

# NEWSLETTER



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## GRADUATE SCHOOL



### New Doctoral Candidates

In the winter semester 2018/19, a new group of doctoral candidates started their doctoral studies at the Graduate School. The group of eight hails from Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Turkey. The official welcome for the new cohort was held on October 15 by **Diane Negra** (UCD) with a talk on “Ivanka Trump and the New Plutocratic (Post) Feminism.”

**Marius Kleinknecht**, a doctoral candidate from the cohort 2017, continued to organize the