

# NEWSLETTER



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## GRADUATE SCHOOL



### International Graduate Conference 2019

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual graduate conference, “American Ambiguities: Is Now the Era of Our Discontent?,” which took place from May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> at the GSNAS, brought together a diverse group of scholars in order to explore questions of consent and discontent in America from the colonial era to the present. Keynote addresses were given by Andrew Hartman (Illinois State University), Laura M. Stevens (University of Tulsa), Jared Farmer (Stony Brook University), and Anne Driscoll (Brandeis University). Before, after, and in between these four keynotes, the audience was treated to fascinating presentations that approached the theme of ambiguity from a variety of angles, ranging across discipline and period, including “Flickering Enlightenment: Ambiguity in Early America,” “Reassessing Liberalism in the American Century,” and “Representation and Race from the Harlem Renaissance to #BlackLivesMatter.” The wide range of speakers—from advanced undergraduate students to tenured professors—spoke to the conference organization committee’s emphasis on a diverse conference line-up. The 2018 GSNAS doctoral student cohort is thankful for the help of everyone involved in making this conference such a wonderful event. Special thanks go in particular to Gabi Bodmeier and David Bosold.



INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE CONFERENCE 2019 ON “AMERICAN AMBIGUITIES”

### Visiting Professors

In the summer term 2019, the Graduate School once again had the privilege to welcome two visiting professors: **Dagmar Herzog**, Distinguished Professor of History at the CUNY Graduate Center and **Yogita Goyal**, Professor of English and African American Studies at UCLA. Herzog and Goyal joined the GSNAS faculty and served as additional advisors to the students as they work on their dissertation projects.

## Guest Lectures

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Dagmar Herzog** gave a talk on “De-eroticization and Displacement: The #metoo-Movement and its Queer Critics”. **Yogita Goyal** delivered a talk on “Runaway Genres: The Global Afterlives of Slavery” on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## Alumni

**Edward Birzin**, **Felix Brinker** (both Cultural Studies), **Elisabeth Chavez** (Literature), **Marius Dahmen** (Sociology), **Nadja Klopprogge** (History), and **Lee Flamand** (Cultural Studies), successfully finished their doctoral studies. Congratulations! We are proud to have more than 70 alumni and alumnae by now!

## Alumni Talks

In the winter term, the JFKI and the GSNAS initiated a new type of event – the Alumni talk series. Former GSNAS and JFKI students came back to Dahlem and provided current students with insights into their academic background and ensuing professional career. **Julia Kozyrakis** kicked off the series in November 2018 and outlined her career path from when she left the GSNAS to her current position as a Project Manager at the Joachim Herz Stiftung in Hamburg. She was followed by **Nikolas Keßels**, now a Senior Advisor at the *Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie (BDI)*, and **Rieke Jordan**, who works as an Assistant Professor at the *Goethe Universität* in Frankfurt/Main.

The series was very well received among students which is why we decided to continue in the summer term. **Elke Labisch** graduated from the JFKI in the 1990s with a Magister degree and offered insights into her job as a TV-Editor at rbb, the public broadcaster in Berlin and Brandenburg. In late June of the summer term, **Mieke Woelky**, a GSNAS Alumna, gave insights into starting a business. After a series of jobs in science management and translation she is now the proud owner of a bookshop – called ODRADEK – in Schöneberg.

## Awards

**Juliane Graf**, GSNAS alumna in history received the Friedrich-Meinecke-Prize for the best doctoral dissertation at the faculty of history in 2018. Congratulations!



# JOHN F. KENNEDY INSTITUTE



## DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL STUDIES

**Frank Kelleter**, the chair of the department, also holds the position of Executive Director of the Graduate School of North American Studies (GSNAS) at Freie Universität Berlin. He is principal investigator and coordinator of the research area “Competing Communities” within the cluster “Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective” (Exzellenzcluster EXC 2020). Additionally, he continues to be an associated researcher (Assoziierter Wissenschaftler) of the DFG-Graduiertenkolleg (GRK 2190) “Literatur- und Wissensgeschichte kleiner Formen” situated at Humboldt University Berlin.

In February, **Winfried Fluck** gave a lecture at the *American Art Symposium* at the University of Mainz with the title “*Es War Einmal in Amerika: Changing Narratives about American Art.*” In March, he contributed a lecture on changing narratives about American art to “A Symposium in Response to the Exhibition ‘Once Upon a Time in America. Three Centuries of U.S. Art’” at the Wallraff Museum in Köln. In May, he gave a lecture on the topic of “Reading for Recognition: Narratives of Recognition and What We Do with Them” at the University of Graz. During the last year, Professor Fluck served on the academic advisory board of the exhibition *Es war einmal in Amerika. 300 Jahre US-amerikanischer Kunst* at the Wallraff-Museum Köln. He continues to be a co-Director at the



LEFT TO RIGHT: HARALD WENZEL, ULLA HASELSTEIN, JESSICA GIENOW-HECHT, DAVID BOSOLD, FRANK KELLETER, CHRISTIAN LAMMERT, MAX STEINHARDT.

“Futures of American Studies”-Institute at Dartmouth and is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Graduate School of the Kennedy-Institute. He is also active as a mentor in the German academic program *Deutschlandstiftung Integration*.

The department celebrated Winfried Fluck’s 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with a symposium in his honor titled “Aesthetics and Democracy” which took place on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Speakers at the symposium included Walter Benn Michaels (on the interrelation of art and politics), Heike Paul (on American reeducation efforts in Germany), Donald Pease (on Tocqueville and American democracy), and Johannes Voelz (on the aesthetics of polarization). Dustin Breitenwischer, Ulla Haselstein, Heinz Ickstadt, and Frank

Kelleter chaired the discussions. The event commenced with some closing reflections and acknowledgments by Prof. Fluck.



