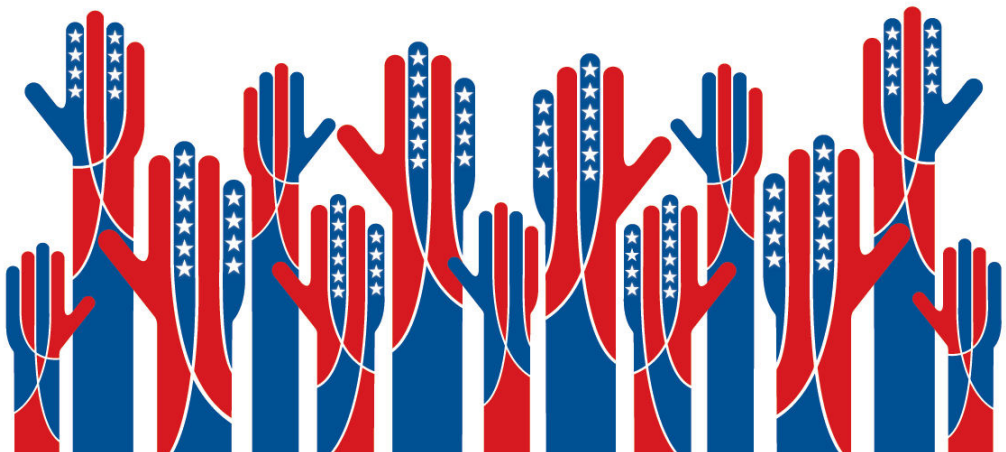


# PARTICIPATION IN AMERICAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY

67th Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA)  
Heidelberg, June 17-19, 2021



Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Amerikastudien

**HCA**  
Heidelberg Center  
for American Studies



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386



Credit: Universität Mannheim

# A WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

## **Prof. Dr. Philipp Gassert**

Chair of Contemporary History, Universität Mannheim  
President of the German Association for American Studies

The 67th Annual Meeting of the German Association for American Studies will place the question of participation in U.S. American culture and politics front and center of our yearly deliberations. This is not only a timely and important topic with regard to our object of inquiry, the United States of America – the scholarly study of which being the core mission of our academic association. For almost seven decades, GAAS members, who hail from diverse methodological backgrounds and scholarly traditions, have been involved in an ongoing cross-disciplinary debate about the United States. Yet, American Studies have never felt themselves completely detached and neutral from their object of study. Over the course of the history of our association, we have seen many, sometimes heated debates about what it means to do American Studies and how “critical,” “democratic,” “participatory,” or “political” our scholarly approaches should be.

The greater political and social context of this year’s annual meeting is a rather ominous one when it comes to questions of participation. We are standing at the end of a long period of democratic ascendancy, which began way back during the early 1990s, when members of my generation were students and junior scholars, just starting to write our dissertations. Now, we find ourselves in a political sea-change that has serious repercussions for our work. Obviously, modes of democratic representation and equal, unhindered access, for example to elections, are not just threatened in the United States. Anti-democratic, authoritarian impulses seem to be on the rise in many parts of the world, including much of Europe. Moreover, with regard to our own association, we find ourselves embroiled in a debate that has now been going on for several years of how we can make sure that members of diverse backgrounds and scholarly status find themselves well represented by our institutions and those who are elected to office. It seems very fitting that an annual meeting that deals with participation will see the greatest overhaul of our by-laws since the founding of the GAAS in 1953.

The Heidelberg conference will stand out with regard to other issues as well: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 Annual Meeting will be the first one ever to be carried out in a fully digital (and in part hybrid) format. This is an amazing “first” for such a venerable association. Two years ago, at the Hamburg meeting in 2019, none of us could have imagined that the 2020 Annual Meeting would have to be cancelled and postponed for a full year. Few would have imagined that the GAAS would ever fully go digital for its annual meeting. Yet, 24 months later, here we are!

As president of the Association, I am very grateful to the local organizers in Heidelberg and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) for not just putting together a highly intriguing program, but also for providing the technological wherewithal to make this a reality. Therefore, a special word of thanks to Welf Werner, Manfred Berg, Wilfried Mausbach, Anja Schüler and their dedicated staff. Thank you, Heidelberg, and thanks as well to all who are contributing to what I am sure will be a very unusual, but very stimulating 67th GAAS annual meeting.

