from corpus-assisted discourse studies, she outlines interactional processes of performing and recognizing charisma under modern conditions. In particular, she analyzes reddit and Twitter as affective discursive spaces which catalyze processes of charismatization. Her dataset is comprised of a number of ad hoc specialized corpora, spanning genres from political speeches, televised debates, and Trump's tweets to comments and multimodal data on the subreddit *The_Donald*. Her project thus integrates various dimensions of authority and trust during the Trump presidency and aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of irrational and affective politics in the contemporary United States.



DR. TIM SOMMER (GERMANY)

Tim Sommer studied English, American, and German literature and culture at Heidelberg University and the University of Edinburgh and has been a visiting researcher at King's College, Cambridge, the Bodleian Library (Oxford), and Harvard's Houghton Library. He has delivered conference papers at venues including Oxford, Harvard, and Yale, is the recipient of the 2016 Ralph Waldo Emerson Society Graduate Student Paper Award, and has been a Ralph Waldo Emerson Visiting Fellow at Harvard University. His research interests include British Romanticism, New England Transcendentalism, and nineteenth-century Anglo-American literary relations. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in journals such as *Romanticism*, *Book History*, *The New England Quarterly*, *The Wordsworth Circle*, and the *Harvard Library Bulletin*.

Tim Sommer's dissertation project, which he successfully defended in October 2019, examined the transatlantic origins of authority and trust in nineteenth-century American literature and culture by retracing the many ways in which the emergence and subsequent trajectory of both concepts in the American context were shaped in response to European discourses, British ones in particular. Focusing on Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 – 1882) and Thomas Carlyle (1795 – 1881) as two representative figures and drawing on recent approaches in transatlantic studies, transnational theory, and cultural sociology to account for their cosmopolitan careers and writings, the project asked how literature in the nineteenth-century Anglo-American cultural sphere became a key arena for defining and debating authority and trust. The dissertation aimed at refining our understanding of the extent to which this development was intertwined with phenomena such as the rise of literary nationalism, the sacralization of culture, and the professionalization of authorship. Tim Sommer's dissertation was published as *Carlyle, Emerson and the Transatlantic Uses of Authority* with Edinburgh University Press in October 2021.



SEBASTIAN TANTS-BOESTAD, STATE EXAM (GERMANY)

Sebastian Tants was born in Lower Saxony, Germany. He studied philosophy and English Studies at Heidelberg University and, as an exchange student, European Studies at Cardiff University (United Kingdom). He received his state exam from Heidelberg University in 2016. In his thesis, he conducted a critical reading of Dave Eggers's dystopian novel *The Circle* (2013), establishing an intellectual link between Eggers's novel and the philosophical critique of modernity of the Frankfurt School. Before joining GKAT in the fall of 2017, Sebastian worked, among other things, as a teaching assistant for philosophy at Heidelberg University.

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



STEFANIE WALLBRAUN, M.A. (GERMANY)

Stefanie Wallbraun grew up in Thuringia before completing her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at the Ludwigshafen University of Business and Society in 2014. Afterwards, she attended Hamburg University to complete a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 2019 and a Master's Degree in Peace and Security studies in 2020.

The working title of Stefanie Wallbraun's dissertation project is "American gun culture and its potential to polarize the society: An analysis of harmful effects on institutional trust and government authority in the United States." She intends to show how the debate surrounding gun control promotes social and political polarization and therewith impairs institutional trust and the authority of the government. Of special interest to her is how the public debate on gun control affects political views of individuals and influences the perception of and interaction with individuals that hold different opinions.



COSIMA WERNER, M.A. (GERMANY)

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

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



GEORG WOLFF, M.A. (GERMANY)

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

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

ASSOCIATED DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Bariah Altaf Qadeer, see p. 82 (HCA Ph.D. program)

Jula Maasböl, see p. 74 (HCA Ph.D. program)

Maren Schäfer, see p. 84 (HCA Ph.D. program)

RESEARCH STUDENTS

Jonathan Fischer-Woudstra, Jonas Gockel, Philipp Leonhardt, Tommaso Putignano, Caroline Walter.

ASSOCIATED SCHOLARS

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

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

Juniorprof. Dr. Florian Böller, Fachgebiet Politikwissenschaft, TU Kaiserslautern

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HCA RESEARCH

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

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

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

The “*Biblia Americana*” also serves as one of the main sources for the DFG-funded project led by Prof. Stievermann:

(Re-)Translating Scripture in Early American Protestantism: A Comparative Study of Cotton Mather's “*Biblia Americana*” and Radical Pietist Revisionings of the Bible

Sub-divided into two studies, to be conducted by Dr. Caitlin Smith and Dr. Benjamin Pietrenka, the project aims to conduct comparative, side-by-side studies of scriptural translations that various individual Protestant exegetes and groups from British North America undertook during the early and middle decades of the eighteenth century. We ask why, how, and with the use of which resources did these New World Bible translations challenge existing translations, specifically the widely predominant King James (KJV) and Luther Bibles? And in what ways did these revised translations reflect particular theologies (esp. millenarian and Philadelphian speculations) and support diverging identity formations in the intellectual cross-currents of the Enlightenment and

the Protestant evangelical awakenings? The project has an interdisciplinary research design that brings together interests and methods of traditional church history/history of biblical interpretation with those of the history of "lived religion"-paradigm and early American cultural and literary studies. The other project will start in January 2022 and is titled: American Scriptures: Transformations of Scriptural Authority and the Canon in American Protestantism during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. It is part of the DFG research group De/Sakralisierung von Texten (FOR 2828) based at the University of Tübingen.

For more information, please visit matherproject.org

African American History: National and Transnational Vistas

The HCA's research focus on African American history unites several endeavors. In 2008, the HCA joined a research initiative with the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. and Vassar College (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.) on "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany." Initiated by Professors Maria Höhn (Vassar) and Martin Klimke (New York University/Abu Dhabi), this research project and digital archive explores the connection between the establishment of American military bases abroad and the advancement of civil rights in the United States. It investigates the role African American GIs played in carrying the demands of the civil rights movement abroad beginning with World War II. In July 2009, the project was awarded the Julius E. Williams Distinguished Community Service Award by the prestigious civil rights organization National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at its Centennial Convention in New York City. As the NAACP explained, "By giving voice to their experience and to that of the people who interacted with them over civil rights demands and racial discrimination on both sides of the Atlantic, Höhn and Klimke are preserving and expanding the history of the African American civil rights movement beyond the boundaries of the U.S." As part of this research initiative, an exhibition on "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany," including more than fifty black and white photographs as well as other exhibition samples, was shown in numerous cities across both Germany and the United States, including Augsburg, Berlin, Hamburg, Heidelberg, Mainz, Munich, Ramstein, and Tübingen, as well as in Washington, D.C., Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Berkeley, Calif., Oxford, Miss., San Francisco, Athens, Ga., Chapel Hill, N.C., as well as London, England. By illustrating the untold story of African American GIs and the transnational implications of the civil rights movement, the exhibit aims at advancing a more nuanced and multilayered sense of how America's struggle for democracy reverberated across the globe. The accompanying book *A Breath of Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany* by Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke was published by Palgrave Macmillan in October 2010 (www.breathoffreedom.org). The documentary "Breath of Freedom: Black Soldiers and the Struggle for Civil Rights," directed by Dag Freyer and originating from the project, premiered February 17, 2014, on the Smithsonian Channel in the U.S. and was broadcast on Arte on December 16, 2014. A German edition of the book was published by transcript Verlag in 2016. For further information on the project as well as access to its digital archive, please visit: www.aacvr-germany.org.

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

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

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

Kurt Klein and Gerda Weissmann-Klein: Jewish Exile in the United States

In 2020, the HCA became part of a local endeavor to commemorate the fate of a Jewish family from Walldorf, a town just south of Heidelberg. During the early years of the Nazi regime, the three siblings Irmgard, Kurt, and Max Klein managed to emigrate to the United States. They tried desperately but unsuccessfully to arrange the emigration of their parents. Alice and Ludwig Klein were deported to Gurs (France) in 1940 and died in Auschwitz two years later. Kurt Klein returned to Europe in the last months of World War II as a "Ritchie Boy" with the U.S. Army. At the end of the war, he met his wife, Gerda Weissmann, a survivor of labor camps and death marches. The couple moved to the United States and dedicated their lives to Holocaust education, promoting tolerance, and community service. Gerda Weissmann-Klein's autobiographical account, *All but My Life* (1957) was adapted for the 1995 short film, *One Survivor Remembers*, which received an Academy Award and an Emmy Award. She has served on the governing board of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which features her testimony in a permanent exhibit. On February 15, 2011, President Barack Obama presented Gerda Weissmann-Klein with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States.

A local initiative in Walldorf planned to commemorate Kurt Klein's one-hundredth birthday on July 2, 2020 with a program of readings, films, and lectures by U.S. historians Atina Grossman and Frank Mecklenburg. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the original program was postponed to July 2, 2021; however, a smaller event did take place at the Astoria-Halle in Walldorf. Jointly organized by Wolfgang Widder, who initiated the endeavor, the Vereinigung Walldorfer Heimatfreunde, the Forum 84 theatre, and the HCA, more than eighty guests paid tribute to the life of Kurt Klein. The HCA will continue to provide academic support for this endeavor. Projects under way include the digitization of the letters that Alice and Ludwig Klein wrote to their children during the war, the publication of letters that Gerda and Kurt exchanged in the first year after the war, as well as a new German edition of Gerda Weissmann's memoir. We are delighted that the Klein family has agreed to support these projects by making the original sources available.

More information: www.kurt-klein.de.

Sustainable Governance Indicators 2020: Regional Coordination – United States, Canada, Chile, and Mexico

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

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

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

The results of the latest SGI round were released as Sustainable Governance Indicators 2020 in October of 2020. The 2020 edition of the SGI examines the period just before the current COVID-19 pandemic began, providing a baseline on E.U. and OECD countries' governance capacities. As always, the entire data, rankings, and sub-rankings for each policy area as well as the country reports are accessible online free of charge on the project's website at <https://www.sgi-network.org/2020/>. Based on its highly interactive functionality, the SGI website offers users easy access to every level of information, including a short version of key findings. For a direct link to the U.S. country data and report (SGI 2020) go to https://www.sgi-network.org/2020/United_States. The USA 2020 country report, written by Dr. habil. Martin Thunert (HCA), Professor Christian Lammert (Free University of Berlin, JFK-Institute), and Professor Paul J. Quirk (University of British Columbia, Vancouver), can be downloaded at https://www.sgi-network.org/docs/2020/country/SGI2020_USA.pdf. Here are some of the results:

Showing increasing problems of fiscal unsustainability, the United States receives middling scores overall (rank 26) with regard to economic policies – for an observation period that ended in early 2020 before the Covid-19 pandemic set in. Its score on this measure has increased by 0.4 points since 2014. Economic growth has remained robust. However, the tax cut for corporations and high-income individuals passed in late 2017 has sharply increased the already unsustainable long-term deficit. The annual deficit reached above \$1 trillion in late 2019. The new North American trade deal passed the House, and President Donald Trump announced a new trade deal with China. Nevertheless, the trade war with China and lesser conflicts with European Union and Japan continued. The unemployment rate declined to a record low of 3.7%, with median household incomes climbing by 12%. Incomes have grown faster at the top, exacerbating inequality.

With significant weaknesses, the United States scores relatively poorly (rank 30) with regard to social policies. Its score on this measure has declined by 0.7 points relative to 2014. Educational inequalities between high- and low-income areas are severe, with performance generally disappointing. Federal education programs have been cut by more than \$10 billion, with some funding redirected to school-choice initiatives. The elimination of the Obama-era individual health-insurance mandate has increased the numbers of the uninsured and increased the cost of insurance premiums. Income inequality has increased dramatically. The administration has sought to bar undocumented immigrants from purchasing health insurance and to reduce

food-stamp coverage. Work requirements in the social welfare net have been expanded. Direct family policy is minimal, but the employment rate for women is high. Ideological stalemate has prevented pension-system sustainability reforms. The Trump administration has taken numerous steps to cut legal and illegal immigration, with Trump showing active rhetorical hostility toward immigrants. The separation of migrant children from parents has produced a human-rights scandal. The incidence of hate crimes has increased, and the issue of police violence against Black citizens has remained in the spotlight.

Despite a history of ambitious environmental protections, the United States holds the SGI 2020's lowest position (rank 41) with regard to environmental policies. Its score in this area has declined by 1.2 points relative to 2014. With the administration routinely flouting political norms, the United States falls into the lower-middle ranks (rank 24) with regard to democracy quality. Its score on this measure has declined by 1.4 points relative to 2014.

With a worrisome degree of chaos at top executive levels, the United States scores relatively poorly (rank 30) with respect to executive capacity. Its score on this measure has declined by 2.2 points relative to 2014. President Trump has shown virtually no interest in long-range planning. Executive decision-making does not follow orderly processes. The Republican congress has drafted key measures in secret, avoiding public discussion. Agencies have suffered massive losses of expert staff. The executive branch has seen calamitous failures of coordination in issues such as hurricane response and border control. A preoccupied Congress passed no major legislation in 2019. Despite concerns related to the effects of polarization, the United States falls into the upper-middle ranks (rank 17) in the area of executive accountability. Its score in this area has declined by 0.2 points relative to its 2014 level.

Congressional resources are quite substantial, and formal powers are strong. However, the administration has refused to provide access to important information and key figures for oversight hearings. The influential General Accountability Office performs audit functions. No specific ombuds office exists. There is no national data-protection authority. Citizens' policy-knowledge levels are on average quite low, with "partisan motivated reasoning" an increasing concern. Serious, in-depth policy reporting exists, but a decline in journalistic standards is evident, particularly in a right-leaning media that echoes Trump's constant claim that mainstream news organizations are reporting "fake news."

SGI was covered extensively, for example in a series of the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* in the summer of 2012 (editions 26/2012-29/2012) entitled "The Craft of Governing" ("Das Handwerk des Herrschens"). The series singled out "good governance" as the central topic for policymakers and civil servants in time of economic and financial crisis. In its introductory article, *Der Spiegel* described the Sustainable Governance Indicators and its sister project BTI as the "most ambitious experience in comparative politics since Aristotle's time." Current SGI News is available on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ProjectSgi>.

In the spring of 2018 the board of the Bertelsmann Foundation decided to fully fund the project for another four years. In the summer of 2020 the Bertelsmann Foundation's SGI Board decided to suspend the regular SGI survey round for 2021 and instead conduct a special survey "Sustainability and Effectiveness of COVID-19 Crisis Management," which is tailored to the central aspects of Covid-19 pandemic crisis management in the OECD world. The focus is on the vulnerability of countries in the areas of economic, health, and social policy and the resilience of the crisis response measures taken in these areas. As always, the focus is not only on the outcomes of specific policies, but also on the countries' reform performance and democratic governance capacities. In particular, input (democratic participation processes) and political-administrative steering performance are taken into account when assessing the sustainability of policymaking vis-à-vis the crisis management of the pandemic. In this special survey the Bertelsmann SGI Team intends to pool their available resources and concentrate on a smaller sample of 30 countries (which will include the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Chile) and on a significantly reduced number of indicators. The Covid-19 Crisis Management expert assessment round was launched in November 2020 and will be completed in the second quarter of 2021.

Natural Catastrophes in the United States

Welf Werner and Natalie Rauscher are the principle researchers in this project that investigates natural catastrophes in the United States. North America is confronted with natural catastrophes and extreme weather events on a regular basis. The United States in particular witness frequent natural disasters such as earthquakes, droughts, wildfires, severe storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and flooding. Despite having been confronted with these events more than most other OECD countries, the United States have struggled to successfully mitigate rising costs and damages from these events in a comprehensive manner, which can be seen in the overall rise in casualties and economic losses from these events since the early twentieth century. The Heidelberg Center for American Studies conducts research on the impact of natural catastrophes with special regard to the specific U.S.-American factors that contribute to the continuing rise of costs and damages from natural disasters and extreme weather. Among the factors under investigation are climate risks, economic growth, changes in wealth and population density in different regions across the United States, government mitigation and disaster risk reduction policies, the role of risk management and insurance as well as the comparison between North American developments and the Global South and natural disaster discourses and receptions of catastrophe risks.

Philanthropy, Giving & Collecting in the Longue Durée Thematic Research Network as part of the Excellence Strategy of the Heidelberg University

Since 2020, Martin Thunert and Natalie Rauscher are taking part in the Thematic Research Network on philanthropy, giving, and collecting in the Longue Durée. The network focuses on interdisciplinary cooperation between several faculties in the humanities at Heidelberg University, including the Faculties of Modern Languages and Literature, Philosophy, and Theology. Additionally, the Faculties of Law, Behavioral and Cultural Studies, and Economics and Social Sciences are taking part in the project. The aim of this network is to develop the foundations of a diachronically and cross-culturally sustainable theory of philanthropy by combining social science modelling with perspectives from outside Western Europe, including the fields of antiquity, regional studies, and religious studies. The Centre for Social Investment (CSI) forms the social science component of the network and joins forces with cultural studies expertise from Egyptology, Islamic Studies, and Theology to pave the exploratory way for the first three years of the project.

As part of the project network's focus on regional studies, Martin Thunert and Natalie Rauscher look at philanthropy and charitable foundations in North America. Their aim is to explore possible drivers of trust and distrust in contemporary U.S.-based philanthropy. Rather than focusing on the big U.S. foundations of the past, their project will look at newer additions to the "marketplace of giving" and the effects these philanthropists and their foundations have on U.S.-American society.

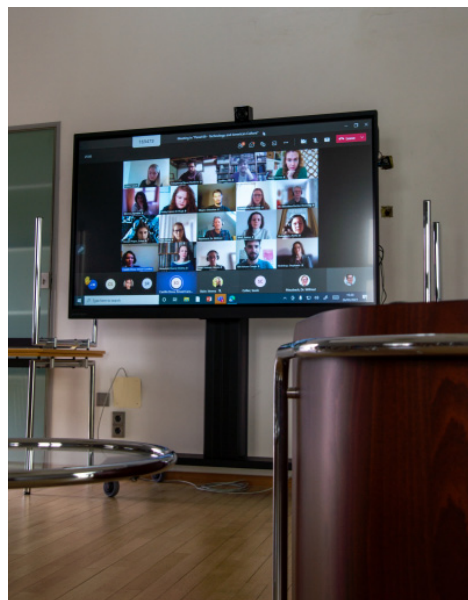
In return for donating to charitable causes in society and for upholding an U.S.-focused international order, generous tax breaks have been granted to philanthropic giving and foundations. The public seemed to accept and support this bargain to a certain extent for a very long time, especially during the Cold War and thereafter. The tax breaks for wealthy donors could be considered an advance on the societal trust that is put in philanthropic donors and their activities. This arrangement, despite increasing political polarization and waning trust in political institutions in the U.S. overall, has become an important factor in upholding political and societal stability in the U.S. But this confidence of the U.S. public in U.S.-based philanthropy might be eroding, perhaps because of the more explicitly transformative missions of newer foundations and contemporary donors. Recent surveys show that contemporary philanthropists and foundations, while perceiving themselves as socially inclusive – towards (global) society as a whole – are seen by a growing minority of the U.S. public as rather exclusive, selective, and self-serving.

In this project, social, economic, and political dimensions will be considered in the investigation of philanthropy in the U.S. today. A special focus will be put on (shifting) motivations of donors in the twentieth and twenty-first century, the communication of these motivations, changing forms and norms of giving and areas of philanthropic activity, the role of women, couples, and racial minorities in contemporary philanthropy and how this relates back to (possibly waning) trust in philanthropy and the arrangement between the philanthropic sector, government, and the public in the U.S. today.

HCA SPRING ACADEMY 2021

From March 22-26, 2021, the HCA's Spring Academy conference virtually hosted twenty international Ph.D. students to explore, discuss, and provide feedback on their respective American Studies research projects. This year's participants joined the Spring Academy chairs and facilitators from five different time zones, ranging from the American West Coast to Hungary, representing universities in ten countries. Before the official conference start, participants joined Spring Academy organizers Ida Bahmann, Julian Kramer, and Emma Wolf for a tech Q&A on Sunday evening, guaranteeing a smooth technical run throughout the week. After clarifying all practical questions, participants and organizers enjoyed an informal get-together, and a short video conference project speed dating on the "Glimpse" platform provided a welcome virtual icebreaker.

On Monday afternoon, HCA director Welf Werner officially opened the conference. He warmly welcomed all participants emphasizing that the global pandemic had not discouraged students across the globe from applying. Earlier this year, the selection committee had chosen twenty out of eighty-eight applications, once again bringing together, as Professor Werner remarked, a diverse group of young researchers from twelve different countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Spain, the U.K., and the United States. Spring Academy facilitators Dr. Wilfried Mausbach and Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung expressed their regret that current circumstances did not permit an in-person conference. However, Spring Academy organizers had worked hard to preserve the conference's lively character by developing virtual features. The traditional thesis-outline "speed dating" now took place online on the "Glimpse" platform, allowing participants insight into their peers' projects in a fast-paced one-on-one conversation. As such, it served as an energetic start while simultaneously introducing the larger question of the future directions of the discipline. Following this accelerated beginning, participants and facilitators decreased their pace as they went into the first panel's in-depth topical discussion.



The conference setup at HCA utilizing the conference system installed in Oculus.

In the run-up to the conference, participants had posted a 15-minute slide or video presentation introducing their project. At the beginning of each panel, speakers had five minutes to build on their presentation and set incentives for the following 35-minute discussion. Under the broader topic of "Locating Hip-Hop," two panelists from the University of Bern, Dianne Violeta Mausfeld and James Barber, shared their research. Dianne Mausfeld presented her thesis, "'American Made with a Mexican Flow!': Chicano Hip-Hop, Space, and Identity in Los Angeles, 1987-2001." Thereby, she opened a conversation on possible approaches to incorporate Digital Ethnography into historical research. Building on this issue, the second presentation by James Barber on "'United Ghettos of America': The Aesthetics of Intercultural Exchange and Bricolage in New York City and the Case of the Jamaican Influence on Hip-Hop (1987-1995)" further sparked a discussion on the role of the onlooker and field research in the Hip-Hop and Reggae scenes. A stimulating debate on the difficulty of connecting historical research and contemporary developments ensued.

After a brief coffee break, everyone returned for the second panel, "Environmental Racism, Diversity, and Justice." First up, Coyote Shook from the University of Texas at Austin presented their research project on "Fetid Eden: Disability, Speculation, and the Twilight of Florida," a historiographic approach focusing on the intersection of capitalism and environmental policies. Participants were fascinated with Coyote Shook's approach and carefully constructed arguments. They eagerly explored their case study on Sea Life Orlando's manatee rehabilitation program and tourist outreach and its implication on the role of disability in a capitalist-environmentalist setting. Dorothee Schwieters from the University of Cologne provided further input with her presentation "(Un-)Officially Zoned for Industrial Pollution: Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice on the East Side of Houston, Texas, since the 1970s." This underexplored issue sparked a lively conversation on the difficulties of archival research for projects of this kind. Participants and facilitators concluded the conference day with open chats for both panels, during which they exchanged more ideas, comments, and tips in an informal environment.



Participants of the 2021 Spring Academy listen to presentations by Sarah Collier and Stephanie Redekop during Panel 9 of the conference.

A panel on "Borderlands" moderated by guest chair Professor Ben Johnson from Loyola University Chicago commenced the second conference day. Zsófia Hutvágner from Texas Christian University presented her research project on "The Impact of Racially Restrictive Covenants on the Housing Crisis in Fort Worth, Texas, 1920-1949." She informed her peers that legislative changes in Fort Worth had recently banned racist language from official documents and explained how this may complicate her future archival research. Mario Macías Ayala from the University of Arizona at Tucson complemented this opening with a presentation on "Beyond Concrete and Violence: The reconfiguring of local dynamics in Nogales Arizona/Sonora borderlands since the early 2000s." The Corona pandemic had affected both participants' research throughout the past year, so they were especially appreciative to swap ideas with their peers about strategies and methods.

After a break and brief casual conversations, the second panel on "Narration Beyond Words: Erik Drooker and Herman Melville" shifted our focus to the field of literary studies. First, Zohra Hassan-Pieper of the University Duisburg-Essen shared her research on "N.Y. City—The City of Destruction: Disaster-Building in Drooker's *Flood! A Novel in Pictures* (1992)." When literary scholars point to a lack of letters and art scholars to the seriality of a wordless graphic novel, where was one to start? Soon participants discussed the contextualization of images and possible ways of approaching the wordless. Arturo Corujo from the University of Barcelona shared similar issues in his presentation on "Interweaving the Melvillean Self: Queering the Porous Boundaries of the In/Human." Participants contextualized the symbolism of *White Jacket* with other works of Herman Melville. Moreover, they explored the white jacket's role as a non-human other in the narrative. These and more ideas were again hotly debated during the end-of-day open chats.

On the third conference day, the Spring Academy shifted its analytical focus to the Caribbean and Nicaragua. The first panel, "Caribbean Histories and Poetries," hosted Debby Esmée de Vlugt from Leiden University and Barbara Gföllner from the University of Vienna. De Vlugt presented her research on "Black Power in the Dutch Caribbean and the Netherlands, 1968-1973," a project that explores a history that has been relatively neglected to date. Her presentation sparked a lively discussion on locating and accessing the necessary but geographically widespread archival sources. Barbara Gföllner complemented the discussion with her presentation on "'Thinking with the Archipelago': Diasporic Im/Mobilities in Anglophone and Francophone Caribbean Poetry." It shifted the perspective to literary studies and introduced questions of selecting and grouping texts. Participants highlighted aspects of including and analytically connecting francophone and anglophone Caribbean poetry. Some participants continued this exchange during a brief coffee break.

The second panel then focused on "The U.S. and Nicaragua in the Twentieth Century." Eimeel Castillo from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor began by sharing her research on "Imperial Encounters: Gender Politics in U.S. Occupied Nicaragua (1912-1933)." Her peers were curious to know more and soon discussed this project's position within a larger American Studies framework. Further, they shared constructive and creative ideas for the future of this research, considering its archival research challenges and various analytical angles. Verena Baier from the

University of Regensburg contributed a new viewpoint with her presentation on "Remembering Nicaragua? Life Writings by U.S. American Volunteers in the Nicaragua Peace and Solidarity Movement and the Contra War, 1979-1990." Moving away from relations on the ground, participants were interested in debating how this project approaches Nicaragua as an imagined space in writing. Debates continued in the open chats, which rounded off the conference day.

On Thursday, the Spring Academy started with a panel on "Culture Wars in Recent American Intellectual History." Guest chair Professor Michelle Nickerson from Loyola University Chicago welcomed speakers Olli Saukko from Helsinki University and Emily Hull from University College London. Saukko provided insights into his research on "American Jewish Intellectuals and the Culture Wars 2011-2016," sparking a lively discussion on recent cultural and political changes in the U.S. and how best to frame these in research projects. Emily Hull focused the debate more closely on the Liberal-Conservative divide with her presentation of "Irving Kristol: Cold War Liberal and Conservative." Combining broader definitions of these two terms with the changing self-understanding of an individual was an issue the group debated together. Before moving into the second panel of the day, participants took the opportunity to recharge during a virtual coffee break.

Panel eight then addressed "Audiovisual Strategies: 1970s Exploitation Cinema and Netflix," hosting Eponine Moreau from the University of Mons and Matthew Tchepikova-Treon from the University of Minnesota. Moreau opened the panel with her presentation on "The Subtitling of Swear Words in the French Subtitled Version of Netflix Original Series: A Corpus-Based Analysis." In the French subtitles, the Netflix series' language is usually "cleaned up," swear words are reduced, and, she maintained, overall more vulgar language is used to establish a similar atmosphere. Moreau works towards defining a more "faithful translation" of media, an endeavor her peers found fascinating. Matthew Tchepikova-Treon complemented this discussion by sharing his research on "X-Rated Sound: Exploitation Cinema & One Hundred Years of 1972." In 1972, the word "fuck" was first added to the Oxford Dictionary; in the same period, the U.S. right was very concerned about "cleaning up" movies. Participants were curious to find out more about the connection of sound and visuality in exploitation films and how they reflect socio-political conditions. Everyone enjoyed continuing these debates after the end of the second panel but made sure to finish on time for a virtual visit to the John Deere production facility in Mannheim, Germany. John Deere has supported the Spring Academy since 2004 and has welcomed its participants to tour its location in Mannheim for fifteen years. For the first time this year, Spring Academy participants and facilitators had the opportunity to explore the Mannheim site virtually. After a factory tour and a Q&A with John Deere Forum Manager Heiner Ehmer, Anke Schaeufele took over for a brief overview of John Deere's precision farming program. The virtual format enabled Spring Academy participants to access areas of the Mannheim site that are usually closed to visitors.

The final day of the Spring Academy 2021 began with a panel on "Technology and American Culture" with speakers Sarah Collier from University College London and Stephanie Redekop from the University of Toronto. In the first presentation on

"Between Man and Machine: Masculinity, Technology, and Spatiality in Contemporary U.S. War Narratives," Sarah Collier outlined her argument, which combines aspects of gendered domestic spaces and the intersection of masculinity and technology. Participants eagerly discussed how contemporary trends in video games intersect with this study. They further explored how the depiction of trauma influences images of soldiers and warfare. Stephanie Redekop followed this discussion with a presentation on "'Is that a Fact?' The Literary Essay and American Crisis Discourse in the 1960s." This Essay Studies project explores connections among Norman Mailer's perception of the novel in the twentieth century as expressed in his essays and the simultaneous crisis surrounding the definition of factuality. Soon the participants discussed how factual accuracy and moral righteousness increasingly seem to go hand in hand in public discourse. They continued these conversations during the ensuing coffee break before all participants returned for the final panel.