LEFT TO RIGHT: WINFRIED FLUCK, ULLA HASELSTEIN, AND FRANK KELLETER AT THE SYMPOSIUM "AESTHETICS AND DEMOCRACY"

**Martin Lütke** is the recipient of an Einstein Junior Fellowship for a project entitled "Critical Whiteness in Contemporary African American Media Networks" which is set to run from July 2019 through June 2022. During that time, Lütke will not be teaching classes at the institute. Lütke gave talks in February in Hannover at the symposium *Managing Time, Mediating Modernity* on "Telephonic Time(s) 1910–1918: AT&T, Advertisements, and Managerialist Modernity," in April in Oldenburg in the context of a meeting of the DFG-funded research group *Americana: Aesthetics, Authenticity and Performance in US Popular Music* Lütke presented on "How Hip Hop Hit Harvard: Hip Hop Studies and the Politics of Authenticity," and in May in Leipzig at the symposium *Weiter sehen: Realität in Serie* he gave a talk entitled "This is where the magic happens!": MTV Cribs, race, und die Realitäten von neoliberaler Celebrity TV." Together with Julius Greve (Oldenburg), Lütke organized the panel "'This Is America': Music, Video, and Medial Entanglement in the Popular" at the annual meeting of the German American Studies Association (DGfA) in Hamburg in June.

**Alexander Starre** was on parental leave in the summer term 2019. His co-edited volume *The Printed Book in Contemporary American Culture: Medium, Object, Metaphor* (ed. with Heike Schäfer) is out now with Palgrave

Macmillan. He also published an essay on the literary quarterly *McSweeney's* in a German-language volume on the challenges and the survival strategies of periodicals and publishing in the present. Alexander continued working on his book project on American Knowledge Cultures.

**Talel Ben Jemia** filled in as a substitute during Alexander Starre's parental leave. He is working on the publication of his monograph "Desire and Disorientation – The Hustler in American Film."

**Kathleen Loock** continues her research on Hollywood remaking as a Dahlem Postdoc Fellow. In March, she gave a talk on "Reboot, Requel, Legacyquel: *Jurassic World* and the Nostalgia Franchise" at the annual conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) in Seattle. Together with Shane Denson (Stanford University), she co-taught a workshop series on Videographic Criticism at the NTNU Trondheim (Norway) – a digital method that uses the materiality of film and media to produce audiovisual analyses, commentaries, and scholarship. Kathleen submitted her video essay "Reproductive Futurism and the Politics of the Sequel" to the open peer-review online journal *[In]Transition* (available on [Vimeo](#), pw: Rachael). She has screened it at the Narrative Conference in Pamplona (Spain) in May. With generous funding from her Dahlem Postdoc Fellowship, Kathleen organized the Symposium "Videographic Criticism: Aesthetics and Methods of the Video Essay" on June 21 at the independent cinema ACUD-Kino in Berlin-Mitte. This one-day event brought together practitioners, curators, scholars, and teachers to present their recent videographic work and to exchange ideas about their individual approaches to videographic criticism and their preferred aesthetics and methods for producing video essays. Kathleen continued the work on her book project, wrote two journal articles on *Winnetou* and on *Blade Runner 2049* as well as a book chapter on film reboots.

**Simon Strick** continued his research project "Feeling Alt-Right: Affective Strategies of Online Extremism," which was extended by the VW-Foundation by three months. Of the several articles he has written during the last months,



so far two have been published: “Tired Trump, oder die Ermüdung der Theorie” (in: Lars Koch, *The Great Disruptor*) and “Gefühlsbrokering vs Geisteswissenschaften: Sokal Squared, Jordan Peterson und die rechten Affektbrücken von Siegen” (in: *Navigationen: Zeitschrift für Medien und Kulturwissenschaften*, 2/2019), which deals with the controversial seminar “Denken und Denken lassen” at the University of Siegen. Strick gave a series talks from the project, among them lectures in Wien, Klagenfurt, the JFK-Ringvorlesung *Surveillance and Social Order*, the ZfL, the W.E.B. DuBois lecture series at Humboldt University, and the conference *Gender and Ethnonationalism* at the University of Münster. Strick also served as a respondent at the distinguished lecture of the President of the GSA, Johannes von Moltke, entitled “The Meme is the Message: Alt-Right/Neue Rechte and the Political Affordances of Social Media” at the JFKI. Together with Simon Schleusener, he hosted and introduced the panel “Popular Culture in the Age of Trump and the Alt-Right” at the annual DGFA in Hamburg. He also taught the seminar “Alt-Right Media: Gender and Affect” at the UdK Berlin, which will result in an exhibition of artistic works in the fall. Currently, Simon is finalizing his edited special issue of *Amerikastudien/American Studies* on “American Eugenics,” as well as writing his monograph on the Alt-Right, which will be published by transcript Verlag in early 2020. Simon Strick is also writing and researching a theater piece for the performance group PKRK, a revision of the revolutionary demonstration of 4. November 1989 at Alexanderplatz; the performance, coproduced with the Berlin-based Kulturprojekte GmbH, will premiere on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 on site, as part of the 30th anniversary of the peaceful revolution in the GDR.

