

NEWSLETTER



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STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

Today, we, the members of the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, declare solidarity with all those protesting for justice, for equal application of the law, and for an end to anti-Black violence and oppression.

A white police officer in Minneapolis killed George Floyd on May 25th. This was the third such high-profile killing in recent months, following the deaths of Breonna Taylor in her home and Ahmaud Arbery while jogging. Protests following the release of a video of George Floyd's death, first in Minneapolis and then across the United States, have been met by escalating police violence and incendiary government rhetoric. We state here some of the names of those who have been killed, and we will continue to say and state their names and those of the many victims of racialized violence in North America, in Europe, and in Germany. We condemn white supremacist violence, including police brutality. We will continue to do so in our scholarship, our teaching, and our public outreach.

As an institute representative of German academia, we acknowledge our own privilege. We acknowledge that we as an institution have too often remained silent on the subject of white supremacy. We acknowledge that we as scholars have studied racialized violence in the United States while failing to address structural racism in our own institute. The whiteness of our faculty encapsulates a crucial element of the problem the current protests address, and evidences the colonial, imperial legacies we have inherited and continue to perpetuate. We commit as an institution and as individual academics to hiring tenured and long-term faculty members of color in addition to the PhD students, adjunct faculty members, and the many visiting scholars who have contributed to critical race studies at our institute. A statement of solidarity is only a start. We must fare better at acknowledging and amplifying the voices of individuals and groups who experience racism, racist violence, systemic oppression and discrimination.

The JFKI is an institution with an important, though often romanticized, history of protest and political activism. It is also a transatlantic forum of exchange where scholars such as Audre Lorde have inspired anti-racist research and teaching in the past. During this unprecedented period, we commit to using the remainder of the digital semester (and beyond) to strive to live up to this legacy. We will use our positions as scholars and teachers to raise awareness of the history and current impact of racism in the United States and in our own lives via open reading lists, extensive media outreach, online public discussions, and student-led initiatives.

#BlackLivesMatter

GRADUATE SCHOOL



Winter Semester 2019/20

New Doctoral Candidates

In the winter semester 2019/20, a new group of doctoral candidates started their doctoral studies at the Graduate School. The group consists of seven PhD students, who come from Germany, England, Finland, the US and Australia. The official welcome lecture for the new cohort was held on October 16 by **Herman Bennett** (CUNY Graduate Center) with a talk on “Unsteady Foundations - The Problem of 1619 in Histories of the Black Atlantic.”

International Graduate Conference 2020

The 13th International Graduate Conference “Revisiting the Margins: Contemporary Perspectives in North American Studies” organized by the doctoral candidates of the cohort 2019 was supposed to take place in the John F. Kennedy Institute from June 10–12, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the conference has been canceled.

Visiting Professors

In the winter term 2019/20, the Graduate School welcomed **Herman Bennett** (CUNY Graduate Center) and **Winfried Siemerling** (University of Waterloo, Canada). Hermann Bennett taught the MA seminar “Formations of Blackness: The Cultures of Slaves & Free Blacks in Eighteenth-Century America.” **Winfried Siemerling** co-taught an MA seminar with **Thomas**

Dikant in Literary and Cultural Studies. They also served as additional advisors to the students as they research their dissertation projects.

Guest Lectures

On December 3, **Winfried Siemerling** (University of Waterloo, Canada) gave a talk on “Climate Emergencies: Anthropocene, Race, Literature.”

Activities

On November 11, 2019, **Chiara Migliori** (GSNAS) gave a guest lecture on “How Religious Identity Informs Political Choices: Doing Field Research in the United States” in Ksenia Mevedeva’s BA seminar “American Christianities and Migrant Faiths.” In the same seminar, **Maren Freudenberg** (Center for Religious Studies CERES, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, and GSNAS alumna) spoke on “Transformations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in the Early Twenty-First Century” on November 27, 2019.

Summer Semester 2020

In the summer term 2020, the Graduate School had planned to welcome **Richard Peña**, former program director of Film at Lincoln Center (organizer of the New York Film Festival and the New Directors/New Films Festival) and Professor of Professional Practice at

the School of The Arts at Columbia University. Due to COVID-19, his stay as a visiting professor at the Graduate School has also been canceled.

Alumni

Since the publication of the last newsletter, **Marc Adam** (Economics), **Jie (Jerry) Feng** and **Dominique Haensell** (both Literature), **Caroline Heuer** (Culture), **Dorian Kantor** (Political Science), **Betsy Leimbigler** (Political Science), **Chiara Migliori** (Sociology), and **Lasse Thiele** (Political Science) successfully finished their doctoral studies. Congratulations!

Activities

Annelot Prins published on “[Live-archiving the crisis: Instagram, cultural studies and times of collapse](#)” in the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*.

Our graduate **Lee Flamand** recently published a blog article on “[Viral Media: The COVID-19 Infodemic, Black Lives Matter, and the Future of the Digital Public Sphere](#)” with the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

Our program for guest doctoral students has been suspended. We hope to continue it as soon as possible.

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 January, he gave a talk titled “Pseudo-Ereignisse und Serienkunst: Nico zwischen *La dolce vita* und Andy Warhols Factory” at the workshop “Event-Serialität-Unterhaltung” of the DFG research unit “Transnational popular culture: Europe in the long 1960s” (Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken). He recently published an essay on coolness and noise in the work of German singer and actress Nico. The conference proceedings of the DGfA annual meeting 2018 “American Counter/Publics,” edited by Frank Kelleter, Ulla Haselstein, Alexander Starre and Birte Wege, were also recently published.

In August, **Winfried Fluck** contributed a lecture on “The Transnational Sixties” to a conference on the Sixties at Dartmouth College, US. In October, he was a guest

lecturer at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense. He gave a lecture on “The Current Rejection of the Aesthetic” at the Advanced Study Center of the University and discussed his publications on the concept of ‘aesthetic transfer’ in a research group of the University led by Prof. Rita Felski. In November, Prof. Fluck gave a lecture on “Art and Narrative: Competing Narratives About American Art” at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London. Prof. Fluck continues to be a co-director at the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth College and is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Graduate School of the John F. Kennedy Institute. He is also active as a mentor in the German academic program *Deutschlandstiftung Integration*.

Martin Lütke has begun his research “leave” as 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. Lütke hosted a seminar on “Intercultural Communication with U.S. American Visiting Scholars and Students” for employees of Freie Universität Berlin in September and gave a talk on “Telephonic Conversations: The Transmedial Phone in the Culture of the Progressive Era” at the conference “Nineteenth Century Transmedia Practices” at the University of Vienna at the end of January, 2020. He helped host the online TERRA Event on “‘Nature’ in American Art Since 1970: Reconceiving the Human-

Nonhuman Relationship?” in May 2020 and has joined the editorial board of *Eludamos: Journal for Computer Game Culture* in July 2020. Also in July, he published a review of Hale, Grace Elizabeth: *Cool Town. How Athens, Georgia, Launched Alternative Music and Changed American Culture* (Chapel Hill, 2020) on H-Soz-Kult. In the fall and winter of 2019, Martin published the essays „Playing on Fields: Seasonal Seriality, Tele-Realism, and the Bio-Politics of Digital Sports Games” in: Pöhlmann, Sascha (Ed.) *Playing the Field: Video Games and American Studies* (Berlin: DeGruyter, 2019) and „Media(ted) Publics in the Progressive Era and the Telegraphic Fictions of *Lightning Flashes and Electric Dashes*” in: Haselstein, Ulla (et al., eds.) *American Counter/Publics* (Winter, 2019).

