



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

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RECTOR'S WELCOME

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

Dear reader,

For the past sixteen years, it has been my pleasure to welcome you to the HCA's annual report. When I commenced my tenure as rector of Heidelberg University in 2007, the center was in its infancy. It had just moved from an office floor in the Weststadt to a baroque palais on Heidelberg's Hauptstraße, generously provided by honorary senators Heidemarie und Curt Engelhorn. Three years later, a modern annex to the landmark palais was finalized. And this past year, we were able to dedicate the courtyard between the HCA and the Triplex Cafeteria as a further open air "learning space" at Ruperto Carola, offering the opportunity to work outside and to enjoy the company of fellow students and researchers.

In the past two decades, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies has evolved from a single degree program to one of the most eminent centers for the study of the United States in Europe. Its international "Master in American Studies" program has been flanked by a bachelor's program and a DFG-funded Research Training Group. The HCA Spring Academy has become a renowned venue for doctoral candidates from around the world. And the HCA has always kept its promise to sustain a lively dialogue between academia and the general public. Its lecture series and panel discussions have drawn hundreds of visitors to the Engelhorn Palais; its videos and the HCA podcast reach thousands of viewers and listeners. In recent years, the HCA has not only significantly expanded its digital formats, but has added many international facets to a more global view on American Studies, not least through cooperation with the university's Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS) and the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS).

None of this would have been possible without a dedicated team and the generous support from private sponsors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them. As I conclude my time as rector of our university, I am convinced that the HCA will remain a prime pillar of Heidelberg University's strong Area Studies.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernhard Eitel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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,

The past year at the HCA is best characterized as “return to normalcy.” The winter semester 2021 saw the resumption of in-person classes and events, even if we still wore masks and kept our distance. We turned quite a few of our digital formats into hybrid formats as new technical equipment provided new opportunities in our home in the old town, the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. We continued to produce videos of signature events like those in our lecture series “Encounters,” available in the video section of our homepage. And of course we retained the HCA podcast, which has further enlarged its listener base. Overall, we feel that in spite of everything we turned the pandemic experience to our advantage; Covid-19 has helped to accelerate the pace of our transition towards a more digital HCA, a shift that we had initiated well before the pandemic.

At the beginning of 2022, we were confident that we had largely mastered the crisis. A mere two months later, Russian troops invaded Ukraine, an attack that has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties, caused a significant refugee crisis as well as massive disruptions in global food and energy markets. But the West stood united in the face of this staggering aggression. Two popular events in our series “Encounters” highlight the HCA’s attention to this conflict: “Die liberale Weltordnung in der Krise? Die EU zwischen den USA, Russland und China” with Reinhard Bütikofer and “Rivals or Enemies? The United States, Russia, and China” with Fiona Hill. A conversation between Tanja Penter and Manfred Berg, historians of Eastern Europe and the United States, respectively, turned out to be the most popular episode of our podcast in 2022. The war in Ukraine and China’s rise once more led us to a more global view on American Studies. Our cooperation with the two other pillars of the university’s area studies, the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS) and the Center for Asian and Cultural Studies (CATS), underscore our open-ended commitment to a more global American Studies in Heidelberg.

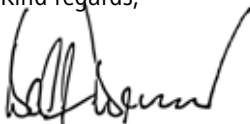
We also did not lose sight of another ongoing crisis. Climate change and its specific impact on the United States was the topic of an international conference that took place at the HCA in July. Its participants looked at natural hazards in the United States and how (in)effectively American society and public policy have dealt with these particular challenges in the past.

In the same month, we were happy to see normalcy return in another respect. After a two-year hiatus, we were able to once more celebrate the James W.C. Pennington Award that since 2012 has been honoring the African-American pastor and former slave. Generously endowed by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation, the award brought two eminent scholars of African-American history to the HCA, Carol Anderson from Emory University and Manisha Sinha from the University of Connecticut. Together with yet another distinguished visiting professor, Susan Herbst from the University of Connecticut, they brought fresh insights to HCA seminars and were enthusiastically received by students and faculty.

Finally, the U.S. midterm elections in November 2022 also seemed to signal a cautious move towards normalcy in American politics, at least not a further deterioration of American democracy. We hope that this tendency will hold, although the latest developments in Congress point towards more gridlock. As always, the election analysis of Martin Thunert, the HCA Senior Lecturer Political Science, was on the dot; please consult the special feature of our annual report for his assessment.

Here at the HCA, we hope that you will enjoy leafing through the following pages that document the activities of our center throughout the past academic year. I am hopeful that in the months ahead, we will continue on the path to normalcy. But we will also continue to expect the unexpected and will try to make sense of it as scholars of American Studies; in our research, in the HCA's classrooms, as well as at our public events.

Kind regards,

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

Prof. Dr. Welf Werner

Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies



THE HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR
AMERICAN STUDIES

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Officially inaugurated in 2004, the HCA has become one of the leading centers for American Studies in Europe. It provides excellent research and education opportunities for scholars and students from all over the world. In addition, the HCA strengthens the profile of Heidelberg University as one of Germany's finest academic institutions. Heidelberg University's 636-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.

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.

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. The 2021 and 2022 awards were bestowed on Manisha Sinha from the University and Carol Anderson from Emory University in a joint ceremony (see p. 114).

During the academic year 2021-22, four MAS students and candidates were privileged to enjoy the support of Heidemarie Engelhorn, the Schurman Association, and the Andreas Dienerowitz International Fellowship. And once more, the 2022 Spring Academy was made possible by the generosity of the John Deere Company.

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

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

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ORGANIZATION

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In November 2005, the HCA established a board of trustees. Today, it consists of 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, he 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 reurbanization trends in North American cities, urban inequality in the Americas, and urban sustainable politics across the world. She aims at developing a planetary research perspective on urban theory that takes into account the wide array of urban developments in an increasingly urbanized world. 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 at Heidelberg University's Institute for Political Science as well as deputy director 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 2023) 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, 15 students participate in our program while 26 have successfully completed their doctorate.

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

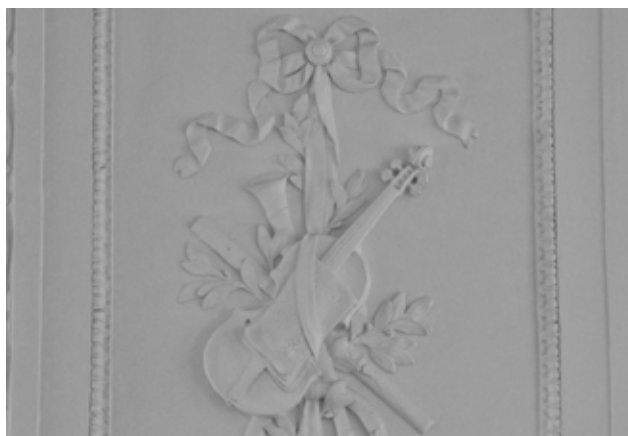
In late November of 2009, the HCA learned that its application – supported by Heidelberg University – for the creation of two professorships to be shared with the Institute of Geography and the Faculty of Theology, respectively, had been approved by the state government. These professorships were allocated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

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

A detail in Haus Neukirch.



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). Another is our cooperation with the Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS), in particular our new series of conversations entitled "Encounters: New Perspectives on Asia, America, and Europe," launched with considerable support from the university. 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 launched the podcast "Corona in den USA" and conceptualized the Ruperto Carola Ringvorlesung entitled "Quo Vadis USA?" as an exclusively online format.



The modern annex to the HCA.

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 Leyboldt 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.

The HCa is situated 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. Since the summer of 2022, HCA students, faculty, and guests have enjoyed the revamped courtyard, one of Heidelberg University's three "Lernorte" ("learning spaces").

PEOPLE 2021-2022



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: niños, niñas y adolescentes ecuatorianos no acompañados en tránsito a Estados Unidos* (2012). Soledad Alvarez left Heidelberg in the fall of 2022 for a position at the University of Illinois Chicago.

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

(see p. 19)

ELÉNA BRANDAO MECKER STUDENT ASSISTANT

Eléna Brandao Mecker is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in philosophy and political science at Heidelberg University. In December 2021, she joined the HCA as a student assistant and supports Forum events as well as the publishing of the annual report and the production of the HCA podcast.

LENA BRASEN
WEB ADMINISTRATION & EVENTS

Lena Brasen has been a student in the HCA's B.A. program since fall 2021, specializing in politics and religion. As a student assistant, she works in Web administration and provides technical support for HCA events.

JONAS FAUST, M.A.
STUDENT ASSISTANT

Jonas Faust is currently pursuing his Ph.D. with Günter Leyboldt on the poetry of Allen Ginsberg. He has also been supporting the B.A. and M.A. coordinators with administrative tasks since November 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 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

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JULIAN KRAMER, M.A.

PUBLISHING

Julian Kramer supported the HCA in publishing as well as conference organization and facilitation from October 2019 until September 2022. During this time, he provided technical support for the institute's podcast, online and hybrid conferences such as the GAAS Annual Meeting 2021 or the Spring Academy 2021 and 2022, as well as the annual report and the production of the HCA podcast. He left the HCA for a position as program coordinator at the American Academy in Berlin.



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.



PHILIPP LEONHARDT, M.A.

STUDENT ASSISTANT

Philipp Leonhardt received his B.A. in English and German Philology from Heidelberg University in 2019. Focusing on American literature and culture, ecocriticism, and sound studies, he continued his studies with an M.A. in English Studies at the English Department of Heidelberg University. After graduating in 2021, he joined the Ph.D. program of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies in the winter term of 2022-23. Since the summer term of 2022 he has taught the B.A. theory and methods classes in American Studies at the HCA, in addition to assisting the BAS and MAS coordination with administrative tasks.

PROF. DR. GÜNTER LEYPOLDT

PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

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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, D.C. Subsequently, he taught both in Heidelberg and at the Free University's John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies in Berlin. Dr. Mausbach has also been a Volkswagen Foundation Fellow, a Marshall-Monnet Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a visiting fellow at Carleton University in Ottawa. His dissertation on American economic postwar policy toward Germany 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.



HANNES NAGEL, M.A.
GKAT COORDINATOR & WEB CONTENT 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.



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. From May 2021 until September 2022, she was 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 subdisciplines of religion, German culture, gender, and race. His first book manuscript (currently under review), entitled *Religion on the Margins: Embodied Moravian Pieties on the Edges of Atlantic World Empire*, examines the believers and lay missionaries of the eighteenth-century Moravian Church, an influential group of radical German Pietists who worked to build a cosmopolitan community focused on an eschatological global vision while negotiating diverse cultures, unfamiliar configurations of power and authority, and the institution of slavery. The research for this project was funded by 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. His second book project, currently in progress, explores the history of German and English Protestant cultures of translation and how revisionings of the Bible operated as engines of community formation in British North America. 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.



PHILINE SCHILLER, M.ED. RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Philine Schiller is a doctoral student at Heidelberg University, where she received her M. Ed. for English and Spanish philology in 2020. She currently works at the HCA and the Heidelberg School of Education (HSE). Her dissertation project, supervised by PD Dr. Philipp Löffler, is concerned with the relationship between food, narrative, and identity in contemporary food memoirs. Her academic and literary interests include contemporary literature, food studies, memoir studies, popular culture, and genre fiction.



DR. ANJA SCHÜLER COORDINATOR FORUM & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anja Schüller 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.

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.
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 supported Forum events as well as conference organization until September 2021

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. Since April 2022, she also supports preparation for classes in political science and economics.



VIRGINIA ZENTGRAF, B.A.
SPRING ACADEMY

Virginia Zentgraf has been a student at the HCA since 2017. For her bachelor's degree, she focused on American religion, literature, and culture. She joined the HCA's master's program in the fall of 2022. Since October of 2021, she has been working as a student assistant for the Spring Academy, the HCA's annual conference for Ph.D. students..

ADJUNCT FACULTY

Dr. Steven Less, J.D.
Lecturer Law

Daniel Sommer
Debating Club & Presentation Skills

COOPERATION AND SUPPORT

The HCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following institutions in facilitating its programs: The American Academy in Berlin; the German-American Fulbright Commission; the Max Kade Foundation; Andreas Henn Kunsthandel Galerie Stuttgart; Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe; the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany; Baier Druck, Heidelberg; German Association for American Studies (DGfA); Heidelberg Program of Pepperdine University; University of Notre Dame; Yale Divinity School; Georgia State University; Loyola University Chicago; Carl-Schurz-Haus, Freiburg; German American Institute Heidelberg (DAI); 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 and especially Elizabeth Trnka-Hammel; 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. 48) from its inception and a three year Ph.D. in American Studies program (see p. 60) 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 2025

In 2022, thirty students joined the HCA's undergraduate program. They attended a two-day orientation session at the HCA in the week before classes commenced and started partaking in HCA classes and events afterwards.



L. to r.: Rebecca Lumme, Marie Haas, Markus Ruoff, Aygün Karasu, Sarah Weis, Tim Falkenstein, Lorena Beonda, Lina Weidenhammer, Alex Sans, Lilli Baum, Charlotte Nauert, Lucas Armbruster, Lena Wendker, Cassandra Russell, Sonja Mahmood, Jacob Handwerk, Paul Wendorff, Nik Walter. Not pictured: Amelie Benkart, Mirjam El Gabt, Jonas Helfrich, Rosanna Richter, Tara Shahsawar, Arina Shalagina.

STUDENT TRIP TO BERLIN 2022

Participants of the student trip to Berlin, l.-r.: Maxine Wildenstein, Gentile Bajra, Sylvia Rodriguez, Patrick Schollmeier, Xiaowei Zhang, Luisa Mayerle, Lena Brasen, Annabelle Hennemann, Linnéa Fischer, Alina Milch, Martin Thunert, Natalie Rauscher, Elias Tur.



The Berlin Excursion Group met for the first time on April 20, 2022, excited to explore the American footprint left behind in Berlin. To prepare for this endeavor, students gave a number of presentations about the postwar American presence in Berlin and discussed its importance

On May 9th, our weeklong trip to Berlin began with a six-hour train ride from Heidelberg to the German capital. We checked into a hotel at Berlin-Alexanderplatz before we headed to a tour of the Bundestag. Our guide explained various aspects of the Bundestag and provided us with great insights into the work of members of the German parliament. Later in the evening, we strolled around the Brandenburg Gate.

The next morning we enjoyed a quick breakfast before we headed towards Potsdam. Our destination on Tuesday was the beautiful Cecilienhof. After arriving in Potsdam we had to wait for our bus to take us to our destination; however, it was not quite the bus we had expected. To our surprise, it was rather a small van with only a few seats. We ended up squeezing ourselves into the back corner and held onto whatever was available. After arriving at Cecilienhof safely, we were provided with audio guides that informed us about the Potsdam Conference in 1945 and its historical context. All of us were impressed by the enormous conference room where the three leading allies USA, Britain, and the Soviet Union, represented by President Harry S. Truman, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, met. After our tour of Cecilienhof, we took a boat tour through the North of Potsdam while enjoying a couple drinks to cool off.

On Wednesday, our group decided to split up; some of us went to the Alte Nationalgalerie to see a Gauguin exhibition while Dr. Thunert took the remainder of the group to the Humboldtforum. Unfortunately, the gallery on American history was not open yet, but we got to learn more about

Africa and Asia, two culturally rich continents. The African exhibition had a very interesting "concert room" where different sounds were played simultaneously. Before and after the tour, we also discussed the controversies around these exhibitions. Afterwards, we went up to the roof terrace where we enjoyed a fabulous view of Berlin.

In the afternoon we took the tram from the Museumsinsel to the Futurium near the Spreebogen, where we got to take a look at what the future could look like. The guided tour through the exhibition showed rooms with specific themes like humanity, nature, or technology. Everything was centered around ideas of the future – what city life, technology, or consumption might look like. Around four in the afternoon we walked back to the Bundestag to witness a plenary session about drug policies, e.g. about the question whether incarceration or treatment for addiction is more effective. Surprisingly, the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, Annalena Baerbock, was present for a couple of minutes.

On our last day, we took the tram and bus to Berlin-Dahlem. Our destination was a former American movie theatre that now houses the Allied Museum. Outside the theatre was one of the aircrafts utilized in the Berlin Airlift. The museum itself provided us with documents but also a short film about that historic operation. Our last stop for the day was the House of the Wannsee Conference, a Holocaust memorial where we were confronted with a different part of German history: On January 20, 1942, senior government officials of Nazi Germany and Schutzstaffel (SS) leaders met there to discuss the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question," in effect coordinating the mass extermination of the European Jews.

Thus, our trip to Berlin gave us lots to think about. On Friday, we enjoyed some free time and strolled around the city for a little bit before we met with the group at the Berlin Hauptbahnhof to take the ICE train back to Heidelberg. We enjoyed our time in the German capital and were impressed by the American footprint left behind in the post-war era and how it has shaped German-American relations to this day.

We are grateful that the HCA and the Fachschaft gave us the opportunity to partake in this educational and at the same time fun trip. Special thanks to Dr. Natalie Rauscher and Dr. Martin Thunert, who put so much effort in this trip to give us the best experience possible.

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 2022

Henry Chan, Hong Kong

Faye Chang, China

Julian Kramer, Germany

Tilda Li, China

Jacob McKenna, United States

Natalie Neuberth, Germany

Chloe Sun, China

Joshua Tobolt, United States

Julian Tomic, Germany

Yesim Turak, Turkey

Cecil Weller, United States

Zoe Hu YueYue, China



Some of the 2022 MAS graduates, l.-r.:
Laura Vogel, Julian Kramer, Henry Chan,
Natalie Neuberth, Julian Tomic.

THE MAS CLASS OF 2024

In October 2022, the HCA admitted eighteen students from China, the Czech Republic, Germany, Russia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States to its MAS program. They are pictured below.



HCA COMMENCEMENT 2022



Some of the HCA graduates of 2022, l.-r.: MAS: Julian Tomic, Natalie Neuberth, Julian Kramer, Laura Vogel, Henry Chan; Ph.D.: Jonathan Pike; BAS: Laura Abels, Melville Wolf-Heger, Virginia Zentgraf, Lara Smail, Layla Koch.

On October 14, the HCA welcomed its graduates, their families and friends to celebrate the 2022 Commencement, once more at Heidelberg University's elegant New Lecture Hall. Twenty-three graduates of the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. programs received their honors. The music of the Jonas Frank Trio, featuring Julian Kramer, set the mood for a fun evening – for the first time ever, an HCA graduate played at his own graduation. After a welcome by Professor Katja Patzel-Mattern, the dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, HCA Director Professor Welf Werner commenced his remarks to the graduates. Addressing the B.A. students, he referred to recent events in Europe and pointed out that the free and independent education from which they had profited was no longer a self-evident privilege, even in the Western world. Welf Werner then went on to commend the international graduates from the master's and Ph.D. program on the completion of their challenging and complex academic tasks. His address especially highlighted the importance and benefits of freedom of speech and freedom of movement that provide the pluralistic environment so important for any scholar. After expressing his gratitude to the HCA's superb staff and its founding director, Professor Detlef Junker, Professor Werner introduced this year's commencement speaker, Steven Sokol, president of the American Council on Germany, and an alumnus of the Ruperta Carola, who had taken classes with the HCA's founding director in the 1980s.

After extending his congratulations to the graduates, Dr. Sokol reflected on the current challenges for the global community, emphasizing the importance of international cooperation and

transatlantic relations in particular. At the current moment, we all have to face a new reality in which many things we have taken for granted have become uncertain. The Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing global health crisis starkly reduced physical encounters. The war in Ukraine has challenged beliefs that we held certain after the end of the Cold War. A once fairly stable international order seems to have come to an end. However, Dr. Sokol encouraged everyone to shape their future while admitting to the current crises. They certainly prove that international cooperation is necessary to drive forward ideas, solutions, and peace. We need forums for exchange to deepen our understanding of one another.

The 2022 HCA commencement speaker, Steven Sokol, President of the American Council on Germany, at the lectern of the Neue Aula



Dr. Sokol also emphasized that the relationship between the U.S. and Germany rests within this international order. The two countries share common interests and values and need one another. Public opinion polls in both countries show that their citizens stand behind a multilateral approach, support international cooperation, and prioritize the strengthening of democracies around the world while addressing climate change and economic growth. The best time of this relationship might lie ahead, even if questions of reliability remain. Yet, Germany and the U.S. face common challenges, and our common interests will always unite more than divide us.

After expressing his heartfelt gratitude for Steven Sokol's engaged address, Welf Werner proceeded to bestow the degrees and presented the book prizes to this year's valedictorians: Layla Koch, B.A., who wrote a thesis entitled: "True Love Waits: Evangelical Abstinence Campaigns and the Pro-Choice Movement"; Virginia Zentgraf, B.A., who graduated with a thesis on "American Catholicism and the Nuclear Disarmament Movement from Richard Nixon to George H.W. Bush"; and Julian Tomic, M.A., who completed a thesis on "Sin as a Battleground in the Quest for Human Brotherhood: An Exploration of Nathaniel Hawthorne's Short Fiction." After the valedictorian's addresses, Professor Werner invited everyone to the New University's foyer, where guests and graduates enjoyed an elegant reception and danced the night away to the tunes of the Jonas Frank Trio.

STUDENT ADDRESS

BY LAYLA KOCH AND VIRGINIA ZENTGRAF

Virginia: Dear graduates, dear faculty and staff, dear family, friends, and all who feel close to the HCA. We, too, want to welcome you to this year's commencement ceremony. A special welcome also to this year's first semesters of the B.A. and M.A. In a few years, some of you will be up here reflecting on your time at the HCA.

The graduate roster is small this year. The effects of Covid have not passed us by. Still, many of us are graduating with stellar grades and promising plans for the future, and we are delighted to have all of you join us today in celebration of our achievements.

As this year's valedictorians, we would like to share some of our memories of the HCA with you and the lessons we have learned.



HCA Director Welf Werner extends his congratulations to the 2022 valedictorians, Julian Tomic, Layla Koch, and Virginia Zentgraf.

Layla: I will start as the chronologically first person to have started my degree. Yesterday, I spent some time looking back at old photos from my very first semester at the HCA in Heidelberg. I had to scroll back quite a bit. Six years ago, despite all the confusion of being nineteen, I did one thing right: I decided to follow my exuberant passions and start a strange little degree at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

This week was the Ersti Einführungswoche at the HCA. I remember my own introductory week. It was a beautiful fall just like this. A couple days before, I had left Switzerland and moved into my tiny nine square meters dorm room. My dad made me take pictures in front of the HCA sign and proudly sent them to my mom. I was embarrassed that my professors might see me especially after the director of the institute himself, Professor Junker, had already made an extra effort to help me get my Swiss grades transferred during the summer. When the university misplaced my certification, he personally called them to help move my case forward.

This support would prove emblematic for my next four years at the HCA. At nineteen, I was so excited to start a Bachelor in American Studies. I could barely contain my excitement to finally choose courses, write papers, and knock on wood at the end of lectures. However, while other nineteen-year-olds are heavily disillusioned by their dream degrees, the HCA always fostered my passions. It offered high-quality classes, fun extracurriculars, fascinating events, committed professors, wonderful fellow students and – most of all – a deep and genuine humaneness that truly is not a given in higher education. They took me seriously, even at nineteen years old.

Some time has passed since 2016, and much more has transpired than what I could say here. While I would not pride myself on being any wiser, I know that the HCA was crucial in helping me channel my passions, make sense of my convoluted thoughts, and move me towards the next step. For that I am incredibly grateful.

Virginia: To me, the HCA has been a source of inspiration, a place where I took classes just for fun because they sounded interesting and challenging. It has also helped me connect to my roots, my past experiences, and rediscover passions I once had or never even realized I had. My instructors and professors have been gracious in giving me room to grow and focus on the topics I enjoy, helping me connect the dots along the way. This is one of the strengths of the HCA and its approach to American Studies. It lives and breathes the interdisciplinarity it preaches.

The HCA is a tight-knit community – one that I am glad to be a part of. Spending twenty minutes after class to continue a thrilling discussion, toasting with a mimosa – hold the champagne, please – after the many fantastic talks, book launches, or award ceremonies, sharing a laugh with esteemed guests and researchers, and voluntarily cleaning up afterwards just to spend more time together talking, have become some of my most cherished memories outside of the classroom.

Inside the classroom, I have created equally cherished memories – be they learning fascinating tidbits that make for fantastic icebreakers, rocking a presentation that you spent a lot of time preparing, and engaging with fellow students, not only from our programs but from our adjoining departments, who all bring in their own perspectives to create a conducive learning environment. Of course, there have also been some low points – such is life. Stressing over a paper, trying to find the time to do all the assigned readings, or being annoyed that the university library has seemingly lost yet another book you need. But we have overcome these struggles, to emerge wiser, smarter, and, to be fair, just a bit more tired than before. As a first-generation university student, I could not have chosen a better place to get a degree.

Layla: Before we part, we want to express our immense gratitude. We want to thank the wonderful professors we have had over the years, whether they be those at the HCA who knew all our flaws or the occasional visiting professors who took us on coffee walks during a pandemic. We want to thank the wissenschaftlicher Mittelbau – a wonderful German construct for all those who keep the show going. We want to thank our advisors, the IT people, and cleaning staff. We especially want to thank all those who organized this event tonight. Lastly, we want to thank our fellow students and our friends and family who all went on this journey with us. You helped us more than you know.