**Maria Sulimma** of the Department of Anglophone Studies, University Duisburg-Essen, and the Research Group “City Scripts: Scripts for Postindustrial Urban Futures: American Models, Transatlantic Interventions” has received the Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize of the Center for American Studies at the University Heidelberg. The award-winning dissertation was written at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, and as part of the Popular Seriality Research Unit. Maria Sulimma was a member of the JFKI

culture department from 2013 to 2018. Her study *Serial Genders, Gendered Serialities: Practices of US-American Television Narratives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* develops an analytical model based on the ‘doubled seriality’ of both television series and intersectional gender performance. The Rolf Kentner prize awards outstanding work in the field of American studies and is endowed with € 1.000. The faculty and staff of the culture department congratulate her on this great achievement!

**Laura Katzman** served as the Terra Visiting Professor for American Art from the fall of 2019 through June 2020. During her tenure, Katzman collaborated at and beyond the institute. In April Katzman was invited to speak at the JFKI Culture/Literature Colloquium, on her current research: “Mining the Archive: Photography, Modernity, and the Office of Information for Puerto Rico.” In May 2019, she delivered a revised and expanded version of this talk for the *Camera Memoria* history of photography seminar series at Paris-Diderot University funded by the Terra Foundation. In July, Katzman was invited by the Alfred Krupp Wissenschaftskolleg in Greifswald, Germany to speak on a related aspect of her current research: “Photography and the Colonial Gaze: Picturing Puerto Rico under the American Flag.”

### Terra Conference

During her year-long stay as a Terra professor **Laura Katzman** organized a conference, funded by the Terra Foundation for American Art, which took place on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019: *1898: Imag(in)ing the Caribbean in the Age of the Spanish-American War*.

See: <https://www.jfki.fu-berlin.de/en/faculty/culture/terra/Conferences/2019-Terra-Katzman1/index.html>

This interdisciplinary and international conference addressed visual representations produced in the wake of the Spanish-American War—an understudied yet pivotal conflict in the history of the United States and its relation to the world. The conference involved speakers from the JFKI and the States (New York, Washington, D.C., Missouri, and Florida), all of whom have conducted archival research in Cuba and/or Puerto Rico, and half of whom claim Cuban and Puerto Rican heritage.



TERRA CONFERENCE: "1898: IMAG(IN)ING THE CARIBBEAN IN THE AGE OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR". LEFT TO RIGHT: JOE HARTMAN (UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY), JESSICA GIENOW-HECHT (FU), LAURA KATZMAN (FU/JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY), YOEL CORDOVI (HISTORICAL INSTITUTE OF CUBA), IVET LOPEZ (CUBAN CONSULATE BERLIN), AND JORGE DUANY (CUBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY)

Collectively the speakers represented the fields of art history, museum studies, American studies, history, anthropology/sociology, post-colonial studies, and Caribbean and Latin American studies. The current and former directors of the Terra Foundation for American Art came from Paris to attend the conference. The conference spawned lively discussion between the speakers and the moderator and between the speakers and the audience. The moderator/discussant, Jorge Duany, director of the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University, is one of the world's leading scholars of Caribbean studies. The conference received international press coverage, including this article in *El Nuevo Día*, the leading newspaper in Puerto Rico:

<https://www.elnuevodia.com/noticias/locales/nota/cubaypuertoricoenforoenberlin-2501172/>

English translation:

<https://repeatingislands.com/2019/06/24/1898-cuba-and-puerto-rico-to-be-discussed-in-berlin/>

### Terra-Smithsonian Grad Student and Post-Doc Workshop

The final culminating event that Katzman organized at the JFKI took place on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019. It was a workshop on internship, fellowship, and publishing opportunities at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Amelia Goerlitz, Chair of Academic Programs at Smithsonian American Art Museum offered an overview of short- and

long-term fellowships available to pre-and postdoctoral scholars of American art and visual culture.

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The Department of Economics was able to equip the library's computer pool with the statistics program STATA and has already successfully used it to teach the undergraduate class "Statistical Reasoning." The pool and the program are open for use by students, staff and researches alike.

The Department of Economics is welcoming a new research assistant, Christopher Prömel, and at the same time is looking for a replacement for the Jun.-Prof. position Jonathan Fox left in April due to relocating to his hometown of Seattle. The appointment committee started its work in August.

**Max Steinhardt's** article "More than Just Friends? School Peers and Adult Interracial Relationships," jointly written with Luca Merlino and Liam Wren-Lewis, was published in the *Journal of Labor Economics* in July 2019. The paper investigates whether interracial contact in childhood impacts adult romantic relationships. The authors exploit quasi-random variation in the share of black students across cohorts within US schools. They find that more black peers of the same gender lead whites to have more relationships with blacks as adults. While they do not find impacts on labor market outcomes, there are significant effects on reported racial attitudes. Furthermore, an increase in meeting opportunities is unlikely to explain the increased interracial relationships, since the effect is persistent across time, space, and social networks. Overall, interracial contact during childhood has important long-term behavioral consequences.

In September Prof. Steinhardt held a lecture on the determinants of attitudes towards immigration at the University of Jena's joint interdisciplinary research project "Weltoffen miteinander arbeiten in Thüringen."

**Aleksandra Peeva** (Visiting Lecturer) is teaching the Master's lecture and seminar "US Economic Policy" and the Bachelor's lecture "Development of the American

Economy” at JFKI. During the 2019 summer semester, she presented her paper entitled “Did Sanctions Help Putin?” at the Royal Economic Society Annual Conference in Warwick, UK. The paper provides causal evidence on the ineffectiveness of the current US and EU sanctions regime against Russia. She also published the paper as a FU Discussion Paper and submitted it for publication. Further, she is finalizing her second project, a paper on the persistent effect of sanctions on trade. Aleksandra Peeva is also preparing two new projects which deal with some of the factors that have contributed to the rise in US inequality. In one of the projects, she will investigate the US labor market implications of increased capital mobility during the last decades. In another project, she will explore political rent extraction in the United States. Finally, she is organizing a Young Researchers Workshop, to be held in fall 2019 at the JFKI. The workshop aims to bring together Berlin-based postdocs and assistant professors doing research in applied economics and also to engage them in a fruitful exchange with researchers from the JFKI.