Alexander Starre is now member of the new DFG network “The Failure of Knowledge – Knowledges of Failure.” During the funding period from 2020–2023, he will work on a project titled “Failed Scholar, Successful Scholarship: W.E.B. Du Bois and the Epistemic Style of Professionalized Social Inquiry in the U.S.” In November, he participated in the one-day workshop “Media, Memory, and the City” at KWI Essen with a paper on “Meaningful Maps: Reading Fictional Cartographies in Print and on Screens.” In December, he gave an invited lecture titled “Willa Cather and the Professionalization of American Knowledge Cultures around 1900” at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies. He was a respondent to the papers at the digital Terra Foundation symposium hosted by Joshua Shannon in May. He co-edited the recently published conference proceedings of the DGfA annual meeting 2018 “American Counter/Publics” (ed. with Frank Kelleter, Ulla Haselstein, and Birte Wege). An essay he wrote on the epistemic function of archives in the humanities just came out in the journal *Anglia*.

Since the fall of 2019, **Dustin Breitenwischer**, postdoctoral researcher and project coordinator at the cluster “Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective” (Exzellenzcluster EXC 2020), has joined the Culture Department as an associated member. He recently launched the interdisciplinary network “[Kulturen ästhetischen Widerstands/Cultures of Aesthetic Resistance](#),” funded by the DFG. In January 2020, Dustin

Breitenwischer and Jasmin Wrobel (EXC 2020) hosted the international conference “Imagining the Black Diaspora: On the Circulation and Competition of Literary Picture-Making across the Americas.” The event brought together authors, comic artists, a comic translator, and scholars from the fields of American Studies, African American Studies, Latin American Studies, and Media Studies to discuss the circulation and distribution, the cultural and political economies, the aesthetic diversity and the community-shaping effects of pictures and imagery in Black diasporic literature across the Americas. The conference created a dialogue between the spheres of cultural production and academic reflection and took place at two different venues in Berlin. On the first day, the participants met at Literarisches Colloquium Berlin (LCB) and were introduced to the literary works of Birgit Weyhe (Germany), André Diniz and Marcelo D’Salete (both from Brazil), and comic translator Lea Hübner. On the second day, the discussion was brought to the Freie Universität Berlin where it unfolded as a day-long academic conference with speakers Herman Bennett (CUNY), Dustin Breitenwischer, Ana Merino (Iowa), Nina Mickwitz (London), Robert Reid-Pharr (Harvard), Daniel Stein (Siegen), and Jasmin Wrobel. In spring 2020, Breitenwischer has published the EJAS special issue “Truth or Post-Truth? Philosophy, American Studies, and Current Perspectives in Pragmatism and Hermeneutics” (with Tobias Keiling) and the volume *Faktuales und fiktionales Erzählen II: Geschichte – Medien – Praktiken* (with Hanna-Myriam Häger and Julian Menninger; Würzburg: Ergon Verlag).

Earlier this year **Claudia Crowie** joined the Department of Culture as a PhD student working with Prof. Martin Lütke on his project entitled *Critical Whiteness in Contemporary African American Media Networks* through his Einstein Junior Fellowship. Claudia moved from New York to Berlin in 2019 to begin her field research for her dissertation project entitled “*An African Diaspora? Intersections of Migration, Difference and Politics in Berlin, Germany*,” which was funded by the National Science Foundation and the DAAD. This project explores the relationship between African migration to Berlin and Black political movements in the city. Claudia advanced

to doctoral candidacy at the Anthropology Department at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, where she also worked as a teaching fellow. Prior to that, she completed her MA degree on a Fulbright Fellowship in Arizona, in the USA.

Sponsored by a Feodor Lynen *Rückkehrstipendium* by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, **Christian Klöckner** joined the Culture Department in October as a visiting research fellow. Previously a teacher of North American literature and culture at the University of Bonn and a Feodor Lynen research fellow at Barnard College, Columbia University, Christian is now working on finishing his Habilitation project on “Financialization and Nostalgia in US Literature and Culture.” At the “Intersections of Finance and Society” conference in London in December, he participated in a roundtable on the emerging field of the “Economic Humanities,” a revised documentation of which is set to be published in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. He also published an article entitled “*Schuld/en*, or: Renegotiating Debt and Guilt in US Culture After the 2007/08 Financial Crisis” in *KulturPoetik: Journal for Cultural Poetics* (1/2020), which deals with the ethics of debt and explores the narrative and visual strategies of the films *Inside Job* and *Margin Call* to find the culprits for the breakdown of the financial system.

Kathleen Loock gave a keynote lecture on “Repetition, Renewal, and the Serial Unfolding of Narratives on Screen” at the conference “Literature and Media: Productive Intersections” at the University of Lodz, Poland in October. Together with Vitaly Belik, she presented on “Graphs, Stats, and Networks: Remake Studies in the Age of Digital Humanities” at the ECREA Conference “Research Methods in Film Studies: Challenges and Opportunities,” at University of Ghent, Belgium in October. Also in October, she contributed the paper “Repetition as a Way of Thinking Audiovisually” to the symposium “Repetition and Variation: Video Essays as Comparative Film and Television Methodologies” at Birkbeck College, London. In November, she gave a lecture on “Academic Writing, Audiovisual Rhetoric, and the Scholarly Potential of the Video Essay” at the conference “Videographic Criticism:

Performative Knowledge Production and Aesthetic Practice” at the University of Braunschweig. Her book-in-progress *Hollywood Remaking* is now under contract with the University of California Press.

After seven years of being affiliated with the JFKI through various prestigious research projects, Kathleen has recently accepted a call to the assistant professorship (*Juniorprofessur*) in the American Studies Department at Hamburg University. The Culture Department congratulates Kathleen on all her achievements!

Christina Meyer is Visiting Professor for American Cultural Studies at the JFKI. Her monograph *Producing Mass Entertainment: The Serial Life of the Yellow Kid* was published by the Ohio State University Press in November 2019. The monograph was nominated for the 2020 Eisner Award category “Best Scholarly/Academic Work.” She also published an essay on gender in the serial press, which is part of the volume *American Counter/Publics*, co-edited by Ulla Haselstein, Frank Kelleter, Alexander Starre and Birte Wege. Meyer continues her research on comics and other forms of graphic narrative, focusing in particular on modes and media of serial storytelling such as illustrated literature in children’s magazines of the nineteenth century and newspaper supplement serials of such international artists as Salvador Dalí, Leon Bakst, or Nell Brinkley of the early twentieth century. Her project “Expressive Forms on the Juvenile Consumer Market: The Brownies, 1884-1900” is part of network *Narrative Liminality in/and the Formation of American Modernities*, funded by the German Research Foundation. Christina Meyer gave lectures in October and November 2019 in Berlin in the context of the JFKI lecture series “Popular Culture, Media, and Politics in the US” (which she also co-organized, together with Prof. Curd Knüpfer). The lectures were titled “The Role of Women in the Newspaper & Magazine Publishing Field” and “Comic Figures, Comics Aesthetics, and American Popular Culture,” respectively. In January 2020 Meyer delivered a keynote titled “Populäre Comicfiguren,” in the context of a symposium on “Comics und Cartoons der Stadt Dortmund.” Together with Prof. Dr. Monika Pietrzak-Franger (Department of English Studies at the University of Vienna), Christina Meyer organized a conference on

“Nineteenth-Century Transmedia Practices,” which took place from January 30 to February 1, 2020. Currently, they are working on a book project that will address the historicity of transmediality. Recently, Christina Meyer was elected president of the German Association of Comics Studies (ComFor).

