

Issue 22, March 2017

NEWSLETTER



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GRADUATE SCHOOL



New Doctoral Candidates

On October 1st, 2016, a new group of doctoral candidates started their studies at the Graduate School. The group consists of PhD students from Germany, Italy, Tunisia, the UK, and the U.S. The official welcome lecture for the new cohort, titled "Is the United States still the 'Indispensable Nation?', was held by Prof. Dr. **Helga Haftendorn** on November 14th, 2016.

Interdisciplinary Forum

The postdoctoral candidates **Beerd Beukenhorst** (History), **Sean Bonney** (Literature), **Chris Jefferis** (Politics), **Simon Strick** (Culture), and **Paola Andrea Rodriguez-Castaño** (Sociology) continue to hold the Interdisciplinary Forum on a regular basis. This forum aims to encourage everyone below senior faculty level to present and discuss ongoing projects of various sorts – a draft chapter of a dissertation, a paper for an upcoming conference, a research outline, a grant application, and so on. It is an open forum, in which presenters can choose their own formats and which explicitly invites presentations of works-in-progress, with all the accompanying uncertainties, open questions, and loose ends.

Lee Flamand opened the Forum on November 22nd, 2016, with his talk "On Failing to Manage: Oz, the Punitive Turn and Contemporary Serial Television." On January 10th, 2017, **Simon Strick** and **Paola Castaño** followed with lectures on "Idiocy and Temporality in American Cinema" and "The U.S. National Laboratory in Orbit: NASA and the Management of Science on the International Space Station." On January 24th, **Min Kyung Yoo** spoke on the "Road to Democracy: South Korea, U.S. and Television," followed by **Sarah Epping's** talk on "The Beginning of the End – The Arabian Mission and its

Missionaries in Basra during the First World War." **Helen Gibson** finalized the forum on February 9th with the presentation of her project "Chauffeurs' Clubs and the Color Line: Automotivity and Race in Early Twentieth-Century America."

For further details please contact **Paola Castaño**.

International Graduate Conference 2017

The annual **International Graduate Conference**, organized by the doctoral candidates of the cohort 2016, will take place at the John F. Kennedy-Institute from May 5th to May 6th, 2017. Under the title "The Revolution Will Not Be Peer-Reviewed: American Disconnects and the Production of Knowledge" contributions will focus on the role of academics and academic practice in contemporary politics and society. **Jerome Roos**, postdoctoral researcher in political economy at the University of Cambridge, has agreed to be one of the keynote speakers.

Visiting Professors

In the winter semester 2016/17, the Graduate School welcomed **Caroline Levander** (Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Digital Education and Carlson Professor in the Humanities, Rice University) as visiting professor. She co-taught the methods class in literature with Florian Sedlmeier and, on December 1st, 2016, gave a talk on "De-Ciphering American Literature: 1945 – 1840 – 2016." She also served as additional advisor to the graduate students researching their dissertation projects.

Guest Lectures

On November 11th, 2016, **Donald E. Pease** had planned to speak on “Korea, Global Civil War, and Toni Morrison’s *Home*,” yet due to the unexpected outcome of the U.S. presidential election, he shared his “Preliminary Thoughts on the Election of Donald J. Trump.” On February 14th, 2017, he delivered his talk as originally planned.

Alumni

Melanie Eis (Literature), **Maren Freudenberg** (Sociology), **Julian Henneberg** (Culture), **Aviva Köberlein** (Culture), **Janna Odabas** (Literature), **Lina Tegtmeier** (Culture), **Nathan Vanderpool** (Sociology), and **Mieke Woelky** (Culture) successfully finished their doctoral studies. Congratulations!

JOHN F. KENNEDY INSTITUTE



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL STUDIES

The chair of the department, **Frank Kelleter**, hosted and co-organized (with **Maria Sulimma**) “**Seriality Seriality Seriality**,” the concluding conference of the Popular Seriality Research Unit (2010-2016, funded by the German Research Foundation; see a brief summary of the conference below). Frank opened the conference with a talk titled “From Recursive Progression to Distributed Intention: Elements of a Theory of Popular Seriality.” Additionally, he gave the following talks throughout the past year: in January, he discussed “Seriality and Capitalism: The Case of New Deal Radio” at the Universität Potsdam; in April, he spoke on “Finding Oneself on Television: *The Wire* and Some Sequels” at “The Wire Conference” at Columbia University’s Heyman Center for the Humanities in New York; in May, he presented on “Contemporary American Television” and on “Elements of a Theory of Seriality” at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing Center, China; in October, Frank gave a talk on “New(s) Media and the American Enlightenment: Theories of Political Communication Around 1800” as part of a symposium on “The Emergence of the New – In Honor of Heinz Ickstadt” at the JFKI; and in early November, he delivered a keynote address entitled “Community, Mediality, Seriality: On Narrative Feedback Loops and Capitalist Self-Reflexivity” at the Biannual Conference of the Swiss Association for North American Studies (SANAS): “American Communities: Between the Popular and the Political” in Bern, Switzerland.

In the spring term of 2016, **Winfried Fluck** was

visiting professor at Dartmouth College. He continues to be one of the co-directors of the “Futures of American Studies”-Institute at Dartmouth. In its 2016 meeting, he chaired a session on “Surface Readings vs. Symptomatic Readings” and supervised a workshop in which graduate students and junior faculty presented their current projects. During the weeklong meeting he gave a lecture on “Theories of Self-alienation in Literary and Cultural Theory.” In addition, he gave the following lectures over the course of the year: “Narratives About the American South,” Universität Halle (January 2016); “American Exceptionalism and Transnational American Studies,” Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands (March 2016); “Photography and Recognition: Another Look at ‘The Family of Man,’” at “The Family of Man in the 21st Century: Reassessing an Epochal Exhibition,” Clervaux, Luxembourg (June 2016); “Reading for Recognition,” Symposium on New Approaches in Literary Studies, Universität Freiburg (June 2016); “Narratives of Self-Alienation,” at the “Futures of American Studies”-Institute at Dartmouth College (June 2016); “Revisionist Reinterpretations of American Realism,” Universität Mainz in Gernersheim, Conference on “Revisionist Approaches in American Realism and Naturalism” (July 2016); “Machines in the Garden: Changing Narratives About America in American Studies,” research colloquium of the Departments of Literature and Culture, JFKI (July 2016); “Of the people, by the people, for the people: Changing Narratives About American Democratic Culture,” “The

Emergence of the New - Symposium in Honor of Heinz Ickstadt," JFKI (October 2016). During the winter semester 2016/17, Winfried has been teaching a course on "American Exceptionalism" in the Graduate School of the JFKI. In the summer semester of 2017, he will be a fellow at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS).

Alexander Starre is away from the JFKI for the academic year 2016/17. He and his family have relocated to Providence, Rhode Island, where he is doing research at Brown University for his book project on American knowledge cultures; his stay is supported through a Feodor Lynen Postdoctoral Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Shortly before leaving Germany, on September 24th, 2016, he gave a talk on "The Small American Novel: Reading, Marketing, and Evaluating the Short Book Today" at the conference "Novel-Seeming-Goods: Futures of the Anglophone Novel" at Universität Mainz. On January 26th, 2017, he gave a public lecture on "The Elements of Epistemic Style: Making Knowledge in Carnegie Libraries and Beyond" at the John Nicholas Brown Center for Public Humanities at Brown University. He is currently co-editing two essay collections, one with Heike Schäfer on the printed book in contemporary U.S. culture, another with Frank Kelleter on the state of theory and method in American Studies

Martin Lütke was on sabbatical leave in the winter term 2016/17 and based at the University of Pennsylvania as an associate visiting scholar. In 2016, he gave talks on MTV Cribs and performances of wealth at a conference entitled "Reichtum in Deutschland: Akteure, Netzwerke und Lebenswelten" at the Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte in Hamburg. He also spoke about digital soccer in a talk entitled "Becoming Baggio: Dynamisierungen von Identität, Identifizierung und Körperlichkeit im digitalen Fußballspiel" at the conference "Das Spiel zwischen den Räumen: lokale bis transnationale Dimensionen des europäischen Fußballs" at Johannes-Gutenberg Universität Mainz, Campus Gernersheim. He returned to Germany for the conference "A Mobile World Literature and the Return of Place: New Diasporic Writing beyond the Black Atlantic" at the Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, where he contributed a talk entitled "'Something's in the Water': Race, Place, and Diaspora in Kendrick Lamar's *To Pimp a Butterfly* and Beyoncé's *Lemonade*." At the workshop "American Media/Knowledge at the Turn of the 20th Century," which he co-organized with Alexander Starre at the JFKI in July, he presented on "The Telephonic Conversation in the Culture of the Progressive Era." The German Research Foundation funds a collaborative workshop on "The New Black Atlantic: Travelling Cultures in the Contemporary African Diaspora" organized by Martin and Robert Reid-Pharr, which will take place in June of 2017 at the JFKI.