**Wolfgang Strehl** started as a post-doc, substituting for Prof. Fox, who left the department in April. Wolfgang Strehl is preparing a DFG proposal and working on the progressive consumption tax.

**Marc Adam** (Ph.D. candidate at the GSNAS) published two discussion papers with the titles “Return of the Tariffs: The Interwar Trade Collapse Revisited” and “Credit constraints and the propagation of the great depression in Germany.”

**Daniel Dieckelmann** (Ph.D. candidate at the GSNAS) visited the Bank of Israel as a visiting PhD student for three months to work on a new working paper entitled “Cross-Border Claims and Banking Crises: An Early Warning System for Small Open Economies” during spring 2019. In June 2019, Daniel began a second visiting PhD studentship at Cornell University where he is working together with Matthew Baron on a research project funded by the Institute of New Economic Thinking to develop a historical banking crisis database that covers

the period 1870 to 2016 and spans 40 countries. Daniel will stay at Cornell University until the end of the year.

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**Jessica Gienow-Hecht**, chair of the history department, and Professors **Sönke Kunkel**, and **Sebastian Jobs** cooperated to organize the sixth symposium on “Culture and International History,” titled “Visions of Humanity,” in May 2019. The event welcomed some 60 scholars at the JFKI and featured Siep Stuurman as keynote speaker who gave a talk on “Paradoxes of Equality and Common Humanity.” The conference was funded by the DFG as well as Center for International Cooperation at the Freie Universität (thank you very much!). Covering the history of humanity, human rights, and humanitarianism in its multiple cultural, social, and political aspects, the symposium opened new paths for an international history of humanitarian aid, and all three organizers now work on turning this into an edited volume. A conference report will soon be posted on HSozKult. Thank you very much to all helpers, above all, Verena Specht and all the student assistants, for her terrific support during the venue!



SIEP STUURMAN (UTRECHT) AT THE CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL HISTORY VI CONFERENCE, “VISIONS OF HUMANITY”.

In addition, this term the history department welcomed the following guest speakers:

- **Ari Helo**, University of Helsinki, “Parting with Moralistic Historiography in American Studies”



- **Sara Lorenzini**, University of Trento, “A Global History of Development: A Cold War Project that Still Governs the World” (cooperation with Prof. Sebastian Conrad and Prof. Valeska Huber’s research colloquium, FMI)
- **Rashida Braggs**, Williams College, “Performing Jazz Diasporas from Africa to the U.S. To France”
- **Dagmar Herzog**, City University of New York, “Deeroticization and Displacement: The #metoo-Movement and its Queer Critics”
- **Brenden Rensink**, Brigham Young University, “Native but Foreign: Indigenous Immigrants and Refugees in the North American Borderlands” (cooperation with excellence cluster SCRIPTS)
- **David Armitage**, Harvard University, “Treaty Consciousness: A History of Rise, Fall, and Rise Again?”
- **Steffen Just** (Humboldt University, with Jessica Gienow-Hecht), comments by Johannes Gerschewski (Humboldt University), “Audiovisual Performances of the Liberal Script” (cooperation with SCRIPTS)



CIH VI PANEL “CULTURE AND INTERNATIONAL HISTORY, TWENTY YEARS AFTER: A RETROSPECTIVE” (MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2019) WITH JESSICA GIENOW-HECHT, ROB KROES (AMSTERDAM), RICHARD PELLIS (AUSTIN), DAVID ELLWOOD (BOLOGNA).

**Jessica Gienow-Hecht** became director of the institute in April 2019, and is excited to fulfill this function – please bear with her, she is learning on the job. She is also quite busy as the co-coordinator of the Research Unit “Borders” in the excellence cluster “Contestations of the Liberal Script,” while also working on several cooperative projects. Among these features one in conjunction with two colleagues from the Freie Universität robotics department, which addresses the

role artificial intelligence and how historical knowledge may affect our understanding of the future. In other news, she gave a number of presentations this term, among those two presentations on gender, empire and humanitarianism in the War of 1898, one at CIH VI, the other at the conference “Imag(in)ing the Caribbean in the Age of the Spanish-American War,” on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Within SCRIPTS, on June 18<sup>th</sup>. she also commented on a paper by Hans Jürgen Puhle on the global rise of populism since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. She also had a few media appearances, as well: In Radio Bremen, she [commented](#) on U.S. President Trump’s domestic position after meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. The Swiss Broadcasting Radio SRF [interviewed](#) her about Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s role in the recent legal scandal (05.03.2019). And Deutschlandfunk [interviewed](#) her in regard to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s participation in the meeting on European foreign ministers, on 13 May 2019.