The Spring Academy's last panel focused on "Racial Justice and Liberation Movements." Sebastian Mayer from Washington University in Seattle began and shared his research on "No More Sticking to Sports': Black Athlete Activism and Its Political Consequences." Highlighting the historical and contemporary relationship between sports and politics in U.S. society, this project opened a conversation on sociological and digital ethnographic research methods. Gloria Fears-Heinzel from Goethe University Frankfurt tied into this debate with her presentation on "Black/Gay/Power/Liberation: Inter-Movement Co-operations on Issues of Black Gay Liberation Struggles." Her peers were excited to talk about this project and shared many constructive ideas on approaching and structuring the research attached to it. With renewed interest in the Black Panther Party and its coalitions with other social liberation movements, everyone found this topic to be particularly pertinent in the times of the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Both presentations lead to further exchange in the open chats after the end of the panel.

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung
thanking the SpAc 2021
participants for a wonderful
conference and sending her
farewell from Heidelberg.



Eventually, Spring Academy participants and facilitators came together one last time for the conference's Cool Down session. As a group, they reflected on current and future trends for American Studies. Moreover, they explored how their peers' projects had impacted their idea of this changing academic discipline during the past week. Everyone bade a special virtual farewell to facilitator Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung for whom it had been the last Spring Academy conference. Dr. Wilfried Mausbach emphasized her priceless contributions to and support of the Spring Academy since 2004 and invited her to return to the HCA for a proper, in-person farewell at Spring Academy 2022. Although they had only met virtually, participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to connect with peers from many different countries – connections that hopefully will last and build a foundation for networking of a rising generation of exceptional scholars.

CONFERENCES

Participation in American Society and Culture: 67th Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA), June 17-19, 2021, Heidelberg Center for American Studies

After the executive board of the DGfA, together with the local organizers at the HCA, had decided to cancel the 2020 annual meeting, the 67th annual conference of the German Association for American Studies (GAAS) took place in Heidelberg from June 17-19, 2021. For the first time in the history of the GAAS, the meeting assumed a hybrid format. The conference theme remained "Participation in American Culture and Society," which constitutes a core value of American citizenship and, at the same time, one of the nation's most ambivalent concepts. This becomes evident, for example, in the question of voting rights. While in colonial America, a larger share of white males had the right to vote than in any other society in the world and universal white manhood suffrage gave rise to the first electoral mass democracy worldwide in the nineteenth century, the struggle of women, racial and ethnic minorities, and immigrants for full participatory rights has been a major theme in U.S. history and remains a challenge today and into the future. This challenge reaches far beyond the realm of politics and encompasses full and equal access for groups and individuals to participate in a wide variety of social, cultural, religious, and economic activities. Exclusion from participation based on class, race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation is indeed part and parcel of the nation's heritage.

Livestreaming of Rector Eitel's welcome address to the conference participants.



In recent years, fears of a backlash against participation and inclusion are mounting as economic inequality is growing and American society is becoming more segmented and polarized. At the political level, attempts to undermine the right of minorities and the poor to vote have proliferated after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act in 2013 and have become a torrent in the wake of unproven allegations of voter fraud in the 2020 elections. Ironically, these efforts to restrict participation are themselves nurtured by new forms of participation. Social media, once believed to usher in a brave new world of easy and universal participation, has instead led to the emergence of echo chambers and parallel worlds that provide a haven

for hate speech and misinformation. Overall, then, participation appears to be well on its way to becoming a concept around which many of the most important intellectual and ideological debates of the twenty-first century will revolve.

This theme obviously resonated with DGfA members across the disciplines, who contributed papers to nineteen workshops that generated lively discussions:

- Divided We Stand: Non-participation as Anti-Imperial Endeavor?
- Dispatches from the Method Wars: New Approaches to Cultural Agency and Participation in American Studies
- Authorship and Cultural Participation in the Nineteenth Century
- Participation in American Memory Culture
- Incarceration and Participation in American Life
- Architectures of Exclusion: Racial Identity, Participation, and the Built Environment
- Participation in / through Language, Literature and Culture (Education)
- Crisis of Economic Participation
- Suffrage and Beyond: The Struggle for Women’s Equal Rights, 1890 to 1970
- The Politics and Poetics of Nonhuman Participation
- Are You Laughing with Us or at Us? Participatory Laughter in North America
- Whiteness and American Studies
- Who participates in global affairs anymore? Sources and discontents of polarization in U.S. foreign policymaking
- Im/Mobility, Justice, and Civic Engagement in American Urban Environments: The Cultural and Political Importance of Participation
- Like, Comment, Subscribe: YouTube and the Participation Revolution
- “Not Me. Us”: Imagined Collectives in American Literature, Culture, and Politics
- Maker Cultures: Material and Digital Practices Between Empowerment and Discipline

- Publishing, Gatekeeping, Patronage: Participation and/in the Literary Field
- Im Osten nichts Neues? German American Studies in East and West Germany: A Round Table

The conference took off on Thursday night with the opening ceremony at the Aula of Neue Universität. The welcome by Professor Bernhard Eitel, rector of Heidelberg University was followed by opening remarks of DGfA President Professor Philipp Gassert. After the hybrid award ceremony, local host Professor Welf Werner introduced the first keynote speaker who came in via Zoom from Los Angeles, Calif. Judy Tzu-Chu Wu is Professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Irvine. Her talk “To Form a More Perfect Union? Intersectional Legislative Activism and Pacific Feminism” offered insights into her research project on the 1977 National Women’s Conference, the only gathering of this kind ever authorized by the federal government. Twenty thousand women, one-third of them women of color, attended the conference in Houston, Tex., to create a national agenda on women’s issues. Professor Wu’s presentation explored the legislative effort to authorize this grass-roots but state funded women’s gathering and the ways in which political leaders at the national level and in the territories understood how women from the Pacific should be represented. The conference was not without backlash. In addition to the twenty thousand conference attendees, the same number of people assembled to protest the women’s demands. Particularly members of the religious right, among them Phyllis Schlafly, and other religious groups, e.g. the Mormon church, downplayed and criticized the efforts of the National Women’s Conference. Professor Wu’s research interest mainly lies in the political realignment on gender issues that followed the conference, the significant roles that Asian American and Pacific Islander communities played, and how women from these places redefined the nation-state and pacific feminism. After a round of questions, many conference participants concluded the evening by meeting on “Gathertown” where they could virtually enjoy a drink at the bar or mingle on the roof terrace

Outgoing GAAS president Philipp Gassert gives his welcome address at the hybrid welcome ceremony.



Conference keynotes continued the next morning with a presentation by Martin Butler, Professor for American Literature and Culture at the University of Oldenburg. He commenced his talk entitled “The Audience Strikes Back...Or Does It? Formations of Participation and the Figure of the Amateur in ‘New Media’ Environments” by outlining the normative discourse of participation through new media, which can, on the one hand, be seen as the utopian vision of liberating democracy through digital participation, in which old folk culture can be revitalized. On the other hand, new media has created dystopian scenarios of surveillance and a form of neoliberalist capitalism based on exploiting human resources through the promise of egalitarianism individual agency. Professor Butler further explained that participation depended on social conditions and settings. Therefore, the regime of participation is embedded in and depends on a specific technological media environment shaped by implicit and explicit rules. YouTube, for example, was mainly considered participatory, even though only one percent of its members contribute regularly, but commercialization has created hierarchies. However, the service reconceptualized the crowd as creative developers from which the amateur protagonist occurred, who is assumed to bring forward innovation and alternatives of social-economic engagement, which creates the image of a return to a democratic folk process. The business logic of amateurism relies upon the business logic of the individual's dedication and the promise of participation and authenticity. Through this, the amateur has become a social figure, which has appeared in several historical constellations as they represent experiences and issues of a society through which its ambivalence is expressed. However, amateurism, Professor Butler concluded, presents more significant social tendencies as the modern amateur might indicate a reorganization of labor and entrepreneurial self-governance.



Setup in the university's Neue Aula to host and stream the virtual opening ceremony as well as the current events panel of the 2021 GAAS Annual Meeting.

Martin Butler's keynote was immediately followed by another highlight of the conference, a current events panel on “Too Much Participation? Liberal Democracies in Times of Crisis” that was livestreamed to DGfA members. Junior Professor Florian Böller (TU Kaiserslautern) as the chair was joined by Professor Greta Olson (Universität Gießen) on the podium whereas Professor Gary Gerstle (University of Cambridge) and Dr. Sarah Liu (University of Edinburgh) came in via Zoom.

Opening the discussion, Florian Böller pointed out that the conference topic had been chosen well before the biggest public health and ensuing economic crisis of recent memory engulfed the world. Covid-19, however, has added yet another dimension to the debate on participation. The global crisis suggests that some authoritarian regimes, notably China, were able to respond more swiftly than their liberal counterparts in the United States and Europe that are based on representation and participation. Although many of the extreme measures taken up in those countries were initially condemned in much of the West, it cannot be denied that some of them have worked much more effectively to contain the outbreak of the virus. At the same time, efforts to vigorously disseminate this narrative have tapped into and supplemented currents in social media and digital communication, which pander in misinformation and have spun conspiracy narratives of global proportions around measures to fight the pandemic. Thus the pandemic has been bound up with a larger infodemic that is imperiling liberal democracies and most alarmingly the United States itself. Does the example of the global Covid-19 crisis show that liberal democracies are ill-equipped to respond to serious disaster? Is there a possible issue with “too much participation” in the liberal societies we live in today when faced with crises of epic proportions? The ensuing discussion explored these issues in the United States and similar liberal democracies and drew comparisons to other countries in their response to the separate yet intertwined challenges of public health and new information environments, of Covid-19 and communication. The panel also engaged with questions around institutional governance, representative democracies, as well as questions of populist rhetoric and the role of (new) media.

Panelists:
Greta Olsen, Gary Gerstle,
Sarah Liu with moderator
Florian Böller.



After the first round of workshops, conference participants met in the HCA’s Oculus or zoomed in for the final keynote of the annual meeting. Carol Anderson, Professor of African American Studies at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., explored the conference’s topic of participation from a voting rights perspective. Her talk traced the bureaucratic violence of the Jim Crow era from the late nineteenth into the twenty-first century. Professor Anderson’s narrative began with the so-called Mississippi Plan and its legacy, the Mississippi constitution of 1890. Formulated in race-neutral terms it made literacy tests and a poll tax, among other things, mandatory for all citizens who wanted to vote. For many of the historically oppressed black Mississippians, these conditions proved impossible to fulfill, and voter turnout among this demographic remained at five per cent until 1960; following the Voting Rights Act, however, these numbers skyrocketed

to almost sixty per cent. Once African Americans increasingly participated in domestic politics, Republicans feared a dramatic political turnaround and thus worked hard to establish legislation that would keep African Americans from the polls to the present day. Professor Anderson then turned to the current situation in which voter ID laws, limited access to ID-issuing offices, gerrymandering, crosschecking, and felony disenfranchisement are among the measures employed in a number of states throughout the U.S. that disproportionately disadvantage minorities and African Americans in particular. Professor Anderson's talk resonated well with an enthusiastic audience and was followed by an extensive round of questions.

The annual meeting concluded on Saturday with the second round of workshops, a number of online lunches and roundtables and a hybrid business meeting. In addition, conference participants had an opportunity throughout the day to catch up virtually on "Gathertown." Overall, the organizers were commended for handling the hybrid format in an exemplary way. Nevertheless, (almost) everybody is looking forward to an in-person meeting in Tübingen in 2022. The publication of a conference volume with selected papers is underway.

James W.C. Pennington and the World of Transatlantic Reform, August 20-21, 2021, Heidelberg Center for American Studies



Participants at the in-person part of the hybrid conference in HCA's Ocuulus including Manfred Lautenschläger and conference organizers, Jan Stievermann and Caitlin Smith. Eddie Glaude Jr. as the second convener of the event joined virtually from Princeton University.

On August 20-21, scholars of African American History and transatlantic reform movements met at the HCA and virtually for a conference convened by Eddie Glaude Jr. (Princeton University) and Jan Stievermann (HCA). The conference was generously funded by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation. It commemorated the life of Reverend Dr. James W.C. Pennington, a formerly enslaved African-American abolitionist, minister, and intellectual. In 1849, Pennington received an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University's Faculty of Theology – the first Ph.D. awarded to an African-American in the Western world. As Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger pointed out, "Pennington understood the honorary doctorate less as a personal honor than as a support for the cause of abolition and the ideal of racial equality." In 2011, the HCA and the Faculty of Theol-

ogy, supported by the Lautenschläger Foundation, had established the Pennington Award to pay tribute to the African American churchman and pacifist. Every year since, Heidelberg University has bestowed the award on a scholar who has done distinguished work on topics important to Pennington: slavery, emancipation, peace, education, reform, civil rights, religion, or intercultural understanding. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, no Pennington Award was bestowed in 2020 and 2021. However, scholars in the field met for a hybrid conference at the HCA, among them a number of recipients of the prize.

Jan Stievermann with Pennington's doctoral certificate awarded by the University of Heidelberg's Faculty of Theology in 1849.



The conference's themes explored Pennington's contributions to transatlantic reform movements around the world. In so doing, the papers shed light on hitherto overlooked facets of Pennington's life and work and demonstrated their continuing relevance for today's debates about issues of racial and social justice. For example, presenters pointed out Pennington's connection to the International Peace Movement, the 1848ers and European revolutions, transatlantic Protestantism, and the long history of the Civil Rights movement. In keeping with the transatlantic focus, the conference's presenters and audience were thoroughly international. Leading scholars from multiple disciplines, including Bill Andrews, John Ernest, Eddie Glaude Jr., Sandra Gustafson, Paul Harvey, Mischa Honeck, John Stauffer, and Jan Stievermann presented their ideas to an audience simultaneously in-person and virtually.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

The list below includes books, book chapters, journal articles, and entries in reference works in the field of American Studies by HCA faculty and staff in 2020-21.

Kristin Berberich (GKAT)

Discursive Construction of Neighborhood Across Brooklyn: A Corpus Ethnographic Approach. (Heidelberg University Library: Heidelberg, 2021).

"Chapter 8. 'Boston Strong,'" in *Language in Place: Linguistic Approaches to Literature* Vol. 37, ed. Daniela F. Virdis, Elisabetta Zurru, and Ernestine Lahey. (Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2021), 148–66.

With Claudia Jetter and Maren Schäfer, "'The Woman Who Knows Who She Is': Conservative Motherhood and the Politics of the 'Home,'" *HCA Graduate Blog*, February 2021, <https://hca-grads.hypotheses.org/3377>.

Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

"Die Würger vom Halse kriegen. Gustav Stresemann betreibt Großmachtspolitik mit freundlichem Antlitz," *ZEIT Geschichte. Der Rausch der 20er Jahre. Glanz und Tragik der Weimarer Republik*, 1:20 (2020), 90-95.

"Antrittsrede vom 27. April 1919," in *Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften Jahrbuch 2019* (2020), 174-177.

"Völkerbund und Selbstbestimmung: Das Friedensprogramm des US-Präsidenten Woodrow Wilson - Société des Nations et Autodétermination des Peuples: Le Plan de Paix du Président Américain Woodrow Wilson" in *Der Versailler Vertrag. Deutsch-französische Betrachtungen - Le Traité des Versailles. Réflexions Franco-Allemandes*, ed. Bernd Rauls and Verena Paul (St. Ingbert: Röhrig Universitätsverlag, 2020), 153-189.

"'Wir müssen nur die Furcht fürchten.' Im Kampf gegen die katastrophale Wirtschaftskrise seit 1929 stärkt der New Deal den Staat und gibt den Amerikanern neues Vertrauen," *ZEIT Geschichte: Katastrophen. Und was die Menschheit aus ihnen gelernt hat - von der Antike bis heute* (2020), 78-81.

"Der Erste Kalte Krieg? US-Präsident Woodrow Wilson und die Russische Revolution 1917-1920," in *Oktoberrevolution 1917 - Ereignis, Rezeption, Künstlerische Deutung*, ed. Felicitas Fischer Weikerthal, Tanja Penter, and Dorothea Redepenning (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2020), 169-185.

“Wenn es ums Ganze geht. Immer wieder wurden Präsidentschaftswahlen zu Wendepunkten der US-Geschichte. 1860 lösten sie einen Bürgerkrieg aus, 1932 leiteten sie einen demokratischen Aufbruch ein. Steht das Land erneut vor einer historischen Zäsur?” *Die ZEIT* 38 (2020), 17.

“‘A Vitally Necessary War Measure’: Woodrow Wilson’s Conversion to Woman Suffrage,” in *Women in U.S. Politics: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives. Essays in Honor of Hans-Jürgen Grabbe*, ed. Julia Nitz and Axel R. Schäfer (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2020), 31-46.

“Das noble Experiment und sein Erbe: Geschichte und Gegenwart der Prohibition in den USA,” *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte* 70/49/50 (2020), 17-23.

“‘Die freieste Gelegenheit zur autonomen Entwicklung’: US-Präsident Woodrow Wilson und die Zukunft Österreich-Ungarns,” in *Der Rest ist Österreich - 100 Jahre Staatsvertrag von St. Germain*, ed. Andreas Raffener (Wien: Facultas, 2020), 21-38.

“*Lynching in the New South and The Roots of Rough Justice: From Southern Exceptionalism to a Transnational History of American Lynching.*” *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 20 (2020), 136 - 42.

“Die heile Welt des liberalen Konsenses: Der Weg der USA von der ‘Civic Culture’ zum Krisenfall der Demokratie,” *Athene - Magazin der Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften* (2020), 6-8.

“Ziemlich beste Freunde - Ziemlich beste Feinde: Ein historischer Blick auf die deutsch-amerikanische Freundschaft,” *Ruperto Carola Forschungsmagazin* 17 (2021), 115-21.

“‘Freiheit für die Meinungen, die wir hassen’. Seit 1791 schützt die Verfassung der USA die freie Rede. Trotzdem muss das Grundrecht immer wieder politisch und juristisch neu erkämpft werden – bis heute,” *ZEIT Geschichte: Zensiert. Die Geschichte der Meinungsfreiheit. Vom Mittelalter bis heute* 2 (2021), 52-57.

Ed. with Günter Leypoldt, *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives* (Bielefeld: transcript, 2021).

“The Decline of Political Trust and the Rise of Populism in the United States,” in *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives*, ed. Günter Leypoldt und Manfred Berg (Bielefeld: transcript, 2021), 37-59.

“Populismus als Konstante der Politischen Kultur,” in *Länderbericht USA*, ed. Andrew Denison, Georg Schild und Miriam Shabafrouz (Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, 2021), 142-150.

“Jenseits von Law and Order: Ist die Republikanische Partei noch zu retten? Eine kurze Geschichte vom Aufstieg und Fall des amerikanischen Konservatismus,” *Die ZEIT* 15 (2021), 19.

“Von Andrew Jackson zu Donald Trump: Zur Kontinuität des Populismus in der Geschichte der USA.” *Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften Jahrbuch 2020* (2021), 19-21.

“Wie hat der Terror die Welt verändert? Vor 20 Jahren haben die Anschläge in New York die Welt erschüttert – nicht ohne Folgen,” *Mannheimer Morgen* (2021), 4.

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung (HCA)

“‘I would write with Mt. Fujiyama in view’: Japan as Resonating Space for the Writing of Katherine Dunham’s *A Touch of Innocence: Memoirs of Childhood*,” in *Ethnic Resonances in Performance, Literature, and Identity*, ed. Yiorgos Kalogeras and Cathy C. Waegner (New York: Routledge, 2020), 167-184.

Gordon Friedrichs (GKAT)

U.S. Global Leadership Role and Domestic Polarization: A Role Theory Approach. (Routledge: London & New York, 2020).

“International Politics Podcasts 101 – A ‘Best of’ List,” *HCA Graduate Blog*, June 2020. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3044>.

“Populist minds think alike? National identity conceptions and foreign policy preferences of populist leaders,” *Foreign Policy Analysis* (2021, forthcoming).

“Polarized we trade? Intra-Party Polarization and U.S. trade policy.” *International Politics*. Special Issue “Domestic Polarization and U.S. Foreign Policy” by Gordon Friedrichs and Jordan Tama (2021), online.

With Jordan Tama: “Polarization and U.S. Foreign Policy: Key Debates and New Findings.” *International Politics*. Special Issue “Domestic Polarization and U.S. Foreign Policy” (2021), online.

With Sebastian Harnisch: “Die polarisierten Staaten von Amerika und internationale Ordnungspolitik(en),” *Zeitschrift für Internationale Beziehungen* (2021, forthcoming).

“Protectionism First: Trumpscher Populismus und die internationale liberale Wirtschaftsordnung,” in *Weltmacht und Demokratie - Die USA nach der Ära Trump: Festschrift für Jürgen Wilzewski*, ed. Florian Böller, Steffen Hagemann, Marcus Müller, and Lukas Herr (Kaiserslautern, 2021).

“Leading by example or extortion? U.S. leadership role transition under the Trump administration,” in *A Hegemonic Transition? Reconfigurations of Global Economic and Security Orders in the Age of Trump*, ed. Florian Böller and Welf Werner (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021), 125-146.

Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Institute for Geography)

"Heidelberg als Forschungslabor für die Stadt von morgen," in *Die Stadt von morgen*, ed. Ulrike Gerhard and Editha Marquardt (Heidelberg: Heidelberg University Publishing, 2020), 143-151.

Edited with Editha Marquardt, *Die Stadt von morgen* (= Studium Generale 2018) (Heidelberg: Heidelberg University Publishing, 2020).

With Judith Keller and Cosima Werner: "Trust and the City: Analyzing Trust from a Socio-Spatial Perspective," in *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society. Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives*, ed. Günter Leypoldt & Manfred Berg (Bielefeld: transcript Verlag, 2021), 111-134.

With Judith Keller: "Die ungleichen Staaten von Amerika. Reflektionen aus humangeographischer Perspektive," *Praxis Geographie* 10 (2021), 4-9.

With Eva Bund: "The Role of Institutional and Structural Differences for City-Specific Arrangements of Urban Migration Regimes," *Urban Planning* 6:2 (2021), 68-79.

With Friederike Reents and Andre Buth: "Kippen, Sich Einrichten und Deuten: Geokritische Poetiken des Anthropozän in interdisziplinärer Lesart," in *Anthropozäne Literatur: Poetiken – Themen – Lektüren*, ed. G. Dürbeck, S. Probst, and C. Schaub (Stuttgart: J.B. Metzler Verlag, 2021).

"Long Distance und doch ganz nah: Möglichkeiten einer Vorlesung in Zeiten von Online Teaching," in *Prinzipien, Strukturen und Praktiken geographischer Hochschullehre*, ed. Wintzer, J.; Mossig, I. & Hof, A. (Bern: utb, 2021).

With Editha Marquardt: "'Town and Gown': Reallabore als Experimentierfeld kritischer Transformationsforschung in der urbanen Gesellschaft," *WiTi-Berichte* 8 (2021).

With Editha Marquardt: "Good Practice in der Zusammenarbeit von Stadt und Wissenschaft. Hochschule und Stadt. Wissensallianzen in Rheinland-Pfalz," *ZIRP Zukunftsinitiative Rheinland-Pfalz* (2021), 18-25.

Bernd Grzeszick (HCA)

"Diversity in and by Law: The Example of Federal and State Constitutions," in *National, International, Transnational: Harmonischer Dreiklang im Recht. Festschrift für Herbert Kronke zum 70. Geburtstag am 24. Juli 2020* (Bielefeld: Verlag Ernst und Werner Giesecking, 2020), 871-879.

Aylin Güngör (GKAT)

"Entertainment, Politics, and Power: Georgia's Creative Industries in Light of the New Voting Law," *HCA Graduate Blog*, November 2021. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3630>.

Sebastian Harnisch (Institute for Political Science)

"Internationale Führung und ihre Kontestation. Zur Dynamik der außenpolitischen Rolle der Bundesrepublik in Europa," in *Zivilmacht Bundesrepublik? Bundesdeutsche außenpolitische Rollen vor und nach 1989 aus politik- und geschichtswissenschaftlicher Perspektive*, ed. Klaus Brummer, and Friedrich Kießling (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2020), 109-131.

With Kerstin Zettl, "Blame Game im Cyberspace. Informationstechnik als Waffe?" *Ruperto Carola* 16 (2020): 96-105.

"Spreading Cyber-Autocracy? The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Diffusion of Norms of 'Internet Sovereignty,'" in *Authoritarian Gravity Centers: A Cross-Regional Study of Authoritarian Promotion and Diffusion*, ed. Marianne Kneuer and Thomas Demmelhuber (New York: Routledge, 2020), 249-274.

With Fanny Schardey and Sebastian Starystach, "Город, село, в унисон!" *IPG-Journal: Journal für Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft* (2020).

With Kerstin Zettl, "Transnationale Verantwortung und Normemergenz im Cyberraum," in *Entgrenzte Verantwortung. Zur Reichweite und Regulierung von Verantwortung in Wirtschaft, Medien, Technik und Umwelt*, ed. Anja Seibert-Fohr (Heidelberg: Springer Verlag, 2020), 207-240.

With Martina Vetrovoca, "Globale Verantwortung. Die neue Rolle der Europäischen Union," in *Die Europäische Union als Verantwortungsgemeinschaft. Anspruch und Wirklichkeit*, ed. Michael Gehler, Alexander Merkl and Kai Schinke (Wien: Böhlau Verlag, 2020), 357-380.

Claudia Jetter (GKAT)

With Kristin Berberich and Maren Schäfer, "'The Woman Who Knows Who She Is': Conservative Motherhood and the Politics of the 'Home,'" *HCA Graduate Blog*, February 2021, <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3377>.

"Continuing Revelation and Institutionalisation: Joseph Smith, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Charismatic Leadership in Antebellum America." *Studies in Church History* 57 (2021), 233-253.

Detlef Junker (HCA)

„America, God, and War Since 1945," *HCA Graduate Blog*, Januar 2020. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/2770>.

Deutschland und die USA 1871-2021. (Heidelberg: heiBOOKS, 2021). <https://doi.org/10.11588/heibooks.756>.

Judith Keller (GKAT)

With Hamid Abud Russell, "'Many producers, many protectors!' Geographical Reflections on Resilient Intercultural Economies in North-West Campeche, Mexico," in *Why Latin America Matters. A Collection of Essays*, ed. Soledad Garcia Ferrari, Hans Egil Offerdal, & Marta Alicja Kania (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021), 94-111.

With Ulrike Gerhard, "Die ungleichen Staaten von Amerika: Reflexionen aus humangeographischer Perspektive," *Praxis Geographie* 10 (2021), 4-9.

With Lauren Rever, "Falling into the Crevice: COVID-19 Pandemic Puts Spotlight on Housing Disparities in the U.S. Capital," *HCA Graduate Blog*, April 2021. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3409>.

With Ulrike Gerhard and Cosima Werner, "Trust and the City: Analyzing Trust from a Socio-Spatial Perspective," in *Authority and Trust in UD Culture and Society. Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives*, ed. Günter Leypoldt and Manfred Berg (Bielefeld: transcript, 2021), 111-134.

"Unsichtbare Frauen? Annäherungen an einen Geographieunterricht aus feministischer Perspektive," in *Feministische Pädagogik und Unterricht*, ed. Frederik Durczok (Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag, 2021), 111-124.

"Das Andere verstehen lernen. Ästhetische Bildung im fremdsprachlichen Literaturunterricht," in *Feministische Pädagogik und Unterricht*, ed. Frederik Durczok (Baltmannsweiler: Schneider Verlag, 2021), 73-86.

"Forschungsprojekt zur amerikanischen Wohnraumkrise: ein Fallbeispiel aus der Hauptstadt Washington, D.C.," *HGG-Journal* 34 (2021), 105-107.

Günter Leypoldt (HCA and English Department)

"Spatial Reading: Evaluative Frameworks and the Making of Literary Authority," *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* (2020).

“‘Sacred Calling’ in Nineteenth-Century Authorship: Wordsworth, Emerson, Thackeray.” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* 67:3-4 (2021), 645-83.

“Professional Countercultures: Network Effects in the Long Nineteenth Century (Weimar, Paris, Grasmere, Boston),” *Symbiosis: Transatlantic Literary & Cultural Relations* 25:1 (2021), 21-50.

Ed. with Manfred Berg, *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives* (Bielefeld: transcript, 2021).

“Introduction: Authority and Trust in the United States,” in *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society*, ed. Günter Leypoldt and Manfred Berg (Bielefeld: transcript, 2021), 9-36.

“Shoppers, Worshippers, Culture Warriors: Reading and the Hermeneutics of Trust,” in *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society*, ed. Günter Leypoldt and Manfred Berg (Bielefeld: transcript, 2021), 245-276.

Philipp Löffler (HCA and English Department)

“‘The Best Battlefield Scene of All Times:’ The Feeling of History and the Problem of Realism,” in *Rhetoric of Evidence. Epistemic Models and Rhetorical Practice in Science, Education, and Culture*, ed. Olaf Kramer (Anderson, SC: Parlor Press, 2021), 338-363.

“Of Apes and Children: Communication, Interdisciplinarity, and Michael Tomasello’s *Why We Cooperate* (2009),” in *Culture²: Key Works of the 21st Century*, ed. Frank Kelleter and Alexander Starre (Bielefeld: transcript Verlag, 2021), 245-260.