Since October, **Maria Sulimma** has been substituting for Alexander Starre. She received an Elsa-Neumann scholarship funded by the State of Berlin to support the finalization of her dissertation and will begin to

do so in April. Over the past year, Maria gave talks at several conferences: "Not That Kind of Girl: Television's Troubled Relationship with Academia and TV Criticism" at the biennial conference of the European American Studies Association in Constanta, Romania; "Beyond the Double Bind? Professional Femininities and 'Uniform' Desires" at the annual conference of the German American Studies Association/DGfA in Osnabrück; "2015: Simultaneous Seriality and *The Walking Dead*" at the annual conference of the International Society for the Study of Narrative in Amsterdam; "Will this Gender ever be Televised? On the Challenges of Seriality and Gender Studies" at the Popular Seriality Research unit conference in Berlin, which she also co-organized; "More Cringe than Comedy? The complicated Humor of HBO's *Girls*" at the annual meeting of the Austrian Association for American Studies in Innsbruck; as well as a guest lecture at the Universität Siegen on "Dead yourself?: Serialized Survival and Fanagement."

During the academic year 2016/17, **Kathleen Loock** is a DAAD P.R.I.M.E. visiting scholar in the Department of Communication Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was awarded the DAAD P.R.I.M.E. fellowship, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the European Union, to conduct research and work on her book project – a cultural history of Hollywood remakes, sequels, and prequels from the transition to sound to today's franchise era. In September, Kathleen was invited to participate in the symposium "The New Seriality Studies" that was held at Columbia University in New York. She gave a presentation on "Remakes, Sequels & Co.: Hollywood's Love Affair with Serial Modes of Storytelling." Kathleen is currently preparing two special issues: "Exploring Film Seriality," which she is co-editing with Frank Krutnik (University of Sussex) for the journal *Film Studies*, and "American TV Series Revivals," which she is editing for *Television and New Media*. The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam has published a working paper, on which Kathleen collaborated with Julia Leyda, Alexander Starre, Thiago Pinto Barbosa, and Manuel Rivera. Entitled "The Dystopian Impulse of Contemporary Cli-Fi," the **working paper on climate fiction** is based on the "Cli-Fi Workshop" that was held at the JFKI on May 13th, 2016, and co-sponsored by the IASS. In 2016, Kathleen also published articles and book chapters on sound film remakes, retro-remaking of iconic movies and TV series of the 1980s, Columbus Day, and the Jewish immigrant experience in the early 20th century U.S. She also organized the panel "Now Being Continued: New Practices in TV Series' Revivals and Re-activations," which was accepted for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) conference held in Chicago in March 2017.

Simon Schleusener was a fellow at the Universität Würzburg until the end of 2016. He currently serves as a lecturer at the JFKI's Department of Culture. In the summer, he presented a paper on "What's New about

the New Materialism? The Material Turn and the Post-Political” at the “Encountering Materiality” conference in Geneva. At the JFKI, he participated in the conference “Crossroads and Transgressions: Cormac McCarthy Between Worlds,” giving a paper on the topic “From *On the Road* to *The Road*: Cormac McCarthy, Neoliberalism, and the Dialectics of Mobility.” Subsequently, he gave a talk on “Deleuze and Neoliberalism” at the 9th International Deleuze Studies Conference in Rome, where he also chaired a panel on education. In November, he presented his paper “The Neoliberal Imagination: Entrepreneurship in American Literature and Film” at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. In December, he chaired the panel “Infrastructures and Regulated Spaces” at the JFKI’s “Fictions of Management” conference.

In November, **Andreas Sudmann** gave a talk on “Deep Learning als dokumentarische Praxis” as part of the workshop “Dokumentarische Medienpraktiken der Digitalkultur.” This workshop was part of the opening event of the Graduate Center *Das Dokumentarische. Exzess und Entzug* at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, funded by the German Research Foundation. He also gave a talk entitled “Die kritische Intelligenz von Lernalgorithmen” at a panel on “Kritische Lernmaschinen” at the annual meeting of the GfM (Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft) at Freie Universität in September. In June, he presented on “Infra-Ludic Serialities” at the concluding conference of the research unit “Seriality Seriality Seriality.”

The department congratulates Andreas for receiving the Venia legendi for Media Studies at Ruhr-Universität Bochum. The topic of his Habilitation is “Serielle Überbietung. Zur Fernsehästhetik und Fernsehphilosophie exponierter Steigerungen.”

Terra Visiting Professor

The renewed Terra Visiting Program started in the fall of 2016 with **Allison Stagg** taking over from **Heather Diack**, who greatly helped the transition of the program to its new period. Allison will be with the department for almost an entire academic year and is currently teaching two highly popular classes, one in the BA and one in the MA programs of the JFKI and the art history programs of Freie Universität and Humboldt Universität, respectively.

Additionally, Allison gave numerous talks in the past year: in November, she talked about „Selling Humor in Early America: the Market for Political Caricature Prints, 1789-1820” as part of the JFKI lecture series “Ecstasy of Gold: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Money.” In December, she presented on “The Movement of Visual Satire: a Case Study on the Circulation of Popular Political Caricatures in the Early Republic” at the European Early American Studies Association Conference on “Space, Mobility, and Power in Early America and the Atlantic World, 1650-1850” in Paris, France. Also in December, Allison gave a talk in Mainz entitled “A Foreigner and an Alien: Caricature Prints in America and England, 1800-1900” at the “International Symposium: The Refuge of Objects/ Objects of Refuge,” jointly organized by Johannes Gutenberg Universität, the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, and the University of Delaware’s

Center for Material Culture Studies. In March 2017, Allison will present on “The European Influence on early American Artists in the late 18th century” at the 34th Congress of German Art Historians/34. Deutscher Kunsthistorikertag 2017 in Dresden. Both of Allison’s classes garnered an impressive number of enrolled students and thus already signify a highly successful start to the new program!

Popular Seriality Research Unit

On what retrospectively were some of the hottest days of June, the 22nd to the 24th, the DFG-funded Popular Seriality Research Unit

put together an international and interdisciplinary conference in the movie screening room of the Museen Dahlem, much in line with the conference’s topic. “Seriality Seriality Seriality” concluded the Research Unit, which had been based at the JFKI Department of Culture for the past three years. Organized by Frank Kelleter and Maria Sulimma, the conference surveyed the results of different subprojects and associated projects, but also explored future directions for the field of seriality studies. As such, the focus was on the histories, conceptualizations, and methodologies of studying seriality, including possible interventions by game studies, comic studies, gender studies, and so on. The organizers were especially pleased with the public interest and lively discussions generated by the conference. 59 international



ALLISON STAGG AND HER CLASS AT DEUTSCHES HISTORISCHES MUSEUM.