It is not customary to mix the “Welcome” to an annual meeting with association business. Yet, since the times are so special and since this is my last meeting as president of the GAAS and as a member of the executive board for ten years, I want to take the liberty and add a heartfelt word of thanks to my fellow executive board members Karsten Fitz (as vice president) and Catrin Gersdorf (as executive director) as well as our three assistants, Vivian Seidel, Alexandra Hauke, and Molina Klingler, for stepping up and for living up to the enormous challenge of shepherding the GAAS through this pandemic crisis and a breathtaking digitalization of our business. This included the invention of a new format, such as the digital townhall meeting, of which we have organized four so far. Thank you for weathering this and various further challenges over the past four years. Moreover, I would like to thank the members of the GAAS advisory board for constantly providing us with insights, perspective, and excellent advice. Finally, I wish our successors all the best in the interest of a strong and viable American Studies project in German academia and beyond.



Credit: Heidelberg Center for American Studies

## A WELCOME FROM HEIDELBERG

Participation is a core value of American citizenship and at the same time one of the nation's most ambivalent concepts. In colonial America, a larger share of white males had the right to vote than in any other society in the world. The Federal Constitution of 1787 was a milestone in the history of political participation because it tied political power to national elections. In the nineteenth century, universal white manhood suffrage gave rise to the first electoral mass democracy worldwide. The struggle of women, racial and ethnic minorities, and immigrants for full participatory rights has been a major theme in U.S. history and remains a challenge today and into the future. This challenge reaches far beyond the realm of politics and encompasses full and equal access for groups and individuals to participate in a wide variety of social, cultural, religious, and economic activities. Exclusion from participation based on class, race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation is indeed part and parcel of the nation's heritage.

In recent years, fears of a backlash against participation and inclusion are mounting as economic inequality is growing and American society is becoming more segmented and polarized. At the political level, attempts to undermine the right of minorities and the poor to vote have proliferated after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down parts of the Voting Rights Act in 2013 and have become a torrent in the wake of unproven allegations of voter fraud in the 2020 elections. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, 61 bills with restrictive provisions are currently moving through 18 state legislatures, evoking comparisons to the disfranchisement during the age of Jim Crow.

Ironically, these efforts to restrict participation are themselves nurtured by new forms of participation. Social media, once believed to usher in a brave new world of easy and universal participation, has instead led to the emer-

gence of echo chambers and parallel worlds that provide a haven for hate speech and misinformation.

Globally, the Covid crisis has resuscitated older debates about the efficiency of liberal democracies in dealing with such calamities given their core principle of open debate and a vibrant marketplace of ideas.

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

We are, therefore, delighted that DGfA/GAAS members have submitted a great number of stimulating and innovative workshop proposals across all of the field's disciplines for the association's 67th Annual Meeting in Heidelberg.

Heidelberg University and the Heidelberg Center of American Studies (HCA) are honored to host this Annual Meeting. Needless to say, the local organizers would have much preferred to welcome you in person to one of Germany's most attractive cities and universities. Still, your ideas and enthusiasm for the conference and its theme just about guarantee that we will have a productive and stimulating gathering nevertheless.

We look forward to e-seeing you in Heidelberg!

#### Local Organizers

Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg (History)  
 Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard (Geography)  
 Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt (Literature and Culture)  
 Dr. habil. Margit Peterfy (Literature and Culture)  
 Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann (Religious History)  
 Dr. habil. Martin Thunert (Political Science)  
 Prof. Dr. Welf Werner (Economics)

#### Planning Committee

Julian Kramer, B.A.  
 Dr. Wilfried Mausbach  
 Hannes Nagl, M.A.  
 Julia Nohle  
 Dr. Anja Schüler  
 Caroline Walter, B.A.



# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**Thursday, June 17, 2021**

**11 am - 3 pm** DGfA / GAAS Board Meeting

**3 pm - 4.30 pm** PGF Meeting

**5 pm - 6.40 pm** Conference Opening

Welcome Addresses

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Bernhard Eitel, Rector, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

Dr. Marie-Luise Löffler, Officer for Women's and Gender Equality,  
City of Heidelberg

Opening Remarks

Prof. Dr. Philipp Gassert, President GAAS

Award Ceremony

Fulbright American Studies Award

Christoph Daniel Ebeling Fellowship

John W. Kluge Center Fellowship | Library of Congress

DGfA Diversity Fellowships

Best Article Award Amerikastudien | American Studies

Honorary Memberships

Franz Steiner Preis 2021

**6.40 pm - 6.50 pm** *Intermission*

**6.50 pm** Introduction  
Prof. Dr. Welf Werner, Director, Heidelberg Center for American Studies

**7 pm - 8 pm** Keynote Lecture  
Professor Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, University of California, Irvine  
“To Form a More Perfect Union? Intersectional Legislative Activism and Pacific Feminism”

**afterwards** *Reception on Gathertown*

## **Friday, June 18, 2021**

*Gathertown open all day*

**9 am - 10.30 am** Keynote Lecture  
Prof. Dr. Martin Butler, Carl-von-Ossietzky-Universität Oldenburg  
“The Audience Strikes Back... Or Does It? Formations of Participation and the Figure of the Amateur in 'New Media' Environments”