“Authorship as Profession and the Uses of Genre in Antebellum America,” in *Handbook of American Romanticism*, ed. Philipp Löffler, Clemens Spahr and Jan Stievermann (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021), 229-248.

“Introduction: American Romanticism in Context,” in *Handbook of American Romanticism*, ed. Philipp Löffler, Clemens Spahr and Jan Stievermann (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021), 1-8.

“Alltag und Exzess: William Carlos Williams, F. Scott Fitzgerald und der amerikanische Modernismus in den Zwischenkriegsjahren,” in *1917: Einbruch/Aufbruch der Moderne in Literatur, Musik und den Künsten* (Leipzig: Schriften der Sächsischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 2020), 70-82.

“Consequences of Academic Reading? Professionalism, Critique, and the Public Humanities,” in *American Counter/Publics*, ed. Ulla Haselstein, Frank Kelleter, Alexander Starre and Birte Wege (Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2019), 379-397.

"The Sociology and Institutions of Contemporary American Fiction," in *The American Novel in the 21st Century: Cultural Contexts – Literary Developments – Critical Analyses*, ed. Michael Basseler and Ansgar Nünning (Trier: Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier, 2019), 37-55.

Valentina López-Liendo (GKAT)

"Reading Colson Whitehead," *HCA Graduate Blog*, February 2021. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3361>.

Margit Peterfy (GKAT and English Department)

With Vera Nünning and Philipp Löffler, *Key Concepts for the Study of Culture: An Introduction* (Trier: WVT, 2020).

Sina Movaghati (GKAT)

"Aestheticizing Violence: Paul Bowles' Prolific Partnership with His Motiveless Villain in *The Delicate Prey*," *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, 12:4 (2020): 1-15.

"The Face Commands: The Pacified Resistance of Hugh Glass in Alejandro González Iñárritu's *The Revenant*," *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, 37:7 (2020): 673-695.

Natalie Rauscher (HCA)

"The Current Wows and Woes of Silicon Valley – Big Tech, the Gig Economy and its Workers," *HCA Graduate Blog*, July 2020. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3087>.

The Future of Work in the United States: Discourses on Automation and the Platform Economy (Springer International Publishing: Cham, Schweiz, 2021).

With Maren Schäfer, "Leveling the Playing Field – Kommunikationsstrategien und Ungleichheitsnarrative des linken Diskurses im Umfeld der Demokratischen Partei der USA." *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft, Special Issue: Narrative ökonomischer Ungleichheit* (2021).

With Martin Thunert, "Economic Policy Think Tanks in Germany and the United States and their Strategies of Policy Advice." *Zeitschrift für Politikberatung/Policy Advice and Political Consulting* 4, Heft 2016 (forthcoming).

Lauren Rever (GKAT)

"Working on the History of the January 6th Capitol Attack," *HCA Graduate Blog*, June 2021. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3541>.

With Judith Keller, "Falling into the Crevice: COVID-19 Pandemic Puts Spotlight on Housing Disparities in the U.S. Capital," *HCA Graduate Blog*, April 2021. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3409>.

Maren Schäfer (HCA)

"Framing 'The Elite': The Shift from People-Centrism to Anti-Elitism in Populist Political Communication," *Zeitschrift für Politikberatung* 4:8, Heft 2016 (forthcoming), 139-148.

With Natalie Rauscher, "Leveling the Playing Field: Kommunikationsstrategien und Ungleichheitsnarrative des linken Diskurses im Umfeld der Demokratischen Partei der USA," *Zeitschrift für Politikwissenschaft* (2021).

"The Shifting Narrative of (Un-)Patriotic Justices in Trump's Twitter Discourse," *Populism Specialist Group - Newsletter* 3 (2021).

Dietmar Schloss (HCA and English Department)

„David Eggers' Roman *The Circle*: Die Krise der Demokratie im Zeitalter des Internets und der Sozialen Medien," in *Krise(n) der Moderne*, ed. Klaus Kempster und Martina Engelbrecht (Heidelberg: Winter, 2020), 437-449.

"The Trust Debate in the Literature of the American Renaissance," in *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society, Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives*, ed. Günter Leypoldt and Manfred Berg (Bielefeld: Transcript, 2021), 191-222.

"Civilization and Its Discontents: Reading Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club* with Norbert Elias," in *Reading the Social in American Studies*, ed. Astrid Franke, Stefanie Mueller, and Katja Sarkowsky (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021), 27 pp.

Aline Schmidt (GKAT)

"The Discursive Construction of Trump's Charisma on Twitter and Reddit," in *Politics and Populism Across Modes and Media*, ed. Ruth Breeze and Ana M. Fernández Vallejo (Bern: Peter Lang, 2020), 207–236.

"Sticking Together: Communal Coping with COVID-19 Through Language," *HCA Graduate Blog*, June 2020. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3013>.

With Kristin Berberich, "Looking at American Identity/-ies through the Lens of a Linguist," *HCA Graduate Blog*, December 2020. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3242>.

With Kristin Berberich, Claudia Jetter, and Maren Schäfer, "'The Woman Who Knows Who She Is': Conservative Motherhood and the Politics of the 'Home,'" *HCA Graduate Blog*, February 2021, <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3377>.

Anja Schüler (HCA)

Ed. with Kerstin Wolff. *Der Kongress tanzt – Nicht! Frauenkongresse als Orte der Kommunikation, Politik und Vernetzung*. Ariadne: Forum für Frauen und Geschlechtergeschichte, Heft 76, Juni 2020.

"100 Jahre Frauenwahlrecht: Die Symbolik der U.S. Frauenbewegung," *HCA Graduate Blog*, August 2020. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/3112>.

Ed., with Welf Werner, *HCA Podcast "Corona in den USA,"* Episodes 1-38, (Heidelberg Center for American Studies, 2020-2021).

Ed. with Welf Werner, *HCA Podcast "Quo Vadis USA?,"* Episodes 39-58, (Heidelberg Center for American Studies, 2021).

Tim Sommer (GKAT)

"The Art of the Quote: Trump, Social Media, and the Uses of Literary Reference," *HCA Graduate Blog*, January 2020. <https://hcagrads.hypotheses.org/2699>.

"Canon, Corpus, Archive: Selection and Valuation from the Eighteenth Century to the Digital Humanities," *Anglistik* 31:2 (2020), 53–68.

"Between Aura and Access: Artefactuality, Institutionalization, and the Allure of the Archival," *Anglia* 138:3 (2020), 384–403.

Carlyle, Emerson and the Transatlantic Uses of Authority: Literature, Print, Performance. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2021.

"Transatlantic Literary Authority: Material Networks, Symbolic Economies," *Symbiosis: Transatlantic Literary & Cultural Relations* 25:1 (2021).

"Introduction: Transatlantic Literary Authority between the Material and the Symbolic," *Symbiosis: Transatlantic Literary & Cultural Relations* 25:1 (2021), 7–20.

"Material Exchange, Symbolic Recognition: Weltliteratur as Discourse and Practice in Goethe, Carlyle, and Emerson," *Publications of the English Goethe Society* 90:1 (2021), 53–71.

"Transatlantic Exchanges and the Shifting 'Geography of the Word': Two New Letters from Emerson to Carlyle," *New England Quarterly* 94:2 (2021), 265–281.

"Cultural (Inter-)Nationalism: Orestes Brownson and the World Republic of Letters," *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* 67:1 (2021), 535–571.

"Embedded Authorship: Thomas Carlyle, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and Nineteenth-Century 'Transatlantic Bibliopoly,'" *Book History* 24:2 (2021), 349–377.

Jan Stievermann (HCA and Faculty of Theology)

"Methodismus," *Pietismus Handbuch*. Ed. Wolfgang Breul and Thomas Hahn-Bruckart (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2020), 603-607.

"Nordamerika," *Pietismus Handbuch*. Ed. Wolfgang Breul and Thomas Hahn-Bruckart (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2020), 326-340.

"Admired Adversary: Wrestling with Grotius the Exegete in Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana*," *Grotiana* 41:1 (2020):198-235.

Ed. with Douglas A. Sweeney. *The Oxford Handbook of Jonathan Edwards*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020).

"History, Providence, and Eschatology," In *The Oxford Handbook of Jonathan Edwards*, ed. Douglas A. Sweeney and Jan Stievermann (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020), 215-234.

"Europe," In *A History of Puritan Literature*, ed. Kristina Bross and Abram Van Engen (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020), 72-90.

"A 'Syncretism of Piety': Imagining Global Protestantism in Early Eighteenth-Century Boston, Tranquebar, and Halle," *Church History* 89:4 (2020), 829 – 856.

"Patrick Roths Starlite Terrace als postsäkulare Erzählliteratur," in *Krise(n) der Moderne: Über Literatur und Zeitdiagnostik*, ed. Klaus Kempster & Martina Engelbrecht (Heidelberg: Winter, 2021), 411-425.

With Claudia Jetter, "We believe that we have a right to revelations, visions, and dreams from God: Joseph Smith, Ralph Waldo Emerson and the Transformation of Religious Authority in the Antebellum Period," in *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives*, ed. Günter Leypoldt & Manfred Berg (Bielefeld: Transcript, 2021), 167-191.

"Religion and Literature," in *Handbook of American Romanticism*, ed. Philipp Löffler, Clemens Spahr & Jan Stievermann (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021), 81-118.

Edited with Philipp Löffler and Clemens Spahr, *Handbook of American Romanticism* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021).

"Die britischen Nordamerikakolonien als Experimentierfeld von Gewissens- und Religionsfreiheit: Zwischen Staatsräson und radikalem Protestantismus," in *Hier stehe ich: Gewissen und Protest - 1521 bis 2021*, ed. Thomas Kaufmann & Katharina Kunter (Worms: Worms Verlag, 2021), 369-85.

"Jonathan Edwards, American Evangelicalism, and the Prussian *Erweckungsbewegung*, ca. 1815-1850," in *Jonathan Edwards and Germany*, ed. Rhys Bezzant (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2021), 167-188.

"Emersonian Transcendentalism and the Invention of Religion(s) in the Nineteenth Century." *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance. Special Issue: Re-Transcendentalizing American Transcendentalism* 67 (2021), 591-628.

Edited with Daniel Malachuk and Laura Dassow Walls, Special Issue of *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance: Re-Transcendentalizing American Transcendentalism* 67 (2021).

Martin Thunert (HCA)

With Steffen Schneider, "Blaues Auge für Blackface, Gelbe Karte für die Red Machine: Kanada nach den Unterhauswahlen," *Zeitschrift für Kanada-Studien* 40 (2020): 203-214.

With Anke Kessler and Andrew Sharpe, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2020 Canada Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020).

With Fabian Klein and Claudia Zilla, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2020 Chile Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020).

With Wolfgang Muno and Jörg Faust, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2020 Mexico Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020).

With Paul J. Quirk and Christian Lammert, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2020 United States Report* (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2020).

“Wahlausgang mit gegenläufigen Botschaften: Warum in den USA nach den Wahlen vom 3. November 2020 kein Ende des ‘Kalten Bürgerkriegs’ in Sicht ist,” *regierungsforschung.de* (2020), online verfügbar.

“Von Trump zu Biden: Kehrtwende mit Fragezeichen,” *ifo Schnelldienst* 74:1 (2021), 22-25.

“Donald J. Trump (2017- 2021): Die beispiellose Präsidentschaft,” in *Die Präsidenten der USA. Historische Porträts von George Washington bis Joe Biden*, ed. Christof Mauch (München: C.H. Beck, 2021), 498-521.

“Joe Biden (2021-): Die Insider-Präsidentschaft?” in *Die Präsidenten der USA. Historische Porträts von George Washington bis Joe Biden*, ed. Christof Mauch (München: C.H. Beck, 2021), 522-531.

“Von Trump zu Biden: Wohin gehen die USA nach der Anti-Trump Wahl vom 3. November 2020?” *Gesellschaft, Wirtschaft, Politik (GWP)* 70:1 (2021), 49-59.

With Katja Sarkowsky and Doris Eibl, “Editorial,” *Zeitschrift für Kanada-Studien* 41 (2021), 6-9.

“Waning Trust in (Scientific) Experts and Expertise? Recent Evidence from the United States and Elsewhere,” in *Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society*, ed. Günter Leypoldt & Manfred Berg (Bielefeld: transcript Verlag, 2021), 61-86.

With Daniel Béland and Christian Lammert, *Country Report United States, Sustainable Governance in the Context of the COVID-19-Crisis*. (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2021), available at: www.sgi-network.org.

With Fabian Klein and Claudia Zilla, *Country Report Chile, Sustainable Governance in the Context of the COVID-19-Crisis*. (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2021), available at: www.sgi-network.org.

With Wolfgang Muno and Jörg Faust, *Country Report Mexico, Sustainable Governance in the Context of the COVID-19-Crisis*. (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2021), available at: www.sgi-network.org.

With Lindsay Tedds and Andrew Sharpe, *Country Report Canada, Sustainable Governance in the Context of the COVID-19-Crisis*. (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2021), available at: www.sgi-network.org.

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

Ed., with Anja Schöler, *HCA Podcast "Corona in den USA,"* Episodes 1-38, (Heidelberg Center for American Studies, 2020-2021).

Ed. with Florian Böller, *Hegemonic Transition. Global Economic and Security Orders in the Age of Trump* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, Palgrave Studies in International Relations, 2021).

With Florian Böller, "Global Order and Hegemony in the Age of Trump," in *Hegemonic Transition. Global Economic and Security Orders in the Age of Trump*, ed. with Florian Böller (London: Palgrave Macmillan, Palgrave Studies in International Relations, 2021), 1-18.

With Florian Böller, "Conclusion: A Hegemonic Transition?" in *Hegemonic Transition. Global Economic and Security Orders in the Age of Trump*, ed. with Florian Böller (London: Palgrave Macmillan, Palgrave Studies in International Relations, 2021), 281-292.

With Christian Lammert, "Broken Social Contract: The Domestic Roots of US Hegemonic Decline in the World," in *Hegemonic Transition. Global Economic and Security Orders in the Age of Trump*, ed. with Florian Böller (London: Palgrave Macmillan, Palgrave Studies in International Relations, 2021), 43-65.

Ed. with Anja Schöler, *HCA Podcast "Quo Vadis USA?"* Episodes 39-58, (Heidelberg Center for American Studies, 2021).

SELECTED TALKS

During 2020-21, the following HCA staff, members, students, and associates gave the talks listed below.

Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

“Von Andrew Jackson zu Donald Trump: Überlegungen zum Verhältnis von Populismus und Demokratie in der Geschichte der USA.” Inaugural lecture at the Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, January 2020, Heidelberg.

“US-Präsident Woodrow Wilson, das Selbstbestimmungsrecht und die Saarfrage auf der Pariser Friedenskonferenz 1919.” Saarland Parliament, in cooperation with the DAI Saarland, February 2020, Saarbrücken.

“‘It’s the Economy, Stupid!’ Or Is It? Zum Verhältnis von sozialer Ungleichheit und Populismus in den USA.” Annual Meeting of the Wirtschaftshistorischer Ausschusses des Vereins für Socialpolitik, March 2020, Heidelberg.

“Die USA vor den Präsidentschaftswahlen: Ein historischer Blick auf die Wahl 2020.” Stiftung Demokratie Saarland, August 2020, Saarbrücken.

“‘A Ragged-Ass Fourth Rate Country’ – How and why did the United States enter the Path to War in Vietnam?” Festival of Historical Films Rasnov, Romania, August 2020 (online).

“Nobles Experiment oder großer Katzenjammer? Die Alkoholprohibition in den USA aus historischer Perspektive.” Mind Foundation Berlin, February 2021 (online).

“Wie können wir aus der Geschichte lernen? Einige methodische Überlegungen zu einem politisch-moralischen Postulat.” Rotary Club, July 2021, Heidelberg.

David Eisler (GKAT)

“Being Human After War: Veteran Writers and the Public Sphere.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, January 2020.

“War and American Memory Culture from Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan.” Connecting Memories 2020 Symposium, Edinburgh (Scotland), June 2020 (online).

Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Institute for Geography)

With Editha Marquardt, "Ein aktueller Überblick über die Bedeutung von Kooperationen zwischen Wissenschaft und Stadtverwaltung in Deutschland." IBA Labor Wissen & Stadt, March 2020, Heidelberg.

"Renaissance oder Niedergang? Die US-amerikanische Stadt im 21. Jahrhundert." Lions-Club Heidelberg, March 2020, Heidelberg.

"Wissen und Stadt Teil 2. Auswertung des Überblicks über die Bedeutung von Kooperationen zwischen Wissenschaft und Stadtverwaltung in Deutschland." IBA Labor Wissen und Stadt Heidelberg, October 2020 (online).

With Judith Keller, "No Place for Trust: Housing as the New Urban Frontier in Global City Washington, D.C." Global City Seminar York University, Toronto, November 2020 (online).

"Strukturwandel und wachsende Ungleichheiten im US-amerikanischen Rustbelt." Gesellschaft für Erd- und Völkerkunde, March 2021, Stuttgart.

With Editha Marquardt: "Wissen & Stadt – Wissenskooperationen in Hochschulstädten." Vortragsreihe Knowledge. Cities. Spaces. Karlsruher Institut für Technologie, May 2021, Karlsruhe.

"Wenn Social Distancing uns nicht mehr lässt: Virtuelle Exkursionen als kreative Ersatzleistungen." Jahrestagung des AK Hochschullehre, June 2021 (online).

Aylin Güngör (GKAT)

"Community Participation in Creating the Narrative of Urban Im/Mobility: The Case of Boyle Heights, Los Angeles." Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies, June 2021, Heidelberg.

Sebastian Harnisch (Institute for Political Science)

With Florian Böller, "Die USA nach den Wahlen: Steht die Außenpolitik vor einer Kurskorrektur?" Ringvorlesung "Quo Vadis USA?," Universität Heidelberg, November 2020 (online).

"Werte und Geopolitik." Online-Diskussion, Akademie Loccum, Dezember 2020 (online).

Claudia Jetter (GKAT)

“Inconspicuous Prophets: Phoebe Palmer, R. W. Emerson and the Democratization of Charismatic Authority.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History, January 2020, New York City, N.Y.

“Phoebe Palmer: A Charismatic Lay Preacher Adopting Higher Criticism.” Wesleyan and Methodist Studies Seminar, Durham University, May 2020 (online).

“Phoebe Palmer – Devout Methodist or Dissenting Prophetess?” C19 “Dissent” Konferenz October 2020 (online).

“Charismatic People – Charismatic Texts: The Dynamic Creation of Charisma in New Religious Movements.” Conference Gendered Charismas: Historical and Transnational Perspectives, Universität Heidelberg, March 2021, Heidelberg.

“Esoterische und spirituelle Lebenshilfe im digitalen Raum.” Digitaler Studientag der Evangelischen Zentralstelle für Weltanschauungsfragen, September 2021, Berlin.

“Phoebe Palmer’s ‘Female Charisma’ and the Wrestle with Male Tradition.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 2021, San Antonio (TX), USA/online.

“Spiritual Influencers: New Forms of Authorization and Community Formation in the Digital Age?” Conference Religion and Sustainable Development in the Digital Age – Before, During and After the Corona Crisis, Humboldt-Universität, November 2021, Berlin.

Detlef Junker (HCA)

“Trump und die Selbstzerstörung einer imperialen Demokratie.” Lions Club Heidelberg, Januar 2020, Heidelberg.

“Trump und die Selbstzerstörung einer imperialen Demokratie.” Kulturforum Wiesloch, Februar 2020, Wiesloch.

Judith Keller (GKAT)

With Ulrike Gerhard, “No Place for Trust: Housing as the New Urban Frontier in Global City Washington, D.C.” Global City Seminar, York University, November 2020, Toronto.

With Ulrike Gerhard, “Renaissance oder Krise? Überlegungen zur aktuellen Situation und Zukunft der US-amerikanischen Stadt.” Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung, December 2020, Heidelberg.

“Urbane Räume des Vertrauens: Ein Blick auf aktuelle Entwicklungen in Washington, D.C.” Auftaktkonferenz des Forschungsinstituts Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt, March 2021, Hannover.

“No Right to Stay Put? Forced Mobility and the Fight for a Home in Washington, D.C.” Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies, Heidelberg University, June 2021 (online).

“We Not Moving! Urban Social Movements and the Fight for a Place to Call Home.” 14th International Graduate Conference, JFK Institute, July 2021, Berlin.

“Housing Challenges and Some Ways Forward: The Case of Germany.” World Regions Seminar, University of Illinois, October 2021, Urbana Champaign, IL.

Günter Leypoldt (HCA and English Department)

“Literaturtheorie nach Bourdieu.” Workshop, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, February 2020, Essen.

“Culture War: Kämpfe ums kulturelle Erbe.” Flagship Initiative: Transforming Cultural Heritage, February 2021, Heidelberg.

“‘Middlebrow Knowledge’ in der Literatur.” Thematic Research Network: Validity of Knowledge, March 2021, Heidelberg.

“The Laureate Position in the Literary Field.” Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien, June 2021 (online).

“Network Effects in the Transatlantic Literary Field, 1800–1850.” University of Leipzig, October 2021, Leipzig.

“Shoppers, Worshippers, Culture Warriors: Readerly Attachment, Readerly Trust.” Tagung: Uses of Literature, University of Southern Denmark, November 2021, Odense.

Benjamin Pietrenka (HCA)

“New Moravian Bodies: Transcultural Constructions of Moravian Racial Rhetoric in the Danish and English Caribbean, 1760-1790.” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Church History (ASCH), January 2020, New York City, NY.

Natalie Rauscher (HCA)

"Neue Ängste und alte Vergleiche. Die Ludditen und die 'Zukunft der Arbeit' im öffentlichen Diskurs der USA." University of Bielefeld, May 2020, Bielefeld.

"Do Think Tanks Still Matter? How they (Could) Matter - Economic Policy Think Tanks in Germany and the United States and their Strategies of Policy Advice." ECPR General Conference 2020, August 2020.

With Welf Werner, "U.S. Catastrophe Mitigation Meets Public (Dis)Trust in Political Institutions." European Association of American Studies, University of Warsaw, March 2021, Warsaw, Poland.

"Narratives of Vulnerability and Resilience in Media Discourses around Natural Catastrophes in the United States." European Association of American Studies, University of Warsaw, March 2021, Warsaw, Poland

"New Technology, New Jobs? Implications for Labor Force Participation and Consequences of more Diverse Work Arrangements in the Digital Age." Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies, Heidelberg University, June 2021 (online).

With Martin Thunert, "Philanthropic Foundations and their Relationship to Think Tanks in Germany and the United States." ECPR General Conference, August 2021, Innsbruck, Austria.

"Automation and Futures of Work." Swiss Association for North American Studies, Biennial Conference, November 2021 (online).

Lauren Rever (GKAT)

"Civil War Washington Re-Imagined: Historic Sites, Classrooms, and the Legacies of the Past in a Turbulent Summer." 47th Annual D.C. History Conference, November 2020, Washington, D.C.

"Going to Washington: The History Labor Market in Washington, DC." Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies, Heidelberg University, June 2021 (online).

With Ulrike Gerhard, Solange Muñoz, and Judith Keller, "Race, Ethnicity, and Place as an International Vision: Researching Trust and Authority in U.S. Cities." Race Ethnicity Place Conference, October 2021, Baltimore, Md.

Maren Schäfer (HCA)

"Shifting Visual Framing of American Populist Leaders in the 2020 Presidential Campaign." 4th Populism Specialist Group (PSA) Workshop, September 2020.

“‘Totally Compromised Kangaroo Courts’ and the ‘Fake News Media’ – Adjectives in Donald Trump’s Twitter Discourse.” Annual Meeting of the Political Science Section, German Association for American Studies, November 2020 (online).

“Populism and Polarization.” Online Teacher Seminar on *What will the future look like? The United States in 2021 and beyond*, Atlantische Akademie, March 2021 (online).

“Who’s to Blame? Framing ‘Them’ During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” ECPR General Conference, September 2021 (online).

Aline Schmidt (GKAT)

“‘He is so darn ALPHA!’ Language as a Site of Charismatic Construction and Donald Trump’s Momentum.” Conference: Gendered Charismas: Historical and Transnational Perspectives, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, March 2021 (online).

“‘For the Love of God, Get this Patriot a Coat!’ Affordances of Social Media and Affective Community Formation on The_Donald.” Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies, Heidelberg University, June 2021 (online).

Anja Schüler (HCA)

“Mary McLeod Bethune und der Kampf der Afroamerikanerinnen für das Wahlrecht.” Carl Schurz Haus, February 2020, Freiburg im Br.

Tim Sommer (GKAT)

“Art, Gender, Market: Anne Brontë, Virginia Woolf, and the (Post-)Victorian *Künstlerroman*.” Department of English, American, and Celtic Studies, University of Bonn, January 2020, Bonn.

“Literature, Introspection, (Self-)Surveillance.” Digital Guest Lecture, Department of English, University of Berne, March 2020, Berne, Switzerland.

“Literature, Introspection, (Self-)Surveillance.” English Department, Université de Fribourg, November 2020 (online).

“Individual and Society in Eighteenth-Century Pandemic Narratives.” English Department, University of Heidelberg, November 2020 (online).

"Modern Literary Manuscripts as Cultural Heritage: Valuation, Archivization, Digitization." Heidelberg Center for Cultural Heritage, University of Heidelberg, December 2020 (online).

"Zirkulierende Papiere: Literarische Manuskripte und/als kulturelles Erbe." German Department, University of Heidelberg, January 2021 (online).

"Artefactual Possession: A. S. Byatt, Hanif Kureishi, and the Manuscript Novel." Institute for English and American Studies, University of Hamburg, February 2021 (online).

"'I Cannot Afford to Paint for My Own Amusement': Art Economies and Gendered Professionalism in the Novels of Anne Brontë." English Department, University of Zurich, June 2021 (online).

"Coetzee, Dylan, and the Living Dead: Prize Granting and Antehumous Archiving in the Contemporary Literary Field." English Department, University of Heidelberg, June 2021 (online).

"Archival Economies: Valuing the Papers of Twenty-First-Century Nobel Laureates." German Literature Archive, Marbach, August 2021 (online).

"Aesthetic Experience, Affective Response: (Post-)Critique and Attachment in Zadie Smith and Ben Lerner." Department of English and Linguistics, University of Mainz, September 2021 (online).

"Shakespeare zwischen Handschrift und Druck: Frühneuzeitliche Autorschaft und forensische Philologie (um 1600/um 1800)." German Department, University of Heidelberg, September 2021 (online).

"Romantik(en): Alte und neue Antworten auf eine literaturgeschichtliche Problemkonstellation." University of Frankfurt, October 2021 (online).

"Migrating Authors and Migrating Books in the Early Black Atlantic: Phillis Wheatley, Francis Williams, Olaudah Equiano." Texas A&M University Libraries, October 2021 (online).

"Philosophie und Narratologie der Zeit in Thomas Manns *Der Zauberberg*." Institute for German Philology, LMU Munich, December 2021 (online).

Jan Stievermann (HCA and Faculty of Theology)

With Daniel Silliman, "Religion and Politics after Trump." Ringvorlesung "Quo Vadis USA?", January 2021 (online).

"American Puritan Literature." Roundtable, Biannual Meeting of the Society of Early Americanists, March 2021 (online).

"James W. C. Pennington in the Context of American and International Protestantism." Conference on "James W.C. Pennington and the World of Transatlantic Reform," Heidelberg Center for American Studies, August 2021, Heidelberg/online.

"Ehrendoktorwürde gegen Rassismus – Die Geschichte von James W.C. Pennington." Podcast "Quo Vadis USA?", September 2021 (online).

Martin Thunert (HCA)

"State of the Union Address and Speech from the Throne: One Continent – Two Visions." Amerika Haus e.V. NRW and die Deutsch-Kanadische Gesellschaft e.V., February 2020, Cologne.

"Die Demokratische Partei nach dem 'Super Tuesday' – Wer fordert Trump heraus?" Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Hessen und Frankfurter Rundschau, March 2020, Frankfurt.

"Die USA und die transatlantische Partnerschaft – Innen- und Außenpolitik im Präsidentschaftswahlkampf." Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Hessen and Frankfurter Rundschau, May 2020, Frankfurt (online).

With Natalie Rauscher, "Do Think Tanks Still Matter? How They (Could) Matter – Economic Policy Think Tanks in Germany and the United States and their Strategies of Policy Advice." ECPR General Conference, August 2020 (online).

"Wohin gehen die USA? Das gespaltene Amerika vor (und nach) der Richtungswahl 2020." York - Pennsylvania Club e.V., Leinfelden-Echterdingen, October 2020, Echterdingen.

"Schicksalswahl? Die USA vor den Präsidentschafts- und Kongresswahlen 2020." Online-Panel, Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, October 22, 2020 (online).

"Joe Biden and Donald Trump – Two Candidates and Their Campaigning Under COVID-19 Conditions." Evangelische Akademie Loccum, October 2020 (online).

"Four More Years?" Panel Discussion, Ringvorlesung "Quo Vadis USA?", Heidelberg University, November 2020 (online).

"Die Wahlen und das Wahlsystem." US-Wahlnacht der Atlantischen Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, November 2020 (online).

"Nachbetrachtung der U.S. Wahlen," Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Saarbrücken and Union-Stiftung, November 2020 (online).

“(Dis)Trust of Experts and Contemporary Populism: The Case of the United States in Perspective.” Annual Meeting of the Political Science Section, German Association for American Studies, November 2020 (online).

“Amerika hat gewählt.” Fernuniversität Hagen, November 2020 (online).