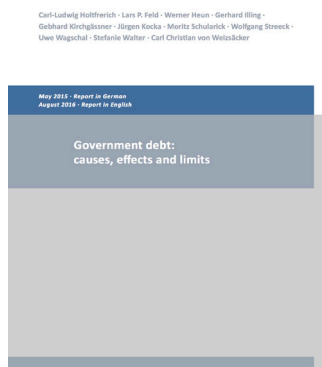


presenters and panelists were joined by a large group of scholars and JFKI students attending. You can find the full program [here](#).

While the work of the research unit is now concluded, several publications by members of the group will be published in the near future, such as the collection *Media of Serial Narrative*, edited by Frank Kelleter, which is forthcoming with The Ohio State University Press.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The study of **Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich** and his working group at *Leopoldina*, the German National Academy of Sciences, on *Government debt: causes, effects and limits*, was released in an [English translation](#) in August 2016. The German version was published a year earlier, in May 2015.



In 2011, Carl-Ludwig was one of five members of a historical commission appointed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and tasked with the presentation

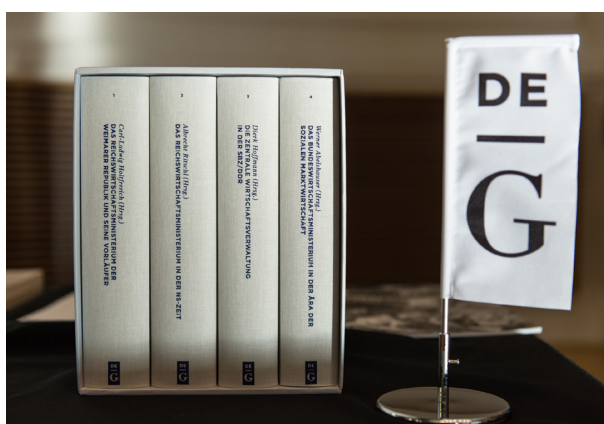


IMAGE: BMWI/WEISS

of a history of the Ministry from its inception in 1917 to the reunification in 1990, also including economic policy institutions and their policies in the GDR. The results, published in four volumes, were presented to then Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy and Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel on December 7th, 2016. The outcomes of the day-long conference, including discussions of each of the four volumes, are accessible via

YouTube. A first glimpse can be found [here](#). Carl-Ludwig edited Volume 1 and contributed about 30 percent of its text.

Jonathan Fox, with his co-authors Kai Willführ, Alain Gagnon, Lisa Dillon, and Eckart Voland, published an article on “The consequences of sibling formation on survival and reproductive success across different ecological contexts: A comparison of the historical Krummhörn and Quebec populations” in the journal *History of the Family*. The article can be accessed [here](#). In addition, Jonathan, together with James Dorson from the Department of Literature, organized the JFKI Ringvorlesung titled “The Ecstasy of Gold: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Money.” As part of the Ringvorlesung, Jonathan gave a talk titled “The Role of Gold in Facilitating Exchange during the Late Modern Period.”

Freie Universität Berlin
John F. Kennedy-Institut für Nordamerikanistik

THE ECSTASY OF GOLD: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY OF MONEY

RINGVORLESUNG

October 19:	Jonathan Fox (JFKI) and James Dorson (JFKI): Introduction
October 26:	Jessica Glenow-Hecht (JFKI): “Trust, Money and Relationships since the Early Modern Period”
November 2:	Irwin Collier (JFKI): “Exiting the Gold Standard and International Economics in a Post-Gold World”
November 9:	No lecture (Political Science Conference, Nov. 11-12)
November 16:	Allison Stagg (TU Berlin/JFKI): “Selling Humor in Early America: the Market for Political Caricature Prints, 1789-1810”
November 23:	Jonathan Fox (JFKI): “The Role of Gold in Facilitating Exchange during the Late Modern Period”
November 30:	No lecture (reading by Tom Franklin, University of Mississippi)
December 7:	No lecture (Literature Conference, Dec. 8-10)
December 14:	Felix Krämer (University of Erfurt): “Debt Difference: A History of Borrowing and Default in the United States in the 20th Century”

Please note the different place: Hörsaal 2

January 4:	MaryAnn Snyder-Körber (JFKI): “Return on Investment: 20th-Century Arts Funding and the Arts of Literary Payback”
January 18:	Markus Kienscherf (JFKI): “Primitive Accumulation and the Violence of Capital”
January 25:	Martin Lüthe (JFKI): “Money Television? Cries, Bling-Bling, and Pop Music Performance in the MTV Era”
February 1:	Eva Boessenberg (Humboldt University of Berlin): “Gold and Genocide - Rethinking Money and Gender in Naturalism through Settler Colonialism”
February 8:	Ulfried Reichardt (University of Mannheim): “Money ... is more mental than metal: Representations of Money, Masculinity, and Time in US-American Fiction”
February 15:	Martyn Bone (Copenhagen University): “The U.S. South, the Caribbean, and the Spirit (Possession) of Capitalism: Zora Neale Hurston, Russell Banks, and Erna Brodber”

Information:
10h-7h, Sonnabendschloss für Nordamerikanistik
Gabelbergstr. 10
10119 Berlin
www.fki-berlin.de

Wednesdays, 18.00 Uhr
Habelschwerdter Allee 45
Silberlaube, Hörsaal 1b

Julia Püschel and Boris Vormann from the Department of Political Science are organizing a workshop with the topic “Digitalization and the Future of Work” for the annual meeting of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA) in June 2017 in Hanover.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Personnel News

This semester, the Department of History welcomed a broad variety of scholars and students. Coming from the University of Iowa as a U.S. Fulbright Fellow (2016/17), **Noaquia Callahan** joined us to work on her dissertation on African American feminist transnational history, provisionally titled “Divided Duty: African American Feminist Transnational Activism and the Lure of the

Imperial Gaze, 1888-1922.”

In July, **Bruce Dorsey** (Swarthmore College) and **Martha Hodes** (New York University) visited the Department of History as guest professors and participated in a workshop. Prof. Hodes gave a public talk on the topic of her latest book *Mourning Lincoln*, for which she had been awarded the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize 2016. Prof. Dorsey appeared in one of Sebastian Jobs's seminars to discuss his work on history of masculinities in the 19th century U.S.

Nikolai Fedorov from St. Petersburg State University came to the Institute on a Dmitrij Mendeleev-scholarship, jointly funded by the DAAD and St. Petersburg State University, to work on his project on Russia-U.S.-China relations in the South China Sea conflict.

In November, **Stephanie Feser** rejoined the teaching staff of the department as a teaching assistant for the history section of the module Understanding North America (UNA).

Jessica Gielow-Hecht took a leave of absence at the beginning of February 2017. She has been appointed to the Alfred Grosser Chair at Sciences Po in Paris to teach two courses on nation branding and the history of transatlantic cultural relations. **Olaf Stieglitz** will take over her duties over the coming year.

In January 2017, **Sebastian Jobs** gave his inaugural lecture as Assistant Professor at the Institute. He teamed up with Prof. Dr. Alexander Schunka - professor for Early Modern History at the Friedrich Meinecke Institute - for a talk on „Das Scheitern der Experten.“

After completing her research fellowship at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. for her project on “Punk and Human Rights,” **Annette Karpp** started the doctoral program of the Graduate School for North American Studies this past fall.

Jenna Krumminga was also admitted to the

doctoral program to work on her project on “The Construction of Black Power in the Public Sphere.”

After a six-month fellowship in the History of Race and Ethnicity at the German Historical Institute in Washington D.C., **Nadja Klopprogge** is back at the JFKI to continue work on her dissertation.

This semester, **Hannah Nelson-Teutsch** joined the team as a student assistant while finishing her MA at the JFKI.