STUDENT COMMITTEE



Back row l-r: Nik Walter, Jakob Handwerk, Lilli Baum, Lukas Armbruster, Nicole Hubert, Luisa Mayerle, Franziska de Waard, Lena Brasen, Alina Milch, Annabelle Hennemann, Hannah White, Paul Wendorff, Tim Falkenstein
Front row l-r: Volodymyr Budarnyi, Patrick Schollmeier, Maxine Wildenstein, Linnéa Fischer, Vanessa Schenk, Sara Metzger, Ilayda Serdar, Karolina Kubik, Marie Haas, Sarah Weiss.

What started out as a group of BAS students representing the student body, became officially recognized as the American Studies Students' Committee ("Fachschaft") with the founding of the general student council ("Studierendenrat/StuRa") at Heidelberg University in 2013. We are currently twenty-five active students from both the BAS and MAS programs, representing the interests of the HCA student body. During the last academic year, Covid-19 restrictions lifted gradually, and we started to hold our events in person again. This brought the HCA community even closer together, and many friendships were built. Yet the pandemic also brought new opportunities, for example, fruitful exchanges between the student advisors and student representatives in monthly feedback meetings to further improve student life at the HCA.

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. We were happy to be able to finally gather for our summer barbecue in-person again. The highlight of the event was the line-dance teacher that showed the participants how to properly groove to American country music. Another event that was brought back to life was the "Berufsbrücke," an online event series to which we invited some HCA alumni to speak about their life after graduation as well as their career paths. They represented a wide range of branches, and students could get useful information for their professional future. In this context an "internship data base" was created, where our students find regional and national companies offering internships.

At the start of the winter term 2022-23, we welcomed the new B.A. and M.A. students with various activities such as a pizza party, a Heidelberg rally, a pub crawl, and series of introductory meetings which imparted useful information about student life. On that occasion, we also met

students from Pepperdine University who introduced the language exchange buddy program between their American students in Heidelberg and our freshman. As every year, the committee represented the American Studies programs at Heidelberg University's 2022 information days for high school students.

Additionally, we continued issuing our regular newsletter to inform HCA students about talks, events, and subscriptions. Another venue to keep students up to date about what is going on at the HCA and the Student Committee is our Instagram account ([fachschaft_americanstudies](#)).

After two years with many restrictions, we were grateful for the many events we could organize this year, which were met with great enthusiasm by the students. For the 2022-2023 academic year, Patrick Schollmeier and Maxine Wildenstein were re-elected as student council representatives. For further information, please contact the student council at fachschaft@hca.uni-heidelberg.de.

A lesson in line dancing at the student summer barbeque.



HCA SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Christmas Party

In 2021, the famed HCA Christmas Party once more had to take place online, but with its theme "Christmas Around the World," participants got into the Christmas spirit nonetheless.

Summer Barbeques

After a two year break, summer barbeques returned to the HCA in the summer of 2022. The party organized by the Student Committee had to move inside because of inclement weather, but the HCA Atrium offered ample space for some lessons in line dancing. A couple of weeks later, faculty and staff enjoyed the newly designed courtyard, one of the three Ruperto Carola "Lernorte," for their summer gathering.



HCA Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach welcomes everyone to the faculty barbeque in the newly designed backyard.

Thanksgiving

On the fourth Thursday in November 2022, the HCA faculty and its guests could finally resume its beloved tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving together. Long tables in the Atrium were festively laid out, and guests enjoyed free range turkey along with scrumptious side dishes, local wines, and cranberry spritzes.



HCA Thanksgiving: Team Forum made it all possible (b-f): Virigina Zentgraf, Lena Brasen, Eléna Brandao Mecker, Maxine Wildenstein, Caroline Walter, Annabelle Hennemann, Anja Schüler.



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 fourteen students are enrolled in the program, conducting cutting-edge research that brings various perspectives from cultural studies, political science, history, economics, literature, religion, and geography together. They come from Canada, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In 2022, Jonathan Pike (U.S.) received his degree; Philipp Leonhardt (Germany) was admitted to the program.

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. Over two years, 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 literature on space travel and outer space in "The Confinement of Outer Space" by Annika Elstermann or about culture wars in current Appalachia in "Green Politics in Coal Country: Resisting the Environmental Culture Wars in Appalachia" by Eleanor Griffiths. Venus Bender talked about religious actors in the Black Power Movement: "'What a Nun Is Supposed to Be': Black Power and the National Black Sisters' Conference," and Everett Messamore argues "The Founding Fathers are Back from the Dead: 19th Century Spiritualism and the American Civil Religion."

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

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



The HCA Graduate Blog was launched in the fall of 2018 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



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



PHILIPP LEONHARDT (GERMANY)

Philipp Leonhardt received his B.A. in English and German Philology from Heidelberg University in 2019. Focusing on American literature and culture, ecocriticism, and sound studies, he continued his studies with an M.A. in English Studies at the English Department of Heidelberg University. After graduating in 2021, he joined the Ph.D. program of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies in the winter term of 2022-23. Since the summer term of 2022 he has taught the B.A. theory and methods classes in American Studies at the HCA, in addition to assisting the BAS and MAS coordination with administrative tasks.

Drawing from current developments in the wake of the "acoustic turn," Philipp Leonhardt's dissertation aims to situate the contemporary novel in response to more recent research at the intersection of literary studies and sound studies that examines the sound archives and sonic fictional worlds of literary texts and investigates literary soundscapes in conjunction with historical soundscapes, heard pasts, and sound histories. With an emphasis on the acoustic dimension of contemporary American fiction, the project follows the lead of a selection of authors whose engagement with twenty-first century auditory culture, audio technology, and sound recording both informs the compositional methods of their writing and yields a textuality that is characterized by a profound self-reflexivity concerning the sonic texture of literary artifactuality, the coalescences between writing and/as sound recording, and reading and/as listening.

Primary Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leyboldt



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 Leypoldt



NIKOLAS MARIANI (GERMANY)

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



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



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

AWARDING OF THE ROLF KENTNER DISSERTATION PRIZE

Every year, the HCA awards the Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize for an outstanding dissertation in American Studies at a German university. It was originally endowed by the longtime friend and supporter of our center and is now supported by the Jacob Gould Schurman Foundation in memory of its honorary chairman. In 2021, the prize went to a graduate of the HCA for the first time. Natalie Rauscher received the honor for her work on "The Discourse on the Future of Work in the United States under the Influence of Automation and the Platform Economy." The award ceremony had to be postponed to the spring of 2022, and on May 5, HCA Director Welf Werner welcomed a sizeable crowd in the Old Lecture Hall of the University. In his laudatory speech, he introduced the prize winner, who is currently a research associate in political science at the HCA.

Natalie Rauscher then stepped up to the lectern to give some insights into her work.

Natalie Rauscher at the lectern of the Alte Aula.



She started by pointing out that the new digital millennium offers us technologies that were not thought possible mere decades ago. We have become a network society, which has led to profound changes in our personal and working lives. However, technological change spawns contradictory narratives. Her dissertation investigates those discourses with a focus on the topics of automation, digitization, the platform economy, and the future of work. Natalie Rauscher contends that in spite of other rising powers, the U.S. still produces the most influential products and services, especially in Silicon Valley. Digital capitalism and its prevalent "ideology" – the desire to improve the world, technological optimism, and a sense of business that fosters entrepreneurship and individualism – are still leading to cutting edge innovation and envy across the world. The Internet, the hallmark of the network society, is often associated with its inclusive and communal beginnings. These ideals can also be seen in the sharing economy – a special focus of Natalie Rauscher's research. However, many digital companies have abandoned altruistic sharing ideas and have put them to more commercial uses.

The examined discourses from the public and the political realm perceive and discuss the developments of technological change and the future of work in many ways. When looking at the sharing economy, for example, early narratives of sustainability and alternativeness were often replaced by an emphasis on economic opportunity and entrepreneurship. Generally, Natalie Rauscher's studies show that regardless of political stance or ideology, the "traditional" narrative around technological change persists. The business-friendly side of the discourse holds that eventually, new and better jobs will be created that benefit society. The more progressive side also reflects on possible challenges of technological progress like pressure on secure middle class jobs with access to social benefits or the crowding out of full-time employment through digital platforms. The audience was captivated by the results of Dr. Rauscher's research and lively conversations ensued at the festive reception in the HCA Atrium that followed the award ceremony.



Once again, the awarding of the Rolf Kentner Prize took place in the Alte Aula of Heidelberg University.

GRADUIERTENKOLLEG AUTHORITY AND TRUST (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 officially started in April 2022, already brought two postdoctoral researchers and several research students to the HCA. A third and final group of ten doctoral researchers will take up their positions at the Ruperto Carola in October 2023. 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) as well as social philosophy and philosophy of religion (PD Dr. Magnus Schlette, Philosophisches Seminar and Forschungsstätte der Evangelischen Studiengemeinschaft).

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.

With the start of the new funding period in 2022, GKAT was able to invite applications for two new full-time postdoc positions. Following a competitive application process, the group welcomed Susana Rocha Teixeira and Caitlin Smith, who took up their positions in April 2022. Their projects on "Re-Imagining the New Negro Renaissance: The Black Renaissance in Baltimore and Beyond" (Rocha Teixeira) and "The Land and the Books: How 18th-Century Defenses of Biblical Authority Shaped 19th-Century American Popular Literature and Culture" (Smith) both square perfectly with the group's interdisciplinary framework and have the potential to address transversal themes that cut across GKAT's three research areas.

During the academic year 2021-22, the second cohort of ten doctoral researchers (from Germany, the U.S., China, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the United Kingdom), who had taken up their GKAT positions in October 2020, continued to work on their individual projects – many of them finally conducting research trips to the United States, which had been almost impossible before due to the Covid restrictions. At the HCA, they profited from lectures and workshops with numerous renowned guest speakers such as Talja Blokland (HU Berlin), Martina Kuhnhenh (Universität Greifswald), Ingrid Gessner (PH Vorarlberg), Cecilia Menjivar (University of California Los Angeles), Solange Munoz (University of Tennessee), Phillipa Chong (McMaster University, Canada), Gordon Hutner (University of Illinois), David Hall (Harvard Divinity School) and Paolo Boccagni (Università di Trento). The work on the project's key concepts and theories was complemented by several workshops on "soft skills," including a session on career coaching accompanied by individual counseling as well as a workshop designed for female junior scholars ("Sichtbar werden für Nachwuchswissenschaftlerinnen").

At the same time, GKAT's mentoring and qualification program offered the group of GKAT doctoral candidates the chance to present and discuss their individual research projects in a colloquium in cooperation with the HCA's regular Ph.D. program. In addition to weekly sessions, on a weekend in July 2022, the annual HCA/GKAT summer retreat could finally take place again at its traditional venue, the Kurhaus Annweiler/Trifels, a beautifully renovated villa in the picturesque Palatinate. In a pleasant and inspiring atmosphere all GKAT researchers including the new postdocs and new GKAT faculty member Magnus Schlette had the opportunity to present their research projects and receive valuable feedback from their peers and the GKAT faculty.



Participants of the GKAT retreat:
l.-r.: Martin Thunert, Hannes Nagl, Shasha Linn, Judith Keller, Nicole Colaiani, Aylin Güngör, Johanna Decker, Valentina Lopez Liendo, Caitlin Smith, Lauren Rever, Günter Leyoldt, Jan Stievermann, Edward Manger, Asaf Alibegovic, Magnus Schlette.

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. 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. 37.

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 a substitute professor, at the universities of Tübingen and Göttingen. She finished her Habilitation on "Utility and Aesthetics in American Popular Poetry" in January 2008. She is currently preparing a book for publication on the poems of John Greenleaf Whittier and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Since 2013, she has held the position of Senior Lecturer in American Studies at the Ruperto Carola. Her research interests include early American literature and culture, literary and visual American iconography, theory of images and imagery, intermediality, and the popular culture of nineteenth-century and early modern U.S., in particular theater and literary performative practices.



PD DR. MAGNUS SCHLETTE

SENIOR LECTURER PHILOSOPHY

Magnus Schlette has headed the research unit "Theology and Natural Sciences" at the FEST (*Forschungsstätte der Evangelischen Studiengemeinschaft*) in Heidelberg since 2011. Since 2017 he has been a *Privatdozent* for philosophy at the Philosophy Department of Heidelberg University and became an adjunct professor there in 2022. Magnus Schlette is an associate member of the Soeren Kierkegaard Research Centre at the Max Weber College at the University of Erfurt, a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the *Jahrbuch Interdisziplinäre Anthropologie* and on the Executive Board of the German Pragmatism Network.

Magnus Schlette studied philosophy and sociology at the Free University of Berlin, in Kiel and Frankfurt/Main. He received his doctorate in philosophy in 2003 from the Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main with a historical-systematic thesis on the conditions and structure of narrative self-relations. He completed his *Habilitation* in 2010 at the Max Weber College for Cultural and Social Studies at the University of Erfurt with a thesis on the idea of self-realisation.

GKAT RESEARCHERS



SUSANA ROCHA TEIXEIRA (GERMANY) POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Susana Rocha Teixeira is a postdoctoral research associate in the DFG Research Training Group "Authority and Trust" (GKAT). She completed her Ph.D. in American Literature and Culture at Heidelberg University "summa cum laude" in 2019. Her thesis titled "The American Makeover Culture and Masculinities: Roots, Connections and Representations" explores (fictional) representations of hegemonic masculinity in cultural products that employ makeover aesthetics, tropes, or narratives in order to analyze how males resorted to forms of makeover in order to forge and reassert their masculinity and thus by extension reaffirm conventional notions of masculinity and national identity, especially during times of "crisis." From 2017-2021 Susana Teixeira worked as a (post-doctoral) research associate for the DFG-funded collaborative research project "Practices of Comparing" 1288 at Bielefeld University, where she completed a research project on "Practices of Comparing in the Context of the Harlem Renaissance in a Hemispheric Perspective." In 2015 she was a visiting scholar in residence at the History Department at the American University in Washington, D.C., and in 2017 at the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences/Center for Advanced Media Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

In her postdoctoral research project ("Re-Imagining the New Negro Renaissance: The Black Renaissance in Baltimore and Beyond"), Susana Teixeira uses Baltimore as a case study to explore the formation of (literary or artistic) recognition, canon formation, and reading and reception practices in the context of the New Negro Movement. Although the primary interest of this study lies on 'serious' literature, it also takes the significant production of lowbrow, middlebrow or popular culture during the New Negro era into consideration, which reshaped, and had a lasting impact on notions of black identity and cultural production. The study is also interested in the black press, which often was a platform for discussing writers, artists, cultural products, and disseminating ideas about literary, artistic, and cultural values within and beyond the country.



CAITLIN SMITH, PH.D. (UNITED STATES)
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER

Caitlin Smith is a postdoctoral researcher of nineteenth-century American literature. She received her dissertation from the University of Notre Dame in 2020. Her work has appeared in *Leviathan*, *ESQ*, and the *Blackwell's Companion to Herman Melville*.

Caitlin Smith's research interests include religious literature and skepticism, African-American literature, autobiography, and popular literature. Currently, she is co-editing two forthcoming works on African-American reform activist James W.C. Pennington. With GKAT, she researches the politics of representation in nineteenth-century popular literature that depicted or fictionalized "the Holy Land."



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.



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 Mast 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 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, Aylin 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.



JUDITH KELLER, STATE EXAM (GERMANY)

Judith studied Geography and English at the Heidelberg University, Germany, and Heidelberg University, Tiffin, Ohio, graduating with a double major in 2019. She has been a research associate in the Geographies of North America working group and at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies ever since. In 2019, Judith Keller participate at the Abigail Adams Summer Seminar at Harvard University and in the winter term 2021/22 she was a visiting research scholar at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

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.



SHASHA 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 Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

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, 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 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.

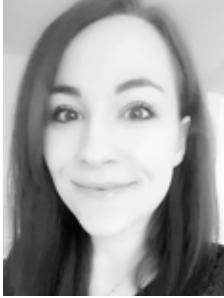
For his dissertation research, Edward will explore the role of the church in the Antebellum South and in the development of Southern Nationalism in the lead up to and during the course of the American Civil War. He will unpack the discourses used by church leaders regarding the American Revolution, which 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.



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."



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.

ASSOCIATED DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Bariah Altaf Qadeer, see p. 74 (HCA Ph.D. program)

Jula Maasböl, see p. 68 (HCA Ph.D. program)

Maren Schäfer, see p. 76 (HCA Ph.D. program)

RESEARCH STUDENTS

Sabrina Dora, Jonathan Fischer-Woudstra, Daniel Stil, 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 have now completed 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 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. 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

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.

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. 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 Kurt Klein Tage took place once more in July 2022. 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. In July 2022, Gerda and Kurt Klein's children kicked off the project by presenting some of the originals to Heidelberg University Library.

More information: www.kurt-klein.de.

No Place for Trust: The Meaning of Home and Housing in Urban Development

Ulrike Gerhard and Judith Keller collaborate on this project on the meaning of home and housing. As living within cities becomes more and more unaffordable due to neoliberal policies and global market forces, displacement from and discrimination on the housing market shape the everyday realities of many urban residents. This often entails the loss of home for those who are not part of the creative class and international elites, resulting in an increasing fragmentation and disintegration of many American cities. Trust and solidarity do not only erode but are undermined by practices of un-homing such as evictions and forced displacements that lead to major urban restructuring and, at the same time, to increasing inequalities.

Migration Across the Americas

Migration is one of the most urgent issues describing the complex relations between the U.S., Latin America and the Caribbean. This project by Ulrike Gerhard and Soledad Alvarez Velasco is interested in historicizing the geo-economic and geopolitical impact of these relations in the present and understanding how they have been determinant in the migratory dynamics across the continent. We also seek to comprehend how those relations explain growing social inequality across the continent and within cities, and how Latin Americans have recreated livelihood strategies, including survival economies and urban and cross-border care infrastructure within the US and beyond. This project emerged out of a joint collaboration between the Heidelberg Center of Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS) and the Heidelberg Center of American Studies (HCA) and aims to establish an area studies focus on the Americas at Heidelberg University.

Unequal Access to Public Transportation and Restrictions on Equal Mobility

Hamid Abud Russell's project at the Institute for Geography focuses on the present conditions of public transportation on the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico, the forces that have driven privatization, and its role in the construction and perpetuation of unequal development. The right to move as desired is hampered in cities where public transportation obeys the profit motive, and neglects mobility as a right. Bus routes evidence the restrictive range of motion available to workers, whose only journey is the repetitive path drawn to and from work. These restrictions limit the ability of all urban dwellers to have equal access to all aspects of their environment; it hampers their right to the city.

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 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 federal New Deal administration.

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 provide the most comprehensive survey of sustainable governance in OECD and E.U. countries. 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 examines 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 2022 in September of 2022. 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/2022/>

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 2022) go to https://www.sgi-network.org/2022/United_States. The USA 2022 country report, written by Professor Daniel Béland (McGill University, Montreal), Professor Christian Lammert (Free University of Berlin, JFK-Institute), and Dr. habil. Martin Thunert (HCA) can be downloaded at <https://www.sgi-network.org/2022/Publications>. Here are some of the results:

The United States continues to receive high scores in some areas of long-term strength, including economic policy, labor market efficiency, and innovation. Compared to the situation prevailing during the Trump years, the United States performed better in 2021 in policy areas addressing social inclusion, the integration of new immigrants, elementary education, family policy, environmental protection, and fiscal sustainability. With fiscal sustainability a rising concern, the United States receives middling scores overall (rank 22) with regard to economic policies.

With respect to the quality of democracy, the United States continues to exhibit some strengths when it comes to ensuring generally equal political rights, fairness in candidate and party access to the ballot, and relatively balanced news media coverage. Despite increasing tension over the conduct of elections, the United States falls into the upper-middle ranks (rank 15) with regard to

democracy quality. Its score on this measure has declined by 1.0 point relative to 2014. Voting rights have become a contested issue, with the Republican party seeking to suppress low-income and minority votes. Democrats have failed to pass a major voting-rights act through Congress. So-called Super PACs can make unlimited expenditures on behalf of parties or candidates. Candidates from both major parties increasingly rely on independent expenditures from rich individuals or businesses.

With a new administration still working to restore the damage done by its predecessor, the United States falls into the upper-middle ranks (rank 12) with respect to executive capacity. Its score on this measure has declined by 0.5 points relative to 2014. The Biden administration has sought to restore orderly executive procedures and undo Trump-era damage to the civil service. A major hiring campaign is underway to fill senior departmental posts. Strategic planning and expert advice are again being used. As usual, the president and White House staff prioritize issues based on the president's agenda.

Despite concerns related to the effects of polarization, the United States performs comparatively well (rank 12) in the area of executive accountability. Its score in this area has improved by 0.3 points relative to its 2014 level. Congressional resources are quite substantial, and formal powers are strong. The Biden administration has improved transparency, in part by responding more reliably to congressional requests for information or access.

In sum, the first year of the Biden presidency marked a major shift in political discourse and public policy clearly apparent in the ongoing federal response to the pandemic, which is more straightforward and predictable now than under President Trump. As for President Biden's progressive policy agenda, it faces obstacles in Congress despite the fact that both chambers of Congress are now under Democratic control.

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 at <https://www.sgi-network.org/2022/News> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ProjectSgi>.

HCA SPRING ACADEMY 2022

From March 21-25, 2022, the Spring Academy once more hosted twenty international Ph.D. students virtually to explore, discuss, and provide feedback on their respective American Studies research projects. This year's participants joined the HCA Spring Academy chairs and facilitator from four different time zones, from the Canadian West Coast to Hungary, representing universities in nine countries. Before the official conference start, participants joined the Spring Academy organizing team Julia Nohle, Virginia Zentgraf, and Julian Kramer for a tech Q&A on Sunday afternoon, guaranteeing a smooth technical run throughout the week.

The following Monday afternoon, HCA director Welf Werner officially opened the conference. He warmly welcomed all participants, commending the fact that the uncertainties surrounding the ongoing global pandemic had not discouraged students across the globe from applying. Earlier this year, the selection committee had chosen 20 out of 94 applications, once again bringing together, as Professor Werner remarked, a diverse group of young researchers from eleven different countries: Austria, Ecuador, France, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Turkey, the U.K., and the United States. Spring Academy facilitator Dr. Wilfried Mausbach expressed his regret that current circumstances did not permit an in-person conference for the second year in a row. However, the Spring Academy organizers had built on the previous year's successful online conference, continuing to preserve the conference's lively character. The traditional academic "speed dating" now took place online on the "Glimpse" platform, allowing participants to get to know each other and gain insight into their peers' projects in a fast-paced one-on-one conversation. It served as an energetic start while simultaneously introducing the larger question of the future directions of the field of American Studies. Following this accelerated beginning, the participants, facilitator, and Spring Academy team decreased the pace as they went into the first panel's in-depth topical discussion.

Participants had posted a 15-minute slide or video presentation introducing their project in the run-up to the conference. During the panels, each speaker had five minutes to build on their presentation and set incentives for the following 35-minute discussion. Under the broader topic of "Capitalism," two panelists shared their research with their fellow participants and panel chairs, Professor Werner and Dr. Martin Thunert. Andrei Belibou from the Freie Universität Berlin presented his thesis, "Subjects of Capitalism: Identity Politics, Class, and Poverty." Thereby, he opened a conversation on a possible identity politics of class, challenging the perceived divide between identity politics and class politics. Turning towards economic history, the second presentation by Matteo Rossi from the Università degli Studi di Torino focused on "The Politics of Economy: Henry Carey and the Rise of U.S. Capitalism," specifically Carey's protectionist turn. The following debate surrounded the question of which part of Carey's ideas were uniquely American versus products of transnational exchange.

After a coffee break, everyone returned for the second panel, "Religion, Bodies, Power," chaired by Professor Jan Stievermann. First up, Cody Musselman from Yale University presented her research project on "Spiritual Exercises: Fitness and Religion in Contemporary America," an ethnographical study of the relationship between religion, health, and capitalism, exemplified by

the fitness brands Crossfit and SoulCycle. The participants were fascinated with this project and eagerly explored the presented case study on Crossfit, purity, and the Paleo Diet, as well as the general parallels between Protestant religion and the two fitness brands. Venus Bender from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt then shared her thesis project, "Prayers and Protest: How Religion Shaped the Black Power Movement," asking about the role of church-based activism in Black Power. This underexplored issue sparked a lively conversation on research difficulties for topics that have received little attention and on how to approach researchers, contemporary witnesses, and their relatives. 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.

The second conference day started with a panel on "Visual Culture," moderated by Dr. Margit Peterfy. María Beatriz H. Carrion from the City University of New York presented her research project on "Picturing Americans: Indigeneities and Modern Visuality." While still at the beginning of her writing process, Carrion engaged her peers in discussing how to best balance examples and methodology. Joining from Ludwigs-Maximilians-Universität München, Ricarda Wolf complemented the panel with a presentation on "'The Personal Is Political' – Handwriting as Personal Testimonial in Political Artworks of the USA in the Context of Social Movements." A lively discussion on the development and cultural influence on handwriting and the pseudoscience of graphology followed.

The 2022 Spring Academy once more took place online.