“Wohin gehen die USA mit oder nach Donald Trump? Die Richtungswahl 2020 in der Analyse Part 1.” Centre for Cultural and General Studies (ZAK), Karlsruhe Institute for Technology (KIT), November 2020 (online).

With Tobias Endler “USA - nach der Wahl.” Volkshochschule Calw, November 2020 (online).

With Tobias Endler; “USA vs. China: Das Ringen um die Vormachtstellung im 21. Jahrhundert.” SRH Hochschule Calw, November 2020 (online).

“Wohin gehen die USA mit oder nach Donald Trump? Die Richtungswahl 2020 in der Analyse Part 2.” Centre for Cultural and General Studies (ZAK), Karlsruhe Institute for Technology (KIT), December 2020 (online).

“Why Think Tanks & Policy Advice Matter in Times of Crisis.” Launch of the 2020 Global Think Tank Ranking, Ecologic Institute, January 2021, Berlin.

“U.S.-Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik: von Trump zu Biden.” Bildungszentrum der Bundeswehr, March 2021, Mannheim.

“USA - Ist der Trumpismus am Ende, was kommt jetzt?” Bündnis Fulda stellt sich quer, April 2021 (online).

With Tobias Endler, “100 Tage Präsident Joe Biden.” Volkshochschule Calw, April 2021 (online).

With Tobias Endler, “Der ‘American Dream’ gestern, heute und morgen: Idee & Wirklichkeit.” SRH Senioren Uni Calw, April 2021 (online).

“Das (nord)amerikanische Stiftungswesen im frühen 21. Jahrhundert – Trends und das Fallbeispiel der Clinton Foundation.” Uni Heidelberg Ringvorlesung des Thematic Research Networks (TRN) “Stiften, Spenden, Sammeln in der Longue Durée,” June 2021 (online).

“Die USA gestern und heute – Wichtige Entwicklungen, Themen und Hintergründe.” Mitarbeiter-schulung intern, Volkshochschule Ulm, June 2021 (online).

With Natalie Rauscher, “Philanthropic Foundations and their Relationship to Think Tanks in Germany and the US.” European Consortium for Political Research, General Conference, September 2021 (online).

"Canada has voted." Panel discussion, Canadian Election Breakfast, Embassy of Canada, September 2021, Berlin.

"US-Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik: Erste Zwischenbilanz Biden." Bildungszentrum der Bundeswehr, October 2021, Mannheim.

With Tobias Endler, "Rassismus in den USA: Geschichte, Gegenwart und (mögliche) Zukunft." SRH Senioren Uni Calw, November 2021 (online).

"Ein Jahr Präsident Joe Biden." Volkshochschule Ulm, November 2021 (online).

"Domestic Politics & the Economy." Online Teachers Seminar: Back to Business? The Biden Presidency and the Economy, Atlantische Akademie, December 2021 (online).

With Natalie Rauscher, "(Drivers of) Public Trust and Distrust in Contemporary U.S.-based Philanthropy." Interne Veranstaltungsreihe des TRN "Stiften, Spenden, Sammeln in der Longue Durée," December 2021 (online).

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

"Is there 'Socialism' in the U.S. after all? Economic Dimensions of a New Social Reform Movement." Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien (DGfA), February 2020, Bad Bevensen.

"Autoritätsverlust antizyklischer Konjunkturpolitik in den USA." Panel Discussion Annual Meeting of the Wirtschaftshistorischer Ausschuss of the Verein für Socialpolitik, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, March 2020, Heidelberg.

"The Heidelberg Center for American Studies at 25: From the 10th to the 25th Anniversary." Meeting of the Jacob Gould Schurman Foundation, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2020, Heidelberg.

"Fighting Unemployment during the Corona Crisis: A Transatlantic Perspective." American Council on Germany/Heidelberg University Association, July 2020 (online).

"A Nation in Turmoil? Die USA im Wahljahr." Summer School, Pfalzakademie Lambrecht, July-September 2020 (online).

"Four More Years? Die USA vor den Wahlen - Introduction." Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung "Quo Vadis USA?", winter semester 2020-21, Heidelberg University, November 2020, Heidelberg.

With Andreas Falke, "Die U.S.-Wirtschaft nach der Krise." Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung "Quo Vadis USA?", winter semester 2020-21, Heidelberg University, November 2020, Heidelberg.

"Das HCA: Rückblick und Zielvorstellungen." Advisory Council Meeting, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, November 2020, Heidelberg.

With Carsten Brzeski, "Welche Wirtschaftskonzepte hat die neue U.S. Regierung?" Podcast "Corona in den USA," episode 30, December 2020, Heidelberg.

With Natalie Rauscher: "U.S. Catastrophe Mitigation meets Public Distrust in Political Institutions." 2020 Conference of the European Association of American Studies, University of Warsaw, May 2021, Warsaw, Poland (online).

"Participation in American Culture and Society – Welcome Address," 67th Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA), Heidelberg University, June 2021, Heidelberg.

With Christian Lammert: "Crisis of Economic Participation," Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies, Heidelberg University, June 2021 (online).

"American Studies an der Universität Heidelberg: Perspektiven und Ziele," Meeting of the Jacob Gould Schurman Foundation, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, June 2021, Heidelberg.

"Nach der Krise: Läuft die US-Wirtschaft heiß?", Podcast "Quo Vadis USA?", episode 49, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, July 2021, Heidelberg.

"Ländervergleich USA-China". ZDF Dokumentation, 2021, Heidelberg.

"Back on Track? Wirtschaftspolitik unter Biden." Summer School 2021: Back to the Future? Die USA unter Joe Biden. Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, September 2021, Kaiserslautern (online).



SPECIAL FEATURE

SPECIAL FEATURE

NARRATIVES OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE: THE FUTURE OF WORK IN THE UNITED STATES

BY NATALIE RAUSCHER, HCA

Rolf-Kentner-Dissertation-Prize Winner 2021 (ceremony postponed)

Introduction: Discourses and Narratives of Technological Change

A lot has been written about how technology is going to change the lives of us humans. From the idea of machines taking over the most onerous tasks so we are free to lead a life of leisure to the robot apocalypse – both these positive and rather gloomy narratives have always been very much part of the discourse around technological progress. The new – digital – millennium now once again has offered us technologies that we have not deemed possible only a few years ago. Everyone now walks around with a powerful mini computer in their pockets, and we are connected on a worldwide scale like never before – we have truly become a ‘network society’ (Castells 2010). This has led to profound changes in our personal and working lives. Therefore, the term ‘future of work’ is now connected both with optimistic outlooks for the future as well as fatalistic ideas of mass-scale technological unemployment. Once again, we see contradictory narratives around technological change. Since the very invention of the machine and especially during times of crisis, alarming news of machines taking over our jobs and crowding out human labor have been widespread and recurring. On the other hand, there is no denying that technology has brought enormous welfare effects which have benefitted everyone in the long run.

I have already mentioned ‘narrative’ and ‘discourse’ around technological change quite a few times without actually explaining what they are and why it is worthwhile studying them. To put it in simple terms, discourses are units of language above the sentence level. However, there are multiple definitions of the term, even inside linguistics, for example seeing discourse as a practice, a way of talking and thinking about a subject by a certain community. (McEnery and Hardie 2012: 133f) We study discourses not “to find out about ‘the real world’, but rather to find out how ‘the real world’ is talked about.” (McEnery and Hardie 2012: 135) What I study in my work is also connected to the economist Robert Shiller’s idea of *economic narratives*. (Shiller 2018) Economic narratives can offer “an explanation about how things work in the economy, and affects how people think about the justification or purpose of economic actions. The narrative may imply something about the way the world works.” (Shiller 2018: 87)

Transferring these ideas to my own research, I am not investigating how technological change comes about but rather how it is reflected in political and public discourse and expressed through

language. But why should we be interested in studying language and discourse in this regard at all? In my work, I show that although technological progress often seems to be out of the control of humans, proceeding on an inevitable path, this is not really the case and that especially those narratives that we associate with technological progress have a strong impact on how technological change progresses and is shaped in our societies. Technological restructuring is driven and organized by humans and wider society and has to be studied including these factors. Narratives around the threat of job loss, technological skepticism, or innovation enthusiasm are all playing a role in how technological change itself proceeds. This means that the discourse around and perception of technological change influence the development of this change. This influence can be seen in the readiness to use certain technologies but also in how political actors are responding to profound technological change, for example through public policy, investment, infrastructure, or research support.

My work investigates public and political discourses around technological change in the United States in the most recent past and identifies the most crucial themes and narratives in this field. A special regard is put on the topics automation, digitization, the platform economy, and the future of work. Only when we know how to characterize these discourses can we make assumptions of how technological change is truly reflected in the wider public and in the political realm, which opportunities and challenges are associated with it, and how these are addressed by different actors. This gives us the basis to understand how society reflects technological change and therefore how it is likely to proceed in the future.

Technological Innovations in the United States and Their Impact on Society and Work

In many regards, the United States are and continue to be an innovative powerhouse. At the same time, American society is struggling with enormous challenges, which include rising inequality in income and wealth. This in turn reveals the country's enormous structural issues, for example in the ageing infrastructure, in the education system, or in the labor market. The profound restructuring processes through technological change are an additional challenge for the United States today.

Yet, when it comes to technological innovation, the U.S. is still envied by the rest of the world. Silicon Valley continues to be a hub of the most influential products and services of recent decades. Whether this will change through the rise of China remains to be seen. Yet, for now, Silicon Valley remains rather unchallenged and is in itself a truly American creation. The 'digital capitalism' of today found a perfect base in the fusion of 'California ideology,' a sense to improve the world, technological optimism, and a sense of business. (Staab 2016:39f) Additionally, Silicon Valley was marked by a combination of unique factors: The "new economy emerged in a given time, the 1990s, a given space, the United States, and around/from specific industries, mainly information technology and finance." (Castells 2010: 127) California is the region of the most revolutionary breakthroughs in information technology – aided in large parts by public investment by the U.S. government. The U.S. economy is enormous in size and important in its international position, rewarding innovations in an investment-friendly environment. Tech-savvy talent from around the

world was and is attracted to the United States. Culturally, entrepreneurialism, individualism, flexibility, and multi-ethnicity were important factors in the new economy developing in Silicon Valley. Institutionally, the restructuring and deregulation of the U.S. economy of the 1980s and 1990s also facilitated the growth of the new economy. (Castells 2010: 148)

Thus, recent Silicon Valley innovations did not come out of nowhere. As indicated before, we now live in a 'network society' which is marked by networks in all key dimensions of social organization and practice. Global systems enhanced by the spread of digital technology have overcome the traditional limitations of networking which is also the basis for the 'new economy.' This new economy is characterized as informational, global, and networked, meaning that "the productivity and competitiveness of units or agents in this economy (be it firms, regions, or nations) fundamentally depend upon their capacity to generate, process, and apply efficiently knowledge-based information." (Castells 2010: 77) 'Global' refers to the fact that "core activities of production, consumption, and circulation, as well as their components (capital, labor, raw materials, management, information, technology, markets) are organized on a global scale, either directly or through a network of linkages between economic agents." (Castells 2010: 77) And 'networked' points to the development that "under the new historical conditions, productivity is generated through and competition is played out in a global network of interaction between business networks." (Castells 2010: 77) Through this development, information and information processing have become crucial factors. (Castells 2010: 78) Information and networks are thus key in what we could also call the 'Second Machine Age' which we have entered through the introduction of computers and digital technology. This new generation of machines is "doing for mental power (...) what the steam engine and its descendants did for muscle power." (Brynjolfsson and McAfee 2014) Machines are now becoming smarter and are increasingly able to perform cognitive tasks, which can be seen in the rise of Artificial Intelligence.

The Internet is certainly at the foundation of today's most successful economic actors, and although it was already developed in the 1960s through massive investment by the U.S. military at the time, it only expanded after its privatization in the 1990s when more user-friendly hard- and software was available. (McAfee and Brynjolfsson 2017: Ch I; Castells 2010:xxv) With the spread of (mobile) Internet, the network effect of this technology becomes even more pronounced. The network effect basically means that the "greater the diversity of messages and participants, the higher the critical mass in the network, and the higher the value." (Castells 2010: 383) This has become especially interesting for companies like Google, Amazon, or Facebook in recent years, but essentially all digital businesses build networks and take advantage of platforms that build up these networks in new and innovative ways. (Benner et al. 2018: 14) Yet, the network effect of these companies is not uncontroversial. Companies operating in networked markets have a tendency to accumulate massive market power and reap disproportionate market-shares compared to others. Social media platforms like Facebook, sharing economy platforms like Uber, or computer operating systems like Android or iOS come to mind. (Benner et al. 2018: 15) At the same time, some more 'alternative' Internet platform projects still exist – not everything has been hyper capitalized. Projects like Wikipedia or Couchsurfing are examples of the earlier ideas of the Internet when more inclusive, communal, and counter-culture ideas were still rather strong.

The sense that the Internet was a means to give power to the individual and to do good was rather widespread. Famously, the motto of the Google founders had been: Don't be evil. Now Alphabet's motto is: Do the right thing. (Mayer 2016)

Today, we can also see that companies that are part of the so-called sharing economy try to make a connection to these earlier ideas:

There is a strong historical and global connection between the emergence of peer-to-peer platforms and a widespread feeling that the new technology-enabled practices these platforms allow for, empower people. (...) This explains why file sharing, open source software, distributed computing, crowdfunding, p2p lending, bitcoin, and sometimes even social media, are quite often put under the umbrella term of the sharing economy. (Frenken and Schor 2017: 2)

However, many firms of the sharing economy such as Airbnb or Uber have somewhat abandoned altruistic sharing ideas and moved on to more commercial uses on a global scale. Additionally, these companies are now often connected to controversial effects on established structures like employment, transportation, the housing market, tax collection, or environmental issues.

Only a few years ago, however, the sharing economy was seen as something rather positive. It seemed that people had an alternative way of consumption at hand that offered exchanges between empowered peers on a digital marketplace while also doing something for the environment. Rarely used skills or items were now 'assets' that you could use to easily earn some money and act sustainably. What was not to like?

Yet, these earlier narratives around alternativeness have largely disappeared. They have been replaced with an emphasis on entrepreneurship and economic opportunity in the sharing economy, meaning that with the easy access and digital infrastructure everyone can become an entrepreneur, working whenever and wherever it suits them best. The reality, however, is often something very different. So-called micro-entrepreneurs are working on an independent basis on digital platforms without access to the social benefits associated with employment in the United States, for example health care or unemployment insurance. Additionally, these independent gig workers are often facing low pay despite claims to the contrary. Although the group of workers solely working on digital platforms is rather small, there seems to be a growing number of independent workers in the United States more generally and the number of 'supplementers' is growing as well, that is those who are looking for work on top of their steady employment and are therefore engaging in gig work. (MBOpartners 2019; Bernhardt and Thomason 2017)

This development can be seen as part of technological progress in recent years. The future of work for many might look much more diverse than it used to be and (digital) independent work will be a part of it. Automation and digitization are further accelerating the trend towards a more diverse workforce, with digital platforms and the Internet being crucial factors in facilitating a switch to a more independent workforce where possible. Even in the boom industries of Silicon

Valley itself, there is a growing contracted workforce, and wages have been stagnant for many. (Benner et al. 2018: 4f; Bergen and Eidelson 2018) For most people who are not considered the ‘superstars’ in their sector, wages are stagnant, and good jobs are harder to come by. At the same time, the middle class is increasingly hollowed out, especially since this segment of the population has seen virtually no wage increases since the 1970s when productivity gains and wages began to divert more and more. (Davidson 2013)

Examining Discourses

But how is the public and the political realm perceiving and discussing the developments of technological change and the future of work? Discourses and narratives can illuminate this question. In my work, I look at different specific issues such as automation, digitization, and the platform economy. Drawing from corpus linguistic methods, I examined textual corpora of several million words (tokens).¹ (Table 1) When working with textual data, it is important to stress that language is not just any kind of data. Language works on many different levels and is much more than just an exchange of information. Ideology or political stances are often expressed implicitly in language by using historical allusions, certain examples, metaphors, comparisons, or positioning a topic in a broader narrative. Therefore, the study of textual corpora always calls for deep engagement with the texts.

In the following, I will showcase some of the results of my discourse analysis with a special regard to the sharing economy.

Table 1 Textual Corpora

	Number of Hearings/Articles	Total Size of Corpus (tokens)
Congressional Corpora	241	8,953,956
Liberal Media Corpus	4701	5,297,270
Wall Street Journal Corpus	1965	7,744,157

Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, I was able to examine the texts in a number of ways, for example looking at the frequency of certain terms in the different corpora and across several years. Additionally, I was able to compute so-called collocates, which you can see in Tables 2 to 7. Collocations are “combination of words that habitually co-occur in texts and corpora” (Brezina 2018: 67), and they give a first indication of the context a term is discussed in.

In a second step, the texts were investigated qualitatively using close-reading.² Thus, I could identify the most crucial themes around certain topics in the discourse – in this case, the digital

¹These corpora were based on congressional hearings from the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, as well as journalistic articles from the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* (Liberal Media), and the *Wall Street Journal* between 2013 and 2017.

²In this text, I will only showcase parts of the quantitative discourse analysis due to space constraints.

platform economy. I highlighted some of the more interesting collocates in the tables, showcasing some themes I could identify around the sharing and gig economy.

While investigating public and political discourses around the sharing economy I could see that early narratives of sustainability and alternativeness were often replaced by an emphasis on economic opportunity and entrepreneurship. With a change in perspective from the very positive outlook of the early days, there was also a shift in language. Often, when the more problematic aspects of the sharing economy platforms were discussed, the term gig economy was used.

In the first set of tables (Tables 2 and 3), we see the terms sharing and gig economy in the data from the House of Representatives. One of the strongest collocates here is *taxing*, showing that the sharing economy is frequently discussed around taxing issues for small business in the House of Representatives. There were several hearings dedicated to this topic specifically. *Entrepreneurs* is another collocate here. Both show that the sharing economy is often discussed as an easy way for everyone to become a (micro-) entrepreneur (filing your taxes then becomes a more complicated task). This is clearly a sign of the sharing economy being discussed in economic opportunity aspects. Yet, 'alternative' ideas are also present, indicated by the collocate *peer-to-peer*. The term gig economy is strongly associated with *millennials* and their lifestyle. Additionally, several collocates stem from a labor context: *employees*, *workers*, *protections*. *Consumers* is another collocate in the material from the House of Representatives. The welfare effects for consumers through the rise of digital platforms is frequently discussed by political actors of all sides.

Table 2 House: Collocation Graph of Sharing Economy, MI ≥ 5 , minimum collocate frequency 5

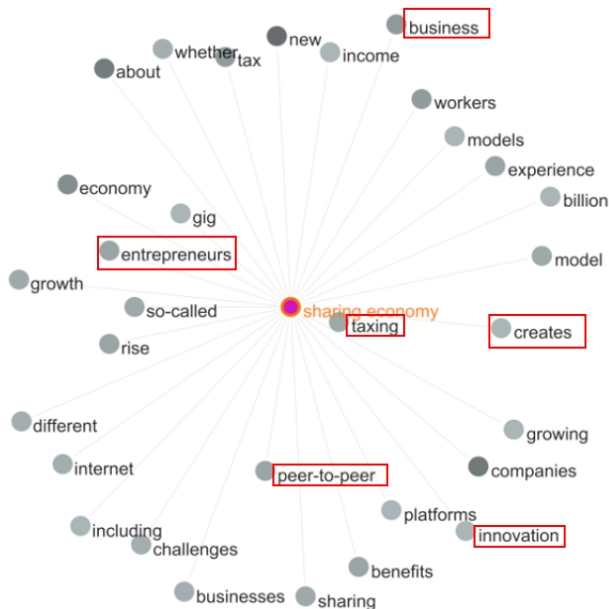
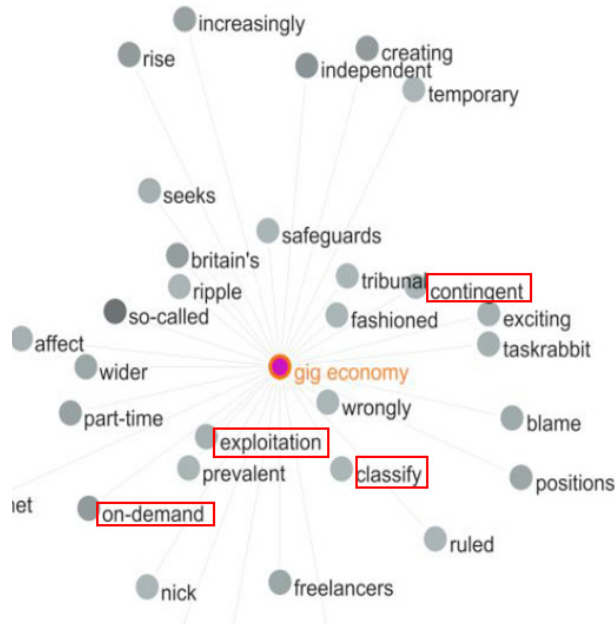


Table 5 Libera Media: Collocation Graph of Gig Economy, $M \geq 7$, minimum collocate frequency 5

Looking at the collocates for sharing and gig economy in the liberal media material from the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* (Table 4 and 5), it becomes apparent that in regard to the sharing economy, the sense of a positive alternativeness is often stressed. This can be seen in the use of *anti-commercial*, *peer-to-peer*, *enhance*. Yet, the collocates of the sharing economy also point to a more nuanced understanding of the innovations as being disruptors or struggling with discrimination. The gig economy is clearly associated with some more negative topics, as can be seen in the collocate *exploitation*, *contingent*, *classify* (referring to misclassification issues in the gig economy). Yet, even here we see *opportunities* as a collocate, once again stressing the economic opportunity aspect of digital platforms as well.

With the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) material (Table 6 and 7), the sharing and gig economy are discussed in a more narrow sense. First of all, we see fewer collocates here. But they are also more neutral. The *Wall Street Journal* spends less time discussing possible problematic issues of the digital platforms, for example concerning labor. Yet, it is stressing quite significantly the economic opportunity aspect as well as the innovative nature of digital platforms, indicated by the collocates *pioneered*, *free*, or *start-up*. The platforms *uber* and *taskrabbit* also appear as a collocate. As one of the best-known *ride-sharing* platforms of the *so-called* sharing economy, Uber is frequently discussed either as an example of the opportunities it offers but in the context of the WSJ also as a company that is frequently assailed with legal challenges. Although this is not apparent from merely looking at the collocates, the WSJ discusses quite at length the different 'attacks' facing sharing and gig economy businesses, either from the legal side (litigation because of possible misclassification of workers) or organized labor unions. The collocates *shackling* and *lawsuits* are indicating these topics, stressing that the WSJ sees digital platforms 'shackled' by overzealous regulators and politically liberal actors who are jeopardizing the platform business model and thereby curbing economic freedom and opportunity.

Table 6 WSJ: Collocation Graph of Sharing Economy $MI \geq 5$, minimum collocate frequency 5

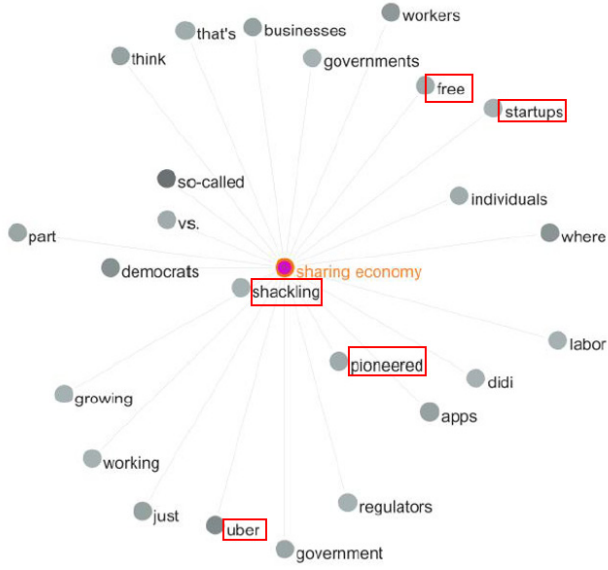
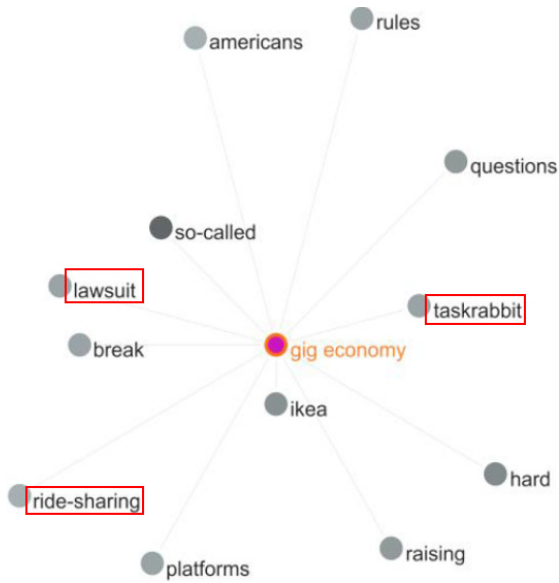


Table 7 WSJ: Collocation Graph of Gig Economy, $MI \geq 7$, minimum collocate frequency 3



This is just a short example of how I approached the study of discourses around technological change in the United States in my work. The discourses around this topic are very broad and detailed, and both media outlets as well as political actors are discussing and reflecting the different aspects of technological change in a number of ways. Therefore, a close reading of the texts also produces many insights that a mere quantitative analysis cannot deliver. The sheer size of the investigated data that is several million words strong indicates that technological restructuring processes are not only changing the economy and production, but that many different sectors as well as the whole of society is caught up in this development.

Generally, I could observe that regardless of political side or ideology, the 'traditional' narrative around technological change persists. Indeed, there might be crowding out effects on human labor through technology – as it has always been the case – but eventually, new and better jobs will be created, and society as a whole will certainly benefit. Moreover, human labor has never been totally replaced. When this idea is expressed, the texts often include historical allusions to the Luddites of the nineteenth century who tried to destroy those machines that threatened their livelihood. The eventual downfall of the Luddite riots is used in today's discourse to show that resistance and opposition to technological progress is eventually futile. Technology will develop whether people want it or not – so the narrative goes.

But are these historical allusions still valid today? The discourse around technological change in the United States reflects a certain belief that human labor will never fully disappear. Although there are stories to be found on the threat of technological unemployment, the discourse reflects other topics much more intensely. For once, technology is seen as a way to create new jobs and opportunities, as well as welfare effects, especially for consumers. On the more business-friendly and conservative side of the public and political discourse, actors are first and foremost stressing this part of the narrative. Yet, although it is unlikely that human labor will completely disappear, there will certainly be challenges for a future workforce in a more digitally advanced world, and it is questionable if the majority of today's workers in the United States is prepared for this future, especially because structural problems on the labor market such as low labor force participation or underemployment are already apparent today.

Here, the liberal or progressive side of the discourse is reflecting more intensively the challenges of the future. One focus is the growing independent and diverse workforce, for example through digital platforms that are often engaged in precarious work environments. Although these new jobs also offer more flexibility for workers, which is often desired, these new types of work are also challenging. Many work for less than the minimum wage, face wage theft or volatile income, have no access to social benefits such as health care, social security, retirement plans, or unemployment insurance, and are possibly even crowding out other full-time employment. This is a development that is not only concerning for the United States but could possibly become a challenge in other countries as well. Although European welfare states are offering an easier access to support and benefits, especially health care, the independent workforce is also growing in places like Germany, and for this part of the labor force social benefit structures are not as established as for the employed. Additionally, technological change leads to a more pronounced

polarization of winners and losers on the labor market with ‘superstars’ being able to earn much more than everyone else.

That is why a crucial focus of the discourse around technological change and the future of work in the United States is the creation of ‘good jobs’ – now and in the future – which deliver decent pay, a career path, social benefits, and affordable health care access. In this context, different ideas and reforms are discussed. For example, access to better and higher education in response to technological restructuring processes is discussed intensively. Additionally, an upgrade to the aging infrastructure of the U.S. is seen as something crucial which has been discussed for decades. At the time of writing the initial work it was not yet clear that an infrastructure reform would be achievable, but the Biden Administration has now passed a bill that will also address crucial challenges of the digital infrastructure of the United States. Apart from that, there are other ideas that are discussed, such as making the social benefits system more portable – a first step in this direction was the Affordable Care Act or what we call Obamacare. On the more ‘extreme’ end of the reform spectrum, some political and public actors even discuss the Universal Basic Income as an idea of a more technologically advanced future in which not everyone might find a decent job to live on anymore. Interestingly, the Universal Basic Income is discussed by quite a unique mixture of tech entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley who might have grown uncomfortable with the effect their own innovations have on the labor market, conservative or libertarian thinkers who see it as a substitute for the costly social security system in the United States, and politically liberal politicians on the Democratic side.

But with the discussions around the Universal Basic Income as a possible answer to a more digitally advanced future it becomes clear that the U.S. has not yet found a way to coherently address the challenges ahead. Although no partisan side really doubts that technological progress is necessary and overall beneficial, crucial questions about a more digitally advanced economy remain unanswered, especially concerning the market size and power of new economy businesses, taxation of these actors, or their impact on the labor market. Democratic actors in particular are torn between supporting innovation and regulating the market more intensively – especially given the fact that Silicon Valley is mostly on board for liberal or progressive social reform projects. Republicans could theoretically be more closely aligned with Silicon Valley and Big Tech when it comes to economic policy, as they traditionally favor deregulation and low taxes. Here, the opposition seems to be more cultural and political.