We furthermore welcomed **Ilaria Scaglia**, who was awarded a 2016/17 Volkswagen-Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Dahlem Humanities Center and is hosted at the JFKI. She is also a Visiting Researcher at the Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development. While in Berlin, she will work on a manuscript entitled “The Emotions of Internationalism: Feeling International Cooperation on the Alps in the Interwar Period,” while also preparing a course on the history of internationalism, scheduled for the summer term.

Returning from the Midwest after a year of research, **Bryan van Sweringen** contributed to the curriculum with a course on the Cuyahoga River Watershed.

Krzysztof Wasilewski came from the Regional Research Center from Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland, to do research enabled by a JFKI Library-grant for his project “Desirables and Undesirables. The Portrayal of Immigration and Immigrants in American Newspapers, Pamphlets and Books, 1875-1924.”

Františka Zezuláková Schormová, who had spent the summer term 2016 finishing her MA thesis at the JFKI on a KAAD scholarship, won a departmental award for the best thesis of the year and has been accepted to the PhD program at Charles University in Prague. Congratulations, Františka!

We are very pleased to welcome you all (back) to the Department of History this semester!



THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT TEAM



JESSICA GIENOW-HECHT, THE MA CLASS “HISTORY OF CANADA IN THE WORLD,” AND LAURA BELMONTE (FRONT LEFT) AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY.



Departmental / JFKI Events

This winter semester, the Department of History's **MA/research colloquium** (Forschungs- und Examenskolloquium) hosted the following talks: Paul Edwards (Boston University), "Fear of a Black Planet: Nazi Anxiety of Black America"; Olaf Stieglitz (Universität zu Köln), "Modernity in Motion – Visualizing Athletic Bodies, 1890s-1930s"; David Woolner (The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute), "Progressivism and the 2016 Election – Looking Back at the Results"; Laura Belmonte (Oklahoma State University), "Queering America and the World"; Sönke Kunkel, "Performing the President: Nixon's 1972 visit to China and the Legacy of Presidential Travel in American Political Culture"; Ilaria Scaglia (Freie Universität Berlin), "Internationalism and the Alps."

In cooperation with the American Academy, the Department of History also organized a session with **Rebecca Boehling** (University of Maryland) on "Transitional Justice? Western Allied Approaches to Denazification," which took place at the Hans-Arnhold-Center on the Wannsee. Likewise, the department cooperated with former team member and junior professor **Michaela Hampf** to share notes and ideas with two additional speakers: **Mary O'Sullivan** (Université de Genève) spoke about "Dividends of Development: Securities Markets in the History of U.S. Capitalism, 1866-1922," while **Tony Hopkins** (University of Texas at Austin) offered "A Global View of U.S. History."

This past December, **Sarah Epping** presented a paper in the Doctoral Lab in North American History called "Altruist and/or Imperialist? John van Ess - An American Missionary in Iraq during World War One." On January 12th, 2017, **Helen Gibson** organized a roundtable discussion on "Doing North American History from Abroad," also in the context of the Doctoral Lab, which she had co-founded in April 2016. Helen was invited to chair a panel on "Social Reform and Control" as part of the Department of Literature's conference on "Fictions of Management," held from December 8-10th, 2016. In October, **Jessica Gienow-Hecht** delivered a talk on "Trust, Money and Relationships since the Early Modern Period" in the JFKI's Ringvorlesung "The Ecstasy of Gold" (see Departments of Economics/Literature). On January 11th, in cooperation with professors **Dominique Marshall** and **Andrew Johnston** from Carleton Univer-

sity, she also organized a transatlantic virtual seminar on children's rights and transnationalism in Canadian history, bringing together some forty students from Ottawa and Berlin. **Nadja Klopprogge** and **Sébastien Tremblay** organized an international workshop with Jessica Gienow-Hecht and **Laura Belmonte** from the State University of Oklahoma, titled "Queering America and the World." The workshop was organized in the context of the MA/research colloquium.

Publications and Presentations

On October 27th, 2016, **Beerd Beukenhorst** presented



JESSICA GIENOW-HECHT AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT'S TRANSATLANTIC VIRTUAL SEMINAR ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND TRANSNATIONALISM IN CANADIAN HISTORY.

at a conference on "Forging the American Century" at Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. His paper, titled "Suriname: Reagan's initial proving ground," will be published in the accompanying edited conference volume. He was also invited to contribute to an expert panel meeting at Utrecht University on October 31st, as part of the project "The Imperative of Regulation: local and (trans-) national dynamics of drug

regulatory regimes in the Netherlands since the Second World War."

In February, **Sarah Epping** delivered a paper at the Annual Conference of the Historians of the DGfA in Heidelberg, titled "The Beginning of the End – The Arabian Mission and its Missionaries in Basra during the First World War." In addition, she successfully applied for a travel grant at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. She will be conducting research in the U.S. from March to May 2017.

In July, **Stephanie Feser** published a review of *Waste of a White Skin: The Carnegie Corporation and the Racial Logic of White Vulnerability*, by Tiffany Willoughby-Herard, (Oakland 2015) in

H-SozKult. This review can be accessed [here](#).

On December 15th, **Helen Gibson** presented her current research on Jack Johnson in the "Experimental Research Practices and Narrativity Workshop with Harriet Hawkins," hosted at the Georg-Simmel Center for Metropolitan Studies (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin) by NYLON Berlin/Einstein Research Group. On February 11th, Helen gave a talk, titled "Joyriding Across the Color Line: Chauffeuring and Citizenship in the United States, 1895-1918," at Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg as part of the Young Scholars Forum of the 39th Annual Conference of the Historians of the German Association



for American Studies (DGfA/GAAS), “The United States and World War I: Perspectives and Legacies.” Together with Florian Gabriel and three doctoral researchers from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Helen is co-organizing the 2017 Postgraduate Forum (PGF) of the DGfA/GAAS, to be held in Berlin in November.

In cooperation with Professor Friedrich Kiessling (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt), **Jessica Gienow-Hecht** organized and commented upon a panel at the 51. *Deutscher Historikertag* in Hamburg, titled “Von ‘guten Nachbarn’ und ‘deutschen Wegen’: Rollenbilder und Machtdiskurse im außenpolitischen Selbstverständnis der Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1969–2005.” *Deutschlandfunk* reported on the panel and the conference on September 22nd. Jessica also won a Global Humanities Senior Research and Teaching Fellowship at Harvard University. Much of this time was spent in Houghton Library, as well as the National Archives (Washington, D.C.). On October 21st, she delivered a paper reviewing the results of her research titled “Whose Humanity? Gender, the Humanitarian Impulse, and the Spanish-American War” at the Mahindra Humanities Center lunch talks, chaired by Homi Bhabha. As a member of two prize committees, she also delivered two laudations: one on September 20th for the *Dissertationspreis Internationale Geschichte, Arbeitskreis Internationale Geschichte, Verband der Historikerinnen und Historiker Deutschlands*; another for the *Forschungspreis Wissenschaftlicher Initiativkreis Kultur und Außenpolitik, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen*, Stuttgart, on November 25th. On November 14th, Jessica delivered a presentation at Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, titled “‘Nation Branding’ as a Concept in the Analysis in the History of Culture & International Relations.” In January, she contributed a talk on “North America in Global History” to the global history Ringvorlesung (Friedrich-Meinecke-Institute) and also delivered a keynote speech on “Nation Branding, Persuasion, and

History or How I Learned to Read the Wizard of Oz,” at the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies Symposium, “Machineries of Persuasion” (Aarhus University). Jessica was a frequent contributor to the media this past fall and winter, much of it in the context of the U.S. elections. On October 28th, she and Boris Vormann participated in a

one-hour roundtable discussion on the U.S. educational system at *Deutschlandradio Kultur*. During election night, she helped cover the event as part of an expert panel also featuring her colleagues Boris Vormann and Irwin Collier. Between November and January, *dpa*, *Deutschlandradio*, *RTL2*, Czech television and others interviewed her in regard to the Obama legacy, the history of U.S. elections, presidential inaugurations, the past and future of transatlantic relations, and the contemporary relevance of the Salem witchcraft trials. On January 7th and 9th, *NPR* aired her interview with American Academy fellow Professor Rebecca Boehling (University of Maryland) on transitional justice in post-war Germany.