**10.30 am - 11 am** *Intermission*

**11 am - 12.30 pm** Current Events Panel  
“Too Much Participation? Liberal Democracies in Times of Crisis”

Professor Gary Gerstle, University of Cambridge  
Dr. Sarah Liu, University of Edinburgh  
Prof. Dr. Greta Olson, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen  
Chaired by Jun.-Prof. Dr. Florian Böller, TU Kaiserslautern

**2 pm - 5 pm** Workshops 1 - 10 (*Zoom Rooms #1 - 11*)



**5pm - 5.30 pm**

*Intermission*

**5.30 pm - 7 pm**

Keynote Lecture

Professor Carol Anderson, Emory University

“Jim Crow 2.0: Disfranchising Black Voters in the 21st Century”

## **Saturday, June 19, 2021**

*Gathertown open all day*

**9 am - 12 pm**

Workshops 11 - 20 (*Zoom Rooms #1 - 10*)

**12 pm - 1.30 pm**

DASI Brown Bag Lunch @Home

**1 pm - 2pm**

Women's Caucus

**2 pm - 3 pm**

Diversity Round Table

**3.30 pm - 6 pm**

DGfA/GAAS Members' Meeting

**afterwards**

*Conference Finale on Gathertown*



# KEYNOTES



Credit: Artstar Media

## Judy Tzu-Chun Wu

### To Form a More Perfect Union? Intersectional Legislative Activism and Pacific Feminism

Thursday, June 17, 7 - 8 pm

In 1977, the U.S. held its first and only federally funded National Women's Conference. Inspired by the 1975 United Nations International Women's Year conference that was held in Mexico City, the 1977 gathering in Houston, Texas, attracted approximately 20,000 people with elected delegates from 50 states and 6 territories. This presentation explores the legislative effort to authorize this grass-roots but state funded women's gathering and the ways in which political leaders at the national level and in the territories understood how women from the Pacific should be represented. For women located on ongoing sites of colonization, how did they envision the effort to address gender inequality in order to "form a more perfect union."

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu is a professor for Asian American Studies, the director of the Humanities Center and a Chancellor's Fellow at the University of California, Irvine. She received her Ph.D. in history from Stanford University. Her research focuses on comparative racialization and immigration and the intersectionality of ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and citizenship. Among other publications, Wu authored the monographs *Radicals on the Road: Internationalism, Orientalism, and Feminism during the Vietnam War Era* and *Dr. Mom Chung of the Fair-Haired Bastards: The Life of a Wartime Celebrity*. She is co-editor of the online database/journal *Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000*. Judy Wu's current book project centers on Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color in the United States Congress and a leading figure in the 1970s debate around the nation's first legislation on equal opportunity.



Credit: Universität Oldenburg

## Martin Butler

### The Audience Strikes Back... Or Does It? Formations of Participation and the Figure of the Amateur in “New Media” Environments

Friday, June 18, 9 - 10.30 am

Participatory media have regularly been featured both in tales of empowerment and in accounts that highlight their potential for the exploitation of labor and data. Against the backdrop of this discursive force-field, my paper suggests a critical perspective on formations of participation in “new media” environments – a perspective that helps unravel normative premises and implications of the term and concept of (cultural) participation, understood as a promise and part of the social imaginary of western modernity. By examining a selection of user-generated video clips distributed by YouTube, I will shed light on how notions and normativities of participation as well as its subjects are produced in and through digital contexts. One central subject position both shaped in and shaping these formations of participation is that of the amateur, who is featured as the protagonist in narratives of both democratic engagement and neoliberal entrepreneurship. As such, the amateur can be understood as a ‘social figure’ which emerges specifically in and through formations of participation in new media environments and which is indicative of processes of larger social transformation and their often conflicting discourses.

Martin Butler is a Professor of American Literary and Cultural Studies and vice-president of the research center “Genealogy of the Present” at the University of Oldenburg. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Duisburg-Essen. His research focuses on popular culture, and he is specifically interested in forms and figures of cultural mobility as well as cultures of participation in new media environments. Apart from a broad range of articles in these fields, he published a monograph on Woody Guthrie (*Voices of the Down and Out*) and co-edited nine essay collections, including *Precarious Alliances: Cultures of Participation in Print and Other Media* (with Albrecht Hausmann and Anton Kirchhofer) and *Resistance: Subjects, Representations and Contexts* (with Paul Mecheril and Lea Brenningmeyer).