**Sönke Kunkel** contributed a paper on “Empires and Humanity: The 1908 Earthquake of Messina and Transnational Humanitarianism” to the “CIH VI: Visions of Humanity” conference, in May, which explored the material history of humanitarian aid. Also, he organized a small follow-up workshop on the history of visual media and humanitarian communication in the twentieth century. In late May, Sönke Kunkel gave a presentation on “Nixon in China: Bilder, Politik und Erinnerung im Medienzeitalter” at the annual conference of the AG Internationale Geschichte, taking place in Eichstätt. The conference’s theme was “Außenbeziehungen und Erinnerung,” and Sönke’s paper thus explored the ways in which Nixon’s China visit has been remembered in American popular culture since the 1970s. At the same meeting, Sönke Kunkel was also elected onto the board of the AG Internationale Geschichte of the German Historians Association. Back in Berlin, Sönke Kunkel moderated a panel on the theme of “Negotiating Space in the Country and the City” as part of the 12<sup>th</sup> GSNAS Conference on “American Ambiguities” at the JFKI. In terms of public outreach, Sönke Kunkel served as an expert for a Deutschlandradio Kultur feature (Kalenderblatt) on the history of the Transcontinental

Railroad, broadcast on May 10<sup>th</sup>. In teaching, Sönke Kunkel launched a cooperation with the Archive of the German Red Cross, based at the Red Cross's Headquarters in Berlin, which allowed students of his MA courses to dig through the Red Cross holdings for their individual research projects. Finally, Sönke Kunkel published a review of Matthias Kuhnerts "Humanitäre Kommunikation" with *Neue Politische Literatur*, and a conference report on CIH VI, with HSOZKULT

**Sebastian Jobs** is currently on sabbatical leave to complete his second monograph. We wish him a most productive fruitful time and look forward to having him back, in the fall!

Thanks to the GSNAS, **Dagmar Herzog** visited from CUNY and, in this capacity, gave a talk (see above) while also teaching a GSNAS class with Jessica Gienow-Hecht, making new friends among the student body and signing up as adviser to at least two new qualification projects, at JFKI. Thank you for energy, input and profound collegiality, Dagmar!

**Adam Hjorthén** (Post-doc) gave five talks during the summersemester 2019. He was selected to give the plenary lecture for Sweden at the biennial Nordic Association for American Studies (NAAS) conference in Bergen, Norway, which this year had the theme "Monuments." His talk was titled "Transatlantic Monuments: On Memories and Ethics of Settler Histories." In May, Adam took part in the "Visions of Humanity" conference at the JFKI, where he presented a paper on notions of Swedish humanitarian exceptionalism as manifested through memories of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century New Sweden colony in the Delaware Valley. He also organized and participated in a roundtable discussion about past, present, and future research on Swedish-American relations at *Svenska historikermötet* (the Biennial Meeting of the Swedish Historical Society). While in Sweden, he also gave a lecture at the study-abroad school DIS Stockholm on the theme "Vikings in America? On Viking Myths and the Kensington Rune Stone." Finally, on May 28<sup>th</sup>, he was invited to give a talk at the American Studies center at the University of Bonn, titled "What's the Use of Ancestry? Mormonism, Tourism,

and Genealogy in Swedish-American Relations." In addition, in late-March he presented the draft of a book chapter, tentatively named "Making Ancestry: Swedish-American Genealogy in the Twentieth Century," at the Colloquium for History of Ideas at Stockholm University. During the spring, Adam's article "Searching for Printzhof: Touring the New Sweden Colony in 1920s Philadelphia," was published in *Tidens landskap: En vänbok till Anders Andrén*, ed. Ingrid Berg et al. (Lund: Nordic Academic Press, 2019). He was also the co-author of the historiographical overview "Svensk-amerikanska relationer: Om förnyelsen av ett forskningsfält," in *Historisk tidskrift* 139:1. Finally, in the early spring, he signed a contract with the University of Minnesota Press for a volume that he is editing together with Dag Blanck of Uppsala University, titled *Swedish-American Borderlands: New Histories of Transatlantic Relations*. If everything runs according to plan, the volume is set to appear in the fall of 2020.

**Steffen Just** from the music department at Humboldt University has crossed town to join the department as a post-doc for ten months within the context of a research project titled "Audiovisual Performances of the Liberal Script" in conjunction with SCRIPTS. Welcome to the history department!

**Nadja Klopprogge** successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis in history titled "Intimate Histories: African Americans and Germany since 1933," with "summa cum laude," on April 8<sup>th</sup>, and taught at the University of Basel for a semester. Congratulations, Nadja, way to go!

**Markus Bierkoch** (Ph.D. student) conducted extensive archival research in the US for his dissertation on German-American associations. Aside from stays in various archives in New York, he was also granted a scholarship by the Max Kade Center in Lawrence, Kansas, in order to conduct archival research in the New York Turn-Verein collection housed at the MKC.

**Sarah Epping** (Ph.D. student) is still on parental leave, yet contributed a paper to the CIH VI conference, titled "From Ancient Mesopotamia to 19<sup>th</sup> Century USA: An



Exclusionary Vision of Humanity through Archaeological Excavations in Nippur, Iraq.”

Between February and May, **Max Klose** (Ph.D. student) went on an extensive archival research trip to the US, which brought him to New York City, Washington, and Durham. The trip was graciously funded by the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., where he further had the pleasure to present his project in the research colloquium. Back in Berlin, Max chaired a panel titled “Reassessing Liberalism in the American Century” at the Annual Graduate Conference of the GSNAS. In June Max started a second trip to the US. Together with Michael McGuire from Boston University and Heidi Morefield from Johns Hopkins University he gave a panel on the interplay of imperial and moral dynamics in 20<sup>th</sup> century US humanitarianism at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations in D.C., where he presented a paper titled “Packaging Democracy: Donor motivations in CARE’s humanitarian operation in Germany after World War Two”. Max then took a two-week research trip to the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library in Independence, Missouri.

In March 2019, **Ivo Komljen** (Ph.D. student) was awarded the General Matthew B. Ridgway Research Grant for his dissertation project on morale management in the US military during the Vietnam War. The grant will enable him to conduct extensive archival research at the US Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA, and several other locations later this year.