Joshua Shannon was the JFKI’s Terra Visiting Professor of American Art in 2019–2020 and remains at the institute as an affiliated researcher this year as well. When not in Berlin, he is Professor of Contemporary Art History and Theory in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at the University of Maryland. His classes at the JFKI covered photography, modernist architecture, the idea of the human being in contemporary American art, and art and climate change. In May 2020, he hosted the Terra-JFKI symposium, “‘Nature’ in American Art since 1970: Reconceiving the Human-Nonhuman Relationship?,” which appeared online and [is now available as a video recording](#). He is co-editing a volume called *Humans*, forthcoming in the Terra Foundation Essays series, and beginning work on a book about windmills. While in residence here as the Terra Professor, he also delivered a lecture related to another stand of his current research, “The Future is a Rectangle: Modernist University Architecture and the Human Being,” at the Courtauld Institute of Art in London, the University of Gronigen, Texas A&M University, and here at the JFKI. He loves being back in Berlin, after his first visit as the Terra Professor back in 2009–2010.



DIGITAL TERRA SYMPOSIUM 2020 ON “‘NATURE’ IN AMERICAN ART SINCE 1970”

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The Department of Economics was able to appoint **Dr. Luca Stella** to the Junior Professor position. He will be joining the JFKI in the coming summer semester in April 2021. His research interests include labor economics, family economics and economic demography.

Dr. Phoebe W. Ishak is the new postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Economics. She will be teaching a BA class in the winter semester. Her research focus is on development economics, applied microeconomics, labor economics, and political economy.

Julia Püschel (Assistant Professor) will be on maternity leave until September 2021. The department congratulates her and her family on the birth of her child.

The project “Dialogues between Policy-Makers and Academia” succeeded in the Una Europa Seed Funding competition. The entire Una Europa network will be involved in this project. The seed funding will go towards setting up an interdisciplinary research group on the topic of global governance. **Max Steinhardt** (Department Chair) is a member of the project and will be representing the FU Berlin.

Max Steinhardt’s project proposal “Exploring Otherness - Understanding the Other Side of Social Cohesion” for the Grand Challenge Initiative Social Cohesion within the Exploration Projects funding program has advanced as one of only six projects to the third and final round. The project pitch took place at the Museum für Naturkunde in early August. Even though it was eventually not selected by the jury, the fact that the project advanced to the final round is still highly promising. The Berlin University Alliance seeks to support interdisciplinary research on groundbreaking topics with new approaches to understand global conditions and explore solutions for a sustainably successful and stable future society in regards to social cohesion.

Max Steinhardt co-authored the article “The political economy of trade and migration: Evidence from the US congress.” The economics department welcomed **Prof.**

Andy Ferrara of the University of Pittsburgh on January 8, 2020, who presented his paper on “WWI Anti-German Sentiment and Economic Growth in U.S. Counties.” The event was well attended and followed by a lively discussion among students and professors.

In December 2019, **Daniel Dieckelmann** (Ph.D. candidate at the GSNAS) returned to Berlin after a three-month research stay at the Bank of Israel and a subsequent research stay of six months at Cornell University, where he collaborated with Matthew Baron on a project to develop a historical banking crisis database that covers the period 1870 to 2016 and spans 46 countries. During the summer semester 2020, Daniel taught the course “Money, Banking, and Financial Crises: A historical North American perspective.” In July 2020, Daniel published a new working paper entitled “[Cross-Border Lending and the International Transmission of Banking Crises](#)” in the discussion paper series of FU’s School of Business and Economics. Currently, he is working on a paper with the working title “Making Predictions Possible: Financial Fragility, Market Sentiment, and Banking Crises,” which assesses the role of sentiment in corporate securities markets and of credit-based financial fragility measures in predicting banking crises in real time over a historical sample for the United States from 1900 to 2020. In the upcoming semester, Daniel will teach the course “Booms, Busts, and Business Cycles: Economic Growth and Financial Development in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.”

The Economics and History departments joined interdisciplinary forces and organized a conference hosted by **Wolfgang Strehl**, **Sönke Kunkel**, and the JFKI MA class of 2019 which took place on January 20, 2020. The theme was “Global Inequalities - Historical, Economic and Interdisciplinary Perspectives.” The goal was to create a space for an interdisciplinary dialogue that connects current approaches in the social sciences with a longer historical perspective and asked questions like, how we can conceptualize global inequality and what can be done about it today?

Wolfgang Strehl (Postdoc) published a discussion paper with the title “Revisiting the Progressive Consumption Tax: a Business Cycle Perspective.” The paper revisits the personal expenditure tax (PET), which is the most prominent version of a progressive consumption tax, and takes a systematic account of its effect on the business cycle.

In 2019, **Aleksandra Peeva** (Visiting Lecturer) presented her paper “Did Sanctions Help Putin?” on the following occasions:

- Royal Economic Society 2019 Annual Conference in Warwick, UK. Her conference paper was also featured on the Royal Economic Society’s Media Briefings, [Sanctions Strengthen The Targeted Regime: Evidence From The 2014 Sanctions Imposition On Russia](#).
- Food for Thought Seminar at Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
- Corruption, Manipulation and Accountability Workshop at Barcelona Institute of Economics, Barcelona, Spain

Marc Adam’s (Ph.D. candidate at the GSNAS) disputation took place on January 29, 2020. The topic was “Three Essays on Trade and Finance in the Interwar Period.” For this occasion three generations of heads of the JFKI Economics Department—Prof. Holtfrerich, Prof. Collier, and Prof. Steinhardt—came together.