Credit: Emory Photo Video

## **Carol Anderson**

### **Jim Crow 2.0: Disfranchising Black Voters in the 21st Century**

**Friday, June 18, 5.30 - 7 pm**

Jim Crow, an era where state governments disfranchised Black voters, was supposed to be a relic of the past. Since 2013, however, after the U.S. Supreme Court gutted the protections in the Voting Rights Act, many states have resorted to once again using race-neutral language to target minority voters. Couching these efforts as election integrity, the Republican and Trump-fueled backlash to the 2020 presidential election has accelerated the efforts to silence an ever growing share of voters. American democracy is now in an epic struggle. The outcome will determine the nation's future.

Carol Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler Professor and Chair 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; *White Rage*, a *New York Times* bestseller and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award; *Bourgeois Radicals*; and *Eyes off the Prize*, winner of the Gustavus Myers Award and the Myrna Bernath Book Award. Her latest book, *The Second: Race and Guns in a Fatally Unequal America*, examines how anti-Blackness is embedded in the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and the destructive force it has had on African Americans' citizenship rights. She was named a Guggenheim Fellow for Constitutional Studies and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She earned her Ph.D. in history from The Ohio State University.



ZADOFF, NOAM  
SCHÜLER-SPRINGORUM, STEFANIE  
ZADOFF, MIRJAM  
PAUL, HEIKE (Eds.)

## Four Years After

Ethnonationalism, Antisemitism,  
and Racism in Trump's America  
2020. 200 Seiten. (Publikationen der  
Bayerischen Amerika-Akademie/  
Publications of the Bavarian American  
Academy, Volume 24)  
Geb. € 38,-  
ISBN 978-3-8253-4782-6

## Amerikastudien/ American Studies

General Editors:  
CARMEN BIRKLE and  
BIRGIT DÄWES

Heft 66.I (2021)

### Common Grounds? American Democracy after Trump

Guest Editors:  
CEDRIC ESSI, HEIKE PAUL,  
BORIS VORMANN

The journal is also available  
as a printed single issue:

2021. 321 Seiten.  
Kart. € 48,-  
ISBN 978-3-8253-9329-8



Open Access

# CURRENT EVENTS PANEL

## Too Much Participation? Liberal Democracies in Times of Crisis

Friday, June 18, 11 - 12.30 pm

*Participation* as the thematic focus of this year's Annual Meeting was chosen well before the biggest public health and ensuing economic crisis of recent memory has engulfed the world. Covid-19, however, has added yet another dimension to the debate. The global crisis has suggested that some authoritarian regimes, notably China, were able to respond more swiftly to the crisis than their liberal counterparts in the United States and Europe that are based on representation and participation. Although many of the extreme measures taken up in those countries were condemned in much of the West, it cannot be denied that some of these measures have worked much more effectively to contain the outbreak of the virus.

At the same time, efforts by these countries to vigorously disseminate this narrative have tapped into and supplemented currents in social media and digital communication which pander in misinformation and have spun conspiracy narratives of global proportions around measures to fight the pandemic. Thus the pandemic has been bound up with a larger infodemic that is imperiling liberal democracies and most alarmingly the United States itself. Does the example of the global Covid-19 crisis show that liberal democracies are ill-equipped to respond to serious disaster? Is there a possible issue with "too much participation" in the liberal societies we live in today when faced with crises of epic proportions?

Bringing together researchers from the fields of History, Political Science, and Cultural Studies, the Current Events Panel explores issues around participation in the United States and similar liberal democracies and will draw comparisons to other countries in their response to the separate yet intertwined challenges of public health and new information environments, of Covid and communication. The panel will engage with questions around institutional governance, representative democracies, as well as questions of populist rhetoric and the role of (new) media.



## Participants

### Gary Gerstle

Gary Gerstle is the Paul Mellon Professor of American History and Fellow of Sidney Sussex College at the University of Cambridge. He is a social and political historian of the twentieth century with substantial interests in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. He received his B.A. from Brown University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. Before coming to Cambridge, he was Vyvyan Harmsworth Professor in American History at Oxford University and James G. Stahlman Professor of American History at Vanderbilt University. Among his most important publications are *Liberty and Coercion: The Paradox of American Government from the Founding to the Present* and *American Crucible: Race and Nation in the Twentieth Century*. Gary Gerstle is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Historical Society.



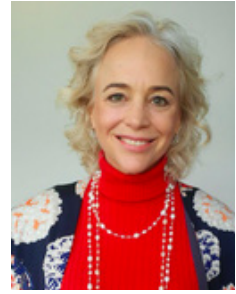
### Sarah Liu

Sarah Liu is a Lecturer of Gender and Politics in the School of Social and Political Science at the University of Edinburgh. She received her dual Ph.D. in Political Science and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the Pennsylvania State University. Prior to joining the University of Edinburgh, Sarah Liu taught at Newcastle University (U.K.), Smith College, and Penn State. Her research focuses on the cross-national comparison of gender and politics, specifically the ways contexts such as women's movements, women's political representation, and immigration shape the gender gap in political attitudes and activities. She has published widely in political science as well as interdisciplinary journals, and her works have been featured in the *Washington Post* Monkey Cage and the *Conversation* U.K. Sarah Liu appears regularly on BBC Radio Scotland and other news outlets.