In July, **Sebastian Jobs** was invited to speak about his research on rumors of slave revolts at the Forschungskolloquium InterAmerikanische Studien at Universität Bielefeld. In October, he was invited to teach a teacher-training class about “Racism in America: Historical Echoes and Current Conflicts” at the Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum, Stuttgart. This past fall and winter, Sebastian, too, was frequently invited by various media outlets to

speak on the U.S. elections.

Nadja Klopprogge presented her research at the German Historical Institute in London at a conference on “The Allied Occupation of Germany Revisited: New Research on the Western Zones of Occupation, 1945-1949” and in the peer run doctoral format “From Canada to Mexico: Doctoral Lab in North American History.” In November, Nadja was invited to the BA and MA colloquium of the Departments of Literature and Culture to introduce the students to the intricacies and excite-



ELECTION NIGHT EXPERT PANEL: BORIS VORMANN, JESSICA GIENOW-HECHT, AND IRWIN COLLIER



PATRICK MILTON AT THE 163RD BERGEDORF ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION. IMAGES: KÖRBER FOUNDATION/MARC DARCHINGER

ments of archival research. In February, she gave a paper at the annual winter symposium of the Historians of the 20th Century U.S. (HOTCUS) at the British Library in London.

On November 11-12th, 2016, **Patrick Milton** attended the 163rd Bergedorf Round Table discussion, hosted by the Hamburg-based Körber Stiftung and the Cambridge Forum on Geopolitics in Berlin, and presented a paper entitled “A Westphalia for the Middle East?” Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier introduced this event in his speech at the Deutsche Historikertag in Hamburg on September 20th, 2016, and opened the proceedings in November. Other participants included members of the German Bundestag, officials from the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and from Middle Eastern ministries, senior diplomats, and journalists as well as academics. The roundtable discussion was part of the continuing collaborative research project and events series, which Patrick convenes together with colleagues from the Cambridge Forum on Geopolitics, the University of Exeter, the Körber Stiftung, and the German Federal Foreign Ministry. The project seeks to formulate suggestions for a future Middle Eastern peace settlement inspired by lessons drawn from the historical experience of the peace congress of Westphalia in the 1640s. Two articles presenting preliminary findings of the project, co-authored by Patrick and Michael Axworthy, were published by *Foreign Affairs* in October and December 2016. Patrick was also invited to present a paper entitled “Taming Sectarian Conflict in the Holy Roman Empire in the Years before, during and after the Thirty Years War” at the interdisciplinary workshop “Comparative Sectarianism” at Aarhus University on November 29th, 2016.

On February 2nd, 2017, **Ilaria Scaglia** presented a paper titled “Healing Body, Mind, and the World as a Whole: Internationalist Emotions at the Sanatoria in Leysin, 1919-1945” at the Université de Genève, Programme Histoire de la Médecine, iEH2 (Institut Éthique Histoire Humanités), Geneva, Switzerland. She also participated in the fall 2016 Colloquium of the Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development on December 13th, 2016, giving a paper titled “Images of Internationalist Emotions, 1919-1945.” On June 6–7th, 2017, Freie Universität Berlin will host a workshop entitled “Making a Case for Internationalism.” Featuring distinguished scholars in the history of international cooperation, this event is organized by Ilaria.

Sébastien Tremblay presented a paper on “‘Non-Functioning Panopticon’: Sexual Transgressions, Gender Norms and Forced Labourers in the National-Socialist Agrarian World” at the 13th Nordic Labour History Conference in Reykjavik, Iceland. Sébastien continued his work on the board of *Global Histories*, a peer-reviewed student journal published by the Department of Global History at the Friedrich Meinecke Institute.

Jessica Gienow-Hecht and **Carolin Viktorin** reviewed *U.S. Public Diplomacy and Democratization in Spain: Selling Democracy?*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan,

2015, edited by Francisco Javier Rodriguez Jimenez, Lorenzo Delgado Gómez-Escalonilla, and Nicholas J. Cull. The [review](#) appeared on *H-Diplo* in December 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

The Department of Literature’s winter semester 2016/17 began with “The Emergence of the New,” a Symposium held in honor of **Heinz Ickstadt** in October. An impressive cast of academics from Germany and beyond presented papers in honor of Professor emeritus Ickstadt’s distinguished and influential career. In December, the Department of Literature also hosted a three-day international conference on “Fictions of Management.” The conference was organized by **James Dorson**, **Jasper Verlinden**, and **Florian Gabriel** from the Junior Research Group working on naturalism and management culture. Besides the three keynote speakers, Michele Elam, Edlie Wong, and Mark Seltzer, a number of talks addressed the relationship between fiction and management from different perspectives and disciplines. The final event of the semester was the interdisciplinary symposium “Configurations of the Black Atlantic” organized, with support from the Graduate School of North American Studies, by **MaryAnn Snyder-Körber** and Sebastian Jobs of the History Department together with students from the MA program.

The Department of Literature was happy to host a number of long- and short-term guests over the last months. **Fred Moten** (UC Riverside), prominent poet and African American cultural scholar delivered the Ernst Fraenkel Lecture “The History of Blackness.” Visiting Professor **Caroline Levander** (Rice University) delivered a guest lecture on “De-Ciphering American Literature: 1945 – 1840 – 2016.” Further lectures hosted by the Department included “‘Distant Connections’ – Diasporic Identity and Black Feminist Knowledge in Audre Lorde’s *Zami* and Ika Hügel-Marshall’s *Daheim Unterwegs*” by **Anne Potjans** (HU Berlin) and “‘Go Slow Now’: Faulkner and the Turmoil of Civil Rights in America” by **Philip Weinstein** (Swarthmore College).

This semester also saw the successful launch of a new series, “An Evening with the Author,” focused on bringing the insights of practicing writers into dialogue with the JFKI community. Our first speaker, in November, was **Beth Ann Fennelly**, Poet Laureate of Mississippi, followed by **Tom Franklin**, currently Mary Ellen von der Heyden Fiction Fellow at the American Academy. The final speaker of the series this semester was the Department’s own **Sean Bonney**, with a reading titled “Our Death.”

Ulla Haselstein remains on research leave until mid-2017 for her project “Gertrude Stein’s Literary Portraits,” funded through the Opus Magnum Program of the VolkswagenStiftung.

This past semester, **MaryAnn Snyder-Körber** spoke at Universität Potsdam on “Converso Questions:

The *Cosmopolitan*, the *National*, and *Constructions of the Converso in the Early American Republic*"; at Freie Universität Berlin on "20th-Century American Arts Funding and the Arts of Literary Payback" as part of the Ringvorlesung "The Ecstasy of Gold: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Money"; and at the international conference "Cultures of U.S. Conservatism," Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, with a talk titled "Reed Smoot's Prayers and the 'Mormon Moments' of U.S.-American Politics." She has accepted the position of Professor of American Cultural Studies at Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg. She will take up her new role in April 2017. Congratulations MaryAnn – you will be missed!

In May, **Florian Sedlmeier**, who continues to work on his current project about the literary field imagination in the late nineteenth century, published an essay that explores the literary and theoretical function of allegory in discussions of postcolonial literature. In December, his essay on Don DeLillo's *Falling Man* and the problems of writing a literary history under the rubric of 9/11 was issued.

In November, **James Dorson** was invited to give a talk on "Jack London in the Age of Measurement" at Universität Mannheim for a symposium titled "Cultural Perspectives on Quantification." He also spoke on "The Business of Life: Efficiency and Entrepreneurship in Jack London's *The Valley of the Moon*" at the conference "Fictions of Management," organized by his Junior Research Group at the JFKI, and gave a talk titled "Beast/Businessman/Bohemian: American Literary Naturalism and the Manager-Myth in Conservative Politics" at the "Cultures of U.S. Conservatism" conference in Göttingen. James also took over the position of Erasmus advisor from Michael Hoenisch.