THREE GENERATIONS OF HEADS OF THE JFKI’S ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT: PROF. CARL-LUDWIG HOLTFRERICH, PROF. MAX STEINHARDT, AND PROF. ERWIN COLLIER.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



HISTORY DEPARTMENT TEAM, OCTOBER 2019

Winter Semester 2019/20

First of all, the History Department extends a cordial welcome to **Cynthia Kossmann**, our new office manager: We are thrilled to have her on our team! At the same time, we wish all the best to **Verena Specht** who, in November, transitioned to the Departments of Politics and Literature. Thank you for taking such good care of us during the past four and a half years. Goodbye and a hearty note of thanks also to **Steffen Just**, our foremost music expert, whose appointment expired in December; we hope to see you again and frequently at the department's colloquia. **Selma Leydesdorff** (University of Amsterdam), **Siep Stuurman** and **Ian Giacondo** (both Utrecht University) joined our team during the winter semester; all three were a joy to have on the team. We were also glad to welcome **Friederike Kuntz**, formally postdoc coordinator of the research unit "Borders" in the SCRIPTS excellence cluster yet often now on our premises and a very active voice in our team meetings. Last not least, **Connor Ruby** (not to be confused with former student assistant **Ethan Ruby**) has joined both the department and SCRIPTS as a full-time student assistant. Our student assistant **Yulia Maximenkova** supported

administration regarding our numerous guest speakers during the winter term, giving a warm welcome to: **Luc Brunet** (London School of Economics), "Canada's Second Cold War: Peace Activism, Transatlantic Relations, 1978-1987"; **Ian Giacondo** (Utrecht University), "Millennials, Money, and Music on the Radio"; **Selma Leydesdorff** (University of Amsterdam), "Development of oral history from 'factfinding' to questions about representation and memory"; **Rebekah Ahrendt** (Utrecht University), "Ambadress Orfea, or, Why Condoleeza Rice's Piano Matters"; **Olivier Burtin** (Princeton University/LMU München), "A Nation of Veterans: War, Citizenship, and the Welfare State in Modern America"; **Martin Lutz** (Humboldt Universität), "Anabaptist Faith and Capitalist Ventures. Mennonites, Amish, and the Hutterites in the Modern American Economy"; **Sigurdur Gulfi Magnusson** (University of Iceland), "Methodological concerns in microhistory and the use of ego-documents." Our Visiting Professors from the Netherlands, **Selma Leydesdorff** and **Siep Stuurman** both stayed in Berlin for two months (October – November).

Summer Semester 2020



HISTORY DEPARTMENT TEAM, APRIL 2020

Like everywhere else, the department's first online term went as well as these formats go. **Cynthia Kossmann** from Wilmersdorf, **Yulia Maximenkova** in Kaliningrad and **Connor Ruby** from Zehlendorf supported the department throughout the entire semester—and we are all much obliged to you! The department welcomed Professors **Norbert Finzsch** (University of Cologne) and **Esteban Buch** (EHESS-Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris) as guest instructors along with **Steffen Just** (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin) and **Matthias Voigt** (Berlin). The department said goodbye and extends a hearty note of thanks to **Adam Hjorthén**, whose stay at JFKI expired, after a three-year postdoc, in April 2020; we hope to see you again next summer term! Goodbye also to PhD student **Ian Giacondo** from Utrecht who supported the “Music and Human Rights” project for a term. Malgré the online format, in close collaboration with the MA students of the colloquium in North American history, we were happy to welcome a total of six guest speakers via Webex during the summer term: Dr. **Jean Michel Turcotte** (Universität von Potsdam), “In the Spirit of the Geneva Convention: US Military Authorities, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Treatment of Enemy Prisoners of War during the Korean War”; Prof. Dr. **Hugo Frey** (University of Chichester, West Sussex), “Graphic Novels and Historiography”; Dr. **Laurike in't Veld** (Erasmus University Rotterdam), “Historiographical Aspects of Graphic Novels”; Dr. **Amy Beal** (University of California),

“New Music, (Old) Allies: American Music in Postwar and Cold War West Germany. Thoughts on Research”; Dr. **Jill A. Edy** (University of Oklahoma), “Public Memory v. The Memory of Publics: Media Fragmentation, News, Practices, and Collective Memory”; and Prof. Dr. **Giles Scott-Smith** (Leiden University), “Transatlantic Cultural Relations, Soft Power, and the Role of US Cultural Diplomacy in Europe.” Thanks to all for organizing and participating in this exciting new venture.

Jessica Gienow-Hecht enthusiastically continued her service as director of the John F. Kennedy Institute, impossible to perform without the help and support of so many members of the institute. She takes this occasion to thank everyone for their support and occasional patience during the past year—and hopes for more, in the future. During the winter term, Gienow-Hecht delivered three outside presentations: first, in November 2020, at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales de Paris, at a workshop of the network group “Musique et la Nation” organized by historian Anais Fléchet (Université de Versailles Saint Quentin en Yvelines) and musicologist Esteban Buch (Visiting Professor at SCRIPTS and JFKI this coming summer); second, on Gender and Humanitarian Intervention during the Spanish-American War, also in November, at the conference “*Humanitarian Missions: An Italian-German Conversation on Europe, the United States, and the ‘Global South’ from the Nineteenth to the Twenty-First Century,*” co-organized by Sönke Kunkel, Silvia Salvatici and Ilaria Scaglia (see below); an third, in February in Ute Frevert's research colloquium at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, on Music and Human Rights. At FU, she delivered a talk on culture and international history in Oliver Janz's introductory lecture to the study of history. At the same time, she served as board member of the Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies (BGTS) and carried on her work as co-coordinator of the research unit “Borders” in the Excellence Cluster SCRIPTS as well as project investigator; in this capacity, she, in November 2020, commented on Siep Stuurman's research paper “The Soul of Neo-Liberalism: Towards a Historical Genealogy of the ‘Economic’” while also working, with Steffen Just, on the project “Performing the Liberal Script.” In December,

the two presented a set of preliminary research results at the cluster's *jour fixe*. Alongside Anna Rauscher and Alon Ravid, Gienow-Hecht continued research on the DFG-sponsored research project "The Quest for Harmony: Classical Music, Emotion, and the Discount of Human Rights in the United States since World War II." With Friedrich Kießling, she edited a special issue in *Geschichte und Gesellschaft* titled "Die Marke Deutschland in der Welt." Furthermore, Gienow-Hecht published two articles: "Nation Branding: A Useful Category for International History," in *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, Volume 30, 2019 - Issue 4, pp. 775-779; and "Interested in a Serious Relationship? Die Marke Deutschland im internationalen Kontext," in: *Geschichte und Gesellschaft* 45, 2019, pp. 580-596.

During the summer term 2020, Gienow-Hecht was much absorbed by her duties as the institute's head, notably those relating to the administrative challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as her course work, the syllabi for most she completely overhauled shortly before the semester start in an effort to comply with the new online format. Among others, she team taught an online course on "Music and Power" with Professor Esteban Buch (musicology, EHESS Paris) and, for all the downsides of the online term, discovered a knack for the interplay of audio and visual means to play, analyze and discuss music online. Besides, she continued to serve on the board of BGTS, joined the board of the SCRIPTS excellence cluster, composed a [Blog on COVID-19 and the Liberal Script](#), pursued work on the "Music and Human Rights" project (based on an archival visit in the UN archives, in September 2019), and won funding for a different, three-year research project titled "Gender, Borders, Memory," conducted jointly with Prof. Gülay Caglar from the Otto Suhr Institute for Political Science and Marianne Braig (Latin American Institute). Moreover, she served on two award selection committees, the Michael Hunt Prize for International History as well as the ifa Research Award for Foreign Cultural Policy (both highly recommended for culture and history degree candidates at JFKI!). In addition, for all the cancelled workshops and conferences, Gienow-Hecht managed to deliver several presentations and interviews: one real as well as virtual at the foundation Topographie des Terrors, on June 9, pertaining to US

perceptions of Europe in June in the context of Helmut Kaelble and Arndt Bauerkämper's lecture cycle "Europe – Visions and Practices in the 20th Century;" one virtual and informal with performer and photographer Leslie Unger, on July 10, at the US Embassy pertaining to the musical "Hamilton;" and an [interview with Deutschlandfunk](#) on July 24 on the possibility of a self-coup in Washington.