**Anna Rauscher’s** (Ph.D. student) summer term was full of interesting and inspiring experiences! She learnt a lot in the course of the conference on Visions of humanity during the first week of May. Following that, it was her pleasure to take part in a workshop on music and human rights held here at the institute and to get to know and exchange ideas with two important scholars in the field, Esteban Buch and Anais Fléchet. The last weekend of May saw the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Graduate School of North American Studies Conference – Anna really enjoyed being part of the organizing team and is happy that it all went so well! Her thanks go to everybody who supported the

organizers before, during and after the conference and all who attended! Currently, Anna is busy working on her first progress report for GSNAS, and is looking forward to doing archival research in the US. Within the project “The Quest for Harmony,” she cooperates with research assistant **Alon Ravid** who also runs the JFKI IT department.

Earlier this year, **Leonie Werle** (Ph.D. student) conducted her archival research in the United States. The stay was funded by the DAAD short-term grant for PhD students. During her stay in the United States, Leonie visited New York City, Washington D.C., and Durham to collect archival material vital to her dissertation project.

Student assistant **Ethan Ruby** wishes to use this space as an ode to his time at the JFKI, since he has accepted a job as a teacher in Warsaw and will move there in August. Over the past two years and nine months he has had the time of his life, and the JFKI staff and students are a major reason why. As time went on, Ethan transitioned from just a student to student/staff and thus has been able to enjoy a unique perspective on life at the Institute. The JFKI has helped Berlin to feel in many ways like his home, and he is sad to leave. It is perhaps a tired idea, but an important one nonetheless; that what makes a school great are the people who teach and learn together. The JFKI is a special place, and I will miss it. I wish everyone the best and invite them to seek me out in Warsaw.

**Yulia Maximenkova** joined the department of history as a student assistant. She is in her second MA semester at the John F. Kennedy Institute.

## DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

We are happy to announce the publication of **Ulla Haselstein’s** book on Gertrude Stein, *Gertrude Steins Literarische Porträts*, with Konstanz University Press in September. Congratulations!

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed distinguished Canadian author Madeleine Thien for a reading and discussion of her

critically acclaimed novel *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* (2016) and creative writing in general. Madeleine Thien spent the summer semester at Freie Universität Berlin as Samuel Fisher visiting professor within the Peter Szondi Institute for Comparative Literature. Sean Bonney and the Literature Department organized the symposium “Re: The State of the Art. On Contemporary Poetry,” for which American poets Kate Daniels (Vanderbilt University) and Jacqueline Frost (Cornell University) visited the JFKI on July 11<sup>th</sup> for a reading and discussion on the state of contemporary poetry. This semester, the Literature Department also began supporting the student-run literary magazine *FU Review*. On June 27<sup>th</sup>, student authors were invited to give a selection of readings from published work and celebrate the release of its sixth issue, “Alien.” *FU Review* is currently accepting submissions for the upcoming seventh edition, “Melt.” Also in June, Prof. Haselstein took a group of students to visit Theaster Gates’s photography exhibition “The Black Image Corporation,” housed in the Gropius Bau. The pictures on display were taken from the archives of famous African American magazines *Ebony* and *Jet*.

At the end of April, **Ulla Haselstein** gave talks on Stein’s portraits and seriality at the University of Bern and the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. She wrote an article on Toni Morrison, published in *Nobelpreisträgerinnen. 14 Schriftstellerinnen im Porträt* (De Gruyter). As part of her MA seminar on “Recent Fiction,” **Heinz Ickstadt** gave a talk on “A Backward Glance Over the Much-Traveled Road of Postmodern Fiction.” He also spoke on this topic on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at Göttingen University. Furthermore, his article on “Walt Whitman’s Antagonistic Inheritors: Ezra Pound, Hart Crane und William Carlos Williams” was published in *Revisiting Walt Whitman: On the Occasion of his 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday* with Peter Lang.

**Birte Wege**’s book *Drawing on the Past*, which explores the potential of documentary comics in the context of a rapidly changing visual culture, was published in June by Campus Verlag.

**James Dorson** successfully applied for a Humboldt Fellowship and will spend the next eighteen months

at Brown University. He gave a keynote lecture at a conference in Basel in April on “Posthuman Economies.” The talk addressed the relation between changing labor regimes in the twentieth century and the rise of a form of subjectivity that uses technology for purposes of self-actualization. This spring also saw the publication of a volume that James Dorson coedited with Jasper Verlinden titled *Fictions of Management: Efficiency and Control in American Literature and Culture* (Winter). The collection of essays addresses the intersection of management theory and cultural practices through the lens of US literature and culture.

**Thomas Dikant**’s article “Settler Colonial Statistics: Jefferson, Biopolitics, and *Notes on the State of Virginia*” has been published in *Early American Literature*. His article “‘Shedding A Little Ink’: Melville’s Victorian War Poetry” has been accepted for publication in *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* for their “Melville at 200” special issue in October, celebrating Herman Melville’s bicentennial. In September, Thomas Dikant will present his paper on “Secret Societies, Deception, and Detection: Allan Pinkerton’s *The Mollie Maguires and the Detectives*” at the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Colloquium of American Studies at Palacký University Olomouc in the Czech Republic, which is co-organized by the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies.

**Florian Sedlmeier** continues to serve as visiting professor at the University of Hamburg. Over the past months, he presented on William Dean Howells’s plays and theater criticism at the University of Hamburg and the University of Wien.