Conclusion

Discourses on technological change in the United States give us the opportunity to reflect on the challenges a more digitally advanced future will hold. As a response to this future, education and adequate training are often still seen as the most central step to give more people the opportunity to participate in the labor market of the future. And this is certainly very necessary. But even this path might not be so easily attainable anymore. Today, many high-paying jobs already demand a specific level of education that exceeds a four-year college degree. Yet, access to higher education in the U.S. remains problematic, especially because of the high costs. Additionally,

those people whose jobs will be replaced by technology are seldom the same people going on to achieve high academic merits. And the sheer pace of technological restructuring today might make it necessary to address the replacement of work for many people at the same time. This might lead to challenges in the established welfare state systems, not only in the United States but in all developed economies of the West. Especially innovations like Artificial Intelligence are identified already as a rapid accelerator for this development. At the same time, current members of the workforce already face profound changes to work and employment. The growth of the independent workforce is showing that a more diverse labor force and different ways of working will also be part of the future of work, fueled through further automation and the rise of the platform economy. This will raise a set of additional challenges for the labor market and welfare state systems in the future.

Today, we already see that political forces who are opposing the traditions and norms of the established political system are gaining support in the United States and elsewhere. Many people have the feeling that established politicians are not really representing their interests anymore and that they are no longer in control over the impact of globalization and technological restructuring on their own lives. This also becomes clear in the discourses I investigated in my work. Often, they are torn between optimism and a belief in the good innovations can bring, and profound concerns of what the future might hold with technologies like advanced robotics, opaque algorithms, or Artificial Intelligence gaining more and more ground. No matter whether you are part of the tech-optimists or the 'Luddite' thinkers, such narratives around technological change are significant because they influence our own behavior and therefore societal development more generally. Therefore, my work adds to our understanding of the role of discourses and narratives around technological change that helps us understand how people make sense of technological progress and how narratives and discourses can be used both constructively and destructively in the political realm and public debate.

Generally, a wait-and-see attitude towards technological progress as well as emphasizing the 'traditional' narrative of general long-term welfare effects of technology and globalized trade seem to be inadequate to truly address the fears and concerns of many today, especially because the economic participation of Americans is already under pressure and the hyper polarized climate in the US does not point in the direction of coordinated and coherent efforts to truly find answers to the challenges of the future.

If you would like to read the study in more detail, please see Natalie Rauscher's book *The Future of Work in the United States: Discourses on Automation and the Platform Economy* (Springer).

References

- Benner, Chris, Gabriela Giusta, Louise Auerhahn, Bob Brownstein, and Jeffrey Buchanan. 2018. *Still Walking the Lifelong Tightrope: Technology, Insecurity and the Future of Work*. Everett Program, Working Partnerships USA.
- Bergen, Mark, and Josh Eidelson. 2018. "Inside Google's Shadow Workforce." Bloomberg. Accessed Dec 11, 2018. https://www.bloomberg.com/amp/news/articles/2018-07-25/inside-google-s-shadow-workforce?__twitter_impression=true.
- Bernhardt, Annette, and Sarah Thomason. 2017. *What Do We Know About Gig Work in California? An Analysis of Independent Contracting*. UC Berkeley Labor Center, UC Berkeley Center for Labor and Education (Berkeley, CA).
- Brezina, Vaclav. 2018. *Statistics in Corpus Linguistics. A Practical Guide*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Brynjolfsson, Erik, and Andrew McAfee. 2014. *The Second Machine Age: Work, Progress, and Prosperity in a Time of Brilliant Technologies*. New York, London: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Castells, Manuel. 2010. *The Rise of the Network Society. Second Edition ed. 3 vols. Vol. I. The Information Age: Economy, Society, and Culture*. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Davidson, Paul. 2013. "Income inequality and hollowing out the middle class." *Journal of Post Keynesian Economics* 36 (2): 381-384. <https://doi.org/10.2753/pke0160-3477360209>.
- Frenken, Koen, and Juliet Schor. 2017. "Putting the sharing economy into perspective " *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*
- Mayer, David. 2016. "Why Google Was Smart To Drop Its "Don't Be Evil" Motto." *The Future of Work*. Fast Company. <https://www.fastcompany.com/3056389/why-google-was-smart-to-drop-its-dont-be-evil-motto>.
- MBOpartners. 2019. *The State of Independence in America: The Changing Nature of the American Workforce*. (Herndon, VA).
- McAfee, Andrew, and Erik Brynjolfsson. 2017. *Machine, Platform, Crowd: Harnessing Our Digital Future*. Vol. Kindle Version. New York Norton and Company
- McEney, Tony, and Andrew Hardie. 2012. *Corpus Linguistics: Method, Theory and Practice*. Kindle Edition ed. Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Shiller, Robert J. 2018. *Narrative Economics: How Stories Go Viral & Drive Major Economic Events*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Staab, Philipp. 2016. *Falsche Versprechen: Wachstum im digitalen Kapitalismus. Kleine Reihe*. Hamburg: Hamburger Edition HIS Verlag.



A FORUM FOR PUBLIC DEBATE

A FORUM FOR PUBLIC DEBATE

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

Events in the HCA Forum present new research and current issues in the field of American Studies. Since 2007, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar is the signature lecture series of the HCA. In 2020, the HCA launched its podcast "Corona in den USA," renamed "Quo Vadis USA?" a year later. In addition, the HCA invites the public to debates, panel discussions, book launches, and exhibits.

"QUO VADIS USA?" - THE PODCAST OF THE HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020 forced the HCA to cancel all public events. Remaining true to its long-standing commitment to further the dialogue between academia and the public, the HCA launched the podcast "Corona in den USA" on April 30. One year later, we renamed our podcast "Quo Vadis USA?" Every other week, it takes a look at American society, politics, business, culture, and academia. The HCA podcast provides a forum for scholars and other experts on the United States to discuss these issues from the perspective of their respective discipline and to share their research findings with the public. Anja Schüler and Welf Werner make up the editorial team, and Anja Schüler is hosting most episodes. Julian Kramer continues to provide superb technical support. Thomas Steinbrunner composed the audio logo. Special thanks go to the Jacob-Gould-Schurman Foundation for funding this project. Listen to the HCA podcast on our website, Apple Podcasts, or Spotify.

In the first podcast after the initial 2020 election analysis, Anja Schüler talked to Sarah Wagner, the Education Manager at the Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz and an expert on the Democratic Party. She contended that it had learned from its mistakes after the 2016 election. It grew stronger from within, uniting on a common narrative and a joint mission: to prevent Donald Trump's re-election. However, she predicted that following Joe Biden's victory, internal party conflicts will bubble back to the surface and cited Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez: "In any other country, Joe Biden and I would not be in the same party but in America we are." Sarah Wagner presented a number of the party's "shooting stars," that, apart from Kamala Harris, who has already been closely observed by the media, give hope for the future. Candidates like Cori Bush, the first Black representative from Missouri, who has experienced homelessness and domestic abuse, are important figures to appeal to the party's diverse voter base. The Democratic Party differs greatly from the Republican Party in its political agenda but also in its voter base. Women,

African Americans, higher educated as well as religiously unaffiliated people form the Democrats' core voter groups. The gender gap became particularly visible in this year's election, even though numbers starkly varied between Black and white women. The Democratic voter base is thus much more heterogeneous than the Republican. Democrats must appeal to their voters more individually. This means, for example, that Latino votes cannot be secured by simply appealing to these voters emotionally with a topic like migration but by also considering economic needs and religious views. Sarah Wagner also pointed to flaws in the American voting system and especially the so-called "doom loop of Democracy," a situation in which Republicans still have enough power to uphold the system and enforce restrictive voting rights while their voter base shrinks. For Democrats, this means that they have to appeal continually, not only before elections, to secure their political base in the future.

In the following week, political scientist Philipp Adorf (University of Bonn) came on the HCA podcast to talk about the future of the Republican Party and Trumpism in particular. Although Trump had been the first president in three decades that did not secure a second term, Philipp Adorf did not consider this result as a big surprise, as Republicans had struggled to achieve the majority in the popular vote for some time now. He was much more worried about considerable efforts by local Republican politicians to discredit the election. Trump had pointed to voter fraud as a credible threat from the day he took office, even if evidence was lacking. Philipp Adorf also considered a Trump candidacy in 2024 unlikely – as a political outsider, he had much more leeway to criticize and judge his successor. However, considering the Republican congressional backing Trump had received and his popularity among voters, it would be difficult for the Republican Party not to support him if he decided to run again. Turning to the question of Trumpism, Philipp Adorf explained that features such as anti-elitism and migrant favoritism had been prominent in the Republican Party before Trump's candidacy. Trump, therefore, had added to this ideology but mostly built on existing structures. Hence, Trumpism would remain a significant force even without a President Trump, since Republicans realize this was a successful strategy. Christian conservative voters especially reacted to this ideology because of status fear and a perceived loss of Christian values in American society. Dr. Adorf highlighted that even though Trump did not represent these values himself, his promise to uphold and enforce them had convinced many Christian conservative voters. In closing, the political scientist deemed it unlikely that another Republican politician would take Trump's place. While several established politicians had a similar populist stance, they all lacked Trump's outsider status that had been a significant factor for his voters. Equally, it was unlikely that Trump's children would aspire to a bigger political role in the future, lacking notoriety and perhaps even aspiration to do so.

Four weeks after the U.S. presidential elections, Reinhard Wolf, professor for international relations at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, offers his insights into Joe Biden's cabinet, international relations, and changed American attitudes towards climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic. The president-elect's choice of cabinet members so far gives hope for the following four years; with Antony Blinken, an experienced diplomat enters the post of foreign secretary. We can assume, contended Professor Wolf, that the Biden administration will move back into international relations and have a strong focus on multilateralism. Joe Biden has announced to rejoin the

Paris Climate Agreement upon his inauguration on January 20, 2021 and re-enter the WHO. Several conditions, however, might exacerbate this course: as the new administration might pick up bilateral relations with China again, it will be challenging to return to the status quo before Trump while remaining respectable in the world and in line with human rights ideals. Climate protection will remain a battleground vis-a-vis Congress; the American economy and the Supreme Court might also prove to be obstacles to reaching ambitious climate goals quickly, as will be Trump's inevitable Twitter posts that will keep influencing public opinion even after his presidency. However, Joe Biden took an essential first step in putting climate change up on his agenda and assigning the newly created post of climate representative to John Kerry. The Covid-19 pandemic remains an important policy topic. Professor Wolf assumed that much of the United States' negative image in the world in reaction to fighting the pandemic correlates with President Trump's inadequacy to grasp the severity of the situation and taking adequate measures.

"Mask Force Volunteers at Grand Central-42 St on Thu., February 25, 2021. City Council Member Keith Powers."
(Marc A. Hermann / MTA New York City Transit). <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mtaphotos/50980687301/>, via CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=102276622>.



For the twenty-ninth episode of "Corona in the USA," Axel Jansen, the deputy director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., joined Anja Schöler for an update life during the Covid-19 pandemic in the United States. While the country continued to experience a large numbers of new infections every day, the overall infection rate seemed to stagnate. This pattern, however, did not necessarily signify a positive change, as many hospitals would soon reach the maximum capacity of available beds. Many states therefore continued to enforce curfews and keep schools closed. After outbreaks had first clustered in heavily populated urban areas where people were very mobile, rural areas now saw dramatic infection rate spikes. On the one hand, this is due to the reluctance to enforce mask mandates. Simultaneously, some rural counties allowed big gatherings, and college students returning to universities triggered super spreader events. In comparison, cities like Washington, D.C., enforced a series of measures to limit exposure and contact in restaurants and private homes. Likewise, urban areas' residents overwhelmingly supported scientific findings, therefore adhering to measures more or less voluntarily, reported Dr. Jansen. Like most offices in the American capital, the German Historical Institute as well had switched completely to home office, which would remain the case for the foreseeable

future. Considering that the White House had been at the heart of numerous outbreaks, wearing masks in public remained a controversial issue in the city. President Donald Trump in particular continued to encourage his supporters not to adhere to health and safety measures. On the other hand, President-elect Joe Biden's new task force received much attention since it needs to secure Republican support. Finally, Anja Schüler and her guest pondered a future vaccination campaign, much of which depended on the new Surgeon General. At this point it remained unclear whether vaccination would be mandatory or voluntary and when and how sufficient safe vaccines would become available.

In the following podcast, HCA Director Welf Werner and his guest Carsten Brzeski, an economist at ING Bank and a new member of the HCA board of directors, discussed economic strategies of the new U.S. administration. Joe Biden had assigned three female economists to key positions in his cabinet, unusual decisions in a still male-dominated field. With Janet Yellen, Biden chose a nationally and internationally respected economist as Secretary of the Treasury with great potential to pull the U.S. economy from its current crisis and bring extensive stimulus packages underway. As the United States repealed some of its lockdown measures in the third quarter of 2020, the economy quickly recovered within only a few weeks. However, as the Covid-19 pandemic continues, experts are discussing the possibility of new lockdowns over Thanksgiving. This would result in another setback for the U.S. economy and could potentially lead to another bankruptcy wave, particularly in the restaurant and hotel industry. Both the podcast host and his guest agreed that the federal government must take measures to fight back unemployment, poverty, and inequality. However, redistribution is not an easy task in a nation that has historically been critical towards such state intervention. Once again, hopes rest on Janet Yellen here. She had already taken on fighting inequality as vice chair of the Federal Reserve between 2010 and 2014 and is, contrary to Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders, no outsider to the U.S. financial markets. Welf Werner and Carsten Brzeski also discussed the role of the Fed that had acted so swiftly and powerfully during the 2008-2009 financial crisis. Even though the economic crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic posed different problems, the Fed could fulfill its constitutional role as "lender of last resort," calm markets, and assure liquidity. Fiscal and monetary policy reactions to the crisis had been different in the U.S. and Europe. The United States government directly compensated part of workers' loss of income through financial payments that accounted for about ten per cent of the nation's GDP. On the other hand, Germany relied on government-financed credits that guaranteed banks could continue lending money to struggling companies. The ability to deal with the crisis varied across Europe, but the past months had been a steep learning curve for the United States and Germany alike. Carsten Brzeski agreed that the Biden administration's reaction to the pandemic and a potential increase in lockdown and protective measures might lead to another economic setback. However, he suggested that stimulus programs will boost the economy on both sides of the Atlantic in the summer of 2021.

For the last episode of "Corona in the USA" in 2020, Anja Schüler and historian Hedwig Richter of the Bundeswehrhochschule München looked back on a turbulent year. Professor Richter, whose work focuses, among other things, on elections in the nineteenth century, first put the 2020 U.S. elections into perspective. During the nineteenth century, voter manipulation and

voter fraud were widespread in the United States. Consequently, reformers began to push for anonymous and uniform ballots at the turn of the century. Compared to Germany, American bureaucracy was still weak at that time, which enabled manipulating voters and elections. Although voter fraud had become a lot more complicated by 2020, it remained a disputed issue. While this was partly a result of a cumbersome democratic structure, it also represented a crisis of legitimacy. Systems like the electoral college and a long transition period between administrations had historical justifications. Yet, contended Hedwig Richter, such antiquated systems were mere traditional tokens that posed a serious issues to modern society. Sadly, there was currently no widespread movement among politicians to reform the electoral process, which might also be due to American exceptionalism. One only had to consider how American society responded to the Covid-19 pandemic to see Exceptionalism's destructive power and its detrimental effect on the capacity for self-reflection. Despite such regressive tendencies, Hedwig Richter was optimistic that American democracy would remain in place and eventually adapt to the twenty-first century.

"2021 Storming of the United States Capitol 09" (Tyler Merbler). <https://www.flickr.com/photos/37527185@N05/50812356151/>, via CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=98637757>.



The new year came in with some harrowing events. On January 6, 2021, a mob of Trump supporters attacked the United States Capitol in an attempt to disrupt a meeting that would have confirmed Joe Biden's election as forty-sixth president of the United States. At the end of the day, five people were dead and dozens injured. This called for a special edition of the HCA podcast. According to Manfred Berg, Curt Engelhorn Professor at the History Department at Heidelberg University, Donald Trump had actively attempted a coup, comparable to Mussolini's March on Rome in 1922, when he had called on his voters to march on the Capitol to challenge the election results. His excuses following the riots seemed ridiculous, and video material from a rally held before the events unfolded revealed his true intentions. More and more people, also within the Republican Party, are now demanding (another) impeachment or the invocation of Article 25 of the U.S. Constitution. Professor Berg pointed out that these procedures require a two-thirds majority and are incredibly time-consuming; yet, he is certain that Donald Trump should be

disqualified for all future political offices through impeachment or a criminal trial. He explained that what culminated in the Capitol attacks resulted from a long political process that began in the 1990s with the so-called Republican Revolution under Newt Gingrich. It has led to a growing radicalization of the Republican Party. Today, the GOP faces the decision to return to its original role as a conservative party or permanently become an extremist party. Separation within the party is possible and seems almost inevitable, but it remains uncertain if a third party could survive within America's two-party system. American democracy has been in descent for some time, and the events in Washington, D.C., did not help re-establish its reputation in the world. On the contrary, they offered authoritarian rulers an excuse to criticize Democratic ideas even more. Manfred Berg proposed a constitutional reform to stop events like this from happening in the future – yet, institutional barriers seem too high to achieve this.

In the thirty-third episode of "Corona in the USA," Anja Schüler and Martin Thunert, the senior lecturer political science at the HCA, reflected on current events, analyzing the march on the Capitol as well as the new administration. Martin Thunert started the conversation by emphasizing Donald Trump's unique position as the only president in American history who might face impeachment twice. Yet, although some Republicans supported this measure, the majority remained loyal to the outgoing president. Furthermore, Democrats had to balance such an impeachment with their political goals that had to pass a Senate in which Republicans still held considerable influence. After all, the party could employ measures other than impeachment to hinder Trump from running for office again, Martin Thunert explained – a civil court case might yield a similar result. Yet, how a divided American public would react to such measures remained questionable. While many expected Biden to unify America, Martin Thunert pointed out that the Democrats were just as eager to push their political agenda, seeing they currently held the majority in both Senate and Congress. However, this marginal Democratic majority did not guarantee that there would be no political obstacles for the Biden administration, as increasing polarization between Democrats and Republicans made winning the support of moderate Republicans' support difficult if not unlikely. One could perhaps expect unity between the two parties concerning anti-Corona measures, which Thunert believed would be Biden's top priority. But bi-partisanship was less likely considering other issues such as the regulation of big-tech companies or climate protection, both of which are controversial even within the Democratic Party. Thus, securing bi-partisan and uniting American as a whole would remain an enormous challenge for the coming administration. In closing, Anja Schüler asked about the future of the Republican Party. Her guest doubted that it would return to a pre-Trump identity, as many Republicans wanted to continue on the political path Trump had taken. Who could take Trump's place was impossible to say as American politics often took surprising turns.

On the evening preceding his inauguration, president-elect Joe Biden, vice president-elect Kamala Harris and their partners commemorated the more than 400,000 people who had died from Covid-19 since March 2020. Acknowledging the toll the pandemic had taken was significant for a nation that had yet to see a respectful and responsible reaction to the current crisis. The anti-pandemic measures of the new administration were the topic of the next episode of the "Corona in den USA," for which Anja Schüler welcomed Sarah Wagner from the Atlantische Akademie

Rheinland-Pfalz. Immediately after taking office, the new American president implemented some legislative measures via executive order that he had presented in a seven points-plan during his campaign. Among other things, he pledged that 200 million Americans would receive their Covid vaccinations in the first 100 days of his presidency. To facilitate those measures and support ambitious plans such as installing vaccination centers nation-wide, Biden put together an advisory board with experts who had been assisting Barack Obama to implement the Affordable Care Act. However, the Biden administration faces administrative, organizational, communicational, and political challenges. Ultimately, Sarah Wagner contended, getting his Covid-19 legislative package through Congress will prove more challenging than signing executive orders, not least since the Senate is occupied with the pending impeachment of Donald Trump and with affirming Joe Biden's cabinet. An effective vaccination campaign demands a sound infrastructure and a large medical workforce. Besides, many Americans might not be willing to receive their shot, not the least due to conflicting, unreliable media coverage on the topic. African Americans in particular are skeptical about receiving the Covid-19 vaccination because of their negative experiences with the American medical system in the past. At this point, the fate of the vaccination campaign seemed uncertain. However, the podcast host and her guest agreed, if Joe Biden succeeded in battling the virus, it might ease the deep current polarization between Republicans and Democrats

The Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, Vice President Kamala Harris, First Lady Jill Biden, and President Joe Biden on Inauguration Day. "V20210120LJ-0376", (Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson). <https://www.flickr.com/photos/whitehouse/50911774223/>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=99605272>.



For the thirty-fifth episode of the HCA podcast "Corona in the USA," Anja Schüler was joined by Tom Dubois, mayor of Palo Alto, California, and Eckart Würzner, mayor of Heidelberg, for a conversation about how the sister cities responded and continue to react to the Covid-19 pandemic. Both mayors highlighted how their city administrations had early on responded to the pandemic by issuing stay-at-home orders and enforcing working from home policies. Likewise, administrators on both sides of the Atlantic had faced the issue of closing schools and other child-care facilities more than once, with both cities currently living through another full lockdown. Likewise, the closing-down of Stanford University and Heidelberg University lead to an absence of their respective student and university populations – in both cases, a loss of around 30.000 thousand residents. As a result, both cities experienced large budget losses and soon had to deal with a struggling local economy. While Heidelberg provided financial aid to small businesses, increased marketing the local economy, and created incentives for citizens to buy locally, Palo Alto took a

different approach. Mayor Dubois explained how throughout 2020 and continuing into 2021, the city carefully organized and scheduled periods of opening and closing in response to local businesses' needs. Utilizing their Citizens' Council and various neighborhood initiatives, city management not only remained in touch with frontline works and small companies, though. They further established and maintained regular and detailed communication with their residents. Consequently, administrative bodies had digitalized more of their services and proceedings, which, Eckart Würzner and Tom Dubois agreed, significantly impacted their respective city planning. Now installing broadband and dealing with empty office space were at the top of the Palo Alto priority lists. Mayor Würzner described how his city balanced staying in touch with residents by digital and non-digital means. In closing, both politicians discussed their cities' respective vaccination campaigns. Since they were dependent on different state structures, it was not in their power, as both admitted, to vaccinate their populations at the pace they desired. Nevertheless, this conversation highlighted the immense efforts currently undertaken by city administrators on both sides of the Atlantic.

For episode thirty-six of the HCA podcast, Anja Schüler welcomed Cosima Werner of the Department of Geography at Heidelberg University, who offered her insights on food insecurity in the United States during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to Cosima Werner, the pandemic had never resulted in a food shortage in American supermarkets. However, the crisis left many American families in despair. Workers in the service and entertainment industry suddenly lost their jobs. As they were usually not eligible for unemployment benefits, they could no longer support their families with basic necessities. Ethnic minorities were hit especially hard: Between fifteen and twenty per cent of African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans are affected by food shortages. The insufficient supply of inner-city supermarkets additionally complicates things. Due to low purchasing power of its populations, inner-cities are not attractive locations for big super market chains which often move to the suburbs. Inner-city residents are often left with convenience stores and gas station shops, where canned and frozen foods and ready-made meals are their only purchasing options. In the long term, an insufficient supply of healthy foods leads to illnesses such as Diabetes Type 2. The government's response to the growing food crisis comes in the form of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that provides food stamps. But for many people, food stamps are more than merely a way to buy food. They are the only subsidy some of the poor receive, and many illegally trade them in for rent or other purchases. Food stamps make up around two per cent of the national budget; on average, they come to around \$ 126 per person per month, with variations between states, state of employment, or number of family members. Unfortunately, Cosima Werner pointed out, this is not merely enough for people to cover their expenses, particularly since grocery prices are rising. She suggested that the program requires a general overhaul and that the Biden Administration must react to the growing food crisis in American cities.

The next episode of the HCA podcast featured Luca Messerschmidt of the Technical University Munich, who explained the roots and trajectories of the transnational data project CoronaNET. Initiated by his colleague Cindy Cheng and himself in collaboration with Professors Robert Kubinec of the New York University in Abu Dhabi and Professor Allison Hartnett of the University of

Southern California, CoronaNET collects global data on policy measures. More specifically, the project collects data and archival sources on subnational and national non-pharmaceutical measures employed to address the spread of Covid-19. Luca Messerschmidt explained that their data pool was not only continually expanding but at the same time continuously revised and checked. Ensuring the data's reliability and accuracy was as essential to their idea as creating a transparent and accessible data pool. This process, however, was often challenging, not the least because governing bodies adapted and revised policies frequently. Especially in the United States, the federal system created large amounts of data that was difficult to assess. Simultaneously, national Corona policies had been mostly absent during the Trump presidency and had only become an issue with the new administration. Yet, federal systems did not always complicate the work of CoronaNET, as the case of Switzerland demonstrated. Here, the national government had declared a state of emergency and consequently taken over responsibilities. How were scientists, governments, or other bodies like the WHO using CoronaNET, asked Anja Schüller. In essence, her guest explained, their project remained independent despite their willingness to share and exchange information with third parties.

Policemen in Seattle wearing masks made by the Red Cross during the influenza epidemic, December 1918. "165-WW-269B-25-police-l restored." Public Domain. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:165-WW-269B-25-police-l.jpg>.



The guest on the following episode of "Corona in den USA" pointed out that global pandemics have posted challenges for many centuries. Andrea Wiegshoff's research currently revolves around the third wave of the pest epidemic in the United States during the nineteenth century. The rat flea was not yet known to be the carrier of the pest pathogen, and American authorities resorted to extremely drastic, racist measures, stigmatized people of Asian descent as the carriers, categorized the pest as an "oriental disease" transmitted mainly by Chinese people, and closed off whole Chinatowns in San Francisco and on Hawaii. At the same time, the diseased white population was treated much differently. Other horrific measures of supposed disease prevention involved the forced vaccination of minorities in San Francisco and the intentional burning of infected peoples' homes in Hawaii, culminating in a major fire that destroyed the Honolulu Chinatown in January 1900. While the use of quarantine to contain the spread of diseases reaches back to medieval times, the scientific basis of this measure was only established in

the nineteenth century with the rise of bacteriology. Before that, authorities prescribed quarantines to people of objectionable morals or based on unwanted origin. The stigmatization of Chinese people during the 1900 pest outbreak was thus followed by years of discrimination and Chinese exclusion, as was the stigmatization of poor, Black people after the Cholera epidemic in the 1930s. This historical knowledge of discrimination reverberated in American society when former president Donald Trump referred to the Covid-19 virus as the "Chinese virus" last year. After this past year of living through a pandemic, we all wonder how they come to an end. Andrea Wiegeshoff here distinguished between the medical end of a pandemic that occurs after most people have been infected and are no longer transmitting the virus, and the loss of social relevance of a pandemic. She advised to question why a pandemic ends and for whom. While HIV today is a disease that can be treated rather well in the global North, it is still a massive problem for societies in the global South, as are disparities in health care and poverty in the global North and South in general.



"Joe Biden and Angela Merkel in the Oval Office." Office of the President of the United States. (Official White House Photo by Adam Schultz). Public Domain. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/whitehouse/51418642229/>; <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?curid=107643063>.

In March 2021, the HCA rebranded its podcast to encompass a broader perspective on the future course of the United States – "Quo Vadis USA?" Anja Schüler and her first guest after the relaunch, Jeffrey Rathke of the Institute of Contemporary German Studies at Johns Hopkins University, discussed new directions in German-American relations. After all, President Biden and Chancellor Merkel had only just recently voiced their mutual interest rebuilding the German-American relationship and transatlantic ties in general. It was important to remember, however, that Biden defined transatlantic relationships not merely as issues about transatlantic space. Any issue could become transatlantic to the Biden administration, which aspired to cooperate more closely with democracies that share American values. Thus, beyond the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change, dealing with Russian and China could become transatlantic issues as well. In this regard, the U.S. was highly interested in cooperating more closely with the E.U., especially in areas of High European Commission responsibility. Focusing more specifically on Germany, Jeffrey Rathke emphasized that the U.S. will likely seek national cooperation to find a joint approach to

Russia and China, allowing for a strong German-American bond while at the same time providing both nations with enough room for policy variations. Regrettably, the German public debate primarily regarded this question as an either-or choice, where Germany would lean towards one partner and away from the other. This paradigm did not reflect the future of international and German-American cooperation as Jeffrey Rathke or the American government perceived it. Looking beyond the political level, he pointed out that not least due to the pandemic, the public had gained a stronger sense of international and transatlantic cooperation on the business level. The Biden administration certainly had a clear understanding of the diminishing unilateral influence of the United States. In the future, it would seek multilateral cooperation on most international policy issues. Here things might become uncomfortable for the European Union, as Biden, eager to get things done, would likely push for faster action and new ways of decision-making.