Sebastian Jobs chaired two panels in December 2019 during the conference "Circulation of State-Knowledge in Europe and Latin America" hosted by Helge Wendt, Jakob Vogel and Barbara Göbel at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. In January 2020 he, furthermore, gave a lecture in the "Ringvorlesung Global History" at the Friedrich Meinecke Institute. Also in January 2020 he delivered a talk on rumors and "Eigensinn" during a conference in Erfurt, honoring the late historian of everyday-life Alf Lüdtke. Most of the summer semester he spent adjusting the various challenges that emerged with the Corona pandemic. This concerned first and foremost the search for new forms of teaching and communicating online. In addition to that, together with the institute's student dean, David Bosold, he established a new work routine that allows students at the institute to submit their course recognition forms online. He was also part of a working group that drafted



HISTORY DEPARTMENT MEMBERS JESSICA GIENOW-HECHT, MAX KLOSE, SÖNKE KUNKEL AND LEONIE WERLE, AT THE VILLA VIGONI WORKSHOP ON "HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS," IN NOVEMBER 2019, CO-ORGANIZED BY SÖNKE KUNKEL

a code of conduct for online teaching. As member of a group of scholars from the institute he was also one of the initial authors of the JFKI's statement of solidarity

with the Black Lives Matter protests. Furthermore, he has submitted an essay on rumors as historical sources that will be published with the *Journal of American Studies* in the near future. Following the death of George Floyd, in May 2020, he was also invited by various media outlets (e.g. Welt TV, Deutschlandfunk, SRF, Spiegel Online) to comment upon the history of racism and the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States.

In November 2019, together with Silvia Salvatici (University of Milano) and Ilaria Scaglia (Aston University Birmingham), **Sönke Kunkel** organized a three-day German-Italian workshop at the Villa Vigoni, Center for European Excellence, on the theme of “*Humanitarian Mission*” (see above), funded by DFG and the Villa Vigoni. He was joined by JFKI History Department members Prof. Gienow-Hecht, Max Klose, Sarah Epping, and Leonie Werle, all of whom contributed papers to the workshop. Bringing together historians of humanitarianism and development from Germany and Italy, the workshop addressed the trajectories of global humanitarian aid and development policies, linking papers on refugee aid and missionary humanitarianism to disaster assistance or urban development policies. The keynote speaker was Davide Rodogno.

In January 2020, Sönke Kunkel also organized an interdisciplinary workshop on “Global Inequalities: Historical, Economic, and Interdisciplinary Perspectives” at the JFKI, together with Wolfgang Strehl. To this, he contributed a talk on “Setting the Agenda: International Organizations and Global Inequalities in the 20th Century.” Other presentations and talks that Sönke held during the winter term included a talk in the colloquium at the Zeitgeschichtliches Seminar of the Universität Tübingen where he presented first ideas on a contemporary environmental history of transatlantic relations, titled “Erdpolitische Wende? Transatlantische Beziehungen und Globale Umweltpolitik in den 1980er-Jahren,” in December 2019. Kunkel also presented his research in two lecture series: In January 2020 he spoke on “The Picture State and its Innovators: How American Presidents have shaped, remade, and transformed the Culture of American Democracy since 1945” within the JFKI’s lecture series on “Popular Culture, Media, and

Politics in the US.” And in February, he delivered a lecture within the Friedrich Meineke Institute’s lecture series “Geschichte als Waffe” on “Mythos Berlin-Blockade: Geschichte als Waffe im Kalten Krieg.”

In the teaching department, Kunkel once again organized a four-week transatlantic collaboration project between his class on “Human Rights and Humanitarianism within International Relations since the 19th Century,” and an MA class of Dominique Marshall at Carleton University/Ottawa. Both classes met frequently via joint videoconference calls and worked on the history of indigenous rights. Meetings were also joined by Canadian policy analysts from Canada’s governmental department of “Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.” Out now by Sönke Kunkel is an “Emerging Field Essay: Globales Wissen und Science Diplomacy im 20. Jahrhundert. Eine Bestandsaufnahme,” in: *Neue Politische Literatur*/2019. He also completed four article manuscripts that will be published over the coming months. In February, the Akademische Senat of the FU elected Sönke Kunkel into the “Qualitätsbeirat” of the FU Berlin.

Sönke used the summer term to complete editing work on a special issue with the theme “Urbanization and International Development in Latin America and Africa since 1945,” edited with Marc Frey and Nancy Kwak and set for publication with *Comparativ: Zeitschrift für Globalgeschichte und Vergleichende Gesellschaftsforschung* in late 2020. He also authored an introduction to the volume, together with Marc Frey and Nancy Kwak. Kunkel finished four further projects: first, he authored an introduction and edited a special issue on “Science Diplomacy in 20th Century International Affairs,” submitted and now under review at the *Journal for Contemporary History*. Second, he completed a contribution on the global media history of the 1969 lunar landing, set to appear in an edited volume with De Gruyter in 2021. Third, he wrote an essay on the ways Nixon’s 1972 China visit has been remembered and used in American foreign relations since the 1970s, again for a volume published with De Gruyter. Fourth, he also completed two book reviews, one on Sara Lorenzini’s “Global Development” (for *H-Soz-u-Kult*) and one on Charlotte Lerg’s “Universitätsdiplomatie” (for *Neue Politische Literatur*). Finally, Kunkel also used the semester

to attend a number of trainings in digital teaching and therewith completed his “Zertifikat Hochschullehre.”

Helen Anne Gibson delivered a paper entitled “Volatile Humanity: Joy and ‘Joyriding’ in Cars” at the 17th *Annual NYLON Conference* (“Knowledge Production in Volatile Times and Spaces”) at the London School of Economics (LSE) and Goldsmiths, April 5–7, 2019. On May 14, 2019, she gave a lecture at the *Historisches Institut: Nordamerikanische Geschichte* colloquium of Universität Köln, “Chauffeur Blues and Joy in Cars: Navigating the Emotional Terrain of Early American Automotivity.” On October 12, 2019, Helen gave a paper on “Joy, Terror, and Humiliation in Cars: Emotional Black Worldmaking at the Twilight of the Long Nineteenth Century” at a symposium on *African American Worldmaking in the Long Nineteenth Century* at Universität Potsdam. She also delivered a paper entitled “Access to Leisure in Cars: Early Black Motorists’ Worldmaking in Miami” at a conference, *Tourist Imaginaries and Mobilities in the United States*, held at the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines from February 6–7, 2020. Helen has been invited to pursue a teaching/training exchange in the geography department of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne’s Institut de Recherche et d’Études Supérieures (IREST) under the auspices of a new, European-wide university exchange program called UNA Europa. She also prepared to host a workshop at the Kennedy Institute from July 30–31, 2020 to October 12, 2020 in her capacity as elected member of a three-person steering committee for the Diversity Roundtable of the German Association for North American Studies (GAAS/DGfA): “The GAAS in 2030: Imagining Future Practices of Critical Diversity in American Studies.” In September 2020, a book review by Helen was published: “Helen Gibson über Reid, Jack: Roadside Americans. The Rise and Fall of Hitchhiking in a Changing Nation.” Chapel Hill 2020 (H-Soz-Kult 03.09.2020).