Birte Wege continues to substitute as junior professor in the department. In October, she received the Rolf-Kentner-Dissertation-Prize at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, where she spoke on "Drawing on The Past: Photography and Graphic Narrative Documentary." She also presented a paper, titled "Accounting for Heaven: Elmer Rice's *The Adding Machine*" at the "Fictions of Management" conference held at the Institute.

Sean Bonney's book *Letters Against the Firmament*, 2015 Verso Book of the Year, is now also included in *Granta's* list of Best Books of the year. Besides continuing work on his post-doc project, Sean has given a number of poetry readings, including at the Poesiefestival Berlin, the Haus für Poesie (also in Berlin), at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool as part of the Liverpool Biennial, and, most recently, at the JFKI.

The Department of Literature welcomed visiting scholar **David Hadar** (PhD, Hebrew University Jerusalem) for a two-year research stay via the highly competitive Minerva Fellowship of the Max Planck Society. In September, David organized the panel "Hebrew Literature's American Itineraries" for the 5th Annual Conference on Israel Studies ("Rethinking Israel: Borders, Boundaries and Cultures") at SOAS, University of London, where

he spoke on "Roth and Appelfeld, Englander and Keret: American Jewish Writers Associating with Israeli Writers." He also delivered a paper on "Philip Roth's Israeli Readers: Debating Jewish Continuity" as part of the Jewish Studies Workshop at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and two papers at the MLA annual convention in Philadelphia: "The Methods of Literary Authority: Coetzee and Foer on Animal Rights" and "The Nonchalant Child Refugee: The Anti-Sensationalism of Lore Segal's *Other People's Houses*." David also spoke on "Ben Lerner and the Uberization of Labor" at the "Fictions of Management" conference in December.

In January, **Jasper Verlinden** left for UC Berkeley for an extended research stay in conjunction with his dissertation project on "Administering the Nation: Bureaucratic Governance, Comparative Racialization, and American Literature, 1870-1930." Jasper delivered a paper on "Counting Heads and Talking Papers: Bureaucratic Documentation and the Management of Racialized Bodies" at the "Fictions of Management" conference at the JFKI. He also gave a short presentation, "Administering the Nation: Bureaucratic Documentation and Comparative Racialization in the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era," as part of the ASA Students' Committee Panel "Lightning Shorts: On Projects in Progress" at the Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association "Home/Not Home: Centering American Studies Where We Are," in Denver, CO.

Florian Gabriel likewise spoke at the international conference "Fictions of Management" in December, on "Death by Misadventure, I'm Inclined to Believe: Untamable Chance in Nella Larsen's *Passing*." He also delivered the talks "Naturalism and Chance in Early Twentieth-Century African American Literature," at the Postgraduate Forum for North American Studies, Universität Hamburg, and "African American Literature as Counter-Naturalism," a Poster Presentation during the Maurice Halbwachs Summer Institute on "Crime, Dis/Order, Narration" at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science looks back on an eventful few months, as the unusual presidential election cycle and the surprising results of November 8th have kept all faculty members on their toes. Making sense of the twists and turns of the election cycle and its outcome posed a real challenge, which was taken up in classes, talks held at the JFKI, and media appearances of faculty members. In October, **Heather A. Conley** from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) gave a talk on shapes the relations between the U.S. and Russia may take in the future. **Michael C. Herron** (Dartmouth College) paid us a visit in November, in order to discuss allegations of fraud in the 2016 presidential election. Just after the election, **Kelly Dittmar** (Rutgers University) und **Jim Willis** (Azusa Pacific University) shared

their perspectives on a future Trump presidency, while, in early December, **Joseph „Tex“ Dozier** analyzed the outcome from a specifically Republican perspective. At the annual DGfA-Conference, organized in cooperation with the Atlantic Academy and held at the JFKI in early November, discussions of current inequalities in the U.S. were linked with perspectives on potential implications of a Trump presidency.

Although the Chair of the Department of Political Science, held by **Margit Mayer** until 2014, is currently still vacant, the search committee has finished its work and the appointment of a successor is expected for 2017. **Boris Vormann** has continued to fill in as a visiting professor in the winter term 2016/17.

One of our major highlights of the past months was the **Annual Meeting of the Political Science Section of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA)** at the JFKI, held between November 11th and 13th. Organized by **Christian Lammert, Boris Vormann, Curd Knüpfer** and **David Sirakov** from the Atlantic Academy, the conference was titled “Balancing The Scales: The United States in an Age of Inequality.” During the conference, PhD students **Betsy Leimbiger** and **Christian Güse** gave talks on “The Wider Implications of Health Inequalities and Disparities in the United States” and “Built-in Inequality? – A Critical Analysis of Technical Innovation and State Actions in the U.S. Logistics Sector,” respectively. **Lora Viola** spoke on “Inequality in International Organizations: Institutional Adjustment to the Global ‘Power Shift’” and **Curd Knüpfer** approached the “Politicization of U.S. trade policy.” In addition to the presentations of our own faculty members, we enjoyed talks given by the keynote speakers, **Wendy Brown** (UC Berkeley) and **Michael C. Herron** (Dartmouth College). Moreover, we greatly appreciated the participation of more than 200 professors, PhD candidates, and students from all over Germany.

Christian Lammert contributed an article on “Obama’s Health Care Reform in the Phase of Political Implementation: Problematic Success within a Divided Public” to the book *The USA at the End of Obama’s Presidency: A first account*, edited by Winand Gellner and Patrick Horst. Two further articles have been accepted

for publication in early 2017: “The Path to Health Care Reform: Obama and the Reform of the U.S.-American Health Care System” will be published by the *Zeitschrift für Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik* in a special issue on “The Obama Legacy,” while “Privatization and Self-Responsibility: Patterns of Welfare State Development in Europe and in the United States Since the 1990s” will be part of Alice Harris-Kessler and Maurizio Vaudagna’s edited volume on *Shifting Notions of Social Citizenship*, to be published by Columbia University Press. Christian commented on the U.S. presidential election in speeches at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, the Übersee Museum in Bremen, the Joint Panel FU Speakers Series

(together with **Edward G. Carmines** from Indiana University) and at a Freie Universität Berlin expert panel on election day (together with his colleagues Vormann, Viola, and Knüpfer). His current research interest in health care reform in the U.S. was reflected in a talk he gave on “Social and Health Care Politics from Obama to Trump” at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, as well as a presentation on the relation between markets and state in the context of the U.S.-American health care system given to the BKK Dachverband in September. Christian is also a frequent contributor on media outlets such as *Arte*, *ZDF*, “Tagesschau,” and a number of national radio stations. He is currently on sabbatical leave and will return to the JFKI in April 2017 in time for the upcoming summer term.

In the past months, **Lora Viola** presented her research at a number of international

conferences. In October, she presented a research article on „Informal Institutions and Procedural Justice in Global Governance” at the “Politics of Informal Governance”-workshop at the Universität St. Gallen, Switzerland. Lora was furthermore invited by Urania Berlin to discuss, together with Mark Andreas Kayser from the Hertie School of Governance, the presidential elections in the U.S. and their implications for the future of U.S. foreign policy. Shortly after the election, the Berlin Europe-Dialogue invited her and Richard Nikolaus Kühnel, the European Commission’s representative in Berlin, to discuss the implications of a Trump presidency for Europe at the Freie Universität Berlin. In addition to her research, Lora commented extensively on the U.S. presi-



PARTICIPANTS OF THE DGfA CONFERENCE LISTENING TO WENDY BROWN'S KEYNOTE SPEECH



CHRISTIAN LAMMERT GIVING A TALK AT THE BKK DACHVERBAND ON HEALTH CARE IN THE U.S. (LOPATA/BKK)

dential election process at various media outlets such as *Zeit Online*, *rbb*, *Deutsche Welle*, and *N24*.