After a break, a second panel on "Migration and Refugees," chaired by facilitator Dr. Wilfried Mausbach commenced. First, Victoria Gonzalez Maltes from the Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociale in Paris shared her thesis project "'They are made of the stuff of which good Americans are made': American resettlement programs for refugees from Europe after World War II (1948 -1960)." The participants debated the issue of desirable versus undesirable refugees and exchanged advice on doing archival research. Özlem Atar from Queen's University in Kingston, Canada, shared a literary and ethical perspective on migration. Her thesis focuses on "Justice in Trump Era Family Narratives of Irregular Migration from Central America and Mexico to the United States." "Questions about the definition of justice followed the presentation. These and more ideas were again hotly debated during the end-of-day open chats.

The Spring Academy shifted its analytical focus to literary and cultural studies on the third conference day. Chaired by Dr. Philipp Löffler, the first panel, "Transnational Literature," hosted Fenja Heisig from Osnabrück University and Daphne Orlandi from the Sapienza-Università di Roma and the TU Dortmund. Fenja Heisig presented her research on "Literature as Transnational Property.:Francis Lieber and the Copyright Debate in the USA." While she was looking to her peers for advice on improving the structure and analytical approach, her presentation opened a discussion on clearly focusing scholarly theses and source selection from a vast oeuvre of writing. Facing a similar issue, Daphne Orlandi complemented the discussion with her presentation on "The Permanent Literature of the World: Ralph Waldo Emerson's Models of European and World Literature and Their Implications for a Globalized World." It shifted the discussion to questions of the Western Canon and the role of Emerson's Americanness in his quest for "global literature." Both presenters were happy to note how well their topics fit together.

The Spring Academy also offered practical guidance for the participants with a workshop on writing and publishing following the first panel. Former Ms. Spring Academy Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Dr. Sherry Föhr answered questions on a myriad of topics. First, Dr. Föhr gave advice on all matters of writing, from getting started to writing a convincing conclusion. Then Dr. Fischer-Hornung gave insights into the academic publishing world and tips on publishing one's work.

The day's second panel was once again moderated by Wilfried Mausbach. It revealed that the confrontation with the increasingly threatening climate change and possible strategies for coping with the climate crisis are highly relevant both in literature and in literary studies' engagement with it. Marina Pingler from Eberhard Karls University Tübingen was the first presenter on the topic of "Ecocriticism" and presented her project on "Re-Imagining Climate Futures: Alternative Imaginaries in American Literature and Culture." She introduced the predominant research focus of the past decade, which has examined the actors and the perpetuation of such narratives, and explained why her research approach emphasizes the analysis of the collective climate vision itself and its modes of representation. Kirby Archer from the University of Exeter presented her research on "The Environmental Activist in Contemporary US and Canadian Literature," specifically her chapter on the connection between environmental activism, religion, and mental illness. Her kick-off speech sparked a lively debate among the participants, with many sharing examples of other novels they know where this is featured. Debates continued in the open chats, which rounded off the conference day.

On Thursday, the Spring Academy started with a panel on "Literature and Poetry." Chair Philipp Löffler welcomed speakers Thomas Howard from the Washington University St. Louis and Hal Coase from La Sapienza Università di Roma. Thomas Howard provided insights into his research on "Pragmatic Ambiguities: Aphoristic Thinking in the American Nineteenth Century," leading to a lively discussion on how cultural aspects like Transcendentalist and Pragmatist traditions influence and shape cultural and political thought in the U.S. until this day. While Howard's project is situated at the literary intersection between prose and poetry, he argued that the widespread use of aphorisms in 19th-century literature greatly aided the explosion of literary criticism in the fol-

lowing century. Hal Coase brought the debate to the twentieth century with his presentation on "A Region of Silences" – Barbara Guest and the Limits of Lyric." 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 next event of the day, participants took the opportunity to recharge during a virtual coffee break.

Previous conferences had included a tour through the John Deere factory plant in close-by Mannheim, a treasured item on the agenda of the Spring Academy since 2004. Thankfully, Spring Academy sponsor John Deere Mannheim offered the participants a virtual factory tour this year. Public Relations Manager Ralf Lenge welcomed everyone and introduced John Deere's business activities in Mannheim and overall. Factory Specialist Hendrik Strubel then guided the virtual tour through the "sacred production halls" of John Deere, offering insight into the factory and the manufacturing and testing processes from the smallest gears to the finished tractor. The virtual format enabled Spring Academy participants to access areas of the Mannheim site that are usually closed to visitors. The ensuing Q&A was lively, and the participants had many questions, including about the gender make-up of the John Deere staff, the agricultural sector, and the specific regional challenges to which the company has to react.

The next panel broadly addressed "African American Studies" from a historical and a literary perspective. With Wilfried Mausbach as chair, Bruno Walter Toscano from the University of Pisa and Hogar Najm Abdullah from the University of Szeged presented their thesis projects. Bruno Toscano opened the panel with his presentation on "Black Feminism Beyond Borders: The Transnational and Intersectional Struggle of African American Feminists (1970s-1980s)." The participants readily discussed the terminological meaning of transnational and troubles with accessing sources and witness reports. A hot topic in American Studies, the panel also included a discussion on who can or cannot, should or should not write histories that are not part of one's realm of experience. Abdullah followed this discussion by sharing his research on "African American Masculinities in Ann Petry's *Oeuvre*: An Intersectionality Perspective." Again, the participants discussed terminology, this time for intersectionality, and how to approach it when applied to masculinity. The fourth day of our conference ended with continued discussions in the open chat.

The final day of the Spring Academy 2022 began with a panel on "Body Politics" with speakers Odin O'Sullivan from University College Dublin and Julie Dickson from Freie Universität Berlin. In the first presentation on "Blood, Sweat, Respect: A Genealogy of Reaction Hardbody Cinema," Odin O'Sullivan outlined one chapter on the body of the neoliberal action hero as a sight of capital accumulation as presented on their social media accounts. The participants and chair Wilfried Mausbach eagerly discussed this topic, bringing forth perspectives from their fields and how they experienced the neoliberal action hero. They also exchanged ideas on how to best deal with an ever-growing source catalog like social media. Julie Dickson followed this discussion with a presentation on "Unruly Bodies, Ambiguous Books: Female Embodiment in Recent Short Story Collections." This project on linked short story collections, also called cycles, explores how the form shows bodies and embodiment, part of a larger trend of attention on body discourses. Soon the participants discussed the differences between body and embodiment and the role

of publishing in creating the cycle. They continued these conversations during the coffee break before all participants returned for the final panel.

The Spring Academy's last panel focused on "Native American Epistemologies," chaired by Margit Peterfy. Angela Benkhadda from the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn began and shared her research on "Native American Historical Fiction: Conflicting Epistemologies and Political Discourses." Presenting her peers with concrete questions, Benkhadda looked for concrete feedback on her approach and how to best order her thesis, which the participants readily discussed. Nina De Bettin Padolin from the University of Graz focused on the potential of drama and theater in her presentation on "Drama's Ecocritical Capabilities of Decolonizing Indigenous Epistemologies." She, too, asked for specific advice from the other participants, first on how to better find her voice in academic writing and secondly, whether she should rigidly separate analysis and theory or if she could intertwine the two. The participants and chair happily examined her options with her. Both presentations lead to further exchange in the open chats after the end of the panel.

Eventually, the Spring Academy participants, facilitator, and organizing team came together one last time for the conference's "Cool Down and Feedback" session. They all reflected on current and future trends in American Studies. Moreover, they explored how the past week and their peers' projects had impacted their idea of this changing academic discipline. Although they had only met virtually, participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with peers from many different countries – connections that hopefully will last and build a foundation for networking within a rising generation of exceptional scholars.



The organizers of the 2022 Spring Academy, l.-r.: Julia Nohle, Virginia Zentgraf, Julian Kramer.

CONFERENCES

"Natural Catastrophes in the United States – Making Sense of Risks and Vulnerability," July 14-16, Heidelberg Center for American Studies

In mid-July 2022, students, conference attendees, university faculty, and members of the public came together at the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais to explore risks and vulnerability to natural catastrophes in the U.S. from a truly interdisciplinary perspective. The United States has long been highly vulnerable to large-scale natural catastrophes in many regions of the country, and despite being confronted with these devastating events on a regular basis, the country has struggled to mitigate their effects. In fact, the U.S. displays a broad spectrum of reactions to these events, ranging from the recognition of vulnerability, over working towards more resilience, all the way to denial of the many risks that natural catastrophes pose. One aspect in this debate are the more visible effects from the changing climate, but societal and political factors cannot be ignored. The conference, organized by Dr. Natalie Rauscher and Professor Welf Werner from the Heidelberg Center for American Studies and supported by the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, investigated an array of specific U.S.-American factors regarding society, population shifts, the political system, or the economy that distinguishes the American experience from that of other countries dealing with natural catastrophes. Additionally, it examined the specific societal and cultural response as well as the specific discourses engaged with these disruptive events in the United States.

On the first day of the conference, Heidi Ramsay, Public Diplomacy Chief of Consulate General Frankfurt am Main, and the HCA's conference organizer, Dr. Natalie Rauscher, warmly welcomed the participants. Then Craig E. Colten, Carl O. Sauer Professor Emeritus of Geography at the Louisiana State University, kicked off the meeting with his keynote on "Risk Reduction or Rejection: Louisiana's Chronic Coastal Crisis." The day concluded with a reception in the HCA's Atrium.

The second day of the conference was split in two panels. Craig Colten, together with Natalie Rauscher, welcomed the conference's guests and then chaired the first panel on "Governance," held online. Historian Dr. Jan Hansen from the Humboldt University Berlin recounted the floods in Los Angeles and the governance of risk and vulnerability in the period of the 1910s-1930s. Then, Professor of American Language and Civilization at the Université Strasbourg Mélanie Meunier explored in her paper the American response to climate change through the lens of political cultures. Next, A.R. Siders, assistant professor at the University of Delaware's Disaster Research Center, talked about "Defining Disasters and Allocating Responsibility for U.S. Disaster Policy." After a short coffee break, the Hall Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of Kansas, Andrew Isenberg, gave his talk on "All of the Above: Risk, Domestic Fuel Production, and Climate Change since 1973." The panel concluded with the associate professor of history at the Utah State University, Lawrence Culver. In his paper, he examined the federal role in U.S. natural catastrophes and disasters throughout the last centuries.

After a lunch break, the conference day continued with the second panel on "Representations and Perceptions of Catastrophes," chaired by Lawrence Culver. Lea Espinoza Garrido, researcher and lecturer in American Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Wuppertal, started out with her lecture on "Through the Eyes of the White, Innocent Child – Communicating Risk, Vulnerability and (Environmental) Crisis in Lauren Tarshis' 'I survived' Series." Dr. Jacob Birken, researcher and lecturer in American History with a focus on natural catastrophes at the University of Cologne, portrayed a "hopeless optimism" by reflecting upon the U.S. (re)framing of the 1906 San Francisco and 1909 Messina Disasters. Then Edward Manger, doctoral researcher with a focus on intersection of Christianity and history in the nineteenth century in the HCA's GKAT program, proceeded by addressing "Theodicy and Hurricanes in the 20th and 21st Century USA." Lastly, Natalie Rauscher looked at narratives and media discourses around natural disaster events. The second conference day concluded with a conference dinner.

On the following day, the conference continued at the HCA with its last panel on "Impact of / Responses to Disaster Events," chaired by Natalie Rauscher. Doctoral researcher Katharina Wood from TU Dortmund started out with her case study on "Becoming Green: Resilient and Green Building as Risk Mitigation in Atlanta, Georgia." After that, Dr. Katrin Kleemann, postdoctoral researcher at the Leibniz Institute for Maritime History in Bremerhaven, examined in her paper the earthquakes in New England from the seventeenth century to the present. Robin Pearson, Professor of Economic History at Hull University Business School, presented last on this panel with his talk on "Multinational Insurers and Catastrophic Loss: Responses to the San Francisco Disaster of 1906." After a final lunch break at the HCA, the public conference on "Natural Catastrophes in the United States – Making Sense of Risks and Vulnerability" concluded and participants departed with many new insights.



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

On June 1, the HCA and Heidelberg University's Faculty of Theology bestowed the ninth James W.C. Pennington Award upon Carol Anderson, Charles Howard Candler Professor of African American Studies at Emory University. She is the author of *One Person, No Vote*, longlisted for the National Book Award, and a finalist for the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award, as well as *White Rage*, a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award, and many other award-winning monographs. She was named a Guggenheim Fellow for Constitutional Studies and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The course of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 forced the HCA to postpone the ninth award ceremony for one year. For this reason, in 2022 the HCA had the honor of hosting two awardees in a joint panel discussion: Carol Anderson as well as the 2022 recipient, Manisha Sinha, who is the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History at the University of Connecticut. The historian received her Ph.D. from Columbia University where her dissertation was nominated for the Bancroft Prize. She is the author of *The Counterrevolution of Slavery: Politics and Ideology in Antebellum South Carolina*, which was named one of the ten best books on slavery in *Politico* in 2015 and featured in the *New York Times*' "1619 Project." Her second monograph, *The Slave's Cause: A History of Abolition*, was long-listed for the National Book Award for Non-Fiction and was named one of the three great history books of 2016 in Bloomberg News. Manisha Sinha is a leading authority on the history of slavery, abolition, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

On the podium l.-r.: Manfred Berg, Carol Anderson, Manisha Sinha, Jan Stievermann.



Funded by the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation, the award stands for the values the fugitive slave and Heidelberg University share: It acknowledges scholars whose work sheds light on African-American culture, history, and education. After the awards ceremony with a greeting of Vice-Rector Anja Senz, the ensuing panel discussion revolved around the period of Reconstruction and the question of whether the Civil Rights Movement, which is often referred to as a Second Reconstruction, is followed by a third Reconstruction after in our times. Professor Jan Stievermann, who holds the Chair for the History of Christianity in the U.S., commenced the

discussion by asking Manisha Sinha to outline the participation of James W.C. Pennington in the process of Reconstruction. She elaborated on Pennington's work towards equal citizenship of African Americans and identified the question of equality as the central issue of the Reconstruction period – work that is unfinished to this day, as she remarked in the course of the discussion.

While Reconstruction is sometimes framed as a failure, Professor Sinha argued that the real tragedy was that this short successful period of multiracial democracy was overthrown by racist terror groups and only challenged in the twentieth century during the Civil Rights Movement. Manfred Berg, Curt Engelhorn Professor of American History, followed up with a question directed towards Carol Anderson, asking whether Reconstruction will ever find an end. Professor Anderson explained the history of systemic and structural inequality and its deep-rooted legislative structures which systematically undermine African American rights and citizenship to this day, cloaking white supremacy under a veneer of legality. Examples reach from the *Williams* decision in 1898, a Mississippi policy that imposed the pay of two to six percent of a farm family's income to have the right to vote, to the rise of Jim Crow, to today's debate about police brutality. Both awardees pointed to the current fight to bring these discriminatory structures to light and strip systemic oppression of its legality, a process resembling a third Reconstruction. Furthermore, Manisha Sinha pointed out that the U.S. has never lived up to its promise and potential of a multiracial democracy and stressed that American democracy cannot truly be a democracy until racial equality becomes reality. The U.S. has lessons for us, not only in terms of defeats and setbacks, but in showing that it takes activism, an abolitionist movement, and Pennington, that it takes the civil rights activists to bend the arc of history towards justice. This statement Carol Anderson enhanced with the additional demand for the breaking of the so-called "zero-sum game," which deems civil rights as scarce goods that can only be granted to one demographic group. Her final words were a beacon of hope in turbulent times: "It is in a broader multi-racial democracy where you see that vision of what American democracy can be, what our rights in a vibrant democracy can be." After this engaged debate, members of an impressed audience raised their glasses to the distinguished guests in the HCA backyard.



Markus Lautenschläger and Vice Rector Anja Senz congratulate the 2021 and 2022 Pennington Fellows.

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 2021-22.

Kristin Berberich (GKAT)

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

With Claudia Jetter & 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>.

Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

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

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Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Institute for Geography)

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With Fabian Klein & Claudia Zilla, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2022 Chile Report*. (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2022).

With Wolfgang Muno & Jörg Faust, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2022 Mexico Report*. (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2022).

With Daniel Béland & Christian Lammert, *Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) 2022 United States Report*. (Gütersloh: Bertelsmann Stiftung, 2022).

"U.S. Midterm Elections. The Battle for Control of Congress and Beyond." *SGI News*, November 07, 2022, <https://www.sgi-network.org/2022/News/the-battle-for-control-of-congress-and-beyond>.

"Much More than Congress is at Stake this Midterm." *Fair Observer*, November 04, 2022, <https://www.fairobserver.com/politics/much-more-than-congress-is-at-stake-this-midterm/>

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

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

With Natalie Rauscher: "Why Has Catastrophe Mitigation Failed in the U.S.?" *Zeitschrift für Politikberatung/Policy Advice and Political Consulting* 8:4/2016 (2022), 149-73.

Ed. with Anja Schüler, *HCA Podcast "Quo Vadis USA?"* Episodes 39-72. (Heidelberg Center for American Studies, 2022).

SELECTED TALKS

During 2021-22, the following HCA staff, members, students, and associates gave the talks listed below.

Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)

"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.

With Tanja Penter, "Putin, die Ukraine und der Westen." Podcast *Quo Vadis USA?* March 2022.

"A House Divided? Stehen die USA vor einem neuen Bürgerkrieg?" Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften, Juni 2022, Heidelberg.

"Triumph und Abstieg des Richard Nixon." Podcast *The Pioneer*, August 2022.

"Nach dem Ende von Roe - Wie mächtig ist der amerikanische Supreme Court?" Podcast *Quo Vadis USA?* August 2022.

Nicole Colaianni (GKAT)

"'Love Contracts' und 'Non Disclosure Agreements' - Wie U.S. Firmen mit sexueller Belästigung umgehen." Podcast *Quo Vadis USA?* April 2022.

With Martin Thunert & Welf Werner, "Podiumsdiskussion: Zwischenwahlen in den USA – Eine erste Bilanz." Heidelberg University, November 2022, Heidelberg.

Ulrike Gerhard (HCA and Institute for Geography)

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

With Editha Marquardt: "Wissen & Stadt – Wissenskoooperationen in Hochschulstädten." 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).

"Die ungleichen Staaten von Amerika – eine stadtgeographische Perspektive." Soroptimist International Club, June 2021, Heidelberg

"Öffentliches Vertrauen in die Wissenschaft." Conference "Sprache und Vertrauen," September 2021, Heidelberg.

"Race, Ethnicity, and Places as an International Vision: Researching Trust and Authority in U.S. Cities." Conference "Race, Ethnicity, and Place," October 2021, Baltimore, Md.

"Autorität und Vertrauen. Das Graduiertenkolleg am HCA." Podcast *Quo Vadis USA?* September 2021.

"Zukunft des AK Stadtzukünfte. Thesen zur zukünftigen Ausrichtung." AK Stadtzukünfte, May 2022, Dortmund.

"Entwicklung der Metropolen in USA und Deutschland." Rotary Club, July 2022, Heidelberg.

"Ich wohne, also bin ich. Aktuelle Herausforderungen der Stadtentwicklung." Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft, October 2022, Ludwigshafen a. Rhein.

"Resilient and/or Sustainable? How to Plan 'Good Life' in Cities in Times of Conflicting Sustainabilities." TRN Umwelten, Umbrüche, Umdenken, October 2022, Heidelberg.

With S. Velasco: "Im Gespräch mit Cecilia Menjívar: A Critical Voice to Understand Migration in Complex Times." HCIAS Podcast, episode 1 (2022).

With S. Velasco "Im Gespräch mit Solange Munoz: Migration and Infrastructures of Care." HCIAS Podcast, episode 2 (2022).

With F. Reents & A. Butz: "Literatur des Anthropozäns." Marsilius-Podcast, episode 4 (2022).

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.

Detlef Junker (HCA)

"Deutschland und die USA 1871-2021." Podcast *Quo Vadis, USA?* October 2021.

Judith Keller (GKAT)

"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." Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien, June 2021 (online).

"We Not Moving! Urban Social Movements and the Fight for a Place to Call Home." JFK Institute FU Berlin, July 2021, Berlin.

"Housing Challenges and Some Ways Forward: The Case of Germany." University of Illinois, October 2021, Urbana Champaign, Ill.

With S. Munoz, U. Gerhard, L. Rever & C. Werner: "Panel Discussion: Race, Ethnicity, and Place as an International Vision: Researching Trust and Authority in U.S. Cities." Conference "Race, Ethnicity, and Place," October 2022, Baltimore, Md.

"A Comparative Perspective on the Global Housing Crisis." American University, November 2021, Washington, D.C.

"Non-Profit Housing Development in New Orleans: The Case of *Make It Right*." Mississippi State University, October 2022, Starkville.

Valentina Lopez Liendo (GKAT)

"'He Lived in Different Times' – John Henry Days and the African American Literary Tradition," American Literature Association, May 2022, Chicago.

Günter Leyboldt (HCA and English Department)

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

"'Middlebrow Knowledge' in der Literatur." TRN 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." University of Southern Denmark, November 2021, Odense.

"Middlebrow Fiction and the Laureate Position in Cultural Space: The Debate about 'American Dirt'." Yale Center for Cultural Sociology, March 2022, New Haven.

"Gatekeeping the Laureate Position in the Literary Field: The Debates about Jeanine Cummins' *American Dirt* and Peter Handke's Nobel." Harvard English Department, March 2022, Boston.

"Heritage-Making and the Singularization of Texts." Universität Heidelberg, July 2022, Heidelberg.

"The Nobel and the Laureate Position in Cultural Space." Literature in the Nobel Era: Regimes of Value, August 2022.

Wilfried Mausbach (HCA)

"Starthilfe aus Amerika? 75 Jahre Marshallplan" Podcast Quo Vadis USA? Juni 2022.

Natalie Rauscher (HCA)

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

"Narratives of Vulnerability and Resilience in Media Discourses around Natural Catastrophes in the United States." Panel discussion, 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." Panel discussion, Heidelberg University, June 2021, Heidelberg.

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

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

"Roundtable: Changing Labor Conditions." Annual Conference of the Historians in the German Association of American Studies, February 2022, Mainz.

"Roundtable: Biden's State of the Union Address – Discussion." Amerikahaus NRW, March 2022 (online).

"Cooperation, Collaboration, and Contestation Within and Beyond Philanthropic Fields: Exploring and Theorizing Interaction for a Better World." University of Bonn, April 2022, Bonn.

"Wasted Opportunities? Empty Discourse around Natural Catastrophes in the United States – A Case Study." University of Madrid, April 2022, Madrid.

"Changing Norms of Giving? Motivations and Perceptions of the 21st Century 'Givers'." Jena University, May 2022, Jena.

"The Role of Ambivalent Discourses in Disaster Relief in the USA. Ambivalences of Ecological Transformation: Perspectives from the Environmental Humanities." Opening Conference of the International Doctorate Program (IDK) Um(Welt)Denken, University of Augsburg & Rachel Carson Center, LMU, June 2022, Munich.

"The Struggle to the 'Most Good' – 21st Century American Philanthropists and Their Framing of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Debate (in Global Health Initiatives)." Stockholm University, June 2022, Stockholm, Sweden.

"Natural Disaster Resilience: Why the U.S. Is Breaking with Positive Global Trends in the 20th Century?" University of Basel, July 2022, Basel, Switzerland.

"Natural Disaster and Risk Management from a Global North-South Perspective." University of Basel, July 2022, Basel, Switzerland.

"Narratives and Discourses around Natural Disaster Events." Heidelberg University, July 2022, Heidelberg.

"Altruismus, Wohltätigkeit, Charity: Perspektiven auf ein universelles Konzept." Marsilius-Podcast, September 2022.

"This Time Is Different, or Is It? The Universal Basic Income in Recent Public and Political Discourse around Technological Change in the United States." German Historical Institute, October 2022, Washington, D.C.

"This Time Is Different, or Is It? The Universal Basic Income in Recent Technological Change Discourse in the United States." Amerikahaus NRW, December 2022, Bonn.

Lauren Rever (GKAT)

"Going to Washington: The History Labor Market in Washington, DC." Heidelberg University, June 2021 (online).

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

"Memorial Management: Interpretive Planning at Ford's Theatre." Pädagogische Hochschule Vorarlberg, February 2022, Vorarlberg, Austria.

"Where to Go From Here? Heritage Tourism in Washington, D.C." 48th Annual D.C. History Conference, April - March 2022, Washington, D.C.

"'Not something to be proud of': Trust and Authority in United States History Museums." 6th World Conference of the International Federation for Public History, August 2022, Berlin.

Maren Schäfer (HCA)

"Populism and Polarization." 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." Heidelberg University, March 2021 (online).

"'For the Love of God, Get this Patriot a Coat!' Affordances of Social Media and Affective Community Formation on The_Donald." Heidelberg University, June 2021 (online).

Anja Schüler (HCA)

"National und international - Frauenkongresse als Orte der Kommunikation, Politik und Vernetzung." Luise Büchner Gesellschaft, Oktober 2022, Darmstadt.

Jan Stievermann (HCA)

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 University, August 2021 (online).

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

"Imagining Global Protestantism in Early Eighteenth-Century Boston, Tranquebar, and Halle." Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide, April 2022, Cambridge, U.K.

"Wenige sich darum kümmern, was jenseits des Meeres ist: Traversing the Globe

in August Hermann Francke's 1724 Lecture on Cotton Mather. " Internationaler Kongress für Pietismusforschung, August 2022, Halle.

"Die Württemberg-Verbindungen der ersten radikalpietistischen Auswanderer nach Pennsylvania. " Landeskirchliches Archiv Stuttgart, November 2022, Stuttgart.