## Greta Olson

Greta Olson is Professor of English and American Literary and Cultural Studies at the Justus Liebig University Gießen and was Fellow at the Käte Hamburger Center for Advanced Study in the Humanities “Law as Culture” in Bonn (2014, 2016). She is a general editor of the *European Journal of English Studies (EJES)*, and the co-founder of the European Network for Law and Literature. At the University of Giessen, she facilitates work on the nexus between political and artistic practices and academic analysis, and is interested in mentoring projects concerning cultural approaches to law/Law and Literature, the politics of form, critical media studies, American Studies, and feminism and sexuality studies. Greta Olson runs the European Network for Law and Literature Research together with Jeanne Gaakeer.



Credit: Universität Gießen

## Moderated by Florian Böller

Florian Böller specializes in U.S. domestic and foreign policy as well as transatlantic relations. He is Juniorprofessor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Kaiserslautern, Germany. Previously, he was a post-doctoral fellow at HCA's research training group “Authority and Trust” and held fellowships at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies. In his research, he studies the role of trust and mistrust within the transatlantic context, the shifting authority of the U.S. as a global hegemon, and the impact of legislatures on foreign policy decision-making. His research has appeared in books and journals, such as the *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *European Political Science Review*, and *Parliamentary Affairs*. A new volume on *Hegemonic Transition: Global Economic and Security Orders in the Age of Trump*, co-edited with Welf Werner, is forthcoming at Palgrave.





# WORKSHOPS

**Workshops #1-10, Friday, 2 pm - 5 pm, Zoom Rooms #1-11**

## **1. Divided We Stand: Non-participation as Anti-Imperial Endeavor?**

Verena Adamik (Potsdam), Kristina Baudemann (Flensburg)

Room #1

- Nicole Waller (Potsdam): "Participation 'Otherwise': Theorizing Non-Participation as Decolonial Act"
- René Dietrich (Mainz): "Refusing Inclusion in the Settler Multicultural: Native Voices, Literary Sovereignty, and the Resurgent Politics of Indigenous Anthologies"
- Harald Zapf (Erlangen-Nürnberg): "'Fuck Poems / and They Are Useful': Amiri Baraka's NonParticipatory Poetics and Poetic Practice of Participation"
- Julius Greve (Oldenburg): "Afro-Pessimism, or, the Poetics of Non-Participation"
- Michaela Keck (Oldenburg): "'Uncle Toms' No More: Martin R. Delany's Nineteenth-Century Black Nationalist Project in Blake: or, The Huts of America"
- Andrew Erickson (Flensburg): "Refusing American History: Non-participation and Narrative Resistance in Ta-Nehisi Coates's *The Water Dancer*"

## **2. Dispatches from the Method Wars: New Approaches to Cultural Agency and Participation in American Studies**

Ilka Brasch (Hannover), Alexander Starre (FU Berlin)

Room #2

Section 1:

- Tim Lanzendörfer (Mainz): "Literary Studies, Work, and the Discipline of Method"
- Stephen Shapiro (Warwick): "Post-Semiotic American Studies: Writing in Neoliberalism's Third Phase (2011-)"
- Alexander Dunst (Paderborn): "Beyond Close and Distant: Computation, Literary Sociology, and the Place of Interpretation"
- Ruth Mayer (Hannover): "Against Method"

Section 2:

- Maria Sulimma (Duisburg-Essen): "'Needs to Be More Explicit about the Methodologies...': Reluctance, Collaboration, and Vulnerability in Research Processes"
- Martin Lüthe (FU Berlin): "'M.E.T.H.O.D., Man!': Hip Hop Studies and the Method Wars"
- Carsten Junker (Dresden): "Rethinking the Authority of Experience: Mobile Field Noting as a Method of American Diversity Studies"
- Katrin Horn (Bayreuth): "Methods and Manuscripts: On Pursuing American Studies in the Archive"



### 3. Authorship and Cultural Participation in the Nineteenth Century

Dustin Breitenwischer (Hamburg), Karin Hoepker (Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Room #3

- Andrew Gross (Göttingen): “The Whole Family: Multiple Authorship at the Turn of the Century and Its Significance for Cultural Participation”
- Pia Wiegink (Regensburg): “The Pages that Bind Us Together: Local, National, and Transatlantic Communities in the Abolitionist Gift Book *The Liberty Bell* (1839-1859)”
- Florian Sedlmeier (FU Berlin): “Authorship and Re-Cycling: The Case of Ida B. Wells-Barnett”
- Jana Keck (GHI Washington): “Viral Texts in America’s German-Language Newspapers, 1840-1914”
- Heike Schäfer (PH Karlsruhe): “They shut me up in Prose’: From Fascicle to Digital Archive—Re-Reading Emily Dickinson’s Poetry Today”