In the second half of 2016, **Boris Vormann** completed four articles. His article „Beneath and Beyond the Sustainable City” was published in Catrin Gersdorf and Juliane Braun’s edited volume *America After Nature: Democracy, Culture, Environment*. Together with Christian Lammert, Boris contributed a chapter titled “North America” to Simon Koschut’s book on *Regions and Regionalism in International Relations*, which will be published in early 2017. Two additional articles, „Greater than the Sum of its Parts. The Unrealized Potentials of Interdisciplinary American Studies” and „La Francophonie. Cultural Macro-Region and Global Player” will be published in early 2017. In the run-up to the U.S. elections, Boris was invited to give a keynote speech at the “Dresden Gespräche” in Dresden, and to participate in a panel discussion at Landeszentrale für politische Bildung in Magdeburg, Saxony-Anhalt. Media outlets such as *Deutsche Welle*, *NPR Berlin*, *DPA*, and *N24* interviewed him regarding the U.S. elections, while *Deutsche Welle* and *N24* invited him to their studios in order to live-comment on the elections as they were unfolding on November 8th.

Thomas Greven continues to write a column on American politics for the online journal *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*. Some of his articles were translated into Spanish for the journal *Nueva Sociedad. Democracia y politica en América Latina*. Thomas also gave a number of interviews on the U.S. elections (e.g. for *Deutschlandfunk* and *TalkRADIO*, UK), and commented on the election and on the rise of right-wing populism for, inter alia, *Carnegie Europe* and the *Global Labour Column*. Between October and December, he gave talks on Bernie Sanders (VHS Reutlingen), the future of the Republican Party (Universities of Bonn and Gießen), the American media landscape (Fachhochschule Würzburg), and the U.S. elections and their aftermath (Universität Kassel and IG Metall Baden-Württemberg). Part of Thomas’s research on right-wing populism was published in *Comixene. Fachmagazin Comic + Cartoon*, where he also published an article on “Comics und Cartoons im amerikanischen Präsidentschaftswahlkampf.”

Curd Knüpfer will continue to be a guest lecturer in the department until April 2017. October saw the publication of his most recent article „Words Left Unspoken: The External Forces Shaping Online Discourse” in the *American Studies Journal*. In September, he presented on “Politics stops at the ports: Tracing the politicization of U.S. trade policy” at the 10th General ECPR Conference at Charles University in Prague. He also continues work on his research project on “The Democratic Interface: Connectivity, Political Organization and the Left-Right Electoral Imbalance,” together with researchers W. Lance Bennett and Alexandra Segerberg. The Atlantic Academy invited him to comment on the U.S. elections in the context of talks in Lambrecht and Speyer, Rhineland-Palatinate.

Curd was also interviewed by media outlets such as *N24*, *BR*, *RadioWissen*, *Die Zeit*, and *HR2*. On the morning after the U.S. elections, he was invited to present his perspective on the election outcome at the U.S. Consulate in Hamburg.

Margit Mayer, the former Chair of the Department, has just published an article on “Urban Social Movements in Times of Austerity Politics” in Sebastian Schipper and Barbara Schöning’s edited volume titled *Urban Austerity: Impacts of the Global Financial Crisis on Cities in Europe*. Furthermore, she wrote the afterword to Jun Wang, Tim Oakes and Yang Yang’s book on *Making Cultural Cities in Asia* (published by Routledge), in which she speaks on the question of creative city policy and social resistance. In September, Margit participated in the 10th European Urban & Regional

Studies Conference in Chania, Crete, presenting on „Crisis, migration, movements: The European city a site of refuge or resistance.” In November, she was invited by the Belgrade Centre for Political Emancipation to give a speech on “Potential and Limits of Urban Social Movements in the Neoliberal Context,” and Malmö University, where she spoke on urban uprisings. Margit’s co-edited book, *Urban Uprisings: Challenging Neoliberal Urbanism in Europe*, was discussed at a book launch event at Humboldt Universität in January and will be part of an “Authors meet Critics”-panel at the Nordic Geographers Association conference in Stockholm in June 2017.

The PhD candidates in our Department have also



PUNEET BHASIN, LORA VIOLA, AND BORIS VORMANN HOLDING A PANEL AT THE ANNUAL DGFA-CONFERENCE.



CURD KNÜPFER PRESENTING ON THE POLITICIZATION OF U.S. TRADE POLICY AT THE ANNUAL DGFA-CONFERENCE.

had a busy few months. While **Betsy Leimbigler** and **Christian Güse** participated in the DGfA-conference, **Mathias Grossklau** published two articles. The first, “Appropriating Gender: The Ambivalent Effects of Nigeria’s CEDAW Implementation,” was published by Routledge in an edited volume titled *Localization in Development Aid. How Global Institutions Enter Local Lifeworlds*. The second one, co-authored with David Remmert and titled “Political Steering: How the EU Employs Power in its Neighbourhood Policy towards Morocco,” was published in the journal *Mediterranean Politics*. Last but not least, we also warmly welcome our two new PhD candidates, **Lasse Thiele** and **Jeremy Williams**, to the department. Lasse is writing his thesis on the prospects of ‘green’ capitalism, Jeremy focuses on new public spaces in the U.S.



PAOLA CASTAÑO AT THE BAIKONUR COSMODROME IN KAZAKHSTAN

sonal experience for Paola and offered a transformative perspective for her research. She had the opportunity to spend five days observing the various events leading to the launch of an expedition to the ISS, understanding the complex logistics of preparing the rocket, visiting the unique collection of historical objects at the two Cosmodrome museums, interacting with astronauts and members of the space agencies involved with the ISS, and, finally, on the 18th of November at 02:20 am, observing the launch of the Soyuz rocket MS-03 carrying Russian cosmonaut Oleg Novitskiy, American astronaut Peggy Whitson, and French astronaut Thomas Pesquet to the ISS.

In November 2016, **Anne Nassauer** presented a paper on “Fragile Rituals – Armed Robberies Caught on CCTV” on a panel titled “Crime Caught on Camera” at the American Society for Criminology - Annual Meeting in New Orleans. In December, she gave a talk on “Police and protest – strategies and situational techniques for avoiding violence” in the lecture series “Politics for the police? Politics with the police? Security in the democratic arena” at the Helmut-Schmidt-Universität Hamburg. During the fall semester, she was teaching a seminar on “Qualitative Sociological Research,” as well as on “Rampage School Shootings in the United States,” a topic on which she is currently conducting research. In February, she is planning a research stay with the German police to study operational planning of crowd policing.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

As part of her research about the International Space Station (ISS), postdoctoral fellow **Paola Castaño** traveled to the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan last November. After a one-day layover in Moscow centered on a visit to the Museum of Cosmonautics, a flight to Astana, another flight to Kyzylorda, 271 kilometers on the road, and with a permission from the Russian State Corporation for Space Activities (Roscosmos), she finally arrived to Baikonur. This trip was an exceptional per-

LIBRARY



Remembering Julia Mayer (1980-2016)

When we were looking for a new head librarian for the John F. Kennedy Institute in the summer of 2012, I was a little worried that it might be difficult to find a suitable candidate. This unique library needs a rare combination of skills – not only a solid training in librarianship, but also a degree in American Studies, and, most of all, the right mindset and personality to lead its motivated and diverse team, and to liaise with the faculty, students, and staff of the institute.