Martin Thunert (HCA)

"Vor der Amtseinführung - Welche Herausforderungen warten auf die Biden-Administration?" Podcast *Quo Vadis USA?* January 2021.

"Why Think Tanks & Policy Advice Matter in Times of Crisis." Ecologic Institute, January 2021, Berlin.

"US-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." TRN Stiften, Spenden, Sammeln in der Longue Durée, June 2021 (online).

"Die USA gestern und heute – Wichtige Entwicklungen, Themen und Hintergründe." Mitarbeiterschulung 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, Embassy of Canada, September 2021, Berlin.

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

"Ein Jahr nach der Wahl – Scheitert die Biden-Präsidentschaft?" Podcast *Quo Vadis USA?* November 2021.

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." Atlantische Akademie, December 2021 (online).

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

"US-Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik: Grundlagen und erste Bilanz der Biden-Administration." Bundeswehr-Akademie Mannheim, March 2022, Mannheim.

"Think Tanks and Evidence-Informed Policy Advice." DGAP Think Tank Lab, April 2022 (online).

"Approaching and Conceptualizing the Foundation-Think Tank Relationship (in the U.S. and Germany)." University of Bonn, May 2022, Bonn.

With Natalie Rauscher, "Changing Norms of Giving? Motivations and Perceptions of 21st Century 'Givers'." University of Jena, May 2022, Jena.

"Legitimierung der Expertentätigkeit im Rahmen von politischen Beratungs- und Lobbyingprozessen." Collegium Polonicum, June 2022, Słubice, Poland.

"Die amerikanischen Medien." Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, August-September 2022 (online).

With Nicole Colaianni & Welf Werner, "Podiumsdiskussion: Zwischenwahlen in den USA – Eine erste Bilanz." Heidelberg University, November 2022, Heidelberg.

"US Foreign & Security Policy during the Biden-Administration." Bundeswehr-Akademie, Berlin, October 2022, Berlin.

With Tyson Barke, Alexandra Paige Swanson & Hannah Winnick, "Zwischenwahlen 2022 – Die US-Demokratie am Scheideweg?" European School RheinMain, November 2022, Bad Vilbel.

"Nach den US-Zwischenwahlen 2022 – außen- und sicherheitspolitische Folgenabschätzung." Heidelberg University, November 2022, Heidelberg.

Susana Rocha Teixeira (GKAT)

"Practices of Comparing in the Harlem Renaissance in a Hemisphere Perspective." Praktiken des Vergleichens, November 2021.

"Roundtable: Participation on Inter American Studies: Contributions and Challenges." International Association of Inter-American Studies, November 2021 (online).

"Panel: Practices of Comparing: Constructing Walls and Building Bridges in the Hemisphere." International Association of Inter-American Studies, November 2021 (online).

"Practices of Comparing and InterAmerican Studies: Theoretical and Methodological Reflections." International Association of Inter-American Studies, November 2021 (online).

"Men, Masculinities, and the American Makeover Culture." University of Erfurt, January 2022, Erfurt.

"Re-Writing, Re-Inventing, and Re-Making the Male Self." Bielefeld University, June 2022, Bielefeld.

"Die US-amerikanische Selbstoptimierungskultur, die Verkörperung des amerikanischen Traums und Männlichkeiten." Heidelberger Kunstverein, August 2022, Heidelberg.

Wallbraun, Stefanie (GKAT)

"The Right to Bear Arms? Waffenbesitz und gesellschaftliche Polarisierung in den USA." Podcast *Quo Vadis USA?* August 2021.

"On the Instrumentalization of Public Space by Armed (Counter-)Protests and the Effects on Political Participation." University of Eichstätt, November 2022, Eichstätt.

With Claus Gramckow, "Ein gespaltenes Land? Ein Blick auf die USA nach den Midterms." Heidelberg University, December 2022.

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

With Natalie Rauscher, "U.S. Catastrophe Mitigation Meets Public Distrust in Political Institutions." University of Warsaw, March 2021 (online).

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

With Christian Lammert, "Crisis of Economic Participation." Workshop, Heidelberg University, June 2021, Heidelberg.

"American Studies an der Universität Heidelberg: Perspektiven und Ziele," Jacob Gould Schurman Foundation, Heidelberg University, June 2021, Heidelberg.

"Nach der Krise: Läuft die US-Wirtschaft heiß?" Podcast *Quo Vadis USA?* July 2021.

"Back on Track? Wirtschaftspolitik unter Biden." Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, September 2021 (online).

"Das HCA: Rückblick und Zielvorstellungen." HCA Advisory Council Meeting, Heidelberg University, November 2021, Heidelberg.

"Encounters: New Perspectives on Asia, America and Europe. An Initiative of the CATS and the HCA." Introduction, with Barbara Mittler, Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS), Heidelberg University, November 2021, Heidelberg.

"Ländervergleich USA-China". ZDF Dokumentation, March 2022, Mainz. <https://www.zdf.de/dokumentation/zdfinfo-doku/duell-der-supermaechte-china-und-die-usa-in-zahlen--100.html>

"Wasted Opportunities: Causes of the United States' Long Socio-economic Decline." Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid, April 2022 (online).

"Migration and the Americas. An Initiative of the HCIAS and the HCA." Introduction, with Francisco Moreno Fernández. Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies, Heidelberg University, June 2022, Heidelberg.

With Natalie Rauscher (convener), Conference "Natural Catastrophes in the United States: Making Sense of Risks and Vulnerability", June 2022, Heidelberg.

"Grußwort zur Eröffnung der Kurt Klein Tage." Kurt Klein Tage, Juli 2022, Walldorf.

With Natalie Rauscher, "Natural Disaster Resilience: Why the U.S. is Breaking with Positive Global Trends in the 20th Century." University of Basel, July 2022, Basel, Switzerland.

"Back on Track? Wirtschaftspolitik unter Biden." Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz, August 2022 (online).

With Nicole Colaianni & Martin Thunert "Podiumsdiskussion: Zwischenwahlen in den USA – Eine erste Bilanz." Heidelberg University, November 2022, Heidelberg.



SPECIAL FEATURE

SPECIAL FEATURE

"DIE U.S. MIDTERMS - EINE ERSTE BILANZ"

MARTIN THUNERT, HEIDELBERG CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES, IM HCA PODCAST "QUO VADIS USA?", 10. NOVEMBER 2022.

Edited for clarity

Anja Schüler: Die USA haben gewählt – vor zwei Tagen sind Amerikanerinnen und Amerikaner an die Urnen gegangen, um über ein neues Repräsentantenhaus, ein Drittel des Senats, sechsunddreißig Gouverneure und eine Reihe anderer wichtiger Ämter in den Einzelstaaten abzustimmen. Im Vorfeld schien das Land gespalten wie lange nicht, und mit den äußerst knappen Mehrheiten der Demokraten in beiden Häusern des Kongresses stand viel auf dem Spiel. Aber die Republikaner haben nicht so gut abgeschnitten wie gedacht. Dennoch zeichnet sich zwei Tage später eine republikanische Mehrheit im Repräsentantenhaus ab. Die endgültige Zusammensetzung des Senats werden wir wohl erst im Dezember kennen – sie hängt vom Wahlausgang in Georgia ab. Historisch gesehen sind die Zwischenwahlen vor allem ein Referendum über den Präsidenten und seine Politik, und angesichts der schlechten Popularitätswerte von Joe Biden rechneten viele noch vor wenigen Monaten mit einer sogenannten "roten Welle", die den Republikanern die nötigen Mehrheiten im Kongress verschaffen würde. Die unpopuläre Entscheidung des Obersten Gerichtshofs zum Abtreibungsrecht, Bidens dann doch beachtliche gesetzgeberische Leistungen und das schlechte Abschneiden der vom ehemaligen Präsidenten Donald Trump unterstützten Kandidaten in den Vorwahlen ließen das Umfragependel im Sommer dann wieder zurückschwingen. Die Rede von der "blauen Wand" machte die Runde, darüber haben wir im letzten Podcast gesprochen. Auf der Zielgerade aber schienen dann die Republikaner wieder die Nase vorn zu haben. In den letzten Wochen rückten die wirtschaftlichen Sorgen der Wähler, besonders die rasant steigenden Preise, in den Vordergrund. Wir schauen also auf eine recht komplexe Gemengelage und werden sie heute ein wenig aussortieren mit meinem Kollegen Martin Thunert, dem Senior Lecturer Politikwissenschaft am HCA. Er war schon oft zu Gast bei uns im Podcast. Willkommen zurück!

Martin Thunert: Ich freue mich auch, wieder dabei zu sein.

Anja Schüler: Dann versuchen wir uns zunächst an einer Bestandsaufnahme. Was sind die wichtigsten Ergebnisse dieser Wahlen? Was sind die wichtigsten Lehren aus diesem Wahltag?

Martin Thunert: Die Ergebnisse hast du natürlich schon in deiner Anmoderation angesprochen, nämlich, dass die sogenannte "rote Welle" – vielleicht für die Hörerinnen und Hörer, die uns nicht regelmäßig folgen: rot steht in den USA nicht für links, sondern für die Republikanische Partei, und blau, im Rest der Welt die Farbe der Konservativen, steht dort aber für die Demokraten, die USA sind also auch da exzeptionell – also ein erdrutschartiger Sieg der Republikaner, ist nicht



Election Signs in Virginia,
November 4, 2022.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Election_signs_in_Virginia,_4_November_2022_\(52478973591\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Election_signs_in_Virginia,_4_November_2022_(52478973591).jpg)

eingetreten. Natürlich ist die große Frage, warum nicht? Ich glaube, dass einer der Gründe, soviel ist sechsdreißig Stunden nach Schließung der Wahllokale klar, ist, dass natürlich in den USA mittlerweile, das war schon 2020 so, eine ganz große Zahl von Wählerinnen und Wählern das sogenannte *early voting*, das beginnt schon im September, wahrnehmen. Wir wissen auch, das haben wir ebenfalls bei den ersten Ergebnissen gesehen in der Nacht, dass dann die demokratischen Kandidaten siebzig bis achtzig Prozent der Stimmen haben, denn das *early voting* wird sehr, sehr überwiegend, ähnlich wie das Briefwählen, von Anhängern der Demokratischen Partei wahrgenommen. Viele der Umfragen, die jetzt kurz vor den Wahlen durchgeführt wurden, und auf denen die Ankündigung der "roten Welle" basierte, haben natürlich diese *early voters* nicht mehr richtig erfasst – das kann ein Grund dafür sein, dass diese *tracking polls* in den Tagen vor der Wahl, die diesen republikanischen Erdrutsch anzukündigen schienen, nicht per se falsch waren, aber die *early voters* waren nicht richtig gewichtet, und das ist eine Lehre für die Zukunft. Wenn das in den USA so bleibt, dass es im Grunde nicht mehr nur diesen Wahltag gibt, also der erste Dienstag, der auf den ersten Montag im November folgt, dann haben wir eine Wahlzeit von fast zwei Monaten oder wenigstens sechs Wochen, dann muss sich auch die Dynamik der Wahlkämpfe verändern, und das hat man nicht berücksichtigt. Viele Demokraten haben eben früh gewählt; aufgrund dessen hat man deren Stärke unterschätzt.

Das ist für mich eine Lehre, die auch die Wissenschaften, vor allen Dingen auch die Umfrageorganisationen, beherzigen müssen. Es gibt aber, glaube ich, noch zwei, drei andere Gründe, warum die "rote Welle" nicht eintrat, aber über die werden wir dann gleich noch im Einzelnen reden. Zum einen hat es damit zu tun, dass wir zwei Mobilisierungswahlkämpfe gehabt haben mit ganz unterschiedlichen Themen, auf die wir gleich noch zu sprechen kommen, denke ich. Da hat man auch unterschätzt, wie stark die Themen, die bei den demokratischen Wählern ganz oben angesiedelt waren, doch mobilisiert haben. Zum anderen, auch da werden wir noch mal drauf zu sprechen kommen, haben die Republikaner, das haben sie schon mal vor zehn Jahren in der *Tea Party* Zeit gemacht, einfach gerade in einigen Senatswahlen, aber auch in einigen Wahlen im *House of Representatives*, Kandidaten nominiert, die meistens oder fast immer von Expräsident Trump unterstützt wurden, die seine Wahl Niederlage nicht anerkennen (aber das tun auch andere), und die einfach sehr unglückliche Kandidaten sind, da sie extreme Positionen

vertreten, oft keinerlei Erfahrung haben und sich dann auch im Wahlkampf oder in den Debatten mit ihren Opponenten schlecht schlagen. Gerade das noch offene Ergebnis im Senat ist dem jetzt geschuldet, dass zum Beispiel Herschel Walker, auch darüber werden wir noch sprechen, in Georgia eben nicht so gut abgeschnitten hat wie andere Republikaner, die an diesem Tag in diesem Staat zur Wahl standen, etwa der Gouverneur Kemp, der fast fünf Prozentpunkte mehr Stimmen der Republikaner gewonnen hat. Das sind für mich zunächst mal die Gründe und dann natürlich, wie gesagt allgemein, dass das *early voting* viele Wähler dann schon Ende September und Anfang Oktober an die Wahlurnen getrieben hat.

"Yes ... Yes I Did ..."

https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=Yes...Yes_I_Did...%281377864508%29&title=Special:MediaSearch&go=Go&type=image



Anja Schüler: Du hast es gesagt: Es sind teilweise sehr bizarre Kandidaten bei den Republikanern angetreten, wir werden noch drauf zu sprechen kommen. Wenden wir uns doch erst mal den Themen zu. Mit welchen Themen haben die Parteien ihre Wählerinnen und Wähler mobilisiert? Haben Wirtschaftsfragen alles dominiert, wie es im Vorfeld gerne hieß? Oder gab es auch noch andere wahlentscheidende Themen?

Martin Thunert: Ich hatte es ja bereits angedeutet, dass es zwei Wahlkämpfe gegeben hat und dass natürlich für fast alle Wähler in den USA, das haben auch die Umfragen gezeigt, für ungefähr achtzig Prozent die Wirtschaftslage und speziell die Inflation prioritär waren. Die Inflation drückt sich ja in den USA hauptsächlich in hohen Energie- und Lebensmittelpreisen aus, das ist nicht so ganz anders als bei uns. Aber das heißt nicht unbedingt, dass alle Wähler nur nach diesem Kriterium abgestimmt haben – dann hätten wahrscheinlich die Republikaner sehr deutlich gewonnen. Der Wahlkampf bei den Demokraten wurde ganz stark mit einem Thema geführt, du hast es schon gesagt: Abtreibung. Die Entscheidung Dobbs des Obersten Gerichtshofes vom Juni, die das in die Verfassung hinein gelesene Grundrecht auf Abtreibung kassiert hat und die Zuständigkeit wieder in die Einzelstaaten zurücküberwiesen hat, den Schwangerschaftsabbruch gesetzlich zu regeln, hat sehr viele weibliche Wählerinnen, nicht nur die Stammwähler der Demokraten, mobilisiert, die gesagt haben: Nein, das geht nicht, und Forderungen, die Abtreibung sogar in ganz Amerika zu verbieten, müssen wir entgegentreten – das hat sehr mobilisierend

gewirkt. Das hat, nach meinem Dafürhalten, vor allen Dingen auch bei den *early voters* sehr mobilisierend gewirkt, die haben ihre Stimmen, wie gesagt, schon sehr früh abgegeben.

Das zweite Thema, das die Demokraten auch sehr stark mobilisiert hat, die andere Seite so gut wie nicht, ist die Frage, ob die Demokratie in den USA in Gefahr ist, weil eben die Durchführung von Wahlen in den Einzelstaaten oft sehr stark voneinander abweicht: was da erlaubt ist, was nicht erlaubt ist, was die Wahlleiter machen können, wie wird die Wahl am Ende bestätigt, zertifiziert? Da gibt es eben in den republikanisch regierten Staaten Bestrebungen, die von der anderen Seite als Wählerunterdrückung gesehen werden, und dagegen haben ja Demokraten versucht, ein Bundesgesetz einzubringen, um das zu beseitigen. Der Bundesgesetzentwurf zur Wahlrechtsreform ist aber im Kongress gescheitert, da die Regierung Biden auch in der eigenen Partei nicht alle Senatoren hinter sich hatte.

Gerade die Mobilisierung durch das Abtreibungsthema war, glaube ich, ungewöhnlich hoch und erklärt auch einen Teil des relativ überraschend guten Abschneidens auch einiger demokratischer Kandidaten, die auf wackeligen Sitzen im Repräsentantenhaus sitzen. Das sind dann Sitze, die möglicherweise Trump vor zwei Jahren gewonnen hat, in ihren Wahlkreisen, aber sie haben sich behauptet. Auf der anderen Seite hat in der Tat das Thema Inflation und Wirtschaft nicht alles dominiert, aber war ganz stark. Den Republikanern ist es auch ganz gut gelungen, die Schuld für die Inflation, denke ich, bei der Biden-Administration abzuliefern. Die beiden anderen Themen, die da auch dann noch sehr stark eine Rolle spielten, waren Kriminalität, also wachsende Kriminalitätszahlen, vor allen Dingen in den großen Metropolen. Und dann die Situation an der Südgrenze zu Mexiko, also die Einwanderungsfrage, die Frage: wer darf reinkommen? Dürfen sie beispielsweise bei Asylantragstellung schon im Land sein und so fort. Aber wie gesagt, beide Seiten haben versucht, mit diesen Themen ihre Leute zu mobilisieren. Es gab relativ wenig Versuche, die vielleicht gemäßigten Wähler direkt anzusprechen – es war für beide Seiten ein Mobilisierungswahlkampf, der mit sehr unterschiedlichen Themen, vor allem in der Frühphase, geführt wurde. Als dann die Debatten kamen zwischen den Senatskandidaten, dann musste man natürlich den Wahlkampf gemeinsam führen, weil man mit dem Gegner reden musste, aber davor war es einfach ein Wahlkampf, in dem es darum ging, die eigenen Anhänger an die Wahlurnen zu bekommen. Das ist beiden Parteien auch nicht so schlecht gelungen, was auch wiederum diesen Gleichstand erklärt.



Demonstration in Front of the U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, D.C. in May 2022.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=Keep_abortion_legal_-_sign_-_Demonstration_in_front_of_SCOTUS_May_3&title=Special:MediaSearch&go=Go&type=image

Anja Schüler: Du würdest nicht sagen, dass eine Partei vorne gelegen hat bei der Mobilisierung?

Martin Thunert: Man kann natürlich sagen, dass wir aus der Erfahrung wissen, warum in der Vergangenheit neunzig Prozent der ersten Zwischenwahlen in einer Amtszeit eines Präsidenten in der Regel gegen die Partei dieses Präsidenten ausgingen. Es liegt daran, dass in der Regel die Wählerinnen der Oppositionspartei mobilisierter waren als die Wähler, die dem Interesse der Präsidentenpartei zuneigen, und die sich vielleicht einfach auf dem Erfolg ihres Präsidenten zwei Jahre zuvor auch ein bisschen ausruhen – und jetzt haben wir einen demokratischen Präsidenten. Also demnach ist es jetzt vielleicht den Demokraten sogar gelungen, ein bisschen überzumobilisieren. Aber offensichtlich hat doch das Abtreibungsurteil und auch die Demokratiefrage vielleicht doch die eine oder andere Demokratin noch zur Wahlurne getrieben, die das sonst nicht gemacht hätte. Und ich glaube, ein Faktor, das ist jetzt nur eine Vermutung, war dann am Ende auch noch Barack Obama, der, wie ich finde, von den Demokraten sehr effektiv eingesetzt wurde. Man hat auch wieder den Unterschied natürlich zu Biden gesehen, auch als Redner, vom ganzen Auftritt her. Dass Biden nicht so mobil ist, dafür kann ein gut zwanzig Jahre älterer Mann nichts, aber Obama ist ja auch sehr viel alleine aufgetreten und die meisten, die ihn geholt haben, wollten auch, dass er alleine kommt – das muss man ganz, ganz offen sagen. Das fand ich schon beeindruckend. Von daher könnte ich mir vorstellen, wenn dann die Zahlen genauer vorliegen, dass er dann doch noch viele Jungwähler, viele junge Minderheitenwähler noch mal in den entscheidenden Staaten an die Wahlurne gerufen hat. Ich erinnere mich nur, als in seiner Rede der Name Trump fiel, haben die Leute alle gebuht, was normal ist, und Obama hat dann aber gesagt: "Leute, buhen ist okay, aber das reicht nicht, Ihr müsst zur Wahl gehen", und ich glaube, Obama hat, vielleicht wie kein anderer in der Demokratischen Partei, immer noch einen Zugriff auf die Anhängerschaft und vor allen Dingen auf die Jüngeren und die Minderheitenwähler.

Anja Schüler: "Don't boo, vote!" Dann werfen wir doch mal einen Blick auf die Ergebnisse in den Einzelstaaten. Gibt es da besondere Entscheidungen außerhalb der Kongresswahlen, auf die wir ein Auge haben sollten? Warum sind Sie wichtig? Georgia haben wir schon genannt, da müssen wir einfach noch warten. Welche anderen Einzelstaaten sollten unsere Aufmerksamkeit haben?

Martin Thunert: Also die Einzelwahlen haben zwei Aspekte: Zum einem, wie wählen die Leute in den Einzelstaaten jetzt speziell für den Senat, aber auch fürs Haus, und dann finden natürlich in gewissen Einzelstaatswahlen auch Gouverneurswahlen, also jetzt auf Deutsch übersetzt, die Landtagswahlen statt. Ich will mal kurz einen Blick nur auf die Gouverneurswahlen werfen, das andere würde jetzt zu weit führen, und da liegen auch noch nicht alle Ergebnisse vor. Einzelstaaten, auch das ist jetzt vielleicht wichtig für die Hörer, die den Podcast nicht regelmäßig einschalten, Einzelstaaten sind in den USA für das Alltagsleben der Menschen ungleich wichtiger als in Deutschland, denn die haben einfach mehr Kompetenzen: etwa in Bildungsfragen, auch noch mehr als in Deutschland. Jetzt ist diese Abtreibungssache gekommen, die, wie gesagt, die Zuständigkeit, wie Abtreibung geregelt wird strafrechtlich – ob sie erlaubt wird, ob sie verboten wird, ob es Ausnahmen gibt – jetzt wieder an die Einzelstaaten abgegeben hat. Von daher haben auch diese Einzelstaatswahlen noch mal eine neue Dynamik bekommen.

Dann muss man sagen, dass wir ein paar interessante Gouverneurswahlen hatten, die ein bisschen abweichen vom Landestrend – also, dass die beiden Parteien fast so eine Art Gleichstand haben. In Florida, zum Beispiel, hat der Gouverneur Ron DeSantis, der seine erste Wahl vor vier Jahren relativ knapp gewonnen hat – und auch Donald Trump hat den Staat Florida gegen Joe Biden nur mit drei Prozent Vorsprung gewonnen – jetzt mit fast zwanzig Prozent Vorsprung gewonnen. Dasselbe hat der republikanische Senator Marco Rubio bei seiner Wiederwahl in Florida geschafft. Das heißt, in Florida sind vor allen Dingen viele Minderheiten zu den Republikanern übergelaufen, selbst der Landkreis Miami-Dade, also die Metropole Miami ist eigentlich eine Hochburg der Demokraten, hat mehrheitlich für Ron De Santis gestimmt – das muss natürlich auch über Florida hinaus die Demokraten etwas beunruhigen, dass eben einige Minderheiten, die gut schon in der U.S.-Gesellschaft situiert sind, zu den Republikanern wechseln, das haben wir auch in Texas erlebt. Deswegen ist es in Texas Beto O’ Rourke, einem früheren Hoffnungsträger der Demokratischen Partei, auch nicht gelungen, den Gouverneur Abbott zu entthronen – das war noch nicht mal sehr knapp. Auch im Staat New York stand ja zum ersten Mal die Gouverneurin Kathy Hochul zur Wahl, denn sie kam ins Amt, als der alte Gouverneur zurückgetreten war, und sie hat die Wahl dann doch relativ klar gewonnen, aber es ist vielleicht knapper, als man es in New York sich vorstellt für eine Demokratin. Auch hier muss die Demokratische Partei aufpassen, da der Abstand in ihrer Hochburg eigentlich größer sein müsste – ich glaube, dass da tatsächlich viele Leute, gerade in New York City, nicht zur Wahl gegangen sind, weil sie dachten, die gewinnt sowieso. Aber wer Gouverneur von New York wird, ist auch immer potenziell jemand, der auch mal für die Präsidentschaftskandidatur in Frage kommt. Ich glaube nicht, dass das bei Frau Hochul jetzt sofort der Fall ist, aber wenn sie weiter in diesem Staat regiert und das einigermaßen erfolgreich tut, wird sie zu einem politischen Machtfaktor in den USA.



Florida Governor Ron de Santis at a "Unite & Win" Rally in Phoenix, Arizona. Photo: Gage Skidmore.