### 4. Participation in American Memory Culture

David Eisler (Heidelberg), Julia Lange (Hamburg)

Room #4

- Sabine Sielke (Bonn): “Monumental Experience, or: Aesthetics, Participation, and Current Memory Cultures”
- Lena Gotteswinter (Regensburg): “‘What Would Jack Kerouac Do?’ or ‘What Would Miles Davis Do?’: Hipster Icons, Collective Memory, and the Return to Black Hipness”
- Dr. Tanja Schult (Stockholm): “Monumental Presence and Widespread Dispersal: The Peace and Justice Memorial and the Transformation of American Memory Culture”
- Sonya Isaak (Heidelberg): “Revising the Collective Memory: Toni Morrison’s Monumental Literary Legacy.”
- Julia Gatermann (Bremen): “(Re-)Writing the History of the Future: Cultural Memory, Afrofuturism, and Resignification in Janelle Monáe’s ‘Dirty Computer’.”

### 5. Incarceration and Participation in American Life

Kristina Graaff (HU Berlin), Martin Klepper (HU Berlin), Katharina Motyl (Mannheim)

Room #5

- Judson Barber (Austin, TX): “Geographies of Confinement: The Texas Landscape of Carcerality and Dispossession”
- Julia Sattler (Dortmund): “They Don’t Want Us to Be Citizens’: Civil Rights and Legal (In)Justices in *When They See Us* (Netflix, 2019)”
- Heike Raphael-Hernandez (Würzburg): “The (In)visibility of the Black Imprisoned Body in American Documentaries”
- Lee A. Flamand (Groningen): “‘I do not have to explain any longer’: The Confines of Orange is the New Black’s Critical Sphere”
- Marcel Hartwig (Siegen): “Felon, Convict, Attorney: Reginald Dwayne Betts and the Poetics of Re-Entry”
- Katharina Motyl (Mannheim): “Subverting the State’s Logic: The Emergence of a ‘Pan-Indian’ Consciousness and the Spread of Black Power under the Condition of Confinement”



## 6. Architectures of Exclusion: Racial Identity, Participation, and the Built Environment

Giorgia Tommasi (LMU München), Nicolle Herzog (Tours)

Room #6

- Julia Faisst (Eichstätt): “Breaking Ground: Vacant Homes and Participatory Culture in Contemporary Detroit”
- Sakina Gröppmaier (LMU München): “Power, Polemic, and the Right to Home: Race and the Reterritorialization of Post-Katrina New Orleans”
- Nadine Klopfer (LMU München): “The Glamor of Slave Sales: Race and Historic Preservation in Jim Crow New Orleans”
- Danni Liu (LMU München): “Environmental Racism: Spatial Metaphors of Chinatowns in California”

## 7. Participation in / through Language, Literature and Culture (Education)

Klara Stephanie Szlezák (Passau), Uwe Küchler (Tübingen)

Room #7

- Elizabeth A. Wheeler (Eugene, OR): “Collaborators: Educators and Child Activists with Disabilities as Allies in Civic Participation”
- Judith Hofmann (Köln): “The Great Digital Gatsby – Approaching a ‘School Classic’ through Participatory Culture and Digital Media”
- Judith Rauscher (Bamberg): “Teaching (about) Social and Cultural Participation with Comparative Studies Courses”
- Anne Mihan (HU Berlin): “Critical Community Autoethnography as a Reflective and Proactive Tool in an Antiracist EFL Classroom”
- Silke Braselmann (Jena): „Teaching Black Lives Matter in the Antiracist EFL Classroom – Exploring Opportunities for Participation in the BLM Discourse“

## 8. Crisis of Economic Participation

Christian Lammert (FU Berlin), Natalie Rauscher (Heidelberg), Welf Werner (Heidelberg)

Room #8

- Laura Kettel (FU Berlin): “Persistent Homelessness: Trends in Criminalization and Exclusion in the American City”
- Natalie Rauscher (Heidelberg): “New Technology, New Jobs? Implications for Labor Force Participation and Consequences of More Diverse Work Arrangements in the Digital Age”
- Mike Cowburn (FU Berlin): “Congressional Primaries in the 21st Century: Participation, Inequality, and Intra-Party Division”
- Manfred Berg (Heidelberg): “It’s the Economy, Stupid! Or is it? Does Economic Inequality Explain the Rise of Populism in America?”