Research intern **Ian Giocondo** (MA student, Utrecht University) wants to thank the JFKI for hosting him for the winter semester. He was involved with the “Music and Human Rights” project and also had the opportunity to conduct valuable fieldwork for his master’s thesis while

in Berlin. During his stint at the JFKI, Ian presented his research in the History Department’s colloquium series as well as conferences in the Netherlands and Austria. He has been accepted at PhD programs in musicology, to begin Fall 2020, at UCLA and the University of Chicago.

Adam Hjorthén gave five talks during the semester. 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 seventeenth-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, 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: 86–95. 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*. The volume is

set to appear in the fall of 2020. On October 4–5, 2019, Hjorthén co-organized Graduate Student Workshop at Stockholm University, Sweden. The workshop focused on presentations of PhD student dissertation projects and discussions about the field of American Studies in Sweden, and was sponsored by the Swedish Association for American Studies and the Swedish Institute for North American Studies at Uppsala University.

Steffen Just joined the department as a research fellow in April 2019. He is a trained musicologist and, prior to coming to JFKI, had been a research assistant at Humboldt University's Department of Musicology and Media Studies. During his ten-month fellowship funded by the Cluster of Excellence "Contestations of the Liberal Script," he collaborated in a research project with Prof. Gienow-Hecht on the history of music and liberalism. Working closely with fellow institute members Anna Rauscher and Kira Alvarez, the team developed ideas and concepts for studying the history of liberalism and human rights through sound aesthetics and practices. As they looked deeper into the literature, materials, methodological and theoretical issues, they found that this has never been done on a large-scale level yet seems to be a highly promising endeavor. Just and Gienow-Hecht presented the project in the JFKI history colloquium in July, at an exciting international workshop hosted by Esteban Buch at EHESS (Paris) in October and finally in the Cluster of Excellence colloquium in December. The team will continue to pursue this project in 2020 and beyond. In November, Steffen Just attended Anais Fléchet and Esteban Buch's EHESS workshop of the network group "Musique et la Nation" (see above). He published a paper on musicological methods. The German paper "Musikanalyse als Mediendispositivanalyse" questions the binary and rather abstract distinction between text and context in music scholarship and cultural studies and proposes a multidimensional model for analyzing musical sounds through a network of media technologies, listening subjects, spatial conditions, social practices and discourses. Steffen Just gave a seminar titled "Hearing History: A Cultural and Media History of US-American Popular Music." The summer semester 2020 was Steffen's first time teaching at JFKI which is why he initially saw the

obligation of having to do it online as very unfortunate. However, his pessimism and doubts vanished very soon after the online format proved to be more than just fulfilling. The students and Steffen worked with video and sound materials, they read together and wrote their own texts on sound and music history, which were shared on the Blackboard e-learning platform. Steffen very much enjoyed the discussions they had during their online classes on the Webex live chat, particularly because as a music scholar he does not very often get the opportunity to teach outside of his "musicology home." Therefore, he is thankful to the JFKI students for having broadened his own disciplinary horizon with their many clever ideas!

From February 14–16, 2020 **Maximilian Klose** participated in the Annual Conference of the historians of the German Association for American Studies at the Gustav Stresemann Institut in Bad Bevensen. Here, he presented a paper on "CARE, the American Federation of Labor, and the building of a German-American union movement after 1945."

In November 2019 **Leonie Werle** took part in the workshop "Humanitarian Missions: An Italian-German Conversation on Europe, the United States and the Global South since the 19th Century" at the Villa Vigoni. In January 2020 she presented a paper at the history colloquium of the University of Edinburgh.

Maximilian Klose and **Leonie Werle** got married! Congratulations from all!

2019 was a productive year for **Anna Rauscher**. After completing her first progress report she spent four and a half months at various archives and libraries in New York, Washington, D.C., Boston, New Haven and Chicago. She presented the results of her research stay in the course of the 2020 Research in Progress Colloquium of the institute's Graduate School of North American Studies. In November, she participated via video conference in Anais Fléchet and Esteban Buch's EHESS workshop of the network group "Musique et la Nation" (see above). For 2020, she received an ERASMUS+ staff mobility for teaching and training grant to spend a week at the

American University of Beirut. She was planned to go on a second archival research trip to Washington, D.C., in August this year, funded through a fellowship offered by the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. Due to the pandemic the summer semester was very unusual and probably challenging for all university members. As she notes, she considers herself very privileged because she was able to continue her work with few impediments as she spent the better of the last months organizing source material collected during her archival research trip. She thanks all institute members who made sure we stayed in contact, set up and maintained online meeting and teaching formats, developed hygiene concepts, made plans to provide access to library books and offices and always tried to answer any question that came up.

Markus Bierkoch continued his work on his dissertation project focused on German-American associations in New York from the 1890s until the 1930s. He successfully applied for digital data of the US census from 1900 until 1930 provided by the IPUMS-project at the University of Minnesota. This helps Markus to retrieve individual-related data pertaining to members of German-American associations in order to conduct a sociohistorical analysis of assimilation patterns of German immigrants in the US.

Kira Álvarez has published the article, “Mit sanfter Macht zur Versöhnung” in *Musik öffnet Welten: Zur Gestaltung internationaler Beziehungen*, edited by Ronald Grätz and Christian Höppner (Steidel, 2019). Her forthcoming article, “Edis de Philippe and the Politics of Music” will be published in *The Routledge Companion to Women and Musical Leadership: The Nineteenth Century and Beyond*, edited by Laura Hammer and Helen Julia Minors (Routledge, 2021). In the past year, Kira has also presented her research at the International Women and/in Leadership Conference held at the University of London, and at the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen in Stuttgart.

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

On November 13, 2019, our dear friend and colleague **Sean Bonney** passed away. Sean was part of the JFKI’s Literature Department from 2015 to 2019, first as Postdoc via the Graduate School, then as a Dahlem Postdoc Fellow of the Dahlem Research School. He was an internationally recognized poet whose work has been translated into several languages. As an academic, he focused his research on African American culture, especially the work of Amiri Baraka. Sean made an invaluable contribution to life at the institute, through his teaching and, most importantly, through his poetry. He is and will be dearly missed.

Ulla Haselstein gave a keynote lecture on “Contemporary Indigeneous Literature” at the international conference “Breaking the Boundaries” at Brno, Czech Republic, in February 2020. Due to the Corona crisis, several other talks—including two at the University of St Petersburg, Russia, had to be canceled. In the winter semester 2020/21, she will give digital presentations on Gertrude Stein for the University of Kiel and on indigenous literature for the lecture series “Heimat Literatur” at FU Berlin.

Heinz Ickstadt published an article on “Thomas Pynchon’s Stylistic Transformations: From V. to Bleeding Edge,” in *Revisiting Style in Literary and Cultural Studies*, edited by Jasmin Herrmann et al. (Peter Lang, 2019). In April 2020 he contributed to a radio show, also on Pynchon, World War II, and “sex and drugs” in *Gravity’s Rainbow*, produced by SWR2.