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Das sind die Punkte. Zu Georgia werde ich noch sagen, wir haben gerade jetzt auf das Senatsrennen geschaut, aber da haben die beiden Republikaner, die gewählt werden mussten, für die Rolle des Gouverneurs, Brian Kemp, und für die Rolle des Innenministers, Brad Raffensperger, haben sehr überzeugend den Bundesstaat gewonnen – mit so 53 bis 54 Prozent. Auch da ist eine Hoffnungsträgerin der Demokraten zum zweiten Mal gescheitert, nämlich Stacey Abrams,

und diesmal deutlicher als vor vier Jahren. Das Signifikante ist hier, dass es Wähler der Republikanischen Partei gegeben haben muss, nämlich vier bis fünf Prozent, die Kemp gewählt haben, der ein Parteifreund, aber kein Anhänger von Donald Trump ist, aber sie haben nicht den Trump-Senatskandidaten Herschel Walker gewählt. Es war vielleicht kein *ticket splitting*, dass sie dann den Demokraten gewählt haben – sie haben da möglicherweise einfach gar kein Kreuz gemacht. Das zeigt eben auch, dass die Trump-Kandidaten vielleicht tatsächlich schlechter abgeschnitten haben als der generische Kandidat der Republikanischen Partei oder in diesem Fall jetzt der Gouverneur.

Vielleicht noch als letztes, das hat jetzt keine Überraschung ausgelöst, aber ich sagte ja auch, dass Gouverneure Präsidentschaftskandidaten werden können. Wir kommen, glaube ich, am Schluss noch mal auf diese Frage zurück, das wird wieder relevanter. In Kalifornien hat Gavin Newsom gewonnen, der Gouverneur, der vor einem Jahr einen *recall* auch sehr gut überstanden hat. Wir erinnern uns: vor knapp zwanzig Jahren hat ein Gouverneur einen *recall* gegen Arnold Schwarzenegger verloren, also auch das ist in Kalifornien schon passiert. Newsom ist für mich auch ganz klar ein Politiker, der Ambitionen auf mehr hat. Wenn du Gouverneur von Kalifornien bist, noch mehr, als wenn du Gouverneur von New York bist, bist du immer ein potenzieller Präsidentschaftskandidat, weil man da schon mal einen riesigen Staat, der voll hinter einem steht, und man hat auch schon eine gewisse Bekanntheit. Ich bin sicher, dass Gavin Newsom früher oder später diese Ambitionen haben wird, und er ist sehr eindrucksvoll bestätigt worden, also die Hochburg Kalifornien ist für die Demokraten eher noch ausgebaut worden.

Anja Schüler: Ich glaube, auf zwei der Staaten, die du eben genannt hast, muss man wirklich ein Auge haben. Zu New York kann man vielleicht noch ergänzen, dass die Republikaner dort vier Kongresssitze dazugewonnen haben, die sie vorher nicht hatten. Bei Florida muss man noch mal genau hingucken, ich weiß nicht, ob die Demokraten dort überhaupt einen Sitz gewonnen haben. Florida ist in den Präsidentschaftswahlen immer ein klassischer *swing state* – der steht jetzt wirklich voll und ganz hinter De Santis, er konnte da viel auf sich vereinigen. Ja, bleiben wir für die nächste Frage noch mal auf der Einzelstaatsebene. Wir haben vorhin die Volksbegehren, die Referenden bereits angesprochen, da ging es in diesem Jahr besonders um das Recht auf Schwangerschaftsabbruch, aber auch um ein paar andere Themen. Was kannst du dazu sagen?

Martin Thunert: Ja, genau, diese sogenannten *ballot* Initiativen, also Volksbegehren, Volksabstimmungen, die dann allerdings auch verbindlich sind in der Regel, die haben oft ihre Eigendynamik. Deswegen kann man da keine ganz großen Pauschalisierungen vornehmen. Interessant war es im Staat Michigan, dort wollte die Initiative erreichen, dass völlig restriktive Abtreibungsregelungen verboten werden. Die Gouverneurin ist zurzeit eine Demokratin, sie ist auch wiedergewählt worden und hat gegen eine von Trump unterstützte Person klar gewonnen. Aber die Landtage, das sind ja fast immer zwei Kammern in den USA, sind dann oft auch republikanisch. Dieser Initiative ist es gelungen, dass die Wähler und Wählerinnen von Michigan gesagt haben, wir wollen nicht, dass Michigan im Landtag eine restriktive Abtreibungsregelung unterstützt, auch für den Fall, dass irgendwann mal wieder die Gouverneurin republikanisch ist, die das dann durchwinken könnte. Das heißt, man hat also jetzt schon den Blick auf die Zukunft gerichtet, und dem Landtag oder dem Gesetzgeber in Michigan nicht mehr erlaubt, eine sehr restriktive Abtreibungsregelung, also ein Verbot ohne oder nur noch mit ganz geringen Ausnahmen, durch-

zusetzen. Sondern es muss dann da eine Lösung geben, die Abtreibung in bestimmten Fällen auf jeden Fall, beispielsweise so ähnlich wie bei uns in Deutschland mit Fristenregelung, erlaubt. Das ist signifikant. Es zeigt eben, dass der Grundtenor auch des Urteils des Verfassungsgerichtshofs bzw. auch das, was einige Republikanische Staaten machen, nämlich Abtreibung komplett oder nahezu komplett unter Strafe zu stellen, in der Gesamtbevölkerung der USA keine Mehrheit hat. Das wissen wir auch schon aus Umfragen, aber diese Erfolge, diese Initiativen, es gab schon mal vor drei Monaten einen ähnlichen Erfolg im Staat Kansas, zeigen das noch mal.

Weniger einheitlich ist die Einstellung der Amerikaner bei Volksbegehren, bei denen es um die Legalisierung von Cannabis und weichen Drogen geht. Da haben einige Staaten, zum Beispiel Missouri und Maryland, die sonst wenig gemein haben, dafür gestimmt, dass es legalisiert wird. Aber in zwei Staaten, etwa im Mittleren Westen, South Dakota und North Dakota, haben die Wähler das abgelehnt. Da wird es weiterhin eher eine Regelung geben, wie wir sie jetzt auch bei der Abtreibung haben und wie wir sie auch bei der Todesstrafe haben – dass es sich von Einzelstaat zu Einzelstaat unterscheidet, ob man Cannabis und andere weiche Drogen legal kaufen und konsumieren kann oder nicht. Also hier wird wieder mal klar, dass das Land eben die Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika heißt und dass es da auch keine landeseinheitliche Regelung gibt. Es gibt auch kein eindeutiges Muster, dass alles in Richtung Legalisierung ginge oder alles in Richtung Verbot ginge.

Anja Schüler: Dann noch mal zu einem ganz anderen Thema. Nun sind sowohl in den Einzelstaaten als auch für den Kongress in Washington eine Reihe von republikanischen Kandidatinnen und Kandidaten, nicht alle, aber auch nicht wenige, unter der Flagge von "Make America Great Again" gesegelt. Wie haben Sie abgeschnitten, *overall*? Eher besser, eher schlechter? In den Vorwahlen sind ja schon einige ausgeschieden. Was meinst du, wie stark ist dieser Flügel der Republikanischen Partei noch?

Martin Thunert: Also, es sind jetzt doch vor allem auf Senatsebene, aber nicht nur dort, einige gescheitert. Da kann man sehr beispielhaft den Staat Pennsylvania herausgreifen, der ist in mehrfacher Hinsicht auch 2024 entscheidend. Das ist ein klassischer *swing state* – den hat Trump 2016 gewonnen, Biden hat ihn 2020 zurückgewonnen, aber mit relativ knappen Mehrheiten. Auch da können die Gouverneure, kann die Legislative, natürlich Wahldurchführungsbestimmungen ändern, die dann möglicherweise auch auf das Ergebnis Einfluss haben. Deswegen waren die Wahlen zum Gouverneur und zum Senat von großer Bedeutung, weil schon ein Senatssitz, der kippt, die Mehrheitsverhältnisse ändern kann. Beide Republikanischen Kandidaten, der Kandidat für den Gouverneur und der Kandidat für den Senat, waren von Trump massiv unterstützte Kandidaten, und beide haben relativ deutlich verloren – im Gouverneurswahlkampf sogar noch mehr. Hier ist wieder ein Muster: viele Trump Kandidaten sind keine Politiker, sondern sind manchmal *celebrities*, entweder durch Sport oder durch Unterhaltungssendungen, manchmal sind es, wie in Arizona die Gouverneurskandidaten, frühere Nachrichtenanchor-Frauen. Dr. Mehmet Oz, ein türkischstämmiger Amerikaner muslimischen Glaubens, der auch nicht so richtig im Staat Pennsylvania wohnt, hat jetzt doch relativ deutlich eine absolut für die Republikaner gewinnbare Wahl gegen einen gesundheitlich geschwächten Demokraten verloren. Das kann ich mir nur so erklären, dass es natürlich auch in der ländlichen Wählerschaft im Staat Pennsylvania der Republikaner Leute gibt, die jetzt sich nicht unter ihrem Traumkandidaten einen türkischstämmigen

Amerikaner muslimischer Herkunft vorstellen, der zudem noch in New Jersey lebt. Ironischerweise haben hier vielleicht leichte Vorurteile der Wählerschaft gegen den von Trump unterstützten Kandidaten dazu geführt, dass der Senat möglicherweise jetzt für die Republikaner dadurch nicht mehr gewinnbar wird, weil sie jetzt von den noch offenen Sitzen mindestens zwei erobern müssen, damit sie da noch eine Chance haben. Hier hat ganz klar ein Trump-Kandidat, oder zwei Trump-Kandidaten, einen *swing state* sehr eindeutig in das demokratische Lager geschoben, was nicht hätte sein müssen. Das ist auch noch in zwei, drei anderen Fällen, die wir jetzt aus Zeitgründen nicht einzeln aufrollen können, passiert, so dass ich glaube, man sieht das schon ein bisschen, dass die republikanischen Geldgeber, die bis jetzt Trump schon sehr großzügig unterstützt haben, auch nachdenken. Die werden sich irgendwann fragen: Ist Trump wirklich noch der bestmögliche Kandidat, um das Weiße Haus zurückzuerobern?

Former Anchorwoman and
Gubernatorial Candidate for
Arizona Kari Lake with Former
President Donald Trump at a
"Save America" Rally in Florence,
Arizona. Photo: Gage Skidmore.

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Anja Schüler: Dann schauen wir noch mal auf einen von Trump unterstützten Kandidaten, der gewonnen hat und jetzt Senator sein wird: den Bestsellerautor J.D. Vance, der in Ohio angetreten ist – Ohio ist auch, natürlich, traditionell ein *swing state*. Ob das bei den nächsten Wahlen noch so sein wird, wird man sehen. J.D. Vance jedenfalls hat gewonnen, zieht in den Senat ein, und Donald Trump ist am Vorabend der Wahl noch auf einer Rally aufgetreten für Vance, da ging es ja nicht so sehr um Vance, sondern eher um ihn, und er hat, das haben wir, glaube ich, alle mitgekriegt, für den 15. November ein großes Ereignis angekündigt. Wir alle gehen davon aus, dass er eine erneute Präsidentschaftskandidatur verkünden wird. Du hast es eben schon angesprochen, hätte sie Aussicht auf Erfolg? Und wer könnte ihm jetzt nach dieser Wahl, die die Karten etwas neu gemischt hat, gefährlich werden in der Republikanischen Partei?

Martin Thunert: Das stimmt. Ganz kurz vielleicht noch zu J.D. Vance, dem Autor von *Hillbilly Elegies*, dem Buch, das erklärt, warum Trump 2016 gewonnen hat und das die weiße Wählerschaft erklärt und deren Unzufriedenheit. Natürlich, Vance ist auch ein Kandidat, der kein Politiker war, aber er ist deutlich intelligenter und politisch gewiefter als viele andere Trump-Kandidaten, und er hatte auch immer mal wieder gewisse Zerwürfnisse mit Trump. Es stimmt, da hat ein Trump-Kandidat gewonnen, und zwar sehr deutlich. Ohio ist komischerweise auf der Präsidentschenebene,

und jetzt auch offensichtlich beim Senat, schon lange kein *swing state* mehr. Gerade der Süden Ohios ist in der Sozialstruktur oft Südstaaten ähnlicher als der Norden bei Cleveland. Das ist in der Tat der Fall, dass Trump sagen kann, mein Kandidat hat gewonnen. Aber ich glaube, dass Vance sich häufiger zum Trumpismus bekannt hat als direkt zur Person Donald Trump, aber das muss man noch mal genauer analysieren.

Ja, zurück zu der Frage: Was heißt das? Ich glaube, ein Hauptgrund warum Trump nächste Woche ankündigen wird, für die Präsidentschaft zu kandidieren, ist gar nicht mal so sehr, dass er sich ganz große Chancen ausrechnet, das tut er persönlich sicherlich, ein Hauptgrund ist, dass er sich schützen will. Es beginnt nämlich nächste Woche auch die Phase, wo er eigentlich vor dem Ausschuss zum 6. Januar aussagen muss, auch weitere gerichtliche oder staatsanwaltliche Ermittlungen zu Mar-a-Lago, wohin er Geheimhaltungsdokumente mitgenommen hat, in seinen Privatwohnsitz, stehen an. Ich glaube, sein Kalkül ist erst mal, oder das haben ihm auch seine Anwälte gesagt, als so halb offizieller Präsidentschaftskandidat und Ex-Präsident hat es vielleicht eine schützende Wirkung. Das ist, glaube ich, so das Kalkül auf seiner Seite, dass er denkt, es fällt dem FBI noch mal schwerer so etwas zu machen wie die Durchsuchung. Ich sehe da so ein bisschen Parallelen zu Italien, zu Silvio Berlusconi, der auch mehrmals, als er schon fortgeschrittenem Alter war, noch mal kandidiert hat, um auch Justizermittlungen gegen sich zu beenden. Denn wir müssen auch sehen, wenn jetzt die Republikaner dann doch noch eine knappe Mehrheit im Repräsentantenhaus bekämen, würde sich da schlagartig sehr viel ändern. Der Ausschuss zu den Ereignissen vom 6. Januar, dem Sturm auf das Kapitol, würde abgeschafft, wenn der neue Kongress Anfang Januar zusammentritt. Die neue Mehrheit würde ihn nicht mehr fortführen, und sie würden dafür andere Untersuchungsausschüsse zu den Machenschaften des Biden-Sohns Hunter und auch, das haben sie schon angekündigt, zum FBI und zum *Department of Justice*, denen sie Einseitigkeit und autoritäres Vorgehen gegen die Opposition vorwerfen, einführen.

Ich sehe das zunächst mal bei Trump als eine persönliche Absicherungsstrategie, ob es die Justiz wirklich beeindruckt würde, dass er jetzt dann inoffizieller Kandidat der Partei ist, da habe ich meine Zweifel. Ich glaube, dass er selber denkt, dass es in der Öffentlichkeit einfach schlechter ankommt, einen Präsidentschaftskandidaten hart anzufassen, als einen, der einfach Privatmann und nur Ex-Präsident ist. Ich glaube, im Moment werden sich noch nicht sofort die Gegenkandidaten zeigen. Ron DeSantis ist meiner Ansicht nach dazu bereit, den Konflikt oder den Wettbewerb mit Trump auszutragen, denn der letzte Teil seiner Rede nach seinem triumphalen Sieg in Florida war ganz klar eher eine Bewerbungsrede für ein höheres Amt. Ich habe aus den Gesängen und den Rufen seiner Anhänger gehört "two more years" und nicht "four more years" für den Gouverneur – also eben nur noch zwei, bis er dann ins Weiße Haus geht.

Es wird aber auch der andere Republikaner, der in Florida gewonnen hat, Marco Rubio, gehandelt. Der hat schon mal für die Präsidentschaft kandidiert und ist damals gegen Trump einer der erfolgreicherer Gegenkandidaten gewesen. Er hat auch nach wie vor Ambitionen, und es gibt sicherlich auch noch zwei, drei andere. Natürlich wäre es auch denkbar, dass DeSantis oder auch Rubio oder auch andere wie Nikki Haley, die frühere UNO Botschafterin und Gouverneurin von South Carolina, die unter Trump ja auch ohne Konflikt und ohne Entlassung, sondern durch

freiwilligen Rücktritt gedient hat, mit Trump einen Deal machen, dass er doch noch mal ran darf, und sie werden dann Vizepräsidentchaftskandidaten. Auch Mike Pence, der mit Sicherheit, sollte Trump nominiert sein, nicht mehr Vizepräsidentchaftskandidat wird, wird vermutlich gegen Trump antreten. "There is no friendship between the two anymore", das kann man, glaube ich, sagen. Es gibt ganz klar Leute, die antreten, und Trump fängt schon an. Das zeigt für mich aber eher, dass er auch ein bisschen – panisch ist zu viel – aber unsicher ist. Er droht jetzt schon Herrn DeSantis an, über ihn auszupacken und geheime private Details über ihn zu veröffentlichen. Ich glaube, er sieht DeSantis als einen wirklich starken Konkurrenten, der einfach auch noch mal fast eine Generation jünger ist, und der auch strategischer denkt. Er hat in diesen Bundesstaat, glaube ich, das muss man sagen, auch wenn man seine Kulturkämpfe nicht für zielführend hält, einfach auch einen besseren Managementjob getan als Gouverneur, als es Trump als Präsident gemacht hat. Man muss nur mal vergleichen, wie die DeSantis mit Naturkatastrophen umgeht, er ist auch nicht das Ideal der Klimaschützer, aber das ist besser als der Dilettantismus, den Trump gezeigt hat, als er die Menschen in Puerto Rico und die Helfer dort mit Klopapierrollen beworfen hat. Ich glaube, das wird zu einem Umdenken in der Partei führen, und wenn DeSantis die Ambitionen hat, dann hat er eine ganz große Chance, meiner Ansicht nach.

Anja Schüler: Dann haben wir jetzt vorausgeschaut auf 2024 für die Republikanische Partei. Mein letzter Podcastgast sagte ja "It's always about the next election". Wer könnte denn bei den Demokraten ins Rennen gehen für die Präsidentschaft in zwei Jahren?

Martin Thunert: Na ja, da ist natürlich immer noch der amtierende Präsident der Hauptkandidat. Ich glaube, ein Joe Biden ist jetzt in einer vielleicht komfortableren Situation, als er gewesen wäre, wenn es einen Erdrutschsieg der Republikaner gegeben hätte. Gleichzeitig ist aber die Situation auch kniffliger. Man kann ihm jetzt nicht vorwerfen, dass unter seiner Führung die Partei kapitulieren musste. Wir wissen auch von früher, dass Bill Clinton eine ganz empfindliche Niederlage bei den ersten Zwischenwahlen hinnehmen musste, er ist trotzdem wieder aufgestellt worden, ohne Konkurrenz, und er ist wiedergewählt worden. Das gleiche ist Obama passiert, der hat vor zwölf Jahren, 2010, dreiundsechzig Abgeordnete verloren seiner Partei, und trotzdem hat er keine innerparteiliche Opposition bekommen und ist wieder aufgestellt worden. Natürlich waren das beide damals sehr junge Männer im Vergleich zu Joe Biden, das ist, glaube ich, die kritische Variable.

Joe Biden muss im Moment als Präsident der USA in diesem, mittlerweile auch militärischen Konflikt zwischen der Ukraine und Russland, wo die USA natürlich unverbrüchlich bisher an der Seite der Ukraine standen, vermitteln, und er kann nicht zu einer *lame duck* über Nacht werden – das würde, glaube ich, von der Gegenseite als Schwäche gewertet. Das wäre auch für den Westen nicht gut. Sigmar Gabriel sagte vorgestern auf einer Rede bei der Atlantikbrücke: "Wir können in Europa von Glück sagen, dass ein transatlantischer Präsident im Weißen Haus ist, das ist vielleicht der letzte". Wenn Biden heute sagen würde, ich höre auf in zwei Jahren, wäre das auch für Europa sicherlich ein Schock und keine gute Lösung. Dennoch, glaube ich, gibt es in der Partei der Demokraten Leute, die sagen, wir müssen Joe Biden irgendwie beibringen, dass er dann zu einem angemessenen Zeitpunkt, vielleicht in einem Jahr, gesagt bekommt, auch vielleicht

mithilfe seiner Frau: "Joe, du hast jetzt viele Verdienste, du hast Trump verhindert, du würdest ihn wahrscheinlich auch noch mal verhindern, aber das können andere auch. Du hast jetzt riesige Verdienste, wir können aber in der Öffentlichkeit uns nicht mit einem Präsidentschaftskandidaten abgeben, der dann zweiundachtzig im Wahlkampf wäre und fünfundachtzig oder älter am Ende seiner Amtszeit."

Vor diesem Dilemma steht die Demokratische Partei. Deswegen glaube ich nicht, dass jetzt schon Leute direkt sagen: Ich will gegen Biden innerparteilich antreten. Aber ich hatte ja schon vorhin den Namen Gavin Newsom genannt, der steht in den Startlöchern, sowie Kamala Harris, die Vizepräsidentin, für die es natürlich am besten wäre, wenn Biden einfach zurückträte vor Ende der Amtszeit, dann wäre sie Präsidentin und könnte dann als Präsidentin in eine demokratische, auch in eine innerparteiliche Auseinandersetzung gehen. Sie ist weiterhin natürlich eine klare Kandidatin, das ist man als Vizepräsidentin immer. Aber ich glaube, der Glaube an sie, auch in der Partei, ist im Moment so ein bisschen zurückgegangen, um es vorsichtig auszudrücken. Pete Buttigieg, der Verkehrsminister, schneidet in *straw polls* oft sehr gut ab, ist für mich auch ein potenzieller Kandidat, aber da müsste er wahrscheinlich auch vorher aus dem Kabinett ausscheiden, um dann innerparteilich gegen Biden anzutreten.



California Governor Gavin Newsom – a Democratic Contender for the Presidency in 2024?

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=Governor Newsom_and_Canadian_PM_Trudeau_signing_agreement_during_the_9th_Summit_of_the_Americas_%282%29&title=Special:MediaSearch&go=Go&type=image](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?search=Governor+Newsom+and+Canadian+PM+Trudeau+signing+agreement+during+the+9th+Summit+of+the+Americas+%282%29&title=Special:MediaSearch&go=Go&type=image)

Im Moment muss Joe Biden irgendwann sich erklären und die Dynamik, ob Trump antritt, wird da auch eine Rolle spielen. Ich finde, das wird eine spannende Sache für uns werden. Ich glaube, was Biden auf jeden Fall tun wird, ist jetzt eben nicht anzukündigen, dass er nicht mehr antritt oder dass er antritt – er wird diese Möglichkeit immer aufrechterhalten for the *time being*. Aber ich glaube, er wird jetzt in seinem Kabinett oder auch im Weißen Haus ein paar Personalveränderungen vornehmen, weil, auch wenn die Demokraten jetzt besser als erwartet abgeschnitten haben, die Menschen sich sehr stark für *crime* oder für die Einwanderung interessieren und da auch den Demokraten schlechte Noten ausstellen, das ist potenziell für jeden Kandidaten und für die Partei 2024 eine Gefahr. Ich glaube, er wird einsehen, dass das Personal, das im Moment diese Themen so gemanagt hat, und ihn zum Teil eingeschlossen, diese Themen doch eher runtergespielt hat, und ich glaube, da wird er was ändern. Ich könnte mir vorstellen, dass er sowohl im Kabinett, aber vielleicht noch mehr in seinem Team im Weißen Haus, was ja für die politische

Richtung viel wichtiger ist als das Kabinett, Änderungen vornimmt. Ich glaube nicht, dass er sein außenpolitisches Team ändern wird. Ich kann mir nicht vorstellen, dass Anthony Blinken oder auch der Verteidigungsminister Lloyd Austin abtreten werden, auch nicht der Sicherheitsberater Jake Sullivan, weil die machen, glaube ich, unabhängig davon, wie man jetzt zu Joe Biden steht, auch aus europäischer Sicht eigentlich einen sehr guten Job, gerade was den Ukraine-Russland Krieg angeht. Für mich ist der Verteidigungsminister Austin eigentlich so der geheime Star dieser Administration, der Mann macht das sehr diskret, aber unheimlich effektiv, der hat gute Managementfähigkeiten. Und wenn man sieht, wie er mit den asiatischen Verbündeten auch spricht, ohne dass überall dann große *headlines* kommen, also das erinnert mich so ein bisschen daran, wie Amerika unter der *greatest generation* war, und das nötigt mir sehr viel Respekt ab, das meine ich aber jetzt nicht parteipolitisch. Austin ist aber kein Mann, der offen, glaube ich, ein Wahlamt anstrebt, aber wir können, glaube ich, froh sein, dass dieser Mann im Moment das Pentagon leitet.

Anja Schüler: Dann würde ich zum Schluss gerne noch mal auf eine Frage kommen, die wir am Anfang angesprochen haben, aber seitdem nicht mehr so richtig, nämlich die Frage nach dem Fortbestand der amerikanischen Demokratie – die war ja sehr präsent, auch im Wahlkampf. Wir haben es erwähnt, im Repräsentantenhaus werden auf jeden Fall eine Menge Republikaner sitzen, die den Verschwörungstheorien von der gestohlenen Wahl anhängen. Gleichzeitig haben wir aber in dieser Wahl noch nicht gesehen, dass Kandidaten verkündet haben, dass sie die Wahl nicht anerkennen würden, bis auf einen Fall, in Arizona. Die *Washington Post* hat Anfang der Woche die Midterms einen Stresstest für die amerikanische Demokratie genannt – haben die USA bestanden?