Anja Schüler's next guest on the HCA podcast also came in from the American capital. Bastian Hermisson is the director of the North America office at Heinrich Böll Foundation in Washington, D.C., and closely observes the effects of climate change there like the latest winter storm that had severely hit Texas. He pointed out that extreme weather events are known to almost everybody living on the American mainland. However, their frequency and strength have increased over the past decades, and once-in-a-century events are now happening multiple times within a single decade. While a climate-friendly lifestyle proves to be a challenge for all industrialized nations, it seems even more challenging for the United States, where most people own a car and a house. Heating and cooling homes in the various climate zones in particular requires immense amounts of energy. However, Bastian Hermisson is also observing some life style changes in cities. In Washington, D.C., bicycle culture has been developing; supermarkets, and fast-food chains have expanded their organic and vegan options, and recycling has become more of a routine. As extreme weather events threaten the livelihoods of Republicans and Democrats alike, people across political lines now avoid moving to some regions prone to fires, floods, and hurricanes. Due to rising sea levels in Louisiana, some islanders are now counted as climate refugees and are participating in government-sponsored resettling programs to safer regions. Liberal Democrats have been propagating a Green New Deal for quite a while now, a proposal that calls to mind Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1930s social reform package. Apart from climate protection measures, the Green New Deal would bring millions of new, well-paid, and secure jobs to resolve the structural inequalities in American society. However, structural change is not simply achieved by training former industrial workers for new jobs in the renewable energy sector. Workers in the coal industry, for example, have been able to afford a middle-class income life style, and it is unsure whether jobs in renewable energy could guarantee that. However, to fight climate change, the United States must make structural changes now. Internationally, the U.S. under Biden might become the leading actor to fight climate change. Re-entering the Paris Climate Accord was one of President Biden's first acts in office. Other ambitious climate measures include a plan to make the electricity sector carbon neutral until 2035. The European Union remains a vital international partner in the United States' striving towards sustainability and climate protection.

The following episode of the HCA podcast hosted Professor John Deni of the Strategic Studies Institute at the U.S. Army War College, who had also taught at the HCA. He spoke about the course

of American geopolitics, the topic of his new book *The Coalition of the unWilling and the unAble: European Realignment and the Future of American Geopolitics*. The volume analyzes how the five historically significant American allies France, Germany, Poland, Italy, and the U.K. might continue their political relationships with the United States. This analysis is set in the context of the two major threats the U.S. is facing: China and Russia. While the U.S. and many of its allies perceive the latter as a more acute threat that will decline over time, China's aggressive politics and recent pandemic diplomacy embody a pacing, long-term threat. The U.S. government and particularly the Biden administration aim to address these issues multilaterally, together with their most important allies. Other factors are in play as well. Significant political changes such as Brexit with its large-scale impact on the U.K.'s GDP will likely induce a cut in defense spending. As a result, predicted John Deni, both willingness – as the U.K. is preoccupied with domestic affairs – and capability to support American efforts will decline. All other major European allies faced similar dilemmas, partly political, partly based on public reluctance to engage in military action, leading to a rather pessimistic outlook on transatlantic relationships. Yet, American collaboration with allies on the operational level had remained high even during the Trump presidency. Eventually, Washington would have to counteract current trends in Europe by strategic policy issues to shift to a more positive future – and John Deni pointed out that his book made a few detailed policy suggestions. After all, current European partners were interested in improving cooperation with the United States.

In the forty-second episode of the HCA podcast, Thomas Peuntner, Global Human Resources Director for John Deere in Mannheim, and Martin Thunert, Senior Lecturer Political Science at the HCA, talked about labor relations, labor laws, and employee rights in Germany and the United States. Founded in 1837, John Deere is among the most significant manufacturers of agricultural equipment. Around the world, John Deere works closely with local unions to strengthen workers' rights and is committed to diversity and inclusion, topics that have become increasingly important in recent times. In Germany, so-called "Betriebsräte" are standard practice, also at John Deere. The United States, on the other hand, has a historically different understanding of employee participation in company processes; decisions are left to managers, and it remains a no-go for employee organizations to play a role in the board of directors' decisions. Different practices of employee participation can be found across the U.S., depending on the location of a company in the North or South. Thomas Peuntner doubts that unions and employee organizations are a concept that could work anywhere around the globe or even across the United States. Instead, he advised analyzing a region's local conditions and specific features before applying a one-size-fits-all approach. If companies want to persist, grow, and establish a strong base, close ties to long-term employees are essential. The German model does not guarantee success; according to Thomas Peuntner, successful employer-employee relations can only be guaranteed if companies forge a strong communicative basis where employers can openly address their concerns. Joe Biden has announced his commitment to becoming the most employee-friendly president the U.S. has ever had. The next three years will tell how far his engagement for workers goes. John Deere, after 183 years, remains optimistic that it will cooperate well with the new president.

The next episode of the HCA podcast “Quo Vadis USA?” focused on the restart of German-American relations’ following Joe Biden’s first 100 days in office. Podcast host Anja Schüler discussed this topic with Dr. Jackson Janes of the German Marshall Fund. He was optimistic about the current and future generation of American diplomats who shared Biden’s multilateral approach to international cooperation. However, Dr. Janes was sure that transatlantic partners had to negotiate where, when, how, and in what kind of cooperation they would invest. Therefore, both German and American society had to reflect on their respective and shared values. Looking toward the German national elections of 2021, Jackson Janes highlighted a possible change of Germany’s place within Europe. Nonetheless, he believed that Germany would remain an essential partner for the U.S., not the least due to its economic ties to Russia and China. In this sense, potential causes of conflict, for example, Nordstream 2, should be evaluated and, above all, accepted in order not to threaten the relationship as a whole. Such disagreements were by no means incompatible with fruitful cooperation. Jackson Janes also emphasized the need to move beyond rhetorical clichés. Especially environmental protection and climate change policy were likely areas for joint pragmatic action. Lastly, he remarked that particularly future relations to China could become a central aspect of German-American relations. On the one side, Germany had become relatively dependent on the Chinese economy. On the other, the belief in American exceptionalism tainted America’s relation to China, and Americans had to come to terms with shifting dynamics of power and influence. Consequently, both nations needed to evaluate points of conflict to find appropriate compromises. In the spirit of a “transatlantic healing campaign,” Jackson Janes pointed towards the necessity that both nations heal social conflict within their societies.

In the following episode of “Quo Vadis USA?” Anja Schüler discussed first achievements of President Joe Biden during his first months in office with Professor Boris Vormann, a political scientist at Bard College, Berlin. He argued that Joe Biden’s political actions and his efficiency had surprised Republicans and even some Democrats. Considering the president’s experience of the 2008 financial crisis, Biden’s confidence to act quickly and invest large sums in Covid-19 relief, infrastructure and family support had not been too surprising. While Donald Trump’s efforts to procure vaccines positively impacted Biden’s presidency, the latter had to face the more complex issue of addressing the widespread resistance against Covid-19 vaccines. At the same time, Biden planned to extend Obamacare, a policy that had become fairly popular amongst American citizens. When Anja Schüler suggested that the U.S. was returning to a more interventionist domestic policy approach, Boris Vormann agreed and emphasized the market’s dependence on functional infrastructure. Although popular discourses often proclaimed the waning influence of the U.S. national government, he named several points in American history where the state had intervened and invested. These instances had fundamentally shaped the local and global economic influence of the U.S. in the twentieth century. In light of persistent American public resistance toward state intervention, recent political scholarship had begun to highlight that European ideas of the nation-state and state intervention – which aligned primarily with social welfare – did not apply to the United States. Here, it was crucial to assess not bureaucratic power but infrastructural power. Currently, Biden’s political course aimed not only at repairing and strengthening infrastructure. In fact, he attempted to shift public opinion toward greater acceptance of state investment into infrastructure. Yet, looking toward the mid-term elections in 2022,

Vormann was unsure whether Biden could retain his current mandate though his unchanged approval rates allowed for cautious hopefulness.

The forty-fifth episode of the HCA podcast focused on the withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan. Anja Schüler's guest, Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, had himself served in Kandahar for fifteen months between 2009-2010. Today, he holds the Pershing Chair in Strategic Studies at the Center for European Policy Analysis in Washington, D.C. At the beginning of the conversation, Ben Hodges reminded listeners that the Afghanistan invasion had started as a reasonably successful mission. Shared resources, reliable intelligence, and a clearly defined objective had enabled efficient U.S. military actions. However, when the objective shifted to establishing a democratic society and improving the living standard, the mission's conclusion became more challenging. More importantly, this strategy shift was never clearly acknowledged politically. American and allied forces in Afghanistan subsequently struggled to hold on to a clear mission focus since their purpose lay in supporting and enabling but not conducting civilian projects. Ben Hodges emphasized that the Iraq War also diverted political energy from Afghanistan and that American foreign policy had failed to include Pakistan. Since Afghan terrorists had a safe haven in Pakistan, it became effectively impossible to attain the primary mission goal. Eventually, the realization that the Afghanistan mission had no clear conclusion, U.S. domestic political issues had become more pressing, and exchange with American allies led to the decision to withdraw. Asked about his prognosis for Afghanistan, Ben Hodges acknowledged conflicted feelings. Though he had been relieved to hear of the withdrawal, it was difficult to accept this unfinished conclusion and the number of people and resources it had taken to arrive there. He expressed cautious hope for a democratic Afghanistan if political allies in the region continued to engage Taliban leadership politically. At the same time, Ben Hodges hoped that Afghans seeking asylum after supporting allied and American troops would be helped. He concluded that military interventions would continue to be a necessary tool, but future interventions must be brought to broader public consciousness.



"Afghanistan Evacuation 210822-F-BU402-0650" U.S. Central Command Public Affairs. <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/6798575/al-dhafrair-base-gathers-humanitarian-relief-supplies-afghanistan-refugees>. Public Domain. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=109206537>

For the next episode of the HCA podcast, Anja Schüler was pleased to welcome U.S. Consul General Patricia Lacina, who reflected on her past three years in Germany. She had first come to Germany as a student in the 1980s and again as a diplomat in the early 2000s and brought fond

memories to the show but also talked about the challenges of working through the pandemic on her posting. The activism of women of all ages in politics and current affairs in particular inspired CG Lacina during her time in Frankfurt. Further, she recounted the respect and warmth with which political and economic representatives had greeted her throughout her time in Germany. Surprisingly, this had not changed much since the 2016 presidential elections. While the political rhetoric of the new administration was certainly more positive, the Consul General emphasized how she, her staff and their German counterparts had always focused on outcomes. Thus, they were able to achieve various successes throughout the past three years. Additionally, she reported on the challenges of organizing the foreign service at the onset of lockdown and throughout prolonged periods of remote work. Because of her dedicated staff, most proceedings smoothly switched into remote work within just a few days. However, the pandemic certainly reminded everyone – not just her team – how valuable even small connections to the community and personal interaction with others are. Looking into her future, Patricia Lacina encouraged everyone, especially young people, to be resilient and persistent in their search for jobs. Though she had just recently accepted her new posting to New Delhi, her own career had not been straight nor easy.

Kurt Klein in 1946 (courtesy of the Klein family).



The forty-seventh episode of "Quo Vadis USA?" revolved around a piece of regional history. Anja Schüler welcomed Wolfgang Widder, a communication coach and therapist who collaborates with the HCA on researching and publicizing the history of a Jewish family from Walldorf. In the 1930s, in the face of growing anti-semitic persecution, Alice and Ludwig Klein had sent their three children to live with relatives in the United States. Max, Gerdi, and Kurt Klein tried for many years to facilitate their parents' immigration to the United States. In 1940, Ludwig and Alice Klein and hundreds of other Jews from Baden were deported to Gurs, France, and many of them, including Kurt Klein's parents, later perished in Auschwitz. In 1945, Kurt Klein returned to Germany as a "Ritchie Boy" of the American Army and met his wife Gerda Weissmann, who had barely survived labor camps and a four-month death march. They fell in love, but Kurt had to return to the States to complete a year-long bureaucratic process before they could marry in

Paris in 1946. During that time, they exchanged letters that were later published as *The Hours After*. After joining her husband in the United States, Gerda Weissmann-Klein began writing her memoirs. *All But my Life* was published in 1957 and became widely recognized in memory and trauma studies. Gerda Weissmann-Klein continued to work as an activist in commemorating the Shoah and received the Presidential Medal of freedom from Barack Obama in 2011. Wolfgang Widder became interested in the life and history of Kurt Klein and Gerda Weissmann-Klein late in 2019. He was surprised to see how little Kurt Klein and his family, who had contributed so much to the commemoration of the Shoah, were known in their hometown. He conducted research in local archives and organized an event in 2020 to celebrate what would have been Kurt Klein's one-hundredth birthday. Today, he is working on a biography about Kurt Klein and collaborates with many local institutions schools to keep the history of the Klein family alive. As a result of his efforts, a Walldorf street will be named after Kurt Klein, and plans for a bigger commemoration are underway for 2022. At the same time, the HCA is working on digitizing the letters exchanged between Kurt Klein and his parents, publishing the original German letters exchanged between Kurt Klein and Gerda Weissmann-Klein after World War II, and a new German edition of Gerda Weissmann-Klein's memoirs, which have been out of print for twenty years.

For the following podcast episode, Anja Schüler talked with David Sirakov of the Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz about the current trend of restricting voting rights across the United States. In part, these restrictions have historically targeted voter groups that lean towards the Democratic Party, complicating voter registration and access to the polls. Dr. Sirakov first explained the many differences between the American and the Western European voting systems. In the U.S., states organized voter registration and voting according to their laws and a few national laws. Thus, it was often more difficult for voters to register and cast their votes. Further, he emphasized that this much-criticized voter registration process was in part due to a lack of a centralized registry and a result of a reluctance to share personal information with the state. Seventeen states had recently amended their voting rights, ranging from stricter guidelines for the application and submission of mail-in ballots to specific regulations concerning the opening hours of polling sites. Dr. Sirakov mentioned Georgia, whose recent legislation disproportionately affected poor African American, Latin American, and Native American voters. As a consequence, the state now faced a lawsuit initiated by the Department of Justice. Second, he referred to Arizona, which had passed similarly restrictive laws (recently upheld by the Supreme Court), arguing they would facilitate voter fraud prevention. David Sirakov emphasized that the seventeen states that passed such legislation were Republican-governed, demonstrating that the Republican Party used such legislation to influence elections to their benefit. Further, the currently conservative Supreme Court appeared not particularly interested in defending the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Moreover, Dr. Sirakov assumed that even if Congress passed legislation to counter voting restrictions in states, the Supreme Court might consider them unconstitutional. But were there any positive changes concerning voting rights in the United States? David Sirakov conceded the current political power structures already misrepresented the American society and that demographic changes would likely exacerbate this condition until 2050. Still, he currently saw neither a critical engagement with the U.S. democracy, its processes, and checks and balances nor a change in attitude toward this old system that would permit large-scale reform. Equally, he pointed toward

the Democratic Party that had a few options at its disposal to address such injustices but seemed unwilling to use them. Therefore, scholars in Europe would continue to critically observe developments in the U.S., because, after all, Western Europe could face similar issues.

In the forty-ninth episode of "Quo Vadis USA?" Anja Schüler once more spoke to HCA Director Welf Werner, this time about the U.S. economic boom of the first two quarters of 2021. Following an economic decline of almost a third of the GDP, triggered by the global pandemic in 2020, the inauguration of President Joe Biden marked the beginning of new political leadership that followed other Western nations' approaches to the pandemic. An economic stimulus program worth over two trillion dollars and actions of the Federal Reserve encouraged steep economic growth in the third quarter of 2020. The U.S. economy subsequently grew by more than a third, creating a V-shaped curve last seen after World War II. At the same time, states suspended Corona restrictions to encourage consumption, causing higher infection rates and thousands of deaths toward the end of 2020. Despite these developments, Welf Werner emphasized that economic growth and a steady decline of unemployment at the beginning of 2021 were positive signs for Americans. Yet, he was hesitant to ascribe these changes wholly to the new presidential administration. He remarked that it was crucial to remember that the ongoing U.S. economic boom could quickly create political and economic instability. Inflation rates were already increasing, reaching dangerous heights around five per cent. Likewise, Biden's Rescue Plan invested another 1,9 trillion dollars of economic stimulus, which critics regarded as risky overspending on an already overheating economy. Effectively counteracting inflation was a challenging endeavor for the Federal Reserve, whose measures could severely impact an already fragile economy, likely causing further harm. So, the U.S. economy was currently walking a thin line compared to the last seven decades. Professor Werner emphasized that Biden's investments into education and infrastructure, still debated in Congress, were, by all means, sensible and should not be confused with the Rescue Plan that risked increasing inflation. Though he regarded the president himself as a minor influence, Professor Werner pointed towards a more significant historical trend of American presidents taking substantial short-term economic measures and creating a "hot economy" that drained resources quickly and unsustainably. He finally stressed the importance of sustaining constructive public, political, and scientific dialogue about economic risk and opportunity.

The fiftieth episode of the HCA podcast took a look at political trials in U.S. history. Anja Schüler welcomed Michelle Nickerson, a historian at Loyola University in Chicago. During the summer term 2021, she was a Fulbright Scholar at the HCA. Her recent book project explores the history of the Camden 28, focusing on the political trials of the 1960s and 1970s in which the plaintiffs used media attention to point towards structural problems in American society and politics. The Vietnam War, in particular, proved to be the target of many activist efforts and thus many political trials resulted from Vietnam War protests, among them the Catonsville Nine and the Chicago Seven. Compared to those groups, though, the Camden 28 have remained rather obscure. In 1973, twenty-eight men and women of the Catholic left were put on trial after eight of them broke into the drafting office at Camden, N.J., to sabotage the conscription of young men for the Vietnam War. For Michelle Nickerson, the trial of the Chicago 28 is a topic that is connected to

her own family history, as she was raised a Catholic and both she and her father were born in Camden. However, the trial is a particularly interesting case study also from a historic perspective and differs from the other political trials of the era. On the one hand, the jury in its verdict applied so-called “jury nullification” and acquitted the defendants. On the other hand, many of the accused stood in court as their own defendants and lead cross-examinations with the witnesses and the other accused. The title of Professor Nickerson’s work in progress, *Spiritual Criminals: How the Camden 28 Put the Vietnam War on Trial* also emphasizes the significance of spirituality in the trial. The Camden 28 came from a Catholic background, even though most of them were non-observant Christians. Catholic anti-Vietnam activism often formed in groups that were not officially affiliated with the Catholic Church though they emerged from Catholic activities. In this way, the Catholic left, originating from the 1950s anti-nuclear protests, positioned itself against the Vietnam War in the 1960s and 1970s. While the Catholic left no longer exists, the legacy of the political trials is visible until today; its activism still influences today’s progressive Catholicism whose supporters endorse peace keeping and supporting marginalized people within their communities.

In the following episode of “Quo Vadis USA?” Anja Schüller welcomed Stefanie Wallbraun, a member of the research training group “Authority and Trust” at the HCA. They discussed the complicated relationship Americans have with their guns. Stefanie Wallbraun started by explaining how Americans had organized local militias before and during the Revolutionary War to defend communities against aggressors and the state government. Membership in such militias was obligatory for free white men between sixteen and sixty years, who had to own their guns and ammunition. Later, the second amendment to the U.S. Constitution reflected this condition, declaring the state could not limit the citizens’ right to bear arms. Though this amendment had been mainly understood in the context of militia groups, a 1960s Supreme Court verdict then equated the right to bear arms with the right to self-defense. Because of this verdict, the widespread cultural approval of unchecked gun ownership and the political support for this community and the arms industry could now fall back on more substantial legal grounds and fend off increased gun control. Today, explained Stefanie Wallbraun, only a third of gun owners in the U.S. claimed to use them for sports activities, while most used them for self-defense. This was a relatively recent trend compared to surveys of the 1970s. The fact that only thirty per cent of American households owned guns further polarizes the political and social debate about regulating the right to gun ownership that often seems erratic to Western European observers. It is, however, not easy to explain why Americans are so reluctant to give up gun ownership. On the one hand, cultural ideas about masculinity and the duty to protect family and fellow citizens influence the debate. On the other hand, Stefanie Wallbraun cited recent surveys that demonstrate a link between waning trust in the democratic government and its institutions like the police and spikes in gun ownership. For example, following recent mass shootings that had predominantly Asian American victims, more Asian Americans bought guns out of fear for their security. Thus, in her dissertation Stefanie Wallbraun closely examines the interconnection between trust in the national government and gun ownership. While Republicans and Democrats influence public opinion about gun ownership and lobby groups such as the NRA significantly impact political campaigns, she is keen to find out what guns mean to those Americans who own them and are

reluctant to give them up. This, in return, will highlight the effect of polarization and trust in American democracy.

For the fifty-second episode of the HCA podcast, Anja Schüler and Jan Stievermann, Professor for the History of Christianity in the United States, traced the life and accomplishments of James W.C. Pennington, an American pastor and influential nineteenth-century African American intellectual. James W.C. Pennington was born into slavery around 1808 from which he escaped via the Underground Railroad. He continued his journey via New York City to New Haven where he began to study at Yale Divinity School in 1834. As an African American, however, he was denied official enrollment. After he was ordained, he led Congregational and Presbyterian churches and was active in religiously motivated reform movements like abolitionism, temperance, and the fight for equal rights. Pennington's reform efforts eventually took him to Great Britain and continental Europe in the 1840s. When he spoke at the World Peace Conference in Paris in 1849, the Heidelberg scholar Friedrich Wilhelm Carové was deeply impressed by Pennington's life story. He proposed that Pennington received an honorary doctorate in Theology from Heidelberg University for his life achievements, which was also a strong symbolic gesture in support of international anti-slavery efforts. Though the concept of racism did not exist at the time, Jan Stievermann emphasized that the exchange of the "brotherly kiss" at the ceremony in Heidelberg underscored the importance of bestowing an honorary doctorate for the fight for racial equality in American society. In African America history, however, Pennington's fame faded after the 1850s. While civil rights activists rediscovered Frederick Douglass and his autobiography became required reading in American universities, Pennington, who at some point enjoyed the same popularity as Douglass, remained at the margins, only known among experts. The yearly awarding of the Pennington Award by the HCA and the Department for Theology, supported by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation, helps to keep the memory of Pennington alive. Each year, the prize is awarded to outstanding scholars who occupy themselves with the study of slavery, social movements, or intercultural communication.

James W. C. Pennington.
"Wcpennington" by Unknown;
Originally published: Henney,
William Franklin. Birthplace of
American Democracy: Hartford,
Commonwealth of Connecticut.
Hartford, CN: The Connecticut
Magazine Company, 1906.
Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=8966483>.



xAnja Schüler was delighted to welcome economic historian Adam Tooze from Columbia University to the fifty-third episode of the HCA podcast and discuss his new book *Shutdown: How Covid Shook the World's Economy*. Looking back to January 2020, Professor Tooze emphasized how the majority of Western nations had not or did not want to understand the significance of the health crisis that unfolded in China at the time. Following this first phase of denial, the world witnessed how slowly global processes addressed the pandemic. The chaotic and individual responses by nation-states not only pointed out the ineffectiveness of international organizations like the WHO but also, more critically, the impossibility to plan and prepare adequately for such a scenario. Adam Tooze emphasized the necessity to reduce political and public inhibition levels in the future to encourage individuals to propose more organized, early measures to combat such global problems. On the other hand, it was equally necessary for all nations to jointly invest their resources in essential measures like protective wear and vaccine production to ensure fast and equal distribution. While the response of the Trump administration to the pandemic had been criticized a lot, Adam Tooze contended that Trump had been vital in guaranteeing liquidity of the American financial markets in the early days of the crisis. At the same time, it is apparent that the initial response did not contain long-term social measures. Changing the perspective to a more global view, Professor Tooze pointed out that other nations or the E.U. had enacted massive investment plans while at the same time failing to invest in the vital infrastructure needed to produce and distribute the vaccine. This situation posed the question not of what nations were able to do but what they were, in fact, willing to do, a question that was equally relevant considering the speed of climate change. Lastly, Adam Tooze recommended the experience of writing history as you live through it as a tool to begin to grasp the complexity of what we as people experience.

In the following episode of the HCA Podcast, Anja Schüler talked to geographer Ulrike Gerhard, one of the speakers of the HCA Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT). The interdisciplinary research training group was established at the HCA in 2017 with a group of ten doctoral students in American Studies and admitted its second cohort in the fall of 2020. Funded by the "Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft," GKAT encompasses dissertation projects in on the emergence and transformation of authority and trust in American politics, society, religion, literature and culture from the nineteenth century to the present. Professor Gerhard emphasized that it was essential to find a topic that brought all disciplines of the HCA under a capacious tent. "Authority," for example, obviously is an appealing topic in the political sciences, but researchers could also look at the authority of a religion, the relation between citizens and institutions in history, or literary forms of authority like charisma. "Trust" is also crucial for societies, especially reciprocal trust relations. With the election of Donald Trump in 2016, these two concepts have come even more to the fore. This presidency saw a continuing erosion of trust in the state and a growing polarization of American society, even though polarization has been a recurring phenomenon in the United States since its founding – Americans have always displayed skepticism towards elites and state authority. Ph.D. students in GKAT translate this issue into their projects, which are subsumed into three broad research areas created to facilitate collaboration among the disciplines: the authority of the modern state and trust in public and social institutions; the urban dimension of authority and trust; and authority and trust in culture, literature, and religion. Ulrike Gerhard then delved into a few examples of how Ph.D. students translate this abstract topic into

their concrete projects: They look at whether Asian-American students are treated fairly in college application processes or whether rules against sexual harassment help to establish a trust relationship between employers and employees. GKAT's speaker happily reported that a number of students of the first cohort had completed their projects and that she was confident about a second funding period after the DFG assessed GKAT's work in the summer of 2021.

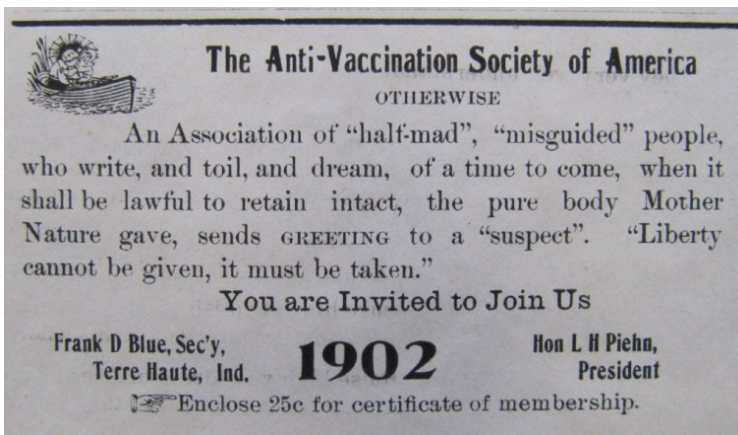
The guest of the fifty-fifth episode of the "Quo Vadis USA?" was the HCA's founding director who had just published a book on 150 years of German-American relations: *Deutschland und die USA, 1871-2021*. The essays of this volume look at the historic development and at the future of German-American relations. No country, stipulated Professor Detlef Junker, has influenced German politics, culture, security, and economy as much as the United States. At the same time, Germany contributed to America's position in the world because of what Professor Junker called the "triple challenge": During the twentieth century, World Wars I and II and the Cold War led America out of its isolationism to the position of political and military super power. Another turning point of German-American relations was strongly related to the Berlin Wall. This event put all promises of German reunification on hold, and they were only revived by President George H.W. Bush in 1989. Professor Junker then identified other turning points in German-American relations: the events of 9/11 led to a "clash of expectations" with the U.S. demanding greater German participation in the Western alliance, and the election of Donald Trump in 2016. An American public that has grown weary of wars has given rise to isolationist ideas and thus contributed to the decline of the U.S. as a global superpower. Professor Junker concluded the conversation with the conviction that European security was unthinkable without a strong transatlantic alliance.

The importance of 150 year of German-American relations shown on the example of president John F. Kennedy's visit to West-Berlin in 1961 meeting Mayor Willy Brandt. By Abbie Rowe. White House Photographs. John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston; <https://www.jfklibrary.org/asset-viewer/archives/JFKWHP/1961/Month%2003/Day%2013/JFKWHP-1961-03-13-A>, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=98981543>.



In episode fifty-six of the HCA Podcast, Anja Schüler talked to Robert Johnston, Professor at the University of Illinois Chicago, who is currently working on a book entitled *Pox, Populism and Politics: Three Centuries of American Vaccination Controversies*. It looks at the history of and motives for past anti-vaccination movements, and the impact for these movements on the social discourse past and present. In the current Covid-19 crisis, we tend to classify anti-vaccination movements as a right-wing phenomenon. This, however, is a relatively new phenomenon. Early American anti-vaccination movements were rather concerned about bodily autonomy, for ex-

ample the groups that emerged in 1721 in Boston during the debate about smallpox vaccination. This continued through the Progressive Era, in which the anti-vaccination movements were especially visible and prevented thirty states from introducing mandatory vaccination, for example against smallpox. These movements ranged from fringe movements to the political mainstream and, in the context of the twentieth century, from left to right ideology. Their members were often united by strong libertarian stances, individualism, and suspicion about the state. Beginning in the 1940s and 1950s, they were often connected to Cold War ideology, conspiracy theories, anti-communism, and racism. However, anti-vaccination movements also had roots in feminism and the counter culture of the 1960s and 1970s, as some of their members connected vaccinations with big pharma and the oppression of women. Professor Johnston used the examples above to illustrate the diversity and ideological flexibility of anti-vaccination movements in American history. With this background, it is difficult to compare past movements with the current protest against Covid-19 vaccinations. This history does show, however, that such conflicts will not be resolved with politics of condemnation.



"Anti-Vaccination Society of America advertisement from 1902." (Anti-Vaccination Society of America via The College of Physicians of Philadelphia). Public Domain. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=38342258>.