We are happy to announce that in August 2020, **Birte Wege** successfully underwent the interim evaluation, ensuring that she will stay with us as researcher, teacher, and colleague for at least another three years. She is also co-editor of *Anecdotal Modernity: Making and Unmaking History* (De Gruyter, 2020).

Florian Sedlmeier is back with the Literature Department. He completed his Habilitation in June with a manuscript titled “The Field Imagination: W.D. Howells and Realism” and a talk on Mina Loy’s poetics in her manifesto and

her letters. This fall the volume *Anecdotal Modernity: Making and Unmaking History* (De Gruyter, 2020) will be published, for which he serves as co-editor and co-author of the introduction. He currently prepares two essays. Both are forthcoming in 2021. The first discusses the racialized and literary valences in William Dean Howells's assessment of African American writers; the second examines the genre of the review in the magazine market of the late nineteenth century with a focus on the concepts of circulation and value. For an anthology on contemporary American literature, scheduled to be published with Wiley-Blackwell in 2021, he was invited to write an entry on "Author Collectives."

At the end of August **Tobias Jochum** was invited to the Writing & Society Research Centre Seminar at Western Sydney University, where he gave a lecture on "Our Curse and Our Mirror': Ungrievable Lives & Unframed Crime Scenes in Roberto Bolaño's 2666." The series was co-organized by Chris Andrews, poet and major translator of Bolaño's into English.

James Dorson is on a Humboldt Fellowship at Brown University until next spring, where he is working on his second book *Vital Arrangements: The Organization of American Literary Naturalism*. At Brown he taught a class on naturalist literature and economic form at the fin-de-siècle. His essay on "Cormac McCarthy and the Judeo-Christian Tradition" appeared in *Cormac McCarthy in Context* (Ed. Steven Frye. Cambridge University Press, 2020). He also submitted an application to the DFG for a Research Network titled "Model Aesthetics: Between Literary and Economic Knowledge."

Our best wishes and gratitude for many delightful years of her signature humor and steadfastness go to our department secretary **Roswitha Seidel**, who entered a well-earned retirement in December. We take the same opportunity to extend a warm welcome to **Verena Specht**, who took over Roswitha's position at the end of last year and has, through her positive energy and resourcefulness, already become an invaluable part of our collective.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Winter Semester 2019/20

At the beginning of March 2020, **Lora Viola** was sworn in as University Professor and is now co-head of the Politics Department. She also published two articles during the winter semester: "[Systemically Significant States: Tracing the G20's Membership Category as a New Logic of Stratification in the International System](#)," in *Global Society*; and "[Indirect Governance in Global Financial Regulation](#)," in *The Governor's Dilemma* (Eds. Kenneth Abbott, et al.) at Oxford University Press. Moreover, Lora gave a talk "Trust and Transparency in an Age of Surveillance II" at the International Conference hosted at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, in early October 2019.

The Politics Department is also happy to announce that Lora's project on "Security Surveillance and the Construction of Transnational Spaces of Conflict" was selected for funding by the President's office as part of the call for ideas on interdisciplinary peace and conflict studies ("Ideenwettbewerb Interdisziplinäre Friedens- und Konfliktforschung").

Together with Boris Vormann (Bard College Berlin), **Christian Lammert** gave a talk "On Ending History in the United States, 25 Years onwards" at the FU's Institute for East European Studies on January 28. Christian was interviewed for several media outlets on issues such as the results of the Canadian elections ([Der Spiegel](#), October 22), the democratic primaries ([SRF](#), November 25), and the impeachment of President Trump ([3sat Kulturzeit](#), January 31).

Curd Knüpfer joined the department as Junior Professor for Political Science with a focus on Political Communication in North America. He published the articles "[Schneller, lauter, schriller](#)," in the Weizenbaum Institute's annual report 2018–2019; and "Transnationale Öffentlichkeiten in der Digitalen Gesellschaft: Konzepte und Forschungsperspektiven," (w. B. Pfetsch and A. Heft) in [Politik in der digitalen Gesellschaft](#) (Eds. J. Hofmann et al.), at Transcript; among others.

Moreover, Curd gave several talks, for example, at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Political Science Section of the German Association for American Studies at Heidelberg University's Center for American Studies ("Political Influencers, Alternative News Sites and the Peripheral Networks of the Right-wing Media," November 7); at Bard College Berlin ("Political Networks, Frames, & Truth in the Digital Era," November 11); and at the American Studies Colloquium Series at Warsaw University's American Studies Center ("The Future of American Media and the Crisis of the Public Sphere," December 5).

Margit Meyer also spoke at various events, such as the Indiana University Europe Gateway Conference "Infrastructures of Refugee Arrival: Spaces, Politics and Negotiations of Asylum" (October 2019); the Center for Metropolitan Studies' Public Lecture Series at TU Berlin ("Chancen und Grenzen der 'Solidarischen Stadt,'" October 2019); and at the Forum Freies Theater Düsseldorf ("Bewegung in der neoliberalen Stadt," December 2019).

Thomas Greven continues to contribute regularly to publications such as [Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft](#), [International Politics and Society](#), [Der Tagesspiegel](#), [Gegenblende. Das DGB-Debattenportal](#), and [Comixene. Fachmagazin Comic + Cartoon](#).

Summer Semester 2020

Lora Viola published her book "The Closure of the International System: How Institutions Create Political Equalities and Hierarchies" in the *Cambridge Studies in International Relations Series* at Cambridge University Press. Moreover, her newest book "Trust and Transparency in an Age of Surveillance" is in preparation for *Routledge Studies in Surveillance*.

Lora's expertise was not only in high demand on foreign policy issues, for example, at the panel "[Transatlantic Security and Foreign Policy Under Stress](#)" by the Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften of Frankfurt University, September 21; but also on the 2020 election: "[Scharfe Rhetorik, gespaltenes Land: Die USA vor der](#)

[Präsidentenwahl](#)," Deutschlandfunk, August 18; and the [America's Choice Podcast on the First Presidential Debate](#) from September 30.

Christian Lammert and Boris Vormann (Bard College Berlin) published the English version of their 2016 monograph *Die Krise der Demokratie: Democracy in Crisis: The Neoliberal Roots of Popular Unrest* with University of Pennsylvania Press. Together with Boris Vormann and Markus Siewert (Hochschule für Politik, München), Christian also edited and published the second edition of *Handbuch Politik USA* at Springer VS.

During the run-up to the 2020 election, Christian has been a highly sought-after expert who gave interviews to various media outlets, for example, "[Versagen der Administration](#)," Deutschlandradio, June 1; "[US-Demokraten tagen digital](#)," SRF, August 18; "[USA werden sehr hässlichen Wahlkampf sehen](#)," ZDF Heute, August 22; and took part in an online panel discussion for Der Spiegel ([Die gespaltenen Staaten von Amerika](#), June 2).

Curd Knüpfer reported on his research on right-wing news sites in the US and their depiction of antifa in the Washington Post and their blog The Monkey Cage ("[Right-wing websites are demonizing 'antifa.' Here's how they portray the threat](#)," June 24).