Martin Thunert: Na ja, wenn man jetzt von vornherein sagt, dass da viele Abgeordnete gibt, die am Wahlausgang 2020 Zweifel haben – man müsste sich dann noch mal die Gründe angucken, warum sie am Zweifel haben, da gibt es, glaube ich, völlig legitime Gründe. Es gibt ein paar Leute, die sagen, wir fanden es nicht gut, dass ein paar Wahldurchführungsgesetze nicht von den Landtagen, sondern nur vom Gouverneur beschlossen wurde, da habe ich gewisse Sympathien, dass man der Sache dann nachgeht, aber natürlich zu sagen, 12.000 Stimmen wurden versteckt, das ist völliger Humbug, und das ist gefährlich. Ich glaube auch, dass keiner daran zweifeln wird, dass der Stresstest bei der Durchführung bestanden wurde, vielleicht mit Ausnahme von Arizona, weil es da knapp ausgehen wird, da zweifelt vielleicht, wer immer unterliegt. Wie groß die Gefahr ist für die Demokratie, wenn jetzt etwa die Republikaner die Mehrheit haben, wenn etwa der Ausschuss zum 6. Januar abgewürgt wird, dann Ende Dezember, das vermag ich nicht zu beurteilen. Das hängt auch jetzt noch ein bisschen davon ab, wie der Ausschuss weiter ermittelt. Ich glaube, was diejenigen brauchen, die Trump kriminelles Vorgehen unterstellen, er wird ja, seit er Präsident ist, von Sonderausschüssen untersucht – ich erinnere an Mueller und die Sentsuntersuchungen zu den Russland Connections: Es müsste mal in eine belastbare Anklage führen, denn sonst werden Trump und seine Unterstützer einen Unbesiegbarkheitsmythos aufbauen, und es wird immer gesagt, die nächste Untersuchung wird ihn rankriegen, der *district attorney* von Manhattan hat ihn, und so fort. Aber bis jetzt hat ihn noch niemand richtig drangekriegt.

Ich weiß nicht, ob die alle wirklich dran glauben, dass die Wahl wirklich gestohlen wurde, und ob sie das nur tun, weil es identitätsbildend wirkt, weil es mobilisierend gewirkt hat, ob sie noch dran glauben würden, wenn er wirklich von einem unabhängigen Gericht verurteilt würde für irgendetwas. Also ich glaube, diese Sache würde zusammenbrechen, wenn Trump mal nicht nur beschuldigt würde, sondern ihm auch eine Sache wirklich gerichtsfest nachgewiesen würde. Die Mueller-Untersuchung hat es damals nicht ergeben, aber auch die nachfolgenden Untersuchungen nicht. So lange kann Trump sagen: na ja, die wollen mich ja noch. Zwei *impeachment*-Verfahren sind gescheitert gegen ihn. Also, wenn er nicht mal tatsächlich jetzt verbindlich einer strafrechtlichen Verfehlung oder auch zivilrechtlichen Verfehlung überführt wird, dann sehe ich nicht, dass dieser Mythos, der Mann ist eigentlich unbesiegt aus dem Amt gefegt worden, so schnell abklingt.

Die amerikanische Demokratie hat viele Aspekte, auch was Meinungsbildung an sich angeht. Ich sehe auch durchaus, dass *checks and balances* in den USA noch ganz gut funktionieren, sonst wäre Donald Trump jetzt noch im Weißen Haus. Gegen keinen Präsidenten ist so stark ermittelt worden von Anfang an wie gegen ihn – wie gesagt, zum Teil ohne die von den Ermittlern erhofften Ergebnisse. Beim Meinungsbildungsprozess, die Pluralität, auch der Medien, da würde ich eher sagen, muss man auch hingucken, was jetzt die großen Techgiganten-Monopole machen, also wo nichtstaatliche Probleme der Willensbildung auftauchen, wenn jetzt Twitter seine Funktion verlieren sollte oder ändert. Also man muss das Gesamtbild sehen, da wo die Gefahr da ist, bei einigen Wahldurchführungsbestimmungen in bestimmten Bundesstaaten, da ist es jetzt schon mal ganz gut, dass einige der Leute, die da extreme Positionen vertreten, vielleicht nicht durchgekommen sind, aber das werden wir dann beantworten können. Deswegen wäre für mich dann der eigentliche Stresstest vielleicht tatsächlich erst die 2024er Wahl. Wenn das dazu führen würde, dass vielleicht ein Präsident, der eigentlich gewinnen würde, gar nicht mehr gewinnen kann, weil seine Wähler abgeschnitten werden, das wäre dann noch mal eine andere Qualität, und da müsste man dann wirklich das rote Lämpchen ganz dunkelrot flackern lassen. Aber das sind relativ spezifische Dinge.

Die Breite der Meinungsäußerung, dieses Grundrecht ist nach wie vor sehr, sehr präsent, aber andererseits bekommen die USA auch in vielen Indizes partiell bei einigen Demokratieindikatoren sehr schlechte Noten, aber nicht immer durchweg. Ich weiß, dass ich da ein bisschen von der akademischen Mehrheitsmeinung abweiche, dass ich das nicht so akut sehe, diese Bedrohung, aber ich habe das Gefühl, in den USA gibt es allerhand Bewegungen, die oft viel brutaler und extremistischer sind, weil die USA einen sehr erweiterten Freiheitsbegriff haben, der mir manchmal auch zu weit geht, wie bei der Holocaustleugnung, aber diese Bewegungen haben es im Gegensatz zu europäischen Ländern in der Regel dann doch nicht geschafft, zu regieren oder das Land völlig zu beherrschen. Faschistische Bewegungen, extremistische jeder Art hat es gegeben, gibt es heute natürlich. Wenn man in die USA geht, denkt man, da gibt es viel mehr Neonazis als in europäischen Ländern, und die begehen auch schreckliche Taten, etwa das Bagatellisieren des Angriffs auf Nancy Pelosi Ehemann von einem der beiden Trump Söhne. Das ist natürlich nicht nur geschmacklos, das wird auch, glaube ich, eher Republikaner, normale Menschen, die die Partei aus anderen Gründen unterstützen, weil ihnen ihre Wirtschaftspolitik gefällt, weil ih-

nen vielleicht auch ihre Einwanderungspolitik gefällt, zum Nachdenken bringen, ob man da nicht doch Kandidaten hat, die ohne solche Dinge auskommen, wie sie eben Don Jr. oder auch sein Vater machen. Ich glaube, dass die USA diesen Stresstest dann am Ende des Tages doch eher bestehen, dass das Land resilient bleibt, aber ich weiß, dass diese Meinung, wie gesagt, im Widerspruch zu vielen Analysen steht. Ich hätte da eher bei einigen europäischen Ländern meine Zweifel.

Voters in Londonderry, N.H., during the 2022 Midterms.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Voters_in_Londonderry_during_the_2022_midterms.jpg



Anja Schüler: Ganz herzlichen Dank, Martin Thunert, für diese Einschätzung zu den U.S. Midterms. Ich bin sehr zuversichtlich, dass wir bis zu den Präsidentschaftswahlen noch den einen oder anderen Podcast zusammen machen werden. Wir haben jetzt gar nicht gesprochen über Wahlkreiszuschnitte, da wird es sicherlich auch noch ein *Supreme Court* Urteil geben. Wir haben nicht gesprochen über Wahlbeschränkungen für Minderheiten – ich glaube, das ist dann vielleicht noch mal ein ganz anderer Podcast. Für heute nochmals vielen Dank und Gruß nach Frankfurt.

Martin Thunert: Ja, ich grüße auch.

Anja Schüler: Im nächsten Monat wird sich der HCA Podcast dann mit einem ganz anderen Thema beschäftigen. Dann werden wir hier an dieser Stelle die Arbeit des Kirchenhistorikers David Komline vorstellen, der als Alexander von Humboldt Fellow am HCA ist. Sein Kollege Edward Manger wird hier an meiner Stelle sitzen und moderieren. Und das war die neue Folge des HCA Podcasts. Er wird produziert vom Heidelberg Center for American Studies an der Universität Heidelberg. Mein Name ist Anja Schüler, und ich bedanke mich herzlich bei Eléna Brandao -Mecker für die technische Unterstützung und bei Ihnen für Ihr Interesse. Wir hören uns wahrscheinlich erst im neuen Jahr wieder. Bis dahin – bleiben Sie uns treu und bleiben Sie gesund!

Postscript:

Zu Beginn des Jahres 2023, wenige Stunden, bevor der neu gewählte Kongress zum ersten Mal am 3. Januar 2022 zusammentritt, wissen wir über einige, die Midterms 2022 betreffende Umstände, etwas mehr als 48 Stunden nach dem Wahlgang.

Wir wissen heute, dass das Ausbleiben der "roten Welle" zugunsten der Republikaner auf zum Teil falschen Prognosen von Wahlforschungsinstituten, die den Republikanern näher stehen als den Demokraten, beruhte. In den Jahren 2016 und 2020 unterliefen die meisten Fehleinschätzungen den politisch neutralen bzw. den Demokraten nahestehenden Umfrageinstituten. Diese hatten insbesondere die Stärke der Unterstützung für Donald J. Trump weithin unterschätzt. Damals lagen die eher konservativen Meinungsforscher in ihren Prognosen näher am tatsächlichen Ergebnis. 2022 war es umgekehrt. Denjenigen "neutralen" Instituten, die sich 2016 und 2020 geirrt hatten, wurde 2022 von den Medien, aber auch von den Wahlkämpfern selbst, weniger getraut, weswegen sich das Narrativ von der großen Welle zugunsten der Republikaner ab Ende September 2022 nicht nur innerhalb republikanischer Kreise verbreiten konnte, sondern auch in der allgemeinen Berichterstattung über den Wahlkampf. Außerdem ließen die schlechten Umfragewerte für Präsident Biden, die bisherigen historischen Erfahrungen mit den *midterms* in der ersten Amtszeit eines Präsidenten und die hohe Bedeutung des für die Demokraten ungünstigen Themas Inflation das Narrativ eines möglichen Erdrutschsieg der Republikaner im Kongress als plausibel erscheinen. Bei nachträglicher Betrachtung war die Prognose eines Erdrutschsieg zu jedem Zeitpunkt der Kampagne übertrieben und nicht von den Besonderheiten der *midterms* 2022, die wir im Podcast analysierten, gestützt.

Am 6. Dezember 2022 versetzte die Wählerschaft in Georgia, wie im Podcast bereits angedeutet, Trumps Status als Königsmacher einen weiteren Schlag, als sie Herschel Walker – den skandalumwitterten ehemaligen *American-Football*-Star, der auf Drängen von Trump für die Republikaner ins Rennen ging – ablehnten und den Demokraten Raphael Warnock erneut in den Senat wählten.

Allerdings gewannen die Republikaner 2022 ihre 2018 verlorene Mehrheit im Repräsentantenhaus zurück. Doch eine sehr knappe Mehrheit der Republikaner von fünf Stimmen über der absoluten Mehrheit im Repräsentantenhaus (222 Republikaner gegen 213 Demokraten) lässt sich kaum als triumphaler Sieg verkaufen, zumal einer der neu gewählten Republikaner aus dem Staat New York, George Santos, noch vor seiner Vereidigung von einem Lügen- und Betrugsskandal erschüttert wird. Und dennoch wird es ab dem 3. Januar 2023 keine politischen Mehrheiten für Joe Bidens im Kongress mehr geben, falls die Republikanische Mehrheitsfraktion im House geschlossen abstimmt, wovon man angesichts tiefgreifender innerparteilicher Richtungsstreitereien allerdings nicht immer ausgehen kann. Das Regieren auf dem Wege der Gesetzgebung dürfte für die Biden-Administration in den beiden nächsten Jahren nicht einfacher werden. Andererseits haben die Republikaner mit ihrer hauchdünnen Mehrheit wenig bis keine Chancen, eigene gesetzgeberische Initiativen mit Aussicht auf Erfolg im Senat, wo ihnen die Mehrheit fehlt, auf den Schreibtisch von Präsident Biden zu bringen. Daher wird die neue Meh-

rehtsfraktion in der unteren Kammer eher ihre parlamentarische Kontrollfunktion ausüben und die Biden-Administration mit Untersuchungen überziehen, ihre Haushaltsmacht ausspielen und möglicherweise auch Teile der Auslands- und Militärhilfe für Verbündete und insbesondere der Ukraine einer genaueren Prüfung unterziehen, wenngleich sich diese Hilfen an sich weiterhin einer überparteilichen Mehrheit sicher sein können.

Im Senat hat die Regierungspartei zwar einen Sitz dazugewonnen, aber der Austritt der gemäßigten Senatorin Synema aus Arizona aus der Fraktion der Demokraten, die von nun als fraktionlose Senatorin der Kammer angehört, hat deren Mehrheit wieder auf das absolute Minimum von 50 Stimmen und plus Stimme der Vizepräsidentin zusammenschumpfen lassen.

Sechs Wochen nachdem Donald Trump, wie im Podcast vorausgesagt, seine dritte Präsidentschaftskampagne mit der Erklärung gestartet hatte, dass "Amerikas Comeback jetzt beginnt", gerät sein Versuch, das Weiße Haus zurückzuerobern, unter dem Trommelfeuer der Kritik innerparteilicher Stimmen, von Meinungsumfragen und immer größer werdenden rechtlichen Problemen ins Trudeln – nicht zuletzt auch aufgrund des Abschlussberichts des Untersuchungsausschusses zu den Ereignissen vom 6. Januar 2021, der dem Generalbundesanwalt die Anklage Trumps in mehreren Punkten empfiehlt. Jüngste Umfragen ergaben, dass die republikanischen und republikanisch orientierten Wähler Trumps Politik mit einer Mehrheit von zwei zu eins unterstützen, aber einen anderen Kandidaten wünschen, der diese Politik umsetzt. Diese Umfragen sind der erste greifbare Beweis dafür, dass Trump den Preis für das unbefriedigende Abschneiden der republikanischen Partei bei den Zwischenwahlen zahlt, für das der ehemalige Präsident und die von ihm ausgesuchten Kandidaten verantwortlich gemacht werden.

Nach den Zwischenwahlen 2022 hat sich die politische Ausgangslage für die Präsidentschafts- und Kongresswahlen 2024 nur unwesentlich verändert. Dies zeigt sich nicht nur anhand des knappen Wahlergebnisses der Midterms, sondern auch anhand der Meinung der Amerikaner über die beiden großen Parteien. In Umfragen, die im November und Dezember 2022 erhoben wurden, geben 42 % Prozent der erwachsenen U.S.-Amerikaner an, dass sie eine positive Meinung von der Republikanischen Partei haben, verglichen mit 44 % im September 2022. Die 39 % der Amerikaner, die die Demokratische Partei positiv sehen, sind dieselben wie im September 2022. Damit behalten die Republikaner einen leichten Vorsprung in der Beliebtheit, was in den letzten zehn Jahren eine Seltenheit war. Die Wahlen 2024 sind aus heutiger Sicht sehr offen.



A FORUM FOR PUBLIC DEBATE

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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 other events.

THE BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG SEMINAR

Each spring and fall, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies invites distinguished scholars, public policy experts, journalists, writers, and artists to its Baden-Württemberg Seminar. The program was initiated in the spring of 2007 as a lecture series with fellows of the American Academy in Berlin coordinated by the HCA and later extended to include other distinguished speakers. Participants present their current work, discuss issues of transatlantic interest, or read from their writings at selected institutions throughout the state.

Baden-Württemberg's profound interest in the United States is reflected in many of its cultural, political, and economic institutions, its corporations, museums, and libraries. After a four-semester hiatus because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar returned to the HCA in the spring of 2022 with its twenty-seventh semester. We wish to thank all of our committed partners in this program for their support and look forward to great events in the future.

SPRING SEMINAR 2022

On May 3, the HCA relaunched the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, after a four-semester break because of the pandemic. We were delighted to revive our signature lecture series with a talk by Charles Postel, professor of American history at San Francisco State University and a long-time friend of our center. After an introduction by HCA Deputy Director Manfred Berg, Professor Postel commenced his presentation on "The African American Experience in WWII, Critical Race Theory, and the Struggle for Equality," offering the audience a glimpse into his current book project, which looks at racial and economic inequalities in both Europe and the United States. He pointed out that for African Americans, WWII became a turning point and an accelerator in the battle against segregation. Professor Postel delved into an important source for his study, letters African American soldiers wrote to their mothers, thus providing his audience with vivid

insights into the racism, segregation, violence, and humiliation black soldiers faced in the U.S. Army. Regardless of their expertise and training, African Americans almost exclusively ended up performing manual labor. Officers, on the other hand, were almost exclusively white. Since WWII was a time of high mobility and soldiers moved all over the U.S., many black soldiers were suddenly exposed to Jim Crow Laws. Other letters recounted the extreme violence racial minorities suffered at the hands of white soldiers, the murders, and race riots. In 1943 alone, over 200 race riots were registered in the country. One soldier stated that he found it impossible to live "like a human being should" in the U.S. Army. The discrimination continued after active service. Veterans also suffered from systematic and structural discrimination, for example in the administration of the GI Bill, from which mostly white veterans benefitted. It proved nearly impossible for African American veterans to get a federal loan, which meant that housing inequality persisted for them. The resulting wealth gap is still obvious in today's data.

Professor Postel's talk then turned to today's history wars rooted in what he considers a "panic" around Critical Race Theory. First developed as a theory explaining how racism is systematically embedded in legal structures and has deep historical roots, CRT has spurred a conservative movement which is deeply permeated by white nationalism and trying to suppress CRT from the curriculum of schools and universities. Slogans such as "Critical Race Theory is going to destroy us all" or "CRT is the new communism" are sported at demonstrations. Ultimately, Charles Postel concluded, the panic created around CRT serves to deny the African American experience of the past in order to consolidate the power of white supremacist movements in the present.



Charles Postel, San Francisco State University.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued on June 21, when the HCA welcomed Andrew Sandoval-Strausz, Professor of history at Penn State University, whose research centers around Latino studies, urban history, spatial theory, sociability, and immigration. He is the author of award-winning volume *Hotel: An American History* and came to the HCA to talk about his most recent book *Barrio America: How Latino Immigrants Saved the American City*. His lecture explored the transnational story of the transformation of American cities in the twentieth century and the crucial role Latin American immigrants played in this transformation.

By focusing on Chicago's Little Village and Dallas' Oak Cliff neighborhoods, Professor Sandoval-Strausz illuminated two symptomatic examples of the American crisis of urban decay. In the late 1950s, American cities were in deep distress, suffering from white flight, growing num-

bers of unemployment, abandoned neighborhoods and city centers, and drastically increasing crime rates. Yet, by the mid-1990s a drastic transformation took place: Crime rates dropped by approximately sixty to eighty per cent, leaving cities safer than ever before. City populations started to grow again, which went hand in hand with the revitalization of commercial life and connected neighborhoods. By zooming in on working-class Latinos, Professor Sandoval-Strausz provided a new perspective on the history of the American city. He identified three dimensions of urban transformation. First, the business landscape revitalized. Big corporations had left the city centers in favor of big-scale stores at the periphery, leaving behind small shop structures which accommodated the small, independent business structures of Latinos perfectly. A new business landscape started to thrive. Second, the Latino immigrants favored walking as a method of transportation, which further contributed to the vitality of street life. Third, a new Latino-American style of housing emerged, which, according to Andrew Sandoval-Strausz, led to lower crime rates. The free standing houses with fencing that Latino-Americans favored allowed for "eyes on the streets," a form of quasi-automatic social control. Professor Sandoval-Strausz concluded that without immigrants and their families, American cities would have been doomed – in Chicago and Dallas, Latino-Americans had proved to be a vital and positive force in American society and possibly the key to its future.

The third event in the 2022 summer semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar drew an exceptional audience since it also served as the prelude to the Kurt Klein Days, held at the city of Walldorf from July 1 to 3 to commemorate the fate of a local Jewish family whose children managed to escape to exile in the United States (see pages 101-102). On June 30, the HCA hosted a panel discussion with Atina Grossmann, Professor of History at the Cooper Union in New York City, and Frank Mecklenburg, the Mark M. and Lottie Salton Senior Historian at the Leo Baeck Institute New York. Anja Schüller of the HCA moderated the discussion on "Jews, Germans, Allies: Changing Perspectives on Postwar Encounters."

Some letters of Ludwig and Alice Klein are presented to Heidelberg University Library by one of their grandsons. L-r.: Lynn Klein, Jim Klein, University Library Director Veit Probst, HCA Director Wolf Werner, Vice Rector Karin Schumacher.

Courtesy Oliver Fink



The event turned out to be very special with all three children of Kurt Klein among the audience in the HCA Atrium. Professor Grossmann started the conversation with insights from her book *Jews, Germans, and Allies: Close Encounters in Occupied Germany*, which tells the overlapping histories of these three groups in the immediate postwar years. She situated Kurt Klein and his future wife Gerda Weissmann in this history, also pointing towards their specific experiences. Especially Gerda Weissmann Klein's story is well known in the United States; her autobiographical account *All But My Life* went through dozens of editions; a documentary based on her memoir won an Academy Award in 1995. Yet, in Germany we know very little about her story. The conversation then turned to the letters Kurt Klein's parents sent to their children in the United States between 1938 and 1942, an amazing source for historians that details Ludwig and Alice Klein's attempt to emigrate to the United States. Letters like these figure quite prominently in the holdings of the Leo Baeck Institute, and Frank Mecklenburg provided the audience with fascinating insights into the work of his archive. As the last survivors of the Holocaust are passing, it is particularly important to make sure legacies like the letters of the Klein family are preserved and made available to scholars and the public.



Jim Klein.

Courtesy Oliver Fink

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued on July 12 with a talk by Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, historian and professor for Asian American Studies at the University of California Irvine. Anja Schüler introduced Professor Wu, whose work focuses on Asian American history, immigration, decolonization, gender, and sexuality. Judy Wu's talk about "Rethinking U.S. Feminisms through Patsy Takemoto Mink, First Woman of Color in Congress" was based on her recent biography of the congresswoman from Hawai'i, presenting a new perspective on the history of American feminism. The politician was born in Hawai'i in 1927 as a third-generation Japanese American. She was the first woman of color to become a lawyer in Hawai'i and, in 1964, the first woman of color to be elected to Congress. Judy Wu pointed out that Patsy Mink pioneered ideas of intersectional feminism in the 1960s, drawing from her own experience and the fetishized, racialized, and sexualized narratives she had to face in her career. In her life and work, Mink was concerned with bringing together formal and grassroots politics, asking the question of how resources of government could effectively be utilized to create social change, a phenomenon Professor Wu called "bridge feminism." Patsy Mink was also very involved in anti-war activism during the Vietnam war and ultimately ran for president in 1972 with the promise to stop the war. Judy Wu

also spoke about the "intersectional legislative feminism" pioneered by Mink, which conceived a conjunction of gender and race. Examples for these intersecting issues were childcare and early childhood education, which Mink was very passionate about in light of her own struggles to find childcare. Furthermore, Judy Wu highlighted Mink's experience of growing up in Hawai'i's plantation society, which shaped her feminism that can consequently be understood as "Pacific feminism." Patsy Mink worked closely with native activists on the issues of water pollution, military testing, or nuclear storage on native lands. These issues were central to her legislative work as she sought to only work for legislation that was approved by those activist voices. Professor Wu concluded her talk by stating the importance of constituency work for Patsy Mink, which, combined with her progressive feminist ideas, allows us to develop a new perspective on the history of American feminism.

Judy Wu, UC Irvine



On July 26, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar welcomed Professor Patrick Griffin, who is a historian at the University of Notre Dame as well as the director of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies there. Professor Jan Stievermann opened the evening and highlighted his colleague's outstanding research that examines the intersection between American, British, and Irish history as well as wider themes of the Atlantic world such as migration, colonization, revolution, and violence in a comparative perspective. In his talk "Reconsidering 1776: A Nation Approaches Its Semiquincentennial," Professor Griffin provided a new perspective on the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the thirteen American colonies in 1776. Outlining his main argument, he invited the audience to consider the American Revolution as one of many in the age of revolutions, the eighteenth century. He claimed that the American Revolution was not exceptional but rather exemplary of the struggle to navigate the tangled space which was the Atlantic and the conflicts emerging from the explosion of slave trade. The Declaration of Independence was the key in this struggle to define a national identity and became a measurement stick for what it meant to be American. After an hour of illustrating the struggles, violence, and historical complexity of revolution, Professor Griffin ended his talk on a hopeful note: Although some foresee a new civil war in the U.S., things do not always have to fall apart. "Even if the myths are chiseled in stone, the history is not," he contended – there is no determined spiral into revolution and violence; rather we can define our own path going forward and work out the struggles productively.

The twenty-seventh semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar concluded with a talk by Michelle Nickerson, professor of History at Loyola University Chicago, whose work focuses on the history of women and gender, U.S. politics, social movements, cities and suburbs, and American religion. In 2012 she published *Mothers of Conservatism: Women and the Postwar Right*, which documents the grassroots activism of conservative women in Cold War California. Her talk at the HCA was based on her latest project, rooted in the history of religion and politics in 1960s America, a book tentatively titled *Spiritual Radicals: How the Camden 28 put the Vietnam War on Trial* that looks at Catholic Left's protest against the Vietnam War. According to Professor Nickerson, the Catholic Left was inspired by the Civil Rights Movement and primarily consisted of priests, nuns, and missionaries who engaged in social activism against economic and cultural inequalities in the United States. Eventually, the Catholic Left developed into a protest movement against the Vietnam War. The anti-war activists that joined the Catholic Left were less motivated by their religious beliefs but rather by traditions of their class and ethnicity. In 1967, one of the first actions of this protest group was to destroy drafting files in a custom house by pouring blood over them. The lesson learned was that the federal government did not have a centralized database, so the files had to be recreated in a complicated process. Destroying drafting files was not only practical but was also central to the protest since the drafting system was seen as part of a pervasive economic and racial inequality; many drafted soldiers came from poor and minority backgrounds.