In the following episode of the HCA Podcast, Anja Schüler and Martin Thunert, Senior Lecturer for Political Science at the HCA, talked about the first year of the Biden presidency, focusing on the administration's social justice agenda, the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, and foreign policy. After an impressive start of the new administration, Joe Biden's poll numbers are currently only slightly better than those of his predecessor. Martin Thunert presumed that this could be related to Biden's expensive plans to expand health care, environmental protection, and social benefits. This had caused opposition among both Republicans and Democrats, who, as Martin Thunert reminded the audience, have only the slightest majority in the Senate. The situation was exasperated by recent election results, in particular in New Jersey and Virginia, where Republicans ran a successful campaign that focused on resistance to mask mandates and school curricula. The Biden presidency also has to wrestle with issues like a possible new wave of Covid-19 infections and a humanitarian crisis at its border to Mexico. Joe Biden's foreign policy suffered a setback with the chaotic withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, which left many European nations disillusioned about the transatlantic partnership, even though travel

restrictions were lifted and punitive tariff duties were eased. Biden also took a relatively weak leadership position at the Climate Conference in Glasgow. Yet, Martin Thunert concluded, the Biden administration has not failed; rather, the Democratic Party needed to articulate its agenda in the following months rather than pushing forward an anti-Trump campaign. In order to stand its ground in the 2022 mid-term elections, Democrats needed to target swing voters in particular.

For the final podcast episode of 2021, Anja Schüler hosted Elisabeth Piller, Junior-Professor for Transatlantic and North American history at the University of Freiburg, for a conversation about the history of American diplomats in Germany. In July, President Joe Biden nominated Amy Gutmann, President of the University of Pennsylvania, as ambassador in Germany, an appointment that revived a dormant, but long-standing, U.S. tradition of sending scholars and university presidents as ambassadors to Berlin. This tradition, Elisabeth Piller pointed out, dated back to the nineteenth century, when about 10,000 Americans studied at German research universities, often returning with excellent German language skills and a network of elite contacts, which made them almost natural candidates for high diplomatic echelons. At the same time, academics enjoyed a good reputation in Germany. A case in point was Jacob Gould Schurman, an alumnus of the universities of Göttingen and Heidelberg and president of Cornell University. He was appointed in 1925 at a time of unstable transatlantic relations and used his cultural and academic ties to further German-American relations that had seriously suffered in World War I. Heidelberg University awarded an honorary doctorate to Schurman, along with German foreign minister Gustav Stresemann, in a spectacular ceremony in 1928, and Schurman in turn raised an endowment for the construction of one of the central buildings of his German alma mater. So how do the United States appoint its ambassadors? Most often, they are career diplomats, but the most important and prestigious posts – London, Paris, or Berlin – are frequently political appointments that go to individuals close to the president or big donors. In closing, Elisabeth Piller pointed out that even in today’s highly digitized world, ambassadors remain significant for a trustful relationship between countries and for fostering cultural ties. If the Senate approves Amy Gutmann, she will be the first woman appointed as American ambassador in Germany.

Tune in to more episodes of the HCA podcast on the HCA Website, Spotify and Apple podcasts!



Scan to listen on the HCA Website.



Scan to listen on Spotify.



Scan to listen on Apple Podcasts.

RUPERTO CAROLA RINGVORLESUNG "QUO VADIS USA?"

In the fall of 2020, the United States saw a historic presidential election. Multiple crises, among them a global pandemic and an unprecedented polarization of the electorate raised many questions about where the country is headed. In winter semester 2020-21, the HCA conceptualized the university-wide lecture series (Ringvorlesung) entitled "Quo Vadis USA?" It is part of the Ruperto Carola's focus on "friends and enemies." Twice a year, Heidelberg University designates a focus theme ("Fokusthema") to engage the broader public with research that is especially pertinent to society. The Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung and the Ruperto Carola research magazine in particular are designed to reflect the respective foci. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all events of the Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung took place online. The team of Rhein Neckar TV produced superb videos. Watch them at <https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/de/heionline> or scan the QR code below.



The Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung commenced at the Aula of Neue Universität on November 2, 2020, the night before the U.S. presidential elections, with a panel discussion entitled "Four More Years?" Panelists shared their view on swing states, voting behavior, and polarization, among other topics. Moderator Wilfried Mausbach of the HCA welcomed the panel of international experts: journalist Nana Brink (Deutschlandfunk Kultur), political scientist Martin Thunert (HCA); Rachel Tausendfreund (German Marshall Fund of the United States) and Horst Kläuser, (formerly of the ARD in Washington, D.C.) joined the podium online. Election dust still settled on November 9, when the second event of the Ruperto Carola lecture series "Quo Vadis USA?" took place, featuring a conversation between political scientists Florian Böller (TU Kaiserslautern) and Sebastian Harnisch (Heidelberg University) about the U.S. election's impact on foreign policy (see HCA Annual Report 2019-20, p. 197-198).



Nana Brink with moderator Wilfried Mausbach and Martin Thunert. Horst Kläuser and Rachel Tausendfreund joined the panel remotely.

The Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung continued with a talk by Myles Jackson, a science historian at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Princeton. He stipulated that we live in an era of bio-capitalism. Computer scientists have replaced molecular biologists in their quest to find new genes, and platforms like *AncestryDNA* and *23andMe* accumulate capital by selling genetic information. How did we get there? And what are the possible consequences of the commercialization of genetic information for each of us? In the 1970s, Professor Jackson pointed out, patent licensing of genes began, with molecular biologists first discovering new genes and their characteristics before applying for patents. During the 1990s, this practice changed, and patents were issued before all genetic features of a sequence were discovered. With the help of algorithms, computer scientists found genetic sequences faster than molecular biologists could ever manage to, and private genetic testing companies emerged that enjoy great popularity today. Genetic data collection and its capitalist practices have enormous ethical implications. The business model of *AncestryDNA* and *23andMe* is based on the collection of their users' genetic code and sells this information. Genetic information does not seem relevant today, but hyper-technologization might change this soon. Recent developments have given us an idea of what happens if companies do not sufficiently protect consumers' data. When the DNA-testing company *GEDMatch* was bought up in July 2020, a computer glitch made all user profiles publicly visible. And with ever more people using DNA testing sites, more and more people can be identified without ever becoming a member, as Heather Murphy of the *NY Times* uncovered. According to Murphy, already sixty per cent of people of Northern European descent can be identified today by existing genetic data collected in databases, no matter whether they ever joined a DNA testing website or not. Even though DNA testing companies' market share is not as large in Germany as it is in the United States, *AncestryDNA* began sending out testing kits in Germany. Interest among the population is growing steadily. In his studies, Myles Jackson also looks at the commercialization of race in the United States and if race is a relevant category to differentiate between people. In history, the supposed connection between race and genomics bolstered the establishment of a segregated society. Why do DNA testing debates in particular still focus so heavily on race? Professor Jackson supposes that this serves as redemption for decades of forced sterilization of people of color and placebo treatment of African Americans who tested HIV-positive. Today, white men are no longer a universal symbol for the human body, and the National Institute of Health demands increased data collection of women and people of color. The topic of genomics remains contested; genes are means of production, and those who offer them neither have control over the production process nor do they profit financially. According to Myles Jackson, historians should play a vital part in finding a path between genetic testing and its ethical implications. They can communicate that there have always been alternatives and that nothing is inevitable and should, therefore, be included in decision-making.

The fourth event of "Quo Vadis USA?" welcomed Professor Sabine Sielke from the University of Bonn to discuss memorial culture in the U.S. and Germany. Emphasizing the close cultural exchange between Germany and the U.S., Professor Sielke reminded her viewers how during the past year, debates about racism and decolonization had started in Germany as well. As protesters attacked Christoph Columbus statues throughout America, an increasing number of initiatives in Germany demanded to remove statues and change street names as well. At the same time, there

was a growing desire in both societies to erect new memorials. This seemingly paradox phenomenon was by no means a novelty, Professor Sielke explained with a look at both countries' long-standing traditions. Considering the dismantling of Columbus statues, she argued that such acts, committed in the spirit of correcting historic wrongdoing, were often ignorant of political and social progress. She then moved on to discuss the growing desire in American and German societies to erect new and alternative memorials or museums, a phenomenon she called "memorial-mania." An ever-increasing insecurity triggered by globalization encouraged a sense of nostalgia for a simpler past and could explain, for example, the growing popularity of traditional German first names. But instead of creating new memorials, societies could also recontextualize existing ones that caused public criticism, like the Bismarck memorial in Hamburg. To contextualize a person's history critically was more valuable, Professor Sielke argued, than trying to make them disappear. Critics argue that plaques could not recontextualize an observer's feelings of suppression or inferiority. Yet, Sabine Sielke claimed that such statements mischaracterized observers and attempted to misguide recontextualization supporters. Finally, she reminded her audience that any celebrated historical figure might disappoint social values and standards at some point, as it most recently had been the case with Alexander Hamilton. Thus, it was necessary to maintain a critical dialogue about memorials and their social and cultural significance.



Preparations for the filming of Sabine Sielke's lecture in the HCA's Atrium.

For the next event in the Ruperto Carola lecture series "Quo Vadis USA?", the university welcomed Professor Andreas Falke of the University Erlangen-Nürnberg and Professor Welf Werner of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. They discussed how the U.S. economy would evolve after the Covid-19 pandemic. First, they summarized economic developments during the Trump administration. Because of a Republican majority in both Senate and Congress, Donald

Trump had succeeded in implementing a substantial amount of policies in the first two years of his presidency. Welf Werner and Andreas Falke remarked that this demonstrated how other American political bodies shaped the country's economy. During the Trump administration, unemployment numbers had decreased and salaries had increased, leading to the assumption that mismanagement of the Covid-19 pandemic must have been the main factor for Trump's defeat in the 2020 presidential election. At the end of 2020, the U.S. economy will close with a minus four per cent growth rate, which gives the country a relative advantage if seen in a global context. Here Andreas Falke explained that the mismanagement of the pandemic had overshadowed the relative economic successes of the Trump administration. Further, Professor Falke believed that, unlike Trump, Joe Biden would make substantial use of his executive powers come January 2021 to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. Following this summary, Andreas Falke and Welf Werner then discussed Biden's plans for the American economy. Considering rising Covid-19 infection rates they posed the question of whether the country had to return to a lockdown and required another stimulus package. Both equally believed that Biden would have to face substantial Republican opposition in the Senate and Congress, especially concerning another expensive economic stimulus package, Professor Werner speculated. Professor Falke emphasized that besides tackling the pandemic, Biden's had to improve both national health care provisions and education in order to combat social inequality. Here, Welf Werner also mentioned Biden's plans to strengthen childcare both in daycare facilities and schools. Regarding trade policy, both discussants expected equally substantial changes. Andreas Falke was confident that Biden would return to a more multilaterally structured approach, particularly with Europe. However, despite a likely improvement under Biden, economic relationships with China might in the future be primarily shaped by developments across Asian nations. Lastly, both discussants agreed that the U.S. could expect significant improvements and changes concerning the pandemic and the economy despite the various issues the Biden administration had to face.

Andreas Falke and Welf Werner discuss the U.S. economy in pandemic times.



The sixth event of "Quo Vadis USA?" discussed conspiracy theories during the Trump presidency and their role in American politics after its end. Michael Butter from the University of Tübingen started by defining conspiracy theories as narratives in which nothing was accidental, nothing was as it seemed, and everything was connected. While about half of Americans believed in at least one conspiracy theory, only about a fourth to a third of Germans did so, which was due to

three main reasons, so Butter: (1) a greater feeling of powerlessness in U.S. society, (2) a higher level of education in Germany, and (3) the more significant level of polarization in U.S. society. For centuries, conspiracy theories had shaped political discourses in America. Due to a complex process that began in the mid-twentieth century, they were gradually marginalized and moved to subcultures. Following the success of the Internet and social media, conspiracy theories regained visibility and eventually began to operate outside of established media's checks and balances. Donald Trump used this phenomenon early in 2012 when he began supporting the "birther"-theory, according to which Barack Obama had not been born in the United States. As a consequence, Trump quickly rose to an influential position in the Republican Party, leading to his candidacy in 2015. However, Professor Butter pointed out that until the 2016 elections, Trump consciously maintained a public image of sympathizing with conspiracy theories without supporting them definitively. When harassment scandals forced him to act, he presented himself as a conspiracy theory believer, securing the necessary electoral votes to win the election. During his presidency, Trump continued to position himself as a conspiracy theory sympathizer to ensure voter support. Although he lost the 2020 elections, he continued to spread voter fraud theories, also with the goal of influencing the Georgia Senate elections. Thus, Michael Butter concluded, conspiracy theories will remain influential in public and political discourse even after the Trump presidency. Prominent Republicans like Senator Ted Cruz avidly support the voter fraud theory in public, an action unthinkable even ten years ago. This demonstrates the prolonged influence of conspiracy theories that will affect American politics for years to come.



Michael Butter in the university's Neue Aula which remained empty during the taping of this year's lecture series.

North American cities are ambivalent places today: shiny city centers draw investors, visitors, and wealthy residents, and large-scale projects like the New York Hudson Yards promise jobs and quality of life, but looking at other regions, we find a wholly different "North American city." The Rust Belt region has experienced deindustrialization for the past decades, with poor education, drug addiction, and hopelessness prevailing among citizens there. So do American cities experience a renaissance or crisis? Ulrike Gerhard, Professor of North American Geography, and Judith Keller, research assistant at the Department of Geography at Heidelberg University, approached these questions in the seventh event of the Ruperto Carola lecture series. For the past years, American cities have experienced re-urbanization, that is a movement back to the inner city.

Conversion of former industrial sites, for example New York City's Highline Park and Hudson Yards; waterfront renewal like Baltimore's Inner Harbor; and gentrification, visible for instance, in Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill or Chicago's Southside all point towards a qualitative upgrading of neighborhoods and cities. Re-urbanization can also be quantified, particularly in cities on the east coast and in the "creative cities" of the South and West. However, this quantitative growth does not appear equally across the country. In the Rust Belt, decentralization and negative growth continue. Re-urbanization can also deepen urban polarization. Wealthy and marginalized neighborhoods continue to drift apart, ethnic segregation and displacement are the consequences. In Washington, D.C., the metropolitan region is booming, while African American neighborhoods like Anacostia in the southeastern part of the city are shrinking, and poverty rates keep rising. Cities today face many challenges at the same time: growth, stagnation and shrinking, demographic and socioeconomic changes. The federal government continues to withdraw itself from its welfare provider role, deepening the housing and eviction crisis in cities and leading to growing surveillance and mass incarceration of socioeconomically weaker groups. Natural disasters will increase in the future, and climate change and sustainability challenge cities all over the nation. Ulrike Gerhard and Judith Keller summed up their findings, stating said that renaissance and crisis run parallel within urban areas around the country. The Covid-19 pandemic, from which African Americans and Latin American populations have suffered disproportionately, has further brought urban problems to the forefront.

Ulrike Gerhard, who was joined by Judith Keller for the seventh installment of the lecture series.



In the eighth installment of Heidelberg University's lecture series "Quo Vadis USA?" Professor Jan Stievmann and Dr. Daniel Silliman discussed changes in America's religious landscape following the Trump presidency and the social justice protests of 2020. On the stage of Neue Aula, Jan Stievmann welcomed Daniel Silliman, who joined the event via video call. They opened the conversation by looking back on the most recent protests of religious Trump supporters. Although Donald Trump had never behaved according to conservative and Christian values, he had been able to forge and sustain a strong alliance with conservative Evangelical and Catholic supporters before and during his presidency. Daniel Silliman pointed out that this alliance relied most heavily on the historic support Evangelicals had given to the Republican Party throughout the last decades. In this regard, he explained, the relationship between Trump and Evangelical supports was grounded in a quid pro quo principle where voter support resulted in a favorable

policy outcome. Not only did this reflect a larger truth about negotiating political influence. More importantly, said Jan Stievermann, this demonstrated how closely religion and politics were intertwined in the United States. However, this also signified religion's impact on progressive and liberal change in U.S. history. While it was difficult to assess precisely how religious groups had weighed the recent election, Daniel Silliman highlighted the impact of South Carolina's Black Protestant churches on the primaries in that state as well as the fact that even though American Catholic bishops favored conservative policies, Joe Biden had successfully reached out to Catholics and Protestants alike. For Jan Stievermann, this proved that many voters perceived Biden as an authentic believer, deeply aware and caring of America's religious traditions. Both scholars then turned to a discussion of Trump's religious supporters and the continuing influence of Christian nationalism with its deep-seated suspicion of authority and expertise. This narrative, while very much in the fore of the public debate, misrepresented the religious history of America, where traditionally liberal Christians focused on nationalism while conservatives tended to abstain from politics. Yet, in the course of the twentieth century, conservatives began to organize politically and support Republican candidates, an alliance that often proved disappointing to religious conservatives. Evangelicals' continued political dissatisfaction culminated in their support of Trump as a strong leader who would get the job done and, indeed, "rewarded" them by appointing close to 200 conservative judges. Nonetheless, Evangelicals and conservative Catholics had also voiced fierce criticism toward Trump, objecting to his actions and politics on moral and social justice grounds. Thus, it was necessary to remember that denominations were increasingly divided along political lines. Undoubtedly, both scholars agreed, the American religious landscape was vastly diverse and often did not align swiftly with one party or the other.



Jan Stievermann with Daniel Silliman.

For the penultimate event in the "Quo Vadis USA?" lecture series, Simon Wendt from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt explored the question whether the Black Lives Matter movement (BLM) is the new Civil Rights Movement (CRM). Professor Wendt compared the two movements regarding their goals, strategies, members, and successes. Continued systematic oppression of African Americans after the American Civil War led to the emergence of the CRM in the early twentieth century. The movement strove for an end of segregation, against discrimination, and for the right to vote. To achieve its goals, the CRM followed four strategies: judicial efforts, culminating in the

Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision in 1954; non-violent mass protests, sit-ins, and the so-called “politics of respectability”; grassroots initiatives in the South that called on people to register for elections; and black nationalism, as practiced by the Black Panthers, that differed greatly from the peaceful mainstream protesters. Even though the media mainly portrayed the CRM’s black male leaders, the movement heavily relied on the grassroots activism of students, working class supporters, and women. While the CRM achieved groundbreaking legislation with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, its efforts were not enough to end segregation and racism permanently in American society. Following the persisting inequalities and the murder of Trayvon Martin in 2012, the BLM movement emerged in 2013, striving for foundational structural change, to end white supremacy, (police) violence against African Americans, the devaluation of black lives, death sentencing, and police surveillance of black communities. Non-violent, though confrontational, protests are among the most frequently employed strategies of the modern BLM movement. Social media amplifies the effects of these protests by sharing material of police violence against African Americans and by making local racist incidents public. Membership of the movement is highly diverse, and grassroots initiatives remain important until today. Within the few years of its existence, the movement has persuaded substantial parts of American society that structural racism exists. Thus, following the 2020 protests, many Southern states removed statues commemorating former slave owners and racist Civil War veterans. However, these changes have been fairly easy to implement and have not come at any political or economic risk. Other, deeper structural changes have not been welcomed as enthusiastically by white America, contended Professor Wendt. The Black Lives Matter movement is not uncontroversial. For many white Americans it represents a radical movement that seeks to abolish the police. Supporters, on the other hand, see in it a logical continuation of the historic fight against racism and oppression. So, is the Black Lives Matter movement a Civil Rights Movement 2.0? Not wholly. Today’s BLM incorporates the peaceful protests of the CRM and the uncompromising nature of the Black Power movement. However, as the BLM is still in its early phase, it is difficult to assess its influence on the larger American society.

Simon Wendt.



For the last event in the Ruperto Carola lecture series, Heidelberg historian Manfred Berg traveled to Mainz, where he met journalist and TV news anchor Claus Kleber at the ZDF studios. They discussed possible courses U.S. politics might pursue after Joe Biden's inauguration and began their conversation by looking back and analyzing the Trump presidency. Contrary to widespread hope, Trump had not become more presidential during his time in office, Claus Kleber stated. Instead, his demeanor had further highlighted flaws and inadequacies of the American presidency as an institution. Besides shedding light on the shortcomings of a centuries-old democracy, Trump had also deepened the divisions between Democrats and Republicans. Dr. Kleber explained that journalists in Germany and Europe had, for an extended period, failed to see and communicate the diversity among Republican supporters, failing to educate the public about the deep roots of American conservatism. It was now up to Joe Biden to create a narrative powerful enough to reach both ends of the diverging political spectrum. Here Professor Berg wondered how President Biden could achieve this, acknowledging that a significant part of the population no longer believed in science and distrusted the media. Claus Kleber could even imagine that political discourse would soon begin to reflect the Trump presidency in favorable terms, which prompted Manfred Berg to ask about possible positive views of the Trump presidency. According to Claus Kleber, this could encompass Trump's handling of China, which had appealed to many Americans and impacted global political discourse. Likewise, Trump supporters had welcomed his stern approach to NATO, continuously increasing wages, and his appointment of scores conservative judges. Yet, both discussants agreed, many Americans also enjoyed his xenophobic politics and toxic masculinity. From a German perspective, it was hard to imagine that many Americans regarded Trump as someone who was just like them. To some extent, Manfred Berg further noted, Trump was a symptom of a political system in which Democrats and Republicans were no longer willing to cooperate to the extent of avoiding cooperation altogether. Claus Kleber also saw this as a significant change of recent years that could, however, not be sustained much longer, especially on the personal level. In closing Manfred Berg asked the "heute journal" anchorman for his outlook on the 2024 presidential elections, and Claus Kleber stated that Kamala Harris had a decent chance to become the presidential candidate of the Democratic party. Though Manfred Berg remained skeptical in this respect, he was pleasantly surprised by Kleber's overall optimism. They both agreed that it was crucial to rebuild transatlantic cooperation in order to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Thus ended an immensely insightful conversation that concluded an equally insightful lecture series.



Claus Kleber with Manfred Berg.

ENJOY JAZZ AT THE HCA

First Christian Bröcking Lecture: George E. Lewis, Columbia University: "Music With Other Means: The Interviews of Christian Broecking"

On October 12, 2021, the HCA opened its doors again for public events after an eighteen-month hiatus. We were thrilled to reinvigorate our cooperation with the Enjoy Jazz Festival, one of the most important jazz festivals in Europe. This year, the HCA and Enjoy Jazz jointly organized an evening dedicated to Christian Bröcking, an influential German musicologist, sociologist, university lecturer, author of several standard works on Jazz, and long-time companion of the Enjoy Jazz Festival. He sadly passed away early in 2021. To honor his life's work and his importance to the study of Jazz, the Enjoy Jazz Festival established the Christian Bröcking lecture, which the HCA was happy to host. Our cooperation with the Enjoy Jazz Festival dates back to the fall of 2011, when the HCA presented three episodes of Ken Burns' award-winning documentary *Jazz: A History of America's Music*, which Christian Broecking introduced. He also taught a corresponding class in the HCA's MAS program. In the following year, he conceptualized and convened the symposium "Lost in Diversity: A Transatlantic Dialogue on the Social Relevance of Jazz," which brought together intellectual curiosity and musical zest at the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. In 2013, the Festival returned to the HCA with the workshop "Vision, Perception, Friction: How Jazz Became Art and Attack(ed) – A Transatlantic Dialogue," once again conceptualized and convened Christian Bröcking..

Christian Bröcking opening the 2012 symposium "Lost in Diversity" at the HCA.



With his family in attendance, the HCA welcomed George E. Lewis, the Edwin H. Case Professor of American Music at Columbia University. Professor Lewis, who was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2015 and the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2018, noted the importance of Christian Bröcking's work *Respect! History of Fire Music*, a trilogy that became an influential sociological study of the social and political context of Jazz since the 1960s. What makes this book unique is the format of the interviews, in which Dr. Bröcking conversed with three generations of jazz musicians. These conversations are exceptional in their spontaneity and experimental nature – a characteristic that also distinguishes Jazz from other forms of music. His work demonstrates his understanding of the importance of Black livelihoods and culture in the United States and the impact social conditions had on musicians. Thus, Chris-

tian Bröcking's work is about Jazz and Jazz musicians' lives, many of whom experienced segregation, persistent racism, and poverty. George E. Lewis also highlighted the instability of the art form; the musicians' desire not to be categorized and to enjoy in music the freedom that was often refused to African-Americans, even after the end of slavery. Jazz is thus also about identity and respect, as the title of Christian Bröcking's work emphasizes.

HCA BOOK LAUNCH

On October 19, friends, former colleagues, and students of all semesters assembled at the HCA to celebrate the start of the new (in-person!) semester and a book publication by HCA Founding Director Detlef Junker. In his introduction, HCA Director Welf Werner pointed out that HCA book launches have celebrated publications of HCA-based researchers for ten years. While writing a book is solitary work, the publication should be appropriately celebrated with a book talk and a reception in the HCA Atrium. Detlef Junker's new book traces 150 years of German American relations, from Imperial Germany to the present. Born in 1939, the author himself has lived through half of this period. Professor Junker's earliest memories of "the Americans" date back to 1943 and a bombing raid of the allied forces on his hometown of Quickborn near Hamburg.



HCA Founding Director, Detlef Junker, reads from his new book.

During the "freedom and solitude of the Covid-19 crisis," he perceived the idea for this book that brings together his work on German-American relations of the past decades with a new article on Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and the end of imperial democracy. The book addresses not just an academic but a wider audience, and each essay can be comprehended independently. In his book talk, Detlef Junker interspersed personal reminiscences with some of the book's leitmotifs that he narrowed down to, first, the global dissolution of the boundaries of American foreign policy, and, second, the social and cultural "Americanization" of Germany. In addition, the excerpts the author chose to share with the audience in the HCA Atrium emphasized the pro-

found changes of American politics and society under former President Trump. Professor Junker contended that America's freedom ideals that have inspired nations around the world in the post-Cold War era are slowly eroding in light of national problems while the American security and immigrant policy suffered under Trump's insufficient interest for and knowledge of current political processes, leading to estrangement from Germany. Professor Junker closed his journey through American history and politics with a quote by Immanuel Kant that illustrates the current relationship of the United States and Germany quite well: "They do not like each other, and yet cannot be apart."

HCA FIRESIDE CHATS

Professor Francisco Moreno-Fernández (HCIAS) and Rebeca Grynspan (SEGIB)

Migration, Climate Change, and the Global Pandemic: Challenges for the U.S.-Latin American Relations

In the summer of 2021, the HCA launched a new digital format with its "Fireside Chats." In order to continue facilitating the dialogue between academia and the general public in pandemic times, the HCA Forum will present a series of vivacious conversations in front of the historic fireplace in the lounge of Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. The "Fireside Chats" are one-on-one talks between Heidelberg academics and experts from inside and outside of academia. True to the HCA's philosophy of emphasizing global aspects of American Studies, the first three events will focus on the external relations of the United States during the administration of Joe Biden. With the "Fireside Chats," the HCA also strengthens its institutional ties to other centers for area studies at Heidelberg University. It was therefore very fitting that the first "Fireside Chat" looked at the relations of the United States to Latin America and was conducted by Francesco Moreno-Fernández, Professor for Ibero-American Linguistic, Cultural, and Social Studies at Heidelberg University and director of the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS). Joining him (virtually) from Madrid in front of the fireplace was Rebeca Grynspan, a Costa Rican economist and former UN Under-Secretary General. Since 2014, she has headed the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).



Francesco Moreno-Fernández
with Rebeca Grynspan.

Rebeca Grynspan started the conversation by situating its main issues – migration, climate changes, and the Covid-19 pandemic – in the context of the Ibero-American Secretariat, which was founded in 2005 by twenty-two Ibero-American countries and emphasizes the political and diplomatic dialogue among those countries to find a consensus on pressing political and social problems. She pointed out that the northern triangle of Latin America in particular is experiencing the effects of migration to the United States and also has to deal with internal migration on the continent. Concerning the treatment of migrants by the U.S. government, Grynspan sees a positive, albeit uncertain, development in the new administration, as the status of the so-called “Dreamers” was reestablished and migration management has become more reliable in contrast to the Trump administration. Migration has increased during by the Covid-19 pandemic because of its severe consequences for the already weakened Latin-American economy. Ms. Grynspan emphasized that Latin America lost two decades of fighting against poverty with severe effects on its middle classes. Another pressing issue in U.S.-Latin-American relations is Climate Change, as a “dry corridor” has developed in Central America that hinders coffee cultivation in particular. The Secretariat is determined to address Climate Change and zero net emissions with one continental voice. In addition, working closely together with the private sector and local authorities, according to Rebeca Grynspan, the best strategy for Latin America in its fight against climate change.

For the second event in this series, Dr. Wilfried Mausbach of the HCA invited Sigmar Gabriel, the president of the Atlantikbrücke, for a chat on “Bröckelnde Brücken? Die Zukunft der transatlantischen Allianz.”

Watch both videos and much more on www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/videos.

ENCOUNTERS: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ASIA, AMERICA, AND EUROPE

The fall of 2021 saw yet another new format of HCA Forum activities – “Encounters – New Perspectives on Asia, America, and Europe.” “Encounters” is a series of dialogues initiated by the Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) at Heidelberg University and the HCA. The events in this* new series focus on the relationship between the two superpowers of the twenty-first century – the United States of America and China. The rapid rise of the People’s Republic in recent decades is challenging the U.S. and its allies alike and thus brings Europe to the brink of this new geopolitical confrontation as well. The guests of “Encounters” will look at this new constellation and its consequences for Germany and Europe: How do the European Union and its individual member states position themselves in the conflict between China and the United States? They will also look at the social and cultural, political and economic interactions and processes that we can observe in the relationship between the United States and China. Throughout the coming year, “Encounters” will bring prominent Chinese and American policy makers, authors, artists, activists, as well as representatives from the business community and public

intellectuals to Heidelberg where they will engage in a dialogue with scholars from the HCA and CATS. We are looking forward to nuanced discussions on a wide range of critical issues that shape the exceptional relationship between an old and a new super power. Among those issues are environmental and trade policies, questions of technology and innovation, white-collar crime and digital surveillance as well as human rights and freedom of expression. We believe that the conversations that make up “Encounters” make a special contribution to an informed exchange among academia and the general public and become part of an informed public debate on one of the most important issues for the future of Germany and Europe.