Together with Robert Entman (George Washington University) he wrote an article for The Conversation on the use of the term "hate" on Fox News ("[Fox News uses the word 'hate' much more than MSNBC or CNN](#)," September 28), which was subsequently published by Nieman Journalism Lab, The Guardian, Slate and Alternet. With colleagues from the Weizenbaum Institute, Curd published a study on the networking of right-wing news sites in six different countries (including the US) with the *International Journal of Press & Politics*. Another study on right wing networks and their interaction with the MeToo movement was published by *Information, Communication and Society*. Various handbook articles on the US media system and the digital structural change of the public were also published in 2020.

Curd also had various media appearances, e.g. at Deutschlandfunk, Deutsche Welle, NTV, RND, and more. Curd Knüpfer, Christian Lammert and Lora Viola are

also part of the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik's [expert group](#) on future trends in US politics.

Thomas Greven continues to write on American politics and other topics for the online journal *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft* in which he published three articles: [“Es läuft einfach gerade nicht. “Ausnahmezustand” – ein Portrait der tief gespaltenen amerikanischen Gesellschaft anhand einer zerbrechenden Liebesbeziehung,”](#) September 9; [“Stiller Kämpfer. John Lewis war eine Ikone der Bürgerrechtsbewegung. Der Bestseller “Walking with the wind” und die Comicreihe “March” zeichnen seinen Weg,”](#) July 22; [“Wir waren die Feinde. Im Zweiten Weltkrieg internierten die USA japanisch-stämmige Mitbürger in Lagern. Ein Comic über Vergangenheitsbewältigung und das Gute an Amerika,”](#) May 18.

Thomas also wrote about right-wing extremism and white supremacy in the US ([Right-wing terrorism and the constitutional crisis in the United States](#), in: Public Jurist, October, 19-21); about various post-election scenarios for the magazine [Grenzgängerin](#) (...and now, for something completely different? Mögliche Entwicklungsrichtungen der US-Demokratie und -Gesellschaft); about the role of US unions in the elections (GEW Sachsen); about possible lessons of New Deal policies for the current pandemic-driven economic crisis ([Rettungsprogramm für Kultur](#), in: *Gegenblende. Das DGB-Debattenportal*, June 30); about the comic book artist Charles Burns (Charles Burns, der merkwürdige Moralist, in: *Comixene. Fachmagazin Comic + Cartoon*, No. 134 (Spring), 50-52); about the role of unions for development in Subsaharan Africa (w. Bastian Schulz, *Gewerkschaften und die inklusive Entwicklung Afrikas*, in: *Neue Gesellschaft/Frankfurter Hefte*, No. 1/2, 60-63).

In addition, he co-authored the [Country Report Senegal](#) for the Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2020 (with A. Lohmann) and wrote comic book reviews for various media, for example, [Tausend Tage Hoffnung. Salvador Allende war eine Ikone der Linken. Doch gegen Reiche, Rechte und die USA hatte er keine Chance. Heute begehrt Chile wieder auf](#) (*Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*), *Hinter der Maske*. James Sturm reflektiert in „Ausnahmezustand“ die Spaltung der USA. James Sturm, *Ausnahmezustand*, Berlin: Reprdukt, 2020, (Der

Tagesspiegel, Sep. 25, 21); *Gezeichneter Journalismus*. Joe Sacco, *Wir gehören dem Land*, Zurich: Edition Moderne, 2020 (Der Tagesspiegel, June 25, 23).

Thomas presented papers on “The Instrumentalization of Covid-19 by German Right-Wing Extremists and Populists” at the 17th International Workshop on Right-Wing Extremism, May 13 [via Zoom], and on “US Party Politics and the Peculiar Nature of American Populism” for the Taiwan Studies Program and Taiwan Foundation of Democracy joint conference, Nottingham, June 26 [via Zoom]. He also spoke about the Democratic Party (Demokraten im Angesicht der Pandemie, *Amerika-Haus Munich*, May 19 [via Zoom]) and about German-American relations (*Die deutsch-amerikanischen Beziehungen: Eine Bestandsaufnahme, Botschafter-Programm Azubis in den USA*, Joachim Herz Stiftung, Amerikahaus Munich, January 19).

Thomas also contributed to online forums ([The luxury of social distancing is not afforded to all](#), *Europe's World*, June 16), and gave interviews on US politics and right-wing populism for various German and international media, i.a. for ZDF Podcast, ZDF Auslandsjournal and dpa.

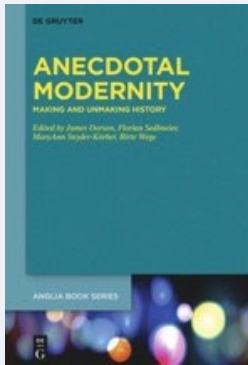
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Since the winter semester 2019/2020 **Anne Nassauer** holds a one-year position as a visiting fellow at Yale University. At the Sociology Department at Yale she works with Prof. Elijah Anderson. During this time, she has completed a research project on symbolic racism and officer-involved shootings in the US, funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation. She presented her project at Yale University and the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Her article “Whose streets? Our Streets! - Negotiations of Space and Violence in Protests” was accepted for publication in the journal *Social Problems*. Together with Nicolas M. Legewie (University of Pennsylvania) she published on “Methodological Developments in Violence Research - Video Data Analysis, Mixed Methods, and Big Data” in *Österreichische Zeitschrift für Soziologie* and wrote about how video-based research can help us understand social

dynamics during the COVID-19 pandemic for Oxford University Press's *Academic Insights for the Thinking World*. At Yale University she worked on her book manuscript on US school shootings (for Oxford University Press) and submitted her book manuscript "Video Data Analysis" (co-author Nicolas M. Legewie) on the use of twenty-first century video data in the social sciences to Sage Publishers.

Anne Nassauer's book *Situational Breakdowns: Understanding Protest Violence and Other Surprising Outcomes* (Oxford University Press, 2019) received the 2020 Charles Horton Cooley Book Award from the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. It also received the Outstanding Contribution to Political Sociology 2020 Honorable Mention from the American Sociological Association's Section on Political Sociology.

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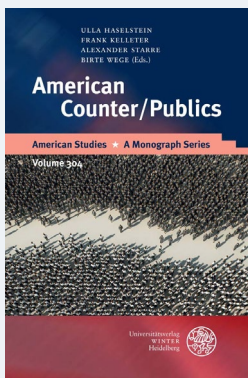
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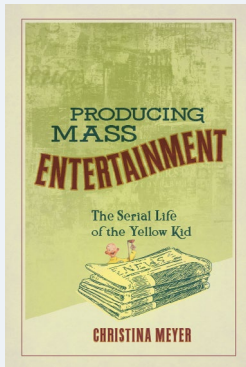


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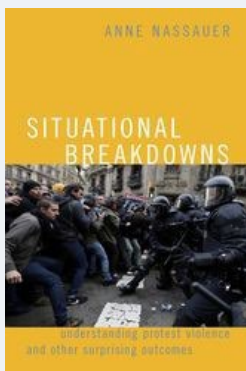
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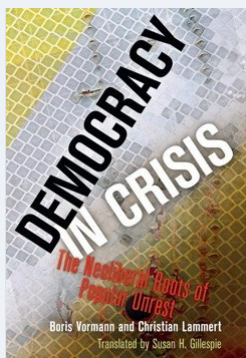


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