I was relieved when Julia Mayer applied for the position. We had met a year before at the World Library and Information Congress in Puerto Rico, where she was part of a team of junior volunteers who translated the daily congress news to German. This intense and rather lonely job demanded a high degree of reliability and perseverance, a broad understanding of the different fields of librarianship, a strong team spirit and perfect English skills. It was impressive how Julia did not only excel at her task, but after long hours of work still had enough energy to enrich the congress parties and dinners with her joie de vivre. At the next congress in Helsinki, she led the translation team, and a few months later, on December 1st, 2012, she took over the library of the John F. Kennedy Institute.

The training and work experience which qualified Julia for that job was extensive for her age and unconventional for an academic librarian. Unlike most of her peers, she had not pursued the traditional two-year library traineeship ('Referendariat') after her master's degree that is still common for the higher ranks of German libraries. Instead, she worked her way up gradually, starting as a student assistant in the English Studies library of Universität Heidelberg, where she

studied German, American and Romance literature and culture. After completing her degree with honors in 2007, she continued working in the library as an academic assistant, already performing cataloging tasks usually reserved for trained librarians. At that time, she decided to pursue a genuine library career and attain an additional master's degree in library and information science through a distance-learning program at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Until her graduation in 2010 – again, with honors – she continued working at several libraries, also gaining international experience with an internship at the library of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

For her first job as a trained librarian, Julia gladly relocated to Berlin, where the State Library hired her as an acquisitions specialist. She used the opportunity of working in a library with a sizable budget in the best possible way, transforming herself into an expert for the acquisition of electronic media. At the same time, she kept up with the developments in library management, so that she was well prepared when she took up her first executive position at the JFKI library.

It did not take Julia long to leave her mark. For me as former head librarian, it was a pleasure to see how she advanced the library with her creative energy and her cooperative spirit. Supported by Frank Kelleter, she put new emphasis on the popular culture collection and added TV series and serial comics to the acquisitions profile. Thanks to her, the JFKI library now maintains the most important collection of primary materials and secondary literature in the field of North American popular culture in Europe. Her most important success, however, was to secure federal funding for

the library under the new library support program 'Fachinformationsdienste für die Wissenschaft' ('online information services for academic disciplines') sponsored by the German Research Foundation (DFG), which recently replaced the time-proven system of DFG-supported subject specialty libraries ('Sondersammelgebiete'). Along with the State and University Library Göttingen, the JFKI library now runs the FID Anglo-American Culture and receives funds from the DFG for its newspaper and comics collections.

These accomplishments and all others – too many to list here – were only possible because Julia maintained excellent contacts not only with the JFKI faculty and the leadership of the Freie Universität library system, but also with many colleagues outside the university. Her easy-going, no-nonsense approach and her exceptional integrity were crucial to develop those relations and to lead her team by example. She enjoyed lively discussions and was never afraid of dissent.



JULIA MAYER, HEAD LIBRARIAN JFKI LIBRARY, 2012 - 2016

Instead of an administrator, she rather saw herself as an academic service provider. The only thing I ever witnessed frustrating her was bureaucracy getting in the way of her projects – final proof that she truly loved her job. When she left for her summer vacation in Ireland, she was making plans to remodel the reading room area of the library and create more space for the many different

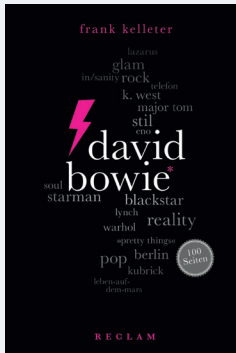
ways in which students use libraries today. The news of Julia's fatal bicycle accident in County Kerry at the age of 35 left all who knew her deeply shocked and saddened. Many, including myself, could not believe the news when they first heard it. Julia was one of my favorite colleagues and the best possible successor. Even though her tenure at the JFKI library lasted only four short years, she

left an enduring legacy that will be an example for all head librarians succeeding her. Our thoughts are with her family and her partner.

Benjamin Blinten
JFKI Head Librarian 2004-2012

PUBLICATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL STUDIES



Reclam, 2016
ISBN 9783150204238
100 pages

[Publisher's website](#)

David Bowie

Frank Kelleter

"Any story about David Bowie must begin with the way he looks," the *Sunday Times* wrote in 1975. Bowie, the pop-chameleon, did not only change his masks, but, as one of the shrillest and at the same time best dressed pop stars of all time, his clothes, too. The enormous influence Bowie had ever since his early glam rock days became apparent after his death on January 10th, 2016 – two days after his 69th birthday, the release day of his last record, three days after the release of his last video "Lazarus": endless homages, for example at the Grammy Awards. Patti Smith, commenting on Bowie's Berlin-record *Heroes*, had written that she "listened to the record for 72 hours. Day and night. Watching tv and in my sleep."

Ever since Frank Kelleter bought his first Bowie-record at age 12, he has been fascinated with the phenomenon. Here, he analyzes the multi-talent's songs, lyrics, videos, movie appearances, environment, and life, thereby creating a personal monument.



Ohio State University
Press, 2017
ISBN 9780814213353
306 pages

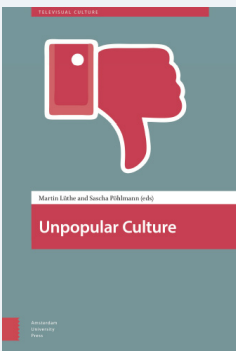
[Publisher's website](#)

Media of Serial Narrative

Edited by Frank Kelleter

This volume is the first book-length study to address the increasingly popular topic of serial narratives—specifically, how practices and forms of seriality shape media throughout the landscape of popular culture. In modern entertainment formats, seriality and popularity can seem so obviously connected that scholarship has long neglected to address their specific interrelations. This volume looks closely at the relationship between seriality, popularity, media, and narrative form and asks: What are the structural conditions of serial stories? Which historical circumstances are presupposed or supported by series and serials? How do commercial types of seriality differ from serial structures in other cultural fields?

Media of Serial Narrative focuses on key sites and technologies of popular seriality since the mid-nineteenth century and up to today: newspapers, comics, cinema, television, and digital communication. Paying close attention to the affordances of individual media, as well as to their historical interactions, the fourteen chapters survey the forms, processes, and functions of popular serial storytelling.



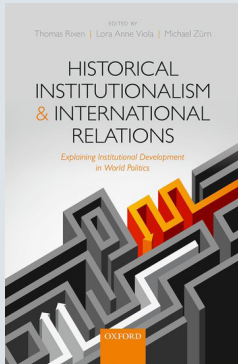
Amsterdam University
Press, 2016
ISBN 9789089649669
340 pages

[Publisher's website](#)

Unpopular Culture: A Reader

Edited by Martin Lütke and Sascha Pöhlmann

This volume introduces a new concept that boldly breaks through the traditional dichotomy of high and low culture while offering a fresh approach to both: unpopular culture. From the works of David Foster Wallace and Ernest Hemingway to fanfiction and *The Simpsons*, from natural disasters to 9/11 and beyond, the essays find the unpopular across media and genres, analyzing the politics and aesthetics of a side to culture that has been overlooked by previous theories and methods in cultural studies.



**Oxford University
Press, 2016
ISBN 9780198779629
256 pages**

[Publisher's website](#)

Historical Institutionalism and International Relations Explaining Institutional Development in World Politics

Edited by Thomas Rixen, Lora Anne Viola, and Michael Zürn

This book applies the analytical approach of Historical Institutionalism (HI) – so far mostly used within comparative politics – to the field of International Relations (IR). It provides an introduction to HI concepts and makes an argument for why it is particularly well-suited for understanding current developments within international institutions. In particular, it helps us to understand the combination of change and stability that together form the dynamics of institutional development over time.

It is the first book to collect original, empirical research applying historical institutionalism to international institutions. The chapters cover a range of institutions important to IR, including the development of European Union competition policy, the global politics of financial reform after the 2008 crisis, the institutional development of the World Health Organization, membership reforms in the League of Nations and the United Nations Security Council, and civil society access to intergovernmental organizations. The concluding chapter discusses the relationship of HI to other institutionalist approaches and the role of HI in future IR research.

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