Sebastian Harnisch in the HCA reference library during the first encounter of the eponymous series.



For the first event in this series on November 30, 2021, Sebastian Harnisch from the Institute for Political Studies at Heidelberg University was joined by Cheng Li, Director of the John L. Thornton China Center at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., for a conversation on “Transforming U.S.-China Conflicts? Common Interests and Transnational Perspectives.” Watch the videos of “Encounters” and much more on www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/videos/.

“Encounters” is made possible by funding from the Excellence Strategy of the federal and state governments.

MEDIA COVERAGE

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

“Das Wahljahr 2020 in den USA“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(Deutschlandfunk Kultur “Studio 9 kompakt“, January 1, 2020)

“Weg mit dem Teufelszeug!: Vor hundert Jahren führten die USA die Prohibition ein“

Article by Manfred Berg

(Die ZEIT, January 3, 2020)

“For a Europe With Little Leverage, Dangers Abound in US-Iran Conflict“

Interview with Gordon Friedrichs

(Courthouse News Service, January 8, 2020)

“‘Trump wird unberechenbar bleiben, also ist alles denkbar’: Experte zu USA-Iran-Konflikt“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Sputnik, January 8, 2020)

“USA-Experte rechnet mit Rückzug der Amerikaner aus dem Nahen Osten“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR “Aktuell“, January 8, 2020)

“Was hat das Impeachment-Verfahren überhaupt gebracht?“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(rbb radio eins, February 8, 2020)

“Donald Trump und die Zerstörung einer Demokratie: Der Amerika Historiker Detlef Junker über den ‘großen Ruinierer’ Trump und die verheerenden Folgen seiner Präsidentschaft“

Article by Detlef Junker

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, March 3, 2020)

“What a Puritan Leader Learned About Disease Control from the Man He Enslaved“

Podcast interview with Jan Stievermann

(Christianity Today, May 15, 2020)

“How response to George Floyd’s death reflects ‘accumulated grievance’ of black America“

Interview with Eddie S. Glaude Jr., Princeton University/James W. C. Pennington Fellow 2018, Heidelberg University

(PBS News Hour, May 29, 2020)

“Die Welle der Gewalt könnte Trump in die Hände spielen“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Deutschlandfunk Kultur, June 2, 2020)

“Historiker über U.S.-Unruhen: ‘Todesröcheln eines sterbenden Amerikas’“

Interview with Eddie S. Glaude Jr., Princeton University/James W. C. Pennington Fellow 2018,
Heidelberg University

(SPIEGEL Online, June 7, 2020)

“Fall George Floyd: Steht den USA ein Bürgerkrieg bevor?“

Comments by Martin Thunert

(web.de Magazin, June 8, 2020)

Radio Interview with Martin Thunert about racism in U.S.-society

(hr-iNFO, June 9, 2020)

“Withdrawing U.S. Troops From Germany Is Simply Bad Strategy“

Article by John R. Deni, Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, and former visiting
scholar at the HCA

(Newsweek, June 10, 2020)

“‘Die USA bleiben in einer Vor-Bürgerkriegssituation’: Der Amerika-Historiker Detlef Junker
analysiert die Lage der Vereinigten Staaten im Wahljahr“

Article by Detlef Junker

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, June 16, 2020)

“Politikwissenschaftler Martin Thunert: Erforscht Rassismus und Polizeigewalt in den USA“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR1 „Leute“, June 19, 2020)

“Wie soll der neue Stadtteil heißen? Patrick-Henry-Village soll 2021 neuen Namen bekommen“

Comments by Manfred Berg and Detlef Junker

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, July 2, 2020)

“U.S.-Wahlen 2020: Was, wenn Trump eine Niederlage gegen Biden nicht akzeptieren würde?“

Comments by Martin Thunert

(web.de Magazin, July 21, 2020)

“Kulturkrieg und Rassenspaltung: Um sich die Wiederwahl zu sichern, setzt US-Präsident Donald
Trump auf Polarisierung“

Article by Manfred Berg

(Mannheimer Morgen, July 25, 2020)

“Warum die Vizepräsidentschaft so wichtig ist wie nie“

Interview with Manfred Berg

(Tagesspiegel, July 28, 2020)

“Wenn es ums Ganze geht: Immer wieder wurden Präsidentschaftswahlen zu Wendepunkten der U.S.-Geschichte. Steht das Land erneut vor einer historischen Zäsur?“

Article by Manfred Berg

(Die ZEIT, September 10, 2020)

“Trump-Biden-Debatte war ‚Peinlichkeit nationalen Ausmaßes‘“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR “Aktuell”, September 30, 2020)

“Briefwahl bei der U.S.-Wahl 2020: Wie berechtigt ist die Angst vor Manipulation?“

Comments by Martin Thunert

(Merkur.de, October 1, 2020)

“Trump wirkt wie ein wütender Boxer“

Interview with Martin Thunert

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, October 1, 2020)

“Faktencheck: Droht bei einer Briefwahl in den USA Betrug?“

Comments by Martin Thunert

(Trierischer Volksfreund, October 23, 2020)

“Politikwissenschaftler: Trump hat noch Chancen Präsident zu bleiben“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR “Aktuell”, October 23, 2020)

“Die lange Nacht zur U.S.-Wahl: Rassismus“

Interview with Manfred Berg and Sudha David-Wilp

(ARD “Weltspiegel”, October 25, 2020)

“Die lange Nacht zur U.S.-Wahl: Wahlsystem“

Interview with Manfred Berg and Sudha David-Wilp

(ARD “Weltspiegel”, October 25, 2020)

“U.S.-Wahl 2020: Nach der Präsidenten-Wahl die Verfassungskrise?“

Interview with Manfred Berg

(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, October 31, 2020)

“‘Trump, der große Zertrümmerer’: Detlef Junker zu Internationalen Beziehungen der USA”
Radio interview with Detlef Junker
(SWR2, November 4, 2020)

“U.S.-Wahl: Darf Trump die Auszählung der Wahlzettel stoppen?”
Radio interview with Manfred Berg
(NDR Info, November 5, 2020)

“U.S.-Wahlen 2020: Stimmen aus der Metropolregion Rhein-Neckar”
Comments by Martin Thunert
(Mannheimer Morgen, November 5, 2020)

“Es bleibt sehr viel Donald Trump”
Interview with Detlef Junker
(Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, November 5, 2020)

“ARD-Brennpunkt: Kampf ums Weiße Haus”
Interview with Manfred Berg
(ARD, November 5, 2020)

“Der böse Geist Trumps wird bleiben”
Radio interview with Manfred Berg
(Deutschlandfunk Kultur, November 9, 2020)

“Sorge um die Weltmacht—Was wird jetzt aus der USA?”
Radio interview with Detlef Junker
(SWR2 “Forum”, November 9, 2020)

“USA-Experte: ‘Trump hat sich ins Abseits katapultiert’”
Radio interview with Martin Thunert
(SWR “Aktuell”, January 7, 2021)

“Sicherheitsfragen in Washington: Wie kann Sicherheit gewährleistet werden?”
Radio interview with Martin Thunert
(Deutschlandfunk Kultur, January 7, 2021)

“‘Die USA sind kein Vorbild mehr’- Heidelberger Historiker über die tiefe Krise der radikalisierten Republikanischen Partei”
Interview with Manfred Berg
(Badische Neuste Nachrichten, January 8, 2021)

“Das wird die innere Spaltung der USA weiter vertiefen“

Interview with Detlef Junker
(RNZ, January 8, 2021)

“Der Demokratie-Clash von Washington: Über die Zukunft deutsch-amerikanischer Beziehungen“

Radio interview with Detlef Junker
(SWR2, January 11, 2021)

“Gott, Vaterland, Freiheit’: Der Amerikanist Detlef Junker über die Folgen des Sturms auf das Kapitol für die USA und die Welt“

Interview with Detlef Junker
(Konradsblatt, January 12, 2021)

“Erinnerung wird wachgehalten“

Report about the HCA project “Jewish Exile in the United States“
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, July 2, 2021)

“Abschiedsbesuch bei Freunden: Angela Merkel bei Joe Biden“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert
(SWR “Aktuell“ Radio, July 15, 2021)

“Die Biden-Strategie in Afghanistan war naiv“

Radio interview with Martin Thunert
(SWR2 “Aktuell“, August 16, 2021)

“Ein Zeichen gegen Rassismus: Erster schwarzer Ehrendoktor der Universität Heidelberg“

Report about the US-American minister and former slave James W.C. Pennington
(SWR “Aktuell“, August 19, 2021)

“James W.C. Pennington – erster schwarzer US-Amerikaner mit Ehrendoktorwürde in Heidelberg“

(SWR2 “Journal am Mittag“, August 20, 2021)

“James W.C. Pennington Konferenz“

(RNFlife, August 23, 2021)

“Kompromissloser Kämpfer für Freiheit und Frieden. Den Afroamerikaner James Pennington und die Uni Heidelberg verband der Einsatz gegen die Sklaverei“

Interview with Jan Stievermann
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, August 28/29, 2021)

“Wie hat der Terror die Welt verändert?“

Article by Manfred Berg
(Mannheimer Morgen, September 11, 2021)

“‘Es begann mit einer Erschütterung’ – Detlef Junkers neues Buch analysiert 150 Jahre transatlantische Beziehungen“

(RNZ, October 21, 2021)

“Geldsegen für Amerikanisten. Graduiertenkolleg erhält 4,3 Million Euro“

(RNZ, November 15, 2021)

“Ohne die USA gibt es keine Sicherheit in Europa“

Interview with Detlef Junker

(RNZ, December 10, 2021)



HCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

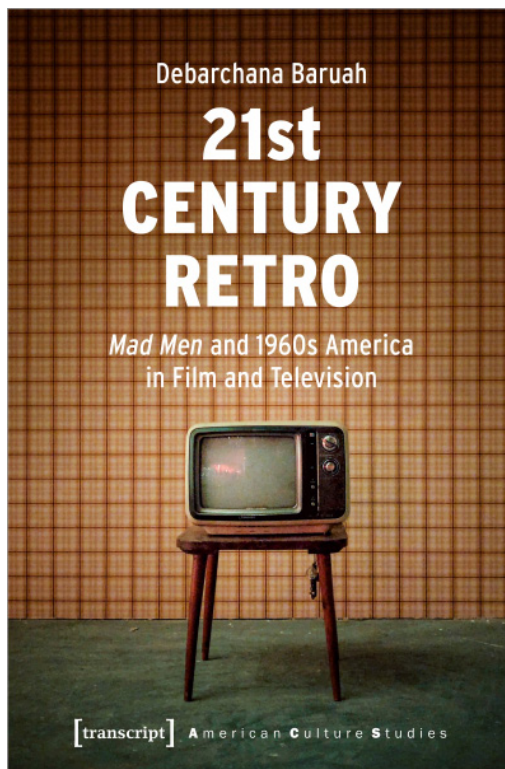
21st Century Retro

"Mad Men" and 1960s America in Film and Television

Debarchana Baruah

transcript Verlag, 2021

Numerous contemporary televisual productions revisit the past but direct their energies towards history's non-events and anti-heroic subjectivities. Debarchana Baruah offers a vocabulary to discuss these, using *Mad Men* as a primary case study and supplementing the analysis with other examples from the US and around the world. She takes a fundamentally interdisciplinary approach to studying film and television, drawing from history, memory, and nostalgia discourses, and layering them with theories of intertextuality, paratexts, and actor-networks. The book's compositions style invites discussions from scholars of various fields, as well as those who are simply fans of history or of *Mad Men*.



Hegemonic Transition

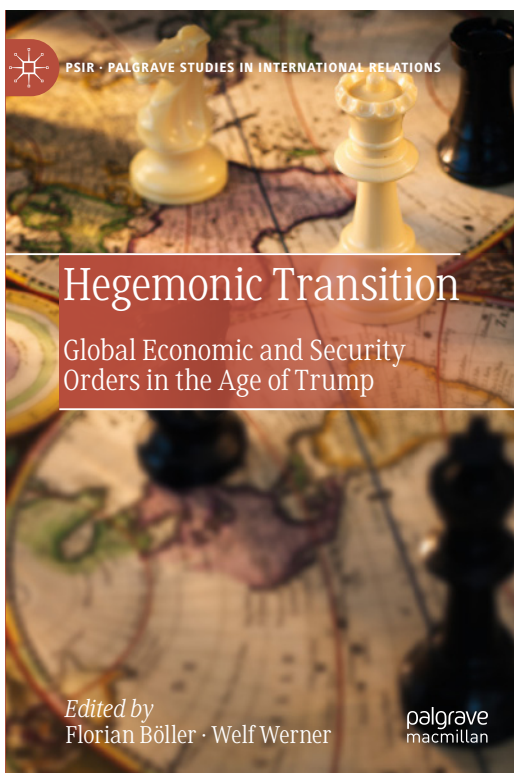
Global Economic and Security Orders In the Age of Trump.

Florian Böller & Welf Werner (eds.)

Palgrave Macmillan, 2021

"This timely contribution to the debate on global order brings together a distinguished group of American and European experts. Highly recommended to everyone who wants to understand how the COVID pandemic, the Trump administration and long-term shifts in global production have undermined US leadership." — Reinhard Wolf, Professor of International Relations, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.

This book offers an assessment of the ongoing transformation of hegemonic order and its domestic and international politics. The current international order is in crisis. Under the Trump administration, the USA has ceased to unequivocally support the institutions it helped to foster. China's power surge, contestation by smaller states, and the West's internal struggle with populism and economic discontent have undermined the liberal order from outside and from within. While the diagnosis of a crisis is hardly new, its sources, scope, and underlying politics are still up for debate. Our reading of hegemony diverges from a static concept, toward a focus on the dynamic politics of hegemonic ordering. This perspective includes the domestic support and demand for specific hegemonic goods, the contestation and backing by other actors within distinct layers of hegemonic orders, and the underlying bargaining between the hegemon and subordinate actors. The case studies in this book thus investigate hegemonic politics across regimes (e.g., trade and security), regions (e.g., Asia, Europe, and Global South), and actors (e.g., major powers and smaller states). Florian Böller is Professor of International Relations at the University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. Previously, he taught at Heidelberg University and held fellowships at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Harvard University. His research on US foreign policy has appeared in the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *European Political Science Review*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, and other journals. Welf Werner is Professor of American Studies at Heidelberg University, Germany, and director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. He was a John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellow at Harvard University and a research fellow at Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University. His research and teaching focus on US domestic and foreign economic policies.



Martin Luther King

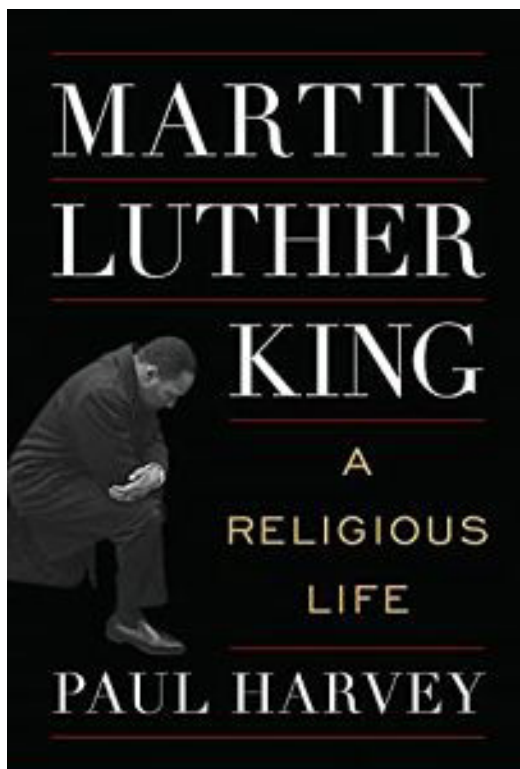
A Religious Life

Paul Harvey

Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2021

Historian and professor Harvey (*The Color of Christ*) plumbs the background and writings of Martin Luther King Jr. to provocatively build a religious frame around the civil rights leader's beliefs and tactics. Delving into the formative intellectual and theological influences on King's writings and activities, Harvey's approach is not primarily as a biographer but rather a close reader of the evolution of King's thought; as Harvey notes, "King's radicalism had deep roots. The black religious tradition informed him through its history of protest and proclamation." King's ways of thinking are considered across his accomplishments and failures in civil rights campaigns including in Montgomery, Selma, and Chicago. Throughout, Harvey stresses King's unwavering commitment to nonviolence; his political realism, derived in part from his study of Reinhold Niebuhr; and his fundamental economic radicalism. (King first read Karl Marx in 1949 while in seminary.)

Harvey also acknowledges King's "anxiety reduction" practices of drinking and sexual dalliance (which the FBI surveilled obsessively). Importantly, Harvey takes on in an epilogue the "distortions" (or "symbolism [over] substance") of King's message in the decades following his 1968 assassination. This careful and of-the-moment examination of King's fundamentally religious worldview should take a prominent place on the shelf of literature about the man who changed 20th century America.



Deutschland und die USA 1871-2021

Detlef Junker
heiBOOKS, 2021

Deutschland und die USA 1871–2021 ist die erste Gesamtdarstellung zu 150 Jahren transatlantischer Beziehungen zwischen dem 1871 gegründeten deutschen Nationalstaat und den USA. Das Buch ist eine Sammlung von Aufsätzen, Artikeln und Vorträgen, die der Autor zum 19. Jahrhundert, zum Ersten Weltkrieg und zum Zweiten Weltkrieg sowie zum Kalten Weltkrieg veröffentlicht hat, ergänzt um einen neuen Essay, der bis an die unmittelbare Gegenwart und das Ende der Präsidentschaft Donald Trumps führt.

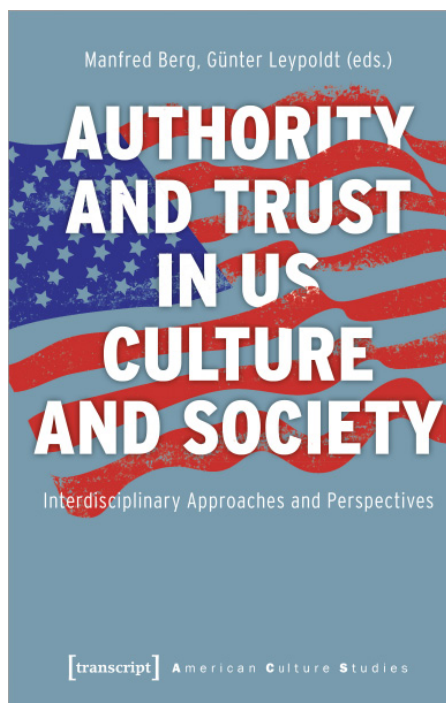


Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives

Günter Leypoldt & Manfred Berg (eds.)

transcript Verlag, 2021

In the past two decades, a discourse of crisis has emerged about the democratic institutions and political culture of the US: many structures of authority which people had more or less taken for granted are facing a massive public loss of trust. This volume takes an interdisciplinary and historical look at the transformations of authority and trust in the United States. The contributors examine government institutions, political parties, urban neighborhoods, scientific experts, international leadership, religious communities, and literary production. Exploring the nexus between authority and trust is crucial to understand the loss of legitimacy experienced by political, social, and cultural institutions not only in the United States but in Western democracies at large.

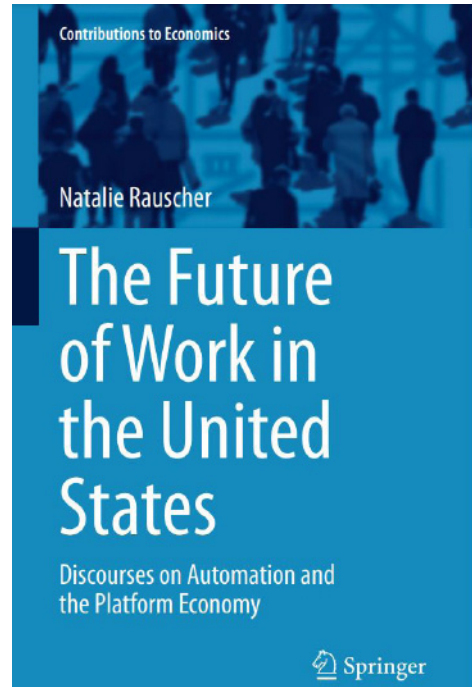


The Future of Work in the United States Discourses on Automation and the Platform Economy

Natalie Rauscher

Springer, 2020

This book presents and analyzes how restructuring processes due to technological change are reflected and processed in political and public discourses in the United States in the most recent past. More specifically, this work examines how the themes of automation, digitization, and the platform economy and their impact on the future of work are reflected in public discourse through the analysis of journalistic articles, and political discourse through the analysis of congressional hearings. Public and political discourses, as well as economic narratives, shape our understanding of certain developments such as technological change, our behavior more generally, and societal support of said developments. Therefore, it is vital to investigate and analyze these discourses in order to show how technological change is perceived and evaluated today. This work draws from concepts and methods of several different disciplines, most notably using a combination of corpus-linguistic methods and exemplary textual analysis. This way, this work stands as truly interdisciplinary, with a unique approach to the quantitative and qualitative examination of discourses.



Carlyle, Emerson and the Transatlantic Uses of Authority

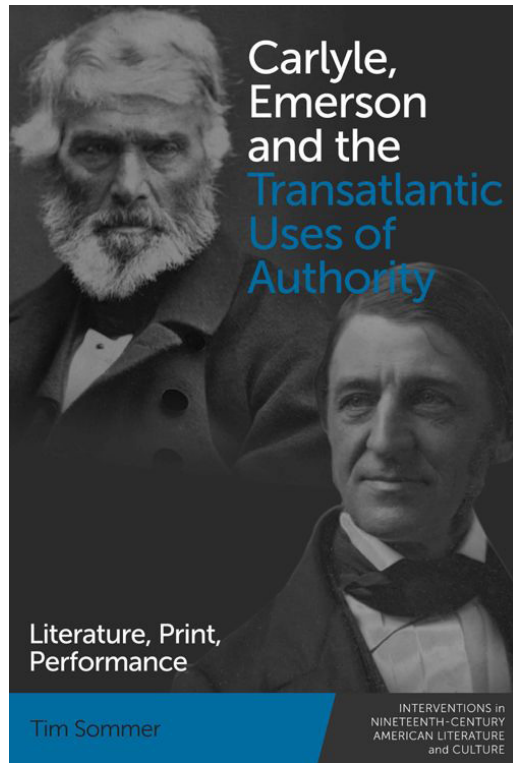
Literature, Print, Performance

Tim Sommer

Edinburgh University Press, 2021

Examining the transatlantic writings and professional careers of Thomas Carlyle and Ralph Waldo Emerson, this book explores the impact of literary, cultural, political and legal manifestations of authority on nineteenth-century British and American writing, publishing and lecturing. Drawing on primary texts in conjunction with a rich body of archival sources, the study retraces Romantic debates about race and nationhood, analyses the relationship between cultural nationalism and literary historiography and sheds light on Carlyle's and Emerson's professional identities as publishing authors and lecturing celebrities on both sides of the Atlantic.

"Emerson and Carlyle were an odd couple and a transatlantic cultural powerhouse. Their decades-long exchange electrified literary circuits and jolted thinking about historiography, race, nationhood, copyright and lecturing, as Tim Sommer shows. This shrewd study of the nineteenth century's alternating currents of cultural authority snaps and crackles with insights." — *Michèle Mendelssohn, Oxford University*



God's Marshall Plan

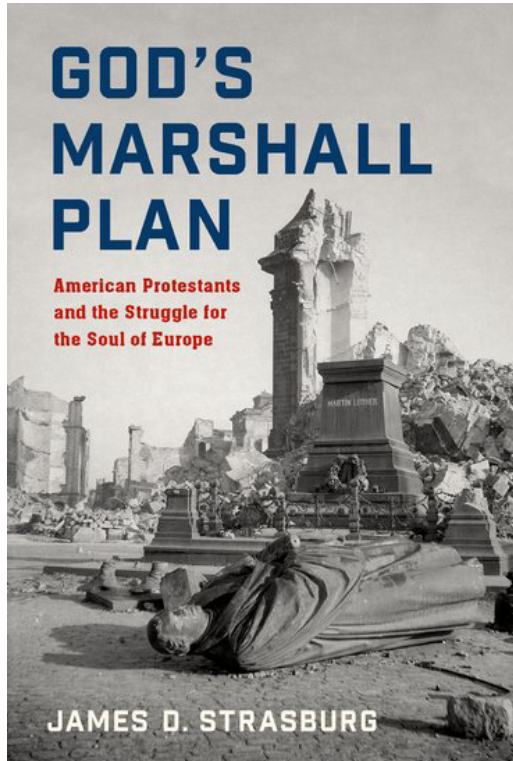
American Protestants and the Struggle for the Soul of Europe

James D. Strasburg
Oxford University Press, 2021

God's Marshall Plan tells the story of the American Protestants who sought to transform Germany into a new Christian and democratic nation in the heart of twentieth-century Europe. James D. Strasburg follows the American pastors, revivalists, diplomats, and spies who crossed the Atlantic in an era of world war, responded to the rise of totalitarian dictators, and began to identify Europe as a continent in need of saving. He examines their far-reaching campaigns to make Germany into the European cornerstone of a new American-led global spiritual order.

God's Marshall Plan illuminates the dramatic ramifications of these efforts by showing how the mission to remake Germany in America's image actually remade American Protestantism itself. American Protestants realized they had come to dramatically different conclusions about how to rebuild the

West out of the ruins of war. European Protestants, meanwhile, began to sharply protest America's spiritual advance. Forsaking their wartime nationalism, a growing number of ecumenical Protestants championed a new ethic of global fellowship, reconciliation, and justice. However, a fresh wave of evangelical Protestants emerged and ensured that the religious struggle would continue into the Cold War. Strasburg argues that the spiritual struggle for Europe ultimately forged two competing visions of global engagement — Christian nationalism and Christian globalism — that transformed the United States, diplomacy, and politics in the Cold War and beyond.



The Oxford Handbook of Jonathan Edwards

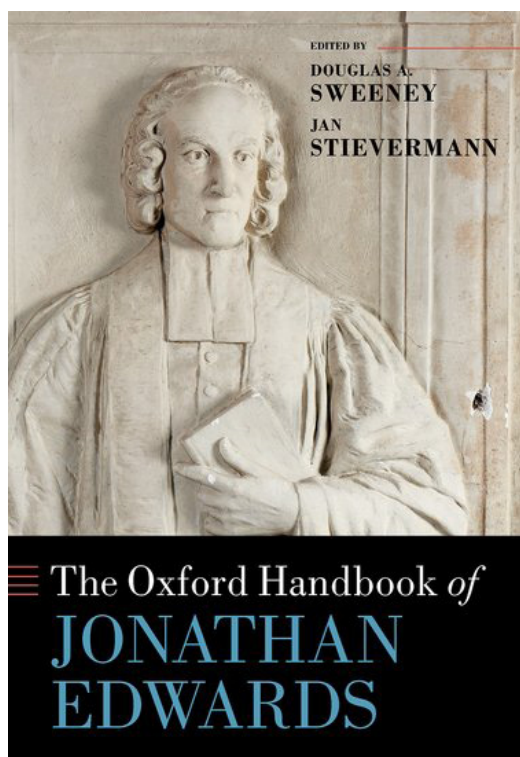
Douglas A. Sweeney & Jan Stievermann (eds.)

Oxford Handbooks, Oxford University Press, 2021

The Oxford Handbook of Jonathan Edwards offers a state-of-the-art summary of scholarship on Edwards by a diverse, international, and interdisciplinary group of Edwards scholars, many of whom serve as global leaders in the burgeoning world of research and writing on 'America's theologian'. As an early modern clerical polymath, Edwards is of interest to historians, theologians, and literary scholars. He is also an interlocutor for contemporary clergy and philosophical theologians. All such readers—and many more—will find here an authoritative overview of Edwards' life, ministry, and writings, as well as a representative sampling of cutting-edge scholarship on Edwards from across several disciplines.

The volume falls into four sections, which reflect the diversity of Edwards studies today. The first section turns to the historical Edwards and grounds him in his period and the relevant contexts that shaped his life and work.

The second section balances the historical reconstruction of Edwards as a theological and philosophical thinker with explorations of his usefulness for constructive theology and the church today. In part three, the focus shifts to the different ways and contexts in which Edwards attempted to realize his ideas and ideals in his personal life, scholarship, and ministry, but also to the ways in which these historical realities stood in tension with, limited, or resisted his aspirations. The final section looks at Edwards' widening renown and influence as well as diverse appropriations. This Handbook serves as an authoritative guide for readers overwhelmed by the enormity of the multi-lingual world of Edwards studies. It will bring readers up to speed on the most important work being done and then serve them as a benchmark in the field of Edwards scholarship for decades to come.



For more information on the HCA and its B.A., 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-heidelberg.de and subscribe to our newsletter.



Ruprecht-Karls-Universität
Heidelberg, est. 1386

⋮ HCA
Heidelberg Center
for American Studies

Curt und Heidemarie
Engelhorn Palais

Hauptstraße 120
D-69117 Heidelberg

T +49 6221/54 37 10
F +49 6221/54 37 19

www.hca.uni-hd.de