Professor Nickerson's talk then zoomed in on the Camden 28, a group outside of Philadelphia that targeted drafting bureaus and became the face of the Catholic Left mainly because they were caught and gained much attention. In 1971, the Camden 28 raided an FBI office and sent documents with classified information to senators and representatives of the media. Therefore, the FBI stepped up its surveillance of the group which led to the arrest of 28 of its members who illegally entered a drafting bureau. The Camden 28 used the ensuing trial as a platform to protest the Vietnam War. Eventually, the defendants admitted to the crimes they were charged with but were acquitted. Ultimately, trials like this along with the Watergate affair helped to turn the public opinion against the war. The Catholic Left still exists today, but, as Professor Nickerson explained, they do not wear their religion on their sleeves to dodge the Culture Wars. Also, in their work across denominations and secular organizations they have become increasingly ecumenical.

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

Shortly after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in the spring of 2020, the HCA launched the podcast "Corona in den USA," renamed "Quo Vadis USA?" one year later. The HCA podcast provides a forum for scholars and other experts on the United States who regularly discuss issues in American society, politics, business, culture, and academia from the perspective of their respective discipline or share their latest research. Anja Schüler and Welf Werner make up the editorial team, with Anja Schüler hosting most episodes. Julian Kramer provided superb technical support until the summer of 2022, when Eléna Brandao Mecker took his place. Thomas Steinrunner composed the audio logo. Special thanks go to the Jacob-Gould-Schurman Foundation for supporting this project. Listen to the HCA podcast on our website, Apple Podcasts, or Spotify.

In the first episode of 2022, Anja Schüler and Volker Depkat, professor for American history at the University of Regensburg, talked about the historical roots of Trumpism, its future, and the aftermath the march on the U.S. Capitol a year earlier. In hindsight, so Volker Depkat, January 6th, 2021 must be seen as the climax of tensions that had built up since November 2020, when the 45th president refused to acknowledge the results of a democratic election, affirming his disrespect for the processes of American democracy. In addition, the Republican Party failed to

March on the U.S. Capitol,
January 6, 2021

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:2021_storming_of_the_United_States_Capitol_09.jpg?uselang=de



unanimously and unambiguously condemn the events of January 6th. Volker Depkat traced the March on the Capitol back to two traditions in American history. First, the iconic character of the outlaw, the manifestation of radical individual freedom; this character is closely connected to the American frontier, a zone of weak institutions and popular justice. The second phenomenon that contributed to this event is a deeply-rooted political populism. However, according to Professor Depkat, the March on the Capitol was singular event in American history since it was the first time a president more or less directed a mob. Political tensions about this event ensue, not the least because of a newly established committee that hopes to find document which will reveal Trump's involvement – something similar to the "smoking gun" that revealed Nixon's involvement in the Watergate scandal. Without such proof, it is doubtful that Donald Trump will face legal consequences. If January 6th constituted a stress test for American democracy, Volker

Depkat was confident that it passed. However, things remain precarious: Can Trumpism survive without its charismatic leader? Moreover, if so, how will it play out? One thing seems certain: The American public is so deeply divided that this sad anniversary is unlikely bring the country back together – each side will remember it through its own moral and social bias.

In the next episode of "Quo Vadis USA?" Anja Schüler talked to Darren Dochuk from the University of Notre Dame about his new book *Religion and Politics Beyond the Culture Wars – New Directions for a Divided America*. Its contributions offer a fresh perspective on the American Culture Wars, contending that a strictly partisan narrative does not tell the whole story. With contributions from politics, history, and religion, the book uses an interdisciplinary approach to describe and discuss the question of what the revision of recent American political and religious history reveals about the present moment, reaching beyond the Culture Wars. Aiming for a cross-fertilization of American political and religious history, the chapters look at lesser-known individuals and groups and at how they shaped American politics and religion. Furthermore, it presents the complexity of alliances that reach beyond the categorization of liberal and conservative. Thus, the book moves through the early labor activism of the twentieth century, rural agricultural reform movements in the 1930s, Mormon ideas of environmentalism in the 1950s, and the rise of Latino mega churches to represent movements that reach across denominational lines and are neither progressive nor conservative.

While the motives of the Culture Wars describe something substantial, Professor Dochuk contends that they are too simplistic to capture the long-standing divides in American society. What remains essential for the academic realm is the connection across partisan lines and the use of media and public discussions. The Culture Wars may not end quickly, but scholars can build a dialogue and thus contribute to recentering American society.

For episode sixty-one of the HCA podcast, Anja Schüler welcomed Seth Johnston, adjunct professor at Georgetown University and an officer in the U.S. Army. They topic of their conversation were the changes that NATO has undergone since its founding and how the organization is unique in its organizational and political approach, especially in the light of what seemed to be an imminent Russian attack on neighboring Ukraine. Seth Johnston has recently laid out these thoughts in his book *How NATO Adapts: Strategy and Organization in the Atlantic Alliance since 1950*. This volume looks at how NATO adapted to an increasingly multipolar world in the twenty-first century. Its core argument contends that NATO has displayed consistent patterns of change, such as adapting to new security challenges, which proves that the alliance is not a relic of a by-gone era but rather one of the most successful alliances of modern times. NATO has endured and is relevant to the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Even though NATO began as a military organization in the Cold War era, it was not organized against a country or external threat; instead, NATO represents values that are at the core of western civilization and act as organizational principles, such as democracy, individual freedom, and the rule of law. Its challenges may change, but the values remain. Furthermore, NATO goes beyond a military organization, serves political functions, and displays a standing, peacetime,

multi-national military structure. A war in Ukraine would undoubtedly be one of its biggest challenges; the current Russian military presence at the Ukrainian borders represents the largest buildup of conventional military forms in decades. Since World War II, this would be the first time European borders would have been altered using military force. But the situation in Ukraine is only one of the many challenges for NATO, next to maintaining alliance cohesion, the emergence of cyberspace, the rising influence of China as a threat multiplier, and issues of burden-sharing. In June, the Munich Security Conference will be addressing the threat to Ukraine with the premise that Russia and its aggressive stance galvanize the West and NATO. Western cohesion will be the thing to watch out for, said Dr. Johnston. However, NATO has consistently shown that it can adapt, succeed, and preserve the peace it has meant to maintain.

On February 24th, just days after the sixty-first episode of the HCA podcast aired, Russia started a war of aggression against Ukraine. In the following episode of the HCA Podcast, Anja Schüler talked to Tanja Penter, professor of Eastern European History at Heidelberg University, and Manfred Berg, the Curt Engelhorn Chair for North American History at Heidelberg University, about the causes and consequences of the war as well as the western, especially the U.S. reaction.

Destroyed Houses in Kyiv after a Russian Rocket Hit, March 18, 2022

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Houses_in_Kyiv_\(Podilskyi_District\)_after_shelling_on_18_March_2022_\(02\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Houses_in_Kyiv_(Podilskyi_District)_after_shelling_on_18_March_2022_(02).jpg)



With the Russian attack on Ukraine it has become clear that Putin's ambitions go beyond the annexation of Crimea and Donbas. He denies Ukraine the right to exist as an independent country and propagates the idea of the Great Russian Empire of the nineteenth century that he wants to restore. Then Professor Penter pointed out that since 2014 Putin has proven that he wants to revise borders and the order that was established after the end of the Cold War; from his perspective, the collapse of the Soviet Union was one of the most significant geopolitical catastrophes of the twentieth century. Finally, Putin wants to demilitarize and supposedly "denazify" Ukraine, a trick of propaganda that proved successful in 2014. Even though the war enjoys some support from the Russian public, Putin has already lost politically and economically. The West's primary goal must be to prevent further escalation and use broadly-based economic sanctions. Furthermore, Tanja Penter predicted, the Ukrainian resistance will be fierce and Russia will meet it brutally – factors that must be considered by the West as well.

Professor Berg then looked at the response of the United States and the West to Putin's aggression. Under U.S. leadership, the West showed a unified and fast reaction; economic sanctions have proved to be effective; Western arms supply has helped slow the Russian advance. Furthermore, the U.S. government has warned very early of the Russian aggression and views the war for what it most likely is: an attack on the international order. Therefore, the Western reaction is not only about stopping the war but also about showing Putin the limits of aggression, especially when it comes to attacks on NATO members and the risk of a direct military confrontation. However, the question remains whether the U.S. will enter a nuclear war in Europe and whether Putin will play the nuclear card. This, Manfred Berg contended, may be the most dangerous situation since the Cuban Missile Crisis and the events of 1983 that both pushed the world to the brink of nuclear war. Looking at the U.S. domestic perspective, the Democratic party is unified, in contrast to the Republican party, which is torn between a traditional right wing that views Russia as a communist threat and supports sanctions and classic isolationism that pleads to withdraw from any European conflicts. Both scholars agreed that it remains essential that the West remains unified in sanctioning Russia, as the country is much weaker than the Soviet Union and is unlikely to survive a second Cold War. From a military perspective, it is unlikely that Russia will threaten another country if its military goals in Ukraine are not fulfilled. Nevertheless, the challenge remains real: Vladimir Putin controls an arsenal of nuclear weapons, which makes him a dangerous player in world politics.

In the fifth HCA podcast of 2022, Anja Schüler struck up a conversation with Klaus Larres, Richard M. Grasso Distinguished Professor of History at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, about his new book *Uncertain Allies: Nixon, Kissinger, and the Threat of a United Europe*. It looks at the increasing rivalry between the U.S. and Europe in the Nixon era and the development of the transatlantic relationship in the process of European integration. At the end of the 1960s and in the early 1970s, the U.S. position towards Europe was rather ambivalent. On the one hand, America needed a unified Europe to support its Containment Policy. On the other hand, it was concerned that a unified Europe might not follow the economic and political leadership of the United States. Professor Larres identified four reasons for the increasing rivalry, beginning with the economic rise of Europe, which made the continent an economic competitor. Furthermore, the European criticism of the war in Vietnam and European doubts that U.S. would protect the continent in a nuclear escalation contributed to the cooling of the relationship. Yet another factor was the German *Ostpolitik*, which raised the question of whether Germany would get too close to the Soviet Union.

Ultimately, however, transatlantic negotiations, in which Henry Kissinger was a key factor, lessened this transatlantic rivalry. Kissinger urged the president to appreciate his European allies, as the secretary of state saw security policy as a primary concern. However, he also shared the American fear that a unified Europe would become a third world player that did not necessarily follow U.S. leadership and would undermine American hegemony. Since the founding of the European Union and the continuation of European unification and integration, Professor Larres explained, transatlantic relations continued to be challenged. Both continents worked closely in the late 1980s to end of the Cold War. However, the Iraq War under Bush Jr. and Trump's threat to

withdraw the U.S. from NATO has once more resulted in increasing mistrust. The Biden administration is now trying to build a unified transatlantic front against Russia and to establish ties with Europe that will be harder to cut. However, concluded Klaus Larres, the suspicion that surfaced under Nixon still exists until this day and may become more apparent with future presidents.

In the following episode of "Quo Vadis USA?" Anja Schüler and Nicole Colaianni, a member of the HCA's Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust" (GKAT), introduced the audience to Nicole Colaianni's dissertation project, a study of changing concept of sexual harassment at the workplace from 1975 until the start of the #MeToo-Movement in 2017. The 1970s marked the first attempts to deal with sexual harassment at work from a legal perspective, arguing that sexual discrimination is prohibited under the Civil Rights Act. In 1975, women organized the first Speak-Outs, and feminist organizations defined the term. On the other hand, conservative organizations argued that sexual harassment was not about a discrepancy of power and that women could avoid it by simply staying at home. Nicole Colaianni identified the first significant shift in the debate about sexual harassment in the working place in the 1980s through increasing government intervention and legal action. In 1980, the term sexual harassment was defined in a federal paper by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which was a step towards acknowledging it and indicated to companies that government would take women's grievances seriously. In 1985, the Supreme Court made use of the guidelines of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It confirmed that sexual harassment is discrimination based on gender and criticized the company policies. This resulted in establishing grievance procedures for employees. In the 1990s, Nicole Colaianni explained, the Supreme Court went even further. First, the court addressed the question of accountability. Second, it established that the plaintiff must adhere to the procedures of the companies before going to court. Through this decision, the authority to define sexual harassment was relegated from the federal government to the private sector. Her research shows that this did not curtail sexual harassment but was rather counterproductive. While Nicole Colaianni's project concludes before 2017, in the podcast she briefly talked about the #MeToo movement, which tried to reestablish sexual harassment as a structural problem and once again raise consciousness about it. Its first significant accomplishment was the prohibition of non-disclosure agreements regarding sexual harassment.

The war in Ukraine returned to the HCA podcast in episode sixty-five, when Anja Schüler welcomed John Deni from the Strategic Studies Institute at the U.S. Army War College and the American University School of International Service. Their conversation revolved around the nature of war, Russia's strategy, Western unity, and a possible end scenario for this war. John Deni had already been on the show a year earlier, and he had been very clear about the threat that Russia was posing for Europe, citing Russia's large-scale military exercises that looked like the preparation for an invasion. Now the invasion has happened, and, according to John Deni, it poses a watershed moment for European and global security. However, the war has not gone the way Russia expected it – with a swift victory that quickly captured Kyiv, ousting the Ukrainian government. Currently, the effort has shifted to the Donbas region in the East. However, if the Russians succeed there, they might turn back towards Kyiv, Dr. Deni speculated. Yet, from the Western perspective, the war does not mark the return to a Cold War, as the ideological angle is lacking.

Nevertheless, some frame it as a contest between democratic and authoritarian governments. The unprecedented assault on Ukraine can be seen as part of a bigger contest that involves Western democracy, international norms, and the security and sovereignty of independent countries. But while the West was slow to respond to the annexation of Crimea in 2014, in the face of the brutal assault on Ukraine, it has showed unexpected unity. The rhetoric regarding Russia has changed profoundly, which is remarkable, as the West, after the end of the Cold War, has made substantial efforts to pull Russia into the community of nations through economic, diplomatic, and military integration. However, Russia has refused to strengthen its democratic institutions; it even weakened them during Putin's presidency, used economic tools, such as gas supplies, as a weapon toward Europe, and invaded Georgia and Ukraine. Ultimately, the Western approach of integration has failed. Whether the U.S. might become a belligerent power through its provision of arms and information is uncertain, but if the war drags on, Putin may become more impatient with Western aid to Ukraine. For John Deni, the most optimistic outcome of the war would be a military and economic draining of the Russian government, and Ukraine would be able to recapture the annexed land by Russia.

The following episode of the HCA Podcast turned to a pressing problem of U.S. domestic politics. Anja Schüler had a chance to talk to Carol Anderson, Charles Howard Chandler Professor of African American Studies at Emory University and W.C. Pennington fellow at the HCA. Their conversation revolved around historical violence against African Americans and the second amendment as a tool of racial suppression. While gun violence in the U.S. is often portrayed as random acts of lone shooters, Professor Anderson contended that instead it constitutes part of a long American history of political violence perpetrated by white supremacists against African Americans and other minority groups, reaching back to the days of enslavement. When African Americans gained citizenship after the end of the Civil War, they experienced massive political violence by white supremacists who wanted to deny them their freedom. Lynchings and the rise of Jim Crow Laws aimed at denying citizenship to blacks. In her recent book *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America*, Carol Anderson argues that the right to bear arms is not granted equally to black and white Americans. Rather than to fight off domestic tyranny and invasions, the amendment was established to put down slave revolts. African Americans, on the other hand, were not allowed to bear arms, a rule codified in countless slave codes but also in the law of the land. Generally, free blacks were prohibited from owning guns, fearing black revolts. Until today, blacks with guns are seen as predators, as inherently violent, and a threat to the community. Thus, America has made a deal with itself that it is willing to tolerate gun violence to have unfettered access to guns, just in case of an African American uprising.

The following episode of "Quo Vadis USA?" commemorated the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Marshall Plan, a program that rehabilitated the European economy after World War II. Anja Schüler welcomed Wilfried Mausbach, the HCA's Executive Director, an expert on transatlantic relations in the post war era. After World War II, the United States was convinced that reconstructing a peaceful and democratic Europe depended on economic aid, the kind of aid only an emerging super power like the U.S. could provide. However, this aid needed to be systematic, and it was considered necessary to integrate the European economy into an open and free mar-

ket. However, Dr. Mausbach explained, President Truman was confronted with a Congress dominated by Republicans that mostly held isolationist views. Thus, when Truman called for economic aid, he emphasized the necessity to strengthen a free and democratic Europe and promised economic and military support for nations under threat of communist rule. To receive aid in this program, Europeans had to cooperate with each other, as the U.S. wanted to avoid negotiating with each country individually. As a consequence, European economic integration was pushed forward. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, sensed that this program aimed to weaken its sphere of influence and eventually moved from post-war cooperation to confrontation. Next to economic aid, the Marshall Plan also provided propaganda to support European unity. The question whether Europe would have recovered without the Marshall Plan is contested. When the first support arrived in 1948, the European economy had already begun to recover. Another question is whether the Marshall Plan contributed to the division of Europe and Germany in the beginning Cold War. Eastern Europe was excluded from economic aid, which deepened the divide with the Soviet Union. Yet, the Marshall Plan significantly contributed to the idea of European integration that ultimately manifested itself in the European Union.

Sign "The Marshall Plan Helped here," circa 1950

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marshallplan_Schild_2015.jpg?uselang=de



Episode 68 of "Quo Vadis USA?" once more commemorated a defining moment in U.S. history that unfolded in the fall of 1972. Anja Schüler talked to historian Bernd Greiner about one of the biggest crises of American democracy, the Watergate scandal, its consequences for American politics, and the ensuing declining trust in political institutions. At the core of this constitutional crisis, said Professor Greiner, was the fact that President Richard Nixon understood his presidential privileges to be above the law and that he tried to use the presidency to his advantage, which imperiled the constitutional system of checks and balances. Watergate, Professor Greiner contended, marked at the same time the end and the beginning of a problematic development in American politics. It was the end point of the McCarthy era, as Nixon tried to discredit the Democratic Party by inventing scandals and faking tax records. It also marked the beginning of a loss of trust in American political institutions that lives on until this day. The ensuing investigations showed how far Nixon was willing to go in his fight against political rivals; not only did he try to

establish the CIA as an extended arm of the White House, he also (unsuccessfully) tried to fire the special prosecutor, which resulted in the resignation of the Attorney General and his deputy. All this revealed Nixon's autocratic understanding of the presidency. But in the end, Bernd Greiner pointed out, American democracy prevailed. With an impeachment imminent, Nixon became the first American president to resign. In 1973, Democrats and Republicans were determined to work together out of respect for the institution of the presidency and the system of checks and balances. The differences to today's politics were obvious; many members of the Republican Party understand politics as Nixon understood them – as a war against Democrats and everyone that disagrees with the Republican agenda.



Demonstrators during the Watergate affair in Washington, D.C., October, 1973

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Impeach_Nixon_retouch.jpg

In the next episode of "Quo Vadis USA?", Anja Schöler and Manfred Berg, Curt Engelhorn Chair for North American History at Heidelberg University, looked at recent decisions of the American Supreme Court and struck up a conversation about the power and influence of the Court in a polarized country. In just one week, the judges had reinforced the right to own guns as well as strengthened prayers in public schools and had weakened the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency. Most importantly, the ruling *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Association* heavily restricted the right of American women to have an abortion, turning the power to legislate this matter back to the states. In the days after this decision, many states restricted or even banned abortions, which had an almost immediate impact on the lives of many American women. *Dobbs* overturned a famous 1973 decision, *Roe v. Wade*, which had granted American women the right to an abortion based on an interpretation of the 14th Amendment, which, in the eyes of a majority of the 1973 Court, guaranteed a right to privacy. The current Court disagrees, citing original intent, and we probably have to expect more conservative ruling in the future. Of course this is also due to the fact that three very conservative judges were appointed during the Trump administration. They can serve for life. Could not a constitutional amendment guarantee the right to privacy? Changing the Constitution is not easy, Professor Berg contended, pointing towards the many obstacles built into that process. Also, the overruling of a previous decision is not all that unusual, he said, citing past decisions like *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which declared racial segregation as constitutional in 1896, and *Brown v. Board of Education*, which

reversed Plessy almost sixty years later. In the final consequence, the principle of judicial review gives the Court the power to override political majorities if it comes to the conclusion that they, in turn, are violating the "supreme law of the land." What this "supreme law" is has been controversial in American history and will always remain so.

Demonstrators in Front of the U.S. Supreme Court After Its *Dobbs* Decision.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Demonstration_in_front_of_SCOTUS_May_3_2022_with_sign_reasons_women_get_abortions_None_of_your_busines_None_of_your_business_in_orange_pie_chart_cropped_836.jpg



The following episode of the HCA Podcast took a look at the upcoming U.S. midterm elections. Anja Schüler welcomed David McCuan, professor of political science at Sonoma State University, California, for a talk about the expected outcome, the future of the American electorate, and the challenges the Democratic Party might face in the 2024 presidential election. In American mid-terms elections, typically the party that occupies the White House and has a majority in Congress loses, with the other party picking up about 25 to 35 seats in the House of Representatives. In the summer of 2022, polls predicted that Republicans were estimated to win a record fifty to seventy seats. David McCuan uses a different model, which also incorporates the state of the economy and presidential approval, among others, and looks at the subnational conditions because polls often ignore important events like a mass shooting. To him, it will be decisive if the Republicans win twenty to thirty seats in the House, which seems in no way certain. If the Republicans win less than twenty seats, it will be difficult for them to sustain the necessary votes; the Senate might even remain in Democratic hands. David McCuan then went on to identify the "purple voters" as decisive for future elections, an electorate that is more urban, diverse, younger, primarily female, and with a college education. This type of voter demands equal pay, health care access, and family medical leave, which will change the nature of work, society, and ultimately politics, challenging the Trump coalition in the 2024 election. The Democrats will then face severe challenges as well, as their choice for a presidential candidate remain uncertain. They might look beyond established politicians for someone who can energize in Georgia and Pennsylvania alike, states that can decide presidential elections.

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ENJOY JAZZ AT THE HCA

Second Christian Bröcking Lecture: Angel Bat Dawid

On October 5, 2022, the HCA once more hosted an event in cooperation with the Enjoy Jazz Festival, one of the most important jazz festivals in Europe. For the second time, the Christian Bröcking Lecture took place in the HCA Atrium, commemorating the influential German musicologist, sociologist, university lecturer, author of several standard works on Jazz, and long-time companion of the Enjoy Jazz Festival, who sadly passed away early in 2021. The 2022 Christian Bröcking lecture was like nothing that had ever been done before at the HCA. Angel Bat Dawid, activist and artist, composer, clarinetist, singer, and free-jazz visionary from Chicago, swept the audience with a performance that combined image, video, song, music, and spoken word into a powerful, multi-sensory experience. At the heart of this performance were the themes that Angel Bat Dawid places at the core of her work: black empowerment, black consciousness, and black spirituality. She opened up a particular experience to the members of the audience: One of discomfort. She cried at the footage of the murder of a black man and mourned the black lives lost to police brutality. Economics, religion, war, and politics, among other things, were the subjects of this multimedia exploration, which reflected their engagement with structural racism. The pain was so tangible, in her expression, her anger, her music, the footage, and her tears. It left the audience shocked, confused, speechless, and some in tears. After the last sound had faded away, everyone sat in silence for a while. The eclectic, disruptive, and deeply emotional character of her performance forced every audience member to reflect on their identity, race, and jazz.



Angel Bat Dawid at the HCA.

PANEL "ZWISCHENWAHLEN IN DEN USA – EINE ERSTE BILANZ"

On November 8, 2022, the American electorate voted for a new House of Representatives, one-third of the Senate, and many positions on the state level, among them thirty-six new governors. In the months leading up to the election, polls had predicted a landslide victory for the Republican Party; also, the election was seen as a stress test for American democracy – would defeated candidates concede? On the day following the election, a panel at the HCA discussed the consequences of the midterms for the U.S., Europe, and the world. HCA Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach moderated the conversation among Nicole Colaianni, member of the Graduiertenkolleg "Authority and Trust," Martin Thunert, Senior Distinguished Professor for Political Science at the HCA, and HCA Director Welf Werner. Past midterm elections have shown that the party of the president usually loses seats in Congress. Yet, for the 2022 midterms, Democrats had been optimistic throughout the summer. In the weeks leading up to the election, however, polls started to predict a "red wave," a landslide victory of the Republican Party – a development that ultimately did not materialize. One day after the elections, it was clear that Republicans had only gained a slight majority in the House. The Senate was still waiting for the results in Nevada and Arizona and ultimately for the run-off in Georgia, which would not take place until December.