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science was able to appoint Curd Knüpfer to the position of Junior Professor for Political Science with a focus on Political Communication in North America; he will be joining the department at the beginning of the coming winter semester 2019/2020. The Political Science Department of the John F. Kennedy Institute cordially invited students to a brown bag



lunch on May 21<sup>st</sup> with Professor Andrew Stark from the University of Toronto titled “*Is Canada Exceptional? – Canada in an Age of Right-Wing Populism*”; the event was moderated by Betsy Leimbiger, research associate at the Political Science Department. The department’s current research associate, Betsy Leimbiger, moderated a dialogue at the Canadian Embassy in Germany as part of European Sustainability Week; Professors Emmanuel Goncalves from Portugal and Gary Geddes from Canada were invited to speak about oceans research and literature.



BETSY LEIMBIGLER (MIDDLE) MODERATING A DEBATE BETWEEN PROF. EMMANUEL GONCALVES (LEFT) AND GARY GEDDES (RIGHT)

**Christian Lammert** and Boris Vormann (Bard College Berlin) published their newest anthology “*Contours of the Illiberal State – Governing Circulation in the Smart Economy*,” at Campus Verlag; the release party was held in the Odradek Bookstore on the May 8<sup>th</sup>, with an adjacent discussion and reception afterwards. The department was proud to again host a guest lecture by Professor Sean Theriault, hailing from the University of Texas, Austin, titled “‘*The Great Broadening*’ – *How the vast Expansion of the Policymaking Agenda Transformed American Politics*”; the event was moderated by Christian Lammert.

As an expert for US domestic policy Christian Lammert gave a myriad of interviews, including but not limited to: “[Triumph für Donald Trump](#),” SRF, March 25<sup>th</sup>; “[Mueller Bericht – Etwas wird an Trump hängen bleiben](#),” SRF, March 25<sup>th</sup>; “[Schafft ihn das? – Trump und die Einwanderer](#),” HR 2 – Der Tag, April 16<sup>th</sup>; “[Umstrittener US-Präsidentschaftskandidat Joe Biden](#),” SWR 2, April 26<sup>th</sup>; “[Trump Hardliner Pompes und Bolton](#),” SWR 2, May 9<sup>th</sup>; “[Trump will wieder antreten](#),” Radio Eins, June 19<sup>th</sup>;

“[Zustimmungswerte und Wirtschaftsdaten sprechen für Trump-Wiederwahl](#),” SWR 2, June 19<sup>th</sup>.



PROF. THERIAULT ELABORATING ON HIS NEWEST RESEARCH PROJECT “THE GREAT BROADENING”

In the Summer Semester 2019, **Lora Viola** was a research fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, where she is working on a collaborative project on “Power Shifts and Institutional Change in International Institutions.” The research group held a workshop on June 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> on “International Institutions in an Age of Global Power Shifts,” at which Viola gave a presentation on “US Strategies of Institutional Adaptation in the Face of Hegemonic Decline.” At the end of March, Viola attended the International Studies Association Annual Conference in Toronto, where she presented two research papers, one on institutional legitimacy and one on surveillance. As part of the DFG-Project TATAS (Trust and Transparency in an Age of Surveillance), Viola organized a conference section on “Surveillance, Transparency, and Trust in Transatlantic Perspective” at the 6<sup>th</sup> European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS) hosted by the European International Studies Association (EISA) in Krakow, Poland, June 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> 2019. TATAS has also organized a section on “International and Domestic Consequences of the Politics of Surveillance in the Post-Snowden Era” at the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) General Conference, Wroclaw, Poland, September 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> 2019. Viola’s joint project with Tobias Lenz (Göttingen) on legitimacy of international organizations has a new article forthcoming in the journal *International Studies Quarterly* titled, “Legitimacy and the Cognitive Sources

of International Institutional Change: The Case of Regional Parliamentarization.” Their article, “[Legitimacy and Institutional Change in International Organizations](#),” in the *Review of International Studies* is currently ranked as the journal’s most cited and viewed over the last three years. As recipient of the Prize for Excellent Doctoral Supervision, Viola participated in a podium discussion on “Promotionsbetreuung mit Erfolg” hosted by the Dahlem Research School on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Last, but not least, Professor Viola received tenure and will hold a permanent university professorship at the Freie Universität beginning this coming Winter Semester.

**Thomas Greven** continues to write a column on American politics for the online journal “Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft” and its English edition “International Politics and Society”: “Mit Beleidigung kontern. Das Trump’sche Amerika ist kompromissunfähig wie nie. Genau die richtige Zeit für einen Comic mit untergründigem Biss” in: *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*, <https://www.ipg-journal.de/aus-meinem-buecherschrank/artikel/mit-beleidigung-kontern-3356/>, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

He contributed a chapter on US trade policy for an edited volume (“America First? Trumps Protektionismus und die Re-Politisierung der Handelspolitik” in: Ulrich Nembach, ed., *Informationes Theologiae Europae. Internationales Ökumenisches Jahrbuch für Theologie*, 2019), and also wrote about right-wing and left-wing populism ahead of the European elections (“Ein Europa der Wut und Angst?” Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Projekt gegen Rechtsextremismus. Expertisen für Demokratie, January. <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/dialog/15102.pdf>; “Whatever happened to Europe’s ‘populist left’?” Europe’s World, <https://www.friendsofeurope.org/node/68615>, May 21<sup>st</sup>); about comics adaptations of novels and about French comics artist Riad Sattouf (Comixene. Fachmagazin Comic + Cartoon, No. 131); and reviewed various books for German and international media (i.a., Klaus von Beyme, 2019: Right-wing populism: An element of neo-democracy, Cham: Springer, in: *Democratization*; and: *Afrikas Fluch. Ein Thriller über einen ausbeuterischen und korrupten Rohstoffkonzern – der Comic „Salzhunger“ des Schweizer Künstlers Matthias Gnehm*, in: Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft, [\[meinem-buecherschrank/artikel/afrikas-fluch-3482/\]\(#\), May 22<sup>nd</sup>.](https://www.ipg-journal.de/aus-</a></p>
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Greven presented a paper on “The Radical Right and Globalization” at the 16<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Right-Wing Extremism, Berlin, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, on US politics ahead of the 2020 elections (Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum Stuttgart, July 23<sup>rd</sup>), on “Popular Culture and Hegemony. US Comics and American Identity” (Dakar, Senegal, Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>), and participated in panel discussions on “Fair Trade and Gender Equality (VHS-Studienhaus, Cologne, March 7<sup>th</sup>) and on right-wing populism (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Berlin, July 11<sup>th</sup>). He gave interviews on US politics and right wing populism for various German and international media, i.a. for Deutschlandfunk and The New York Times.