## 9. Suffrage and Beyond: The Struggle for Women's Equal Rights, 1890 to 1970

Anja Schüler (Heidelberg), Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson (Augsburg)

Room #9

- Abigail Fagan (Hannover): "White Women's Pain: Anti-Black Sentiment and the Women's Christian Temperance Union's Appeals for Women's Enfranchisement"
- Ellen Barth (Mainz): "Equality through the Pages: American Cookbooks Promoting Social Change"
- Michelle Nickerson (Chicago, IL): "Maternalism and the 'Long 19th Amendment' in American History"
- Stefanie Schuster (LMU München): "The Campaign Continues: Networks and (In)Visibility of Women Entering the U.S. Foreign Service in the early 1920s"

## 10. The Politics and Poetics of Nonhuman Participation

Astrid Franke (Tübingen), Gesa Mackenthun (Rostock), Timo Müller (Konstanz), Babette Tischleder (Göttingen)

Section 1 (2 P.M.) Room #10

- Sonja Schillings (Gießen/Berlin): "The Human Wilderness: How Flannery O'Connor Turned Against the Human-Nature Divide"
- Stefan Benz (Mannheim): "Nonhuman Participation and Human(ist) Anxiety in Diane di Prima's 'Biology Lesson'"
- Katharina Luther (Tübingen): "On Humans Who Mistake a River's Voice for Their Own: Or, Participatory Perception in Contemporary Matter Poetry"

Section 2 (3:30 P.M.) Room #11

Roundtable Discussion: Participation and Response-ability in a More-than-Human World

- Intro: Gesa Mackenthun (Rostock), Babette Tischleder (Göttingen)
- Linda Heß (Augsburg): "Grievability and/as Ecology"
- Anthony Obute (Tübingen): "Black Spiritual Communion with Rivers"
- Michelle Raheja (Riverside, CA): "Indigenous Perspectives on the Nonhuman"
- Birgit Spengler (Wuppertal): "Imagining the Dendrocene"



## **Workshops #11-19, Saturday, 9 am - 12 pm, Zoom Rooms #1-9**

### **11. Are You Laughing with Us or at Us? Participatory Laughter in North America**

Michael Louis Moser (Dresden/Leuven), Nele Sawallisch (Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)

Room #1

- Holger Kersten (Halle-Wittenberg): "Send in the Clowns': Humor as a Tool for Political Participation"
- Nicholas D. Krebs (Riverside): "Laughing at and Then with Transfolk: The Legacy of Mrs. Garrison and 'The Cissy' in South Park"
- Johannes Schmid (Hamburg): "'haters will say it's fake': Internet Memes, Ironic Authenticity, and the New Right"
- Wieland Schwanebeck (Dresden): "Social Assassins and Creepy Clowns: Cringe Humor and the End of Community of Laughter"
- Ahngeli Shivam (JGU Mainz/Atlanta): "Late Night: Humor and Social Criticism"

### **12. Whiteness and American Studies**

Mita Banerjee (Mainz), Eva Boesenberg (HU Berlin)

Room #2

- John Munro (Birmingham): "Whiteness Studies and American Studies in Five Key Texts"
- Qianqian Li (Beijing): "Not Legally Blonde: Whiteness in the Racially Diverse Tony Award Winning Musicals"
- Robert A. Winkler (Salzburg): "'... never been a white-owned thing': Whiteness Studies, AntiRacism, and Hardcore Punk"
- Helen A. Gibson (FU Berlin): "Teaching towards Calvin Warren's 'Nonmetaphysical Historiography'"
- Samira Spatzek (Bremen): "Working Through (the Structures of) Whiteness?"

### **13. Who participates in global affairs anymore? Sources and discontents of polarization in U.S. foreign policymaking**

Gordon Friedrichs (Heidelberg), Florian Böller (Kaiserslautern)

Room #3

- David Sirakov (Atlantische Akademie, Kaiserslautern): "Red v. Blue: Partisanship and (Hyper-) Polarization in the Age of Trump"
- Florian Böller (Kaiserslautern): "Polarizing the Bomb? Partisanship and Politicization of Arms Control Policies in Congress"
- Gordon Friedrichs (Heidelberg): "The Numbers are in: Measuring Polarization for U.S. Foreign Policymaking"
- Jakob Wiedekind (Hannover): "The Impact of Executive Messages to Congress: A New Measure of Presidential Power in Foreign Policy"

## **14. Im/Mobility, Justice, and Civic Engagement in American Urban Environments: The Cultural and Political Importance of Participation**

Ulrike Gerhard (Heidelberg), Margit Peterfy (Heidelberg)