Martin Thunert argued that the anticipated "red wave" did not materialize because both parties designed their campaigns specifically for their clientele. Very few voters switched sides. After the *Dobbs* ruling, Democrats especially mobilized women, a strategy that played out fairly successfully. The biggest loser of the election was Donald Trump, as most of his candidates lost; therefore, it is unlikely he will become the next presidential candidate. Nicole Colaianni's election analysis took a closer look at the state level and especially at the ballot initiatives on abortion rights there. Results show that American voters largely do not back the Supreme Court decision. Even though inflation was an essential issue for almost all voters, it did not mobilize them in the way pollsters expected it, stated Welf Werner. However, the crisis is real, as the country moves toward stagflation. While Republicans tried to blame the Biden administration for high inflation, it really is caused by multiple factors – the war in Ukraine, interrupted supply chains due to the Corona crisis, and a fiscal stimulus package by the Biden administration that was largely superfluous as the economy had already begun to recover. After the midterms, Democrats will face a majority of Republicans in the House, which will probably mean that the Democratic ambitions for education and family legislation will fall behind. Furthermore, the risk of a government shutdown will return in regular intervals.

The panelists agreed that, from a global perspective, the midterm election will not have a substantive impact on U.S. economic and foreign policy. China remains the main competitor. However, the American public has tired of the war in Ukraine, and it might become more likely that Volodymyr Zelensky will be pressured to negotiate with Russia. Also, the midterms were widely viewed as a test for American democracy – which, the panelists contended, it passed. Overall, defeated candidates have conceded. Yet, for the presidential election of 2024, issues of voter suppression as well as a general distrust in the system will remain.

ENCOUNTERS: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ASIA, AMERICA, AND EUROPE

In the fall of 2021, the HCA, together with the Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University (CATS), launched a new event series. "Encounters: New Perspectives on Asia, America, and Europe" was conceptualized as a series of dialogues that focus on the relationship between the two superpowers of the twenty-first century – the United States of America and China. The guests of "Encounters" look at this new constellation and at the social and cultural, political and economic interactions and processes that we can observe in the relationship between the two countries. They also look at the consequences for Germany and Europe. Throughout the academic year 2021-22, "Encounters" brought Chinese, American, and European policy makers, authors, artists, and activists together with scholars from the HCA and CATS for nuanced discussions on a wide range of critical issues that shape the exceptional relationship between an old and a new super power. These conversations made an important contribution to an informed exchange among academia and the general public and became part of an informed public debate on one of the most important issues for the future of Germany and Europe.

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."



Sebastian Harnisch and Cheng Li at the first "Encounter," November 2021.

The second "Encounters" event took place on January 25, 2022. Marina Rudyak from the Institute of Chinese Studies at Heidelberg University talked to Wang Hui, professor in the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Tsinghua University in Beijing about "Visions of a New Global Order – A View from China." Their conversation focused on the "community of shared future for mankind," a concept promulgated by Chinese policy intellectuals as a new vision of global governance and as an alternative to the "old" (Western-dominated) type of international relations. In Europe and the U.S., the term has received a mixed reception: While some have interpreted it as China's commitment to multilateralism – especially during Donald Trump's tenure – others see the dissemination of the term, especially in UN organizations, as an attempt to undermine the liberal international order. Marina Rudyak and Wang Hui discussed Chinese perspectives of what is wrong with the old order – as power relations are shifting, what are the alternatives for international relations in the 21st century?

Encounters online, l.-r.: Welf Werner, Wang Hui, Marina Rudyak.



For the third dialogue on China, the U.S., and Europe, which took place on April 7, 2022, the organizers were privileged to welcome their audience at the Old Lecture Hall of Heidelberg University. Reinhard Bütikofer, member of the European Parliament (Green/EFA), and Florian Böller, Junior Professor at TU Kaiserslautern took the stage to discuss "Die liberale Weltordnung in der Krise? Die EU zwischen den USA, Russland und China." Reinhard Bütikofer is not only an alumnus of Heidelberg University; he is also well versed in the issues that are at the center of "Encounters," as he is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on International Trade, and Chair of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China as well as a member of the delegation to the United States. While the discussion revolved around the relationship between China and the U.S., it also touched on the war in Ukraine and particularly raised the question where the E.U. will position itself in this conflict.

Encounters at the Alte Aula:
Reinhard Bütikofer and Florian Böller.



For the fourth "Encounters" event on May 31, entitled "Enfant Terrible, Minister of Culture, Silent Loner?" the HCA and CATS welcomed Lung Ying-tai. The author and public intellectual served as Taiwan's first minister of culture from 2012-2014. Her essays criticizing Orwellian conditions in Taiwan are considered milestones in the history of Taiwanese democratization and were also read on Tian'anmen Square in Beijing in 1989. Born in Taiwan of Chinese parents, educated in the U.S., and residing in Europe, Lung Ying-tai brought an encompassing perspective to "Encounters." In conversation with Barbara Mittler of the Institute of Chinese Studies, Lung Ying-tai discussed questions of democracy, civility, and war, and how they can be approached – from a writer's point of view.

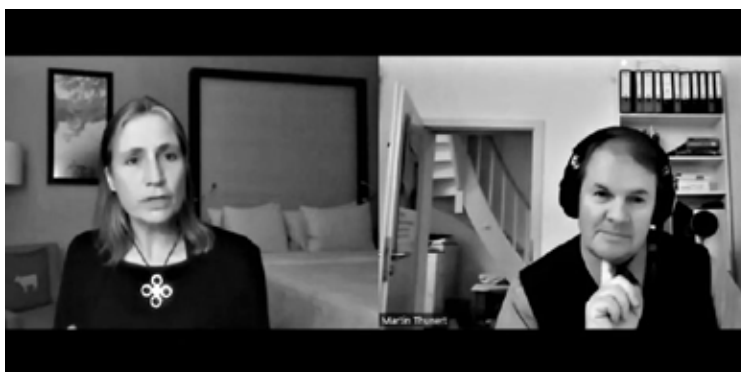


Encounters: Barbara Mittler and Lung Ying-tai.

The fifth "Encounters" event took place on July 26, 2022. Barbara Mittler of the Institute of Chinese Studies welcomed Hong Kong activist and dramatist Pat To Yan, then the author-in-residence at the Nationaltheater Mannheim, for a dialogue entitled "Peaceful World, Where Are You? Activism and Art in a Global Context." The audience in the CATS auditorium was enthralled by this conversation that centered on politics and civil involvement in Asia, America, and Europe, pointing to how engaged art is trying to make a difference in world politics.

The final event of "Encounters" in 2022 brought together Fiona Hill, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and former member of the U.S. National Security Council for Europe and Russia, and Martin Thunert, Senior Lecturer Political Science at the HCA. On October 18, 2022, they embarked on a conversation about "Rivals or Enemies? The U.S., Russia, and China." Among other things, it reflected on the threat that China and Russia pose to the West and to the international order in general. For Europe and the U.S., it is crucial to examine how far Russia and China are willing to go, especially in light of the war in Ukraine, which affects global food chains, energy supply, and the world economy. Fiona Hill also reflected on Russian history, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the open-door policy of NATO. For the future, she identified two critical factors: political forces of the far right in both Russia and the U.S. – they might put Putin under pressure and influence the outcome of the 2024 presidential elections.

The Final "Encounter" of 2022:
Fiona Hill and Martin Thunert.



"Encounters" was made possible by funding from the Excellence Strategy of the federal and state governments. Watch the videos of "Encounters" and much more on www.hca.uni-heidelberg.de/videos/.



MIGRATION IN THE AMERICAS

In summer semester 2022, the HCA together with the Heidelberg Institute for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS) and the Institute for Geography at Heidelberg University, established a new public lecture series entitled "Migration in the Americas." The events in this series aim to enlarge our perspective on the relations between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean. In particular, they focus on issues of migration, a complex topic in the Western hemisphere, but also in Europe, where millions of refugees and migrants have sought sanctuary since 2015, most recently from the war in Ukraine. Events in this series look at migration issues and the general relations between the U.S. and its neighbors to the south from a multitude of academic disciplines. What is the history of these relations? What are their economic interdependencies? And which political processes are at work? "Migration in the Americas" offers a unique opportunity to evaluate these issues and their impact on migratory dynamics across the continent. In particular, the talks seek to explain the growing social inequality. They also look at the livelihood strategies Latin Americans in the U.S. have developed, especially in urban centers.

Solange Muñoz, University of Tennessee.



The inaugural event took place on June 23, 2022, when the organizers welcomed Cecilia Menjívar and a sizeable audience to the HCA Atrium. Professor Menjívar, a sociologist, holds the Dorothy L. Meier Chair in Social Equities at the University of California, Los Angeles. She also served as the president of the American Sociological Association at the time. Her work specializes on immigration, gender, family dynamics, religious institutions, and the impacts of immigration. In her talk, Professor Menjívar addressed the root causes of migration, the historical responsibility of the U.S., and the country's current migration policies.

Professor Menjívar identified as the root causes of migration a chain of accumulating events, such as climate change, inequality, violence, lack of health care, and a lack of jobs and education. She highlighted the role of the state in countries like Costa Rica that receive a disproportional

tionate share of migrants; these countries often cannot protect migrants, especially women, adequately. Migrants will gravitate towards centers of power – in this case the United States. While the Biden administration has made an effort to understand and fight the root cause of immigration, migration from Latin America is on the rise. However, Professor Menjívar emphasized, migration itself, Professor Menjívar contended, does not constitute a crisis – the crisis are the living conditions the migrants aim to leave behind.

"Migration and the Americas" continued on July 21, 2022, with a talk by Professor Solange Muñoz from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In her work, Solange Muñoz uses the lens of infrastructure to learn more about how migration and motherhood connect and how the failure of infrastructure affects and weighs down the lives of women and mothers. Professor Muñoz' ethnographic research shows that these women often come from countries where they faced economic insecurities, structural violence, and a failure of top-down, state-built infrastructure. In their home countries, they replaced these missing infrastructures with infrastructures of care, for example networks consisting of relatives and acquaintances who also support each other in their migration experience.

Professor Muñoz focused primarily on two migration flows: the migration of Peruvian women to Argentina and of women from Mexico, Honduras, and Venezuela to Knoxville, Tennessee. These women look back on a lifetime of complex experiences and emotions, filled with violence, hope, trauma, self-determination, despair, and courage. The presentation interweaved academic theory with personal stories collected during ethnographic research in Latin America. Solange Muñoz shared the results of her research not only on that evening in the HCA Atrium of the HCA, but also with a small group of students in a workshop the following day.

HCA IN THE MEDIA, 2021-2022

"Das Wahljahr – USA Experte: 'Trump hat sich ins Abseites katapultiert'"

Radio Interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR 2, 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 Neueste Nachrichten, January 8, 2021)

""Das wird die innere Spaltung der USA weiter vertiefen""

Interview with Detlef Junker

(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, January 8, 2021)

"Der Demokratie-Clash von Washigton: Über die Zukunft deutsch-amerikanischer Beziehungen"

Radio Interview with Detlef Junker

(SWR 2, 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 2, July 15, 2021)

""Die Biden-Strategie in Afghanistan was naiv""

Radio Interview with Martin Thunert

(SWR 2, 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
(SWR2, August 19, 2021)

"James W.C. Pennington – erster schwarzer US-Amerikaner mit Ehrendoktorwürde in Heidelberg"
(SWR2, 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"
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, October 21, 2021)

"Geldsegen für Amerikanisten. Graduiertenkolleg erhält 4,3 Million Euro"
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, November 15, 2021)

"Ohne die USA gibt es keine Sicherheit in Europa"
Interview with Detlef Junker
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, December 10, 2021)

"Der Kampf um die Demokratie tobt noch. USA-Experte Martin Thunert zum Sturm auf das Kapitol"
Interview with Martin Thunert
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, January 5, 2022)

"USA steuern in kalten Bürgerkrieg. Politologe Thunert hält US-Demokratie für gefährdet"
Interview with Martin Thunert
(Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland, January 6, 2022)

"Muslime in den USA – Little Kurdistan in Nashville"
Interview with Martin Thunert
(Deutschlandfunk, January 13, 2022)

"Afghanistan bis Infrastrukturprogramm: Das ist die Bilanz von Joe Biden"

Interview with Natalie Rauscher
(Web.de, January 20, 2022)

"Hohe Erwartungen, wenig erreicht: Wieso Kamala Harris seit einem Jahr nur die Nebenrolle spielt"
Article by Martin Thunert
(Stern, January 20, 2022)

"Die Erwartungen an den amerikanischen Präsidenten sind notorisch zu hoch"
Interview with Manfred Berg
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, January 20, 2022)

"Duell der Supermächte – China und die USA in Zahlen"
Documentary with Welf Werner
(ZDFinfo, March 14, 2022)

"Hitler, Putin und der Sinn der Geschichte"
Article by Detlef Junker
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, March 27, 2022)

"Wir müssen auch Panzer liefern"
Interview with Reinhard Bütikofer
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, April 9, 2022)

"Die große Unzufriedenheit"
With contributions by Natalie Rauscher
(Stuttgarter Zeitung/Stuttgarter Nachrichten, April 11, 2022)

"Eröffnung im Schatten der 'Zeitenwende'"
With contributions by Detlef Junker
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, May 21, 2022)

"Zwischenwahlen in den USA: Bereitet sich Trump sein Comeback vor?"
Interview with Martin Thunert
(GMX, May 25, 2022)

"Engagiert für die Gleichheit der Afroamerikaner"
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, June 3, 2022)

"Der Kreml-Versteher"
Article by Manfred Berg
(Die ZEIT, June 15, 2022)

"Sturm auf das Kapitol: Zu welchen Ergebnissen der Untersuchungsausschuss kommt"
With contributions of Natalie Rauscher
(Web.de, June 18, 2022)

"Kurt Klein Tage"
(SWR 2, June 30, 2022)

"Es ist so vieles bei Trump beispiellos"
Interview with Martin Thunert
(blue News, August 9, 2022)

"Verfassungsgericht versus Volk: Das jüngste Urteil des Supreme Courts zum Abtreibungsrecht ist keine Ausnahme: Immer wieder hat Amerikas höchste juristische Instanz Entscheidungen getroffen, die das Land entzweien"
Article by Manfred Berg
(Die ZEIT, August 25, 2022)

"Vor den Midterms: Das sagen die beiden US-Parteien zu den wichtigsten Themen"
Interview with Martin Thunert
(Handelsblatt, October 15, 2022)

"Much More Than Congress Is at Stake This Midterm"
Article by Martin Thunert
(Fair Observer, November 4, 2022)

"US Zwischenwahlen: Warum die Demokraten 'Grund zur Besorgnis' haben müssen"
Interview with Martin Thunert
(Rhein Neckar Zeitung, November 7, 2022)

"Martin Thunert zu den U.S. Midterms"
Interview with Martin Thunert
(Radio Ton Heilbronn, November 9, 2022)

"Martin Thunert zur erneuten Kandidatur Donald Trumps"
Interview with Martin Thunert
(SWR 2, November 16, 2022)



HCA ANNOUNCEMENTS

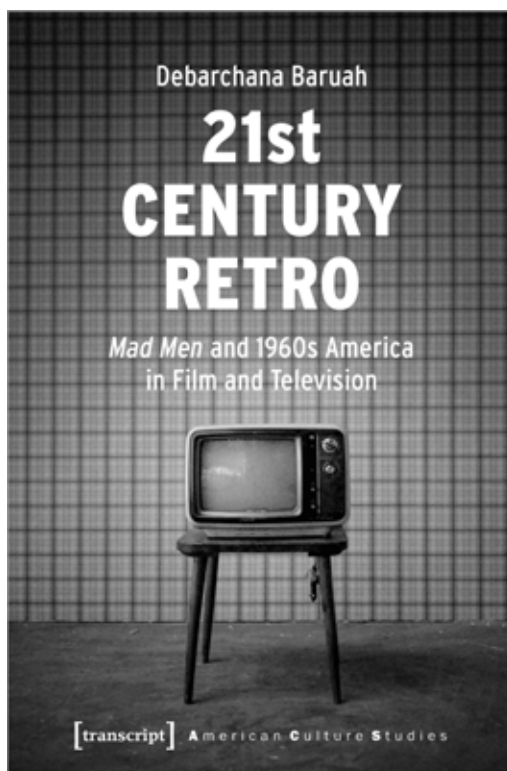
21st Century Retro

"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

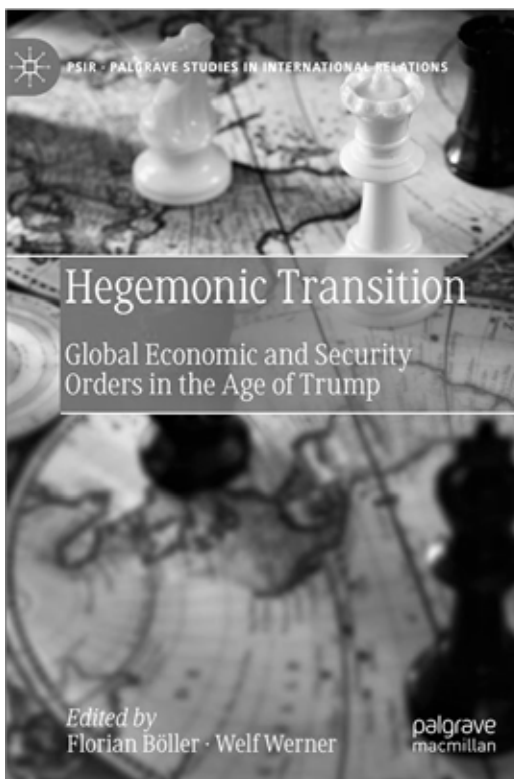
Global Economic and Security Orders In the Age of Trump.

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.



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.

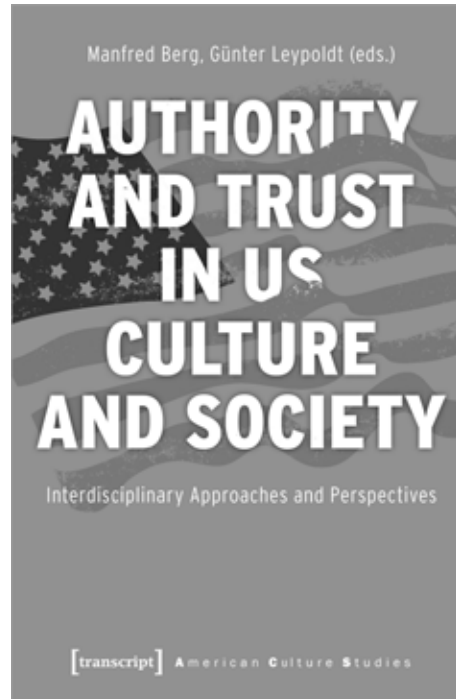


Authority and Trust in US Culture and Society Interdisciplinary Approaches and Perspectives

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.



Carlyle, Emerson and the Transatlantic Uses of Authority

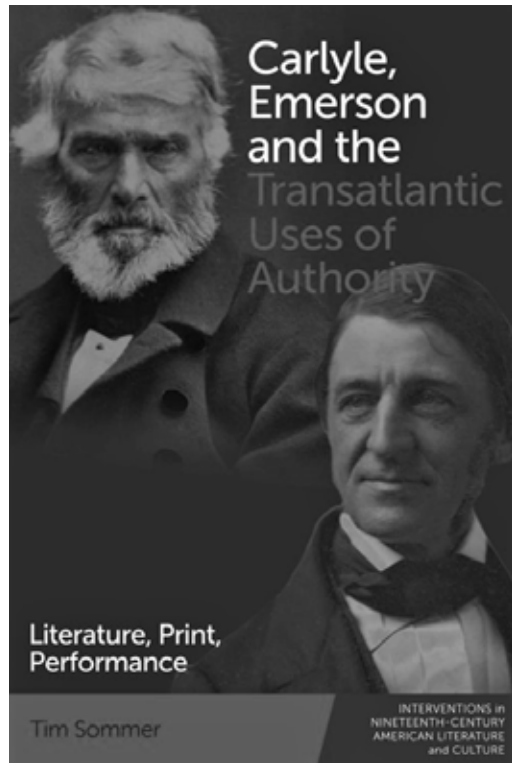
Literature, Print, Performance

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

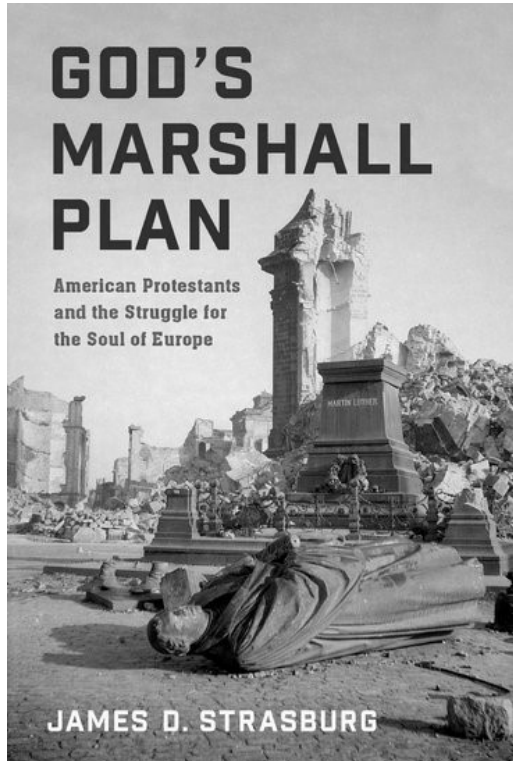
American Protestants and the Struggle for the Soul of Europe

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

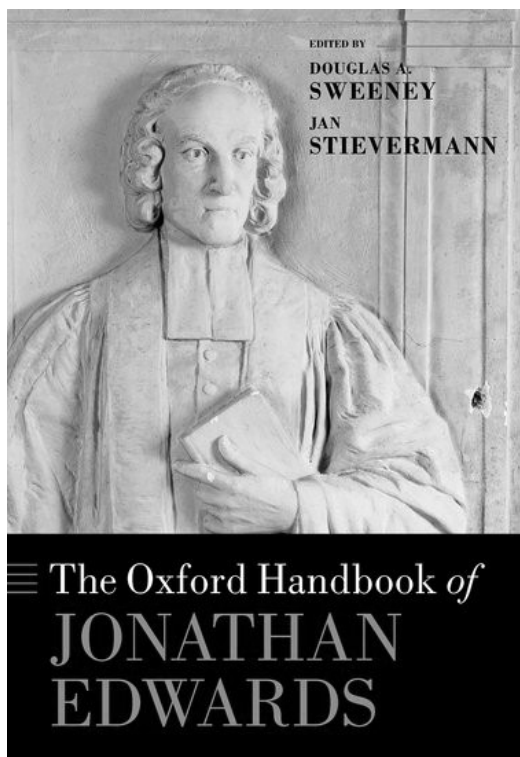
Douglas A. Sweeney & Jan Stievermann (eds.)

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.



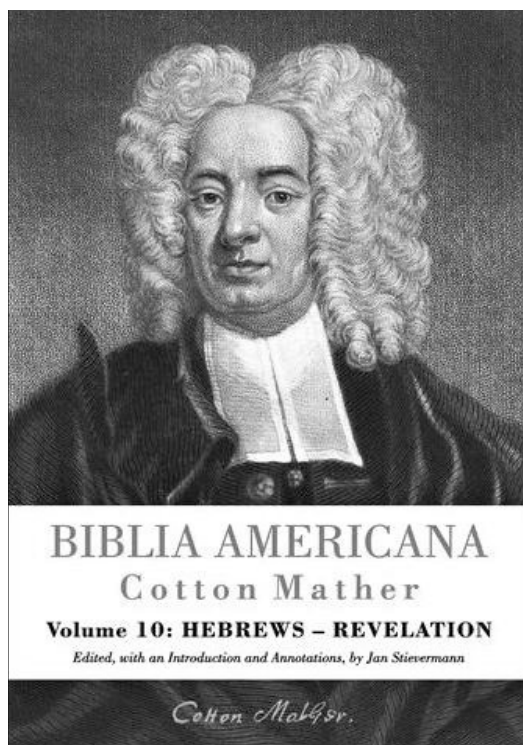
Biblia Americana

America's First Bible Commentary. A Synoptic Commentary on the Old and New Testaments. Volume 10: Hebrews – Revelation

Jan Stievermann (eds.)

Cotton Mather, 2023

This volume of the *Biblia Americana* (1693–1728) contains Cotton Mather's annotations on Hebrews, James, 1–2 Peter, 1–3 John, Jude, and Revelation, as well as two series of essays on various matters of biblical interpretation. A mixture of pious explanations and historical-textual criticism, the annotations are a treasure-trove for scholars interested in the development of Reformed theology and biblical exegesis during a decisive period of intellectual change in the early modern Atlantic world. Mather, an apologetically oriented but deeply learned scholar, confronts the early Enlightenment challenges to the authority of the Bible and core doctrines like the Trinity. He discusses problems of translation, textual variants (e.g., the Johannine comma), but also authorship and canonicity, especially with a view to the so-called Catholic Letters and James.



The extensive annotations on Revelation offer a window into the development of Mather's millennialism and, more specifically, his changing interpretations of hotly-debated issues such as the eschatological conversion of the Jews, the expected date for the return of Christ and the nature of His kingdom. In the appended essays, Mather, in conversation with German Pietism, develops a biblical hermeneutic that emphasizes an experiential approach and the need for spiritual illumination. He also engages with antiquarian scholarship on the Scriptures, their original contexts, provenance, and transmission, as well as with literature that situates Judaism and Christianity in a larger history of ancient religions and cultures.

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