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, Johannes von Moltke (University of Michigan and President of the German Studies Association) explored media strategies of the American alt-right and the new nationalistic movements in Europe in his lecture “The Meme is the Message: Alt-Right/Neue Rechte and the Political Affordances of Social Media.” The lecture was followed by a commentary by Simon Strick. Herbert Grieshop (Director of International Affairs, Freie Universität Berlin) extended welcome greetings and **Harald Wenzel** moderated the discussion.

During the summer semester **Anne Nassauer’s** book “[Situational Breakdowns: Understanding protest violence and other surprising outcomes](#)” was published with *Oxford University Press*. Among others, she presented her research at the *American Sociological Association Meeting* in New York and at *University of Amsterdam*. In May she organized the 2019 *Blankensee Colloquium* (funded by the Institute for Advanced Study) together with Nicolas Legewie, and is currently organizing a conference volume. She published on [analyzing 21<sup>st</sup> century video data](#) in *Social Sciences* and [reviewed](#) James Jasper’s latest book “The Emotions of Protest” for *Soziopolis*. Her proposal for an article on the 2019 Christchurch attack livestream as a case study in research ethics (with Nicolas Legewie)



was accepted for publication in an edited volume on ethical issues of live streaming. From August 2019 on Anne Nassauer holds a one-year position as a visiting fellow at *Yale University* to finish her book manuscript on US school shootings and conduct a research project on police shootings in the US.

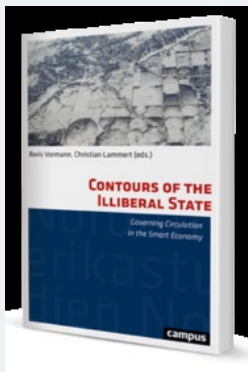
## PUBLICATIONS (BOOKS)



**Ulla Haselstein**

*Gertrude Steins literarische Porträts* (Konstanz University Press)

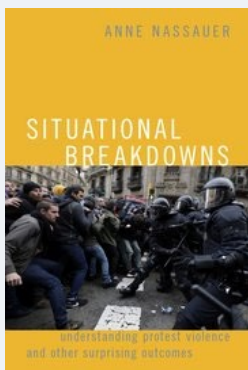
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**Christian Lammert and Boris Vormann**

*Contours of the Illiberal State – Governing Circulation in the Smart Economy* (Campus Verlag)

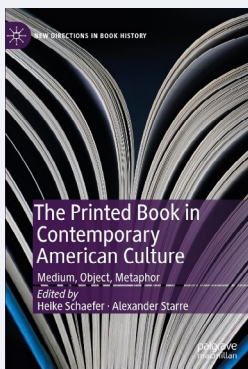
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**Anne Nassauer**

*Situational Breakdowns: Understanding Protest Violence and other Surprising Outcomes* (Oxford University Press)

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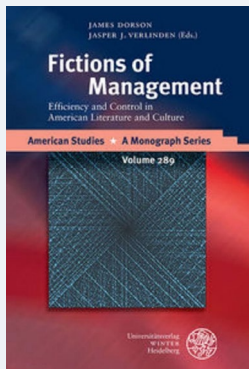


**Alexander Starre (with Heike Schäfer), ed.**

*The Printed Book in Contemporary American Culture: Medium, Object, Metaphor.* (Palgrave Macmillan)

<https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030225445>

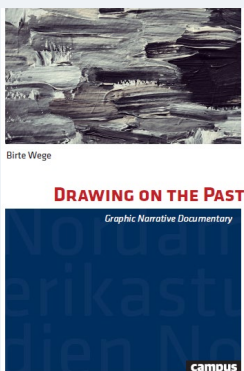
## PUBLICATIONS (BOOKS)



**James Dorson (with Jasper Verlinden), ed.**

*Fictions of Management: Efficiency and Control in American Literature and Culture*  
(Universitätsverlag Winter)

[https://www.jfki.fu-berlin.de/faculty/literature/news/New-Publication\\_-Fictions-of-Management\\_-edited-by-James-Dorson-and-Jasper-Verlinden.html](https://www.jfki.fu-berlin.de/faculty/literature/news/New-Publication_-Fictions-of-Management_-edited-by-James-Dorson-and-Jasper-Verlinden.html)



**Birte Wege**

*Drawing on the Past: Graphic Narrative Documentary* (Campus Verlag)

[https://www.campus.de/buecher-campus-verlag/wissenschaft/kulturwissenschaften/drawing\\_on\\_the\\_past-15346.html](https://www.campus.de/buecher-campus-verlag/wissenschaft/kulturwissenschaften/drawing_on_the_past-15346.html)

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