Room #4

- Debarchana Baruah (Tübingen): "Mapping Urban Immigrant Mobility to Food Preferences and Access"
- Özden Gülcicek (Düsseldorf): "'Cause we're Southsiders and we don't sell out': Upward Mobility vs Urban District Identity in Showtime's Shameless"
- Aylin Güngör (Heidelberg): "Community Participation in Creating the Narrative of Urban Im/Mobility: The Case of Boyle Heights, Los Angeles"
- Judith Keller (Heidelberg): "No Right to Stay Put? Forced Mobility and the Fight for a Home in Washington, D.C."
- Lauren Rever (Heidelberg): "Going to Washington: The History Labor Market in the US Capital"
- Kirsten Twelbeck (Augsburg): "Harvest in Manhattan: Wheat Farming on an Urban Landfill"

## **15. Like, Comment, Subscribe: YouTube and the Participation Revolution**

Alexandra Hauke (Passau), Eva Maria Schörgenhuber (Vienna)

Room #5

- Juliann Knaus (Graz): "The Downfall of a Movement: Unity and Exclusion in the Black 'Natural Hair Community' on YouTube"
- Jiann-Chyng Tu (Regensburg/HU Berlin): „The Rise and Fall of Bon Appétit's YouTube Channel: Food Media and the Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion"
- Johannes Fehrle (Basel): "Participate, You Must' – to an extent: Regulation, Power, and Participation in the Star Wars Franchise"
- Florian Zitzelsberger (Passau): "Screening the Pandemic: Acting Up and Digital Collaboration in 'Falsettos in Quarantine'"

## **16. "Not Me. Us": Imagined Collectives in American Literature, Culture, and Politics**

Simone Knewitz (Bonn), Stefanie Müller (Münster)

Room #6

- Michael Butter (Tübingen): "Trump's Construction of 'We'"
- Aline Schmidt (Heidelberg): "'For the Love of God, Get this Patriot a Coat!': Affordances of Social Media and Affective Community Formation on The\_Donald"
- Simon Strick (FU Berlin): "The Emotional Collectives of Neofascism and White Nationalism (and Remarks on Feeling Collectively against Them)"
- Christian Klöckner (FU Berlin): "Collectives of the AIDS Epidemic: Death, Activism, and Storytelling in Matthew Lopez's The Inheritance"



- Simone Knewitz (Bonn): "The Colored / Sections of Our White Minds: Lyric Projections of Collectivity in Claudia Rankine's *Citizen* and Martha Collins's *White Papers*"
- Anke Sharma (FU Berlin): "Fragmented Collectives and Precarious Labor in the Contemporary American Office Novel"

### **17. Maker Cultures: Material and Digital Practices Between Empowerment and Discipline**

Reinhild Kreis (Duisburg-Essen), Regina Schober (Düsseldorf)

Room #7

- Katharina Gerund (Erlangen-Nürnberg): "Doing Domesticity: Military Spouses and Cultures of Homemaking in the 21st Century"
- Florian Groß (Hannover): "Making it in New York City – Urban Maker Cultures in Historical Perspective"
- Kathrin Rond (HHU Düsseldorf): "Your Natural Sisters? – DIY Natural Hair Tutorials Between Community Activism and Individual(ist) Entrepreneurship"
- Mirjam Grewe-Salfeld (Potsdam): "Hacking' Life – DIY Biology Between Promise and Prescription"

### **18. Publishing, Gatekeeping, Patronage: Participation and/in the Literary Field**

Philipp Loeffler (Frankfurt), Tim Sommer (Heidelberg)

Room #8

- Günter Leypoldt (Heidelberg): "The Laureate Position in Literary Space"
- Magda Majewska (Frankfurt): "The Literary Prestige of Censorship: The Case of *Naked Lunch*"
- Merve Emre (Oxford): "Sensitive Readers and the Sociology of Not Reading"
- Rieke Jordan (Frankfurt): "Writing the Retreat"
- Philipp Reisner (Düsseldorf/Mainz): "Hidden Agendas of Aesthetic Selection: Contemporary Poetry Awards"

### **19. Im Osten nichts Neues? German American Studies in East and West Germany: A Round Table**

Stefanie Schäfer (Jena), Gabriele Piszcz-Ramirez (Leipzig)

Room #9

- Charlotte Lerg (LMU München): "Interdisciplinary by Necessity – Networks of 'American Studies' behind the Iron Curtain"
- Frank Usbeck (Leipzig): "Indianthusiasm as International Solidarity: Native American Imagery, Cultural Politics, and Education in the GDR"
- Astrid Haas (Lancashire, UK): "'The Other America': African American Studies in the GDR"
- Michael Lörch (Mainz): "The Founding of the ZAA (Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik) and Its Transnational History"
- Renata Nowaczewska (Stettin, Poland): "Rockefellers and Democratization of West Germany during the Early Cold War: Library Program, Academic Exchanges, and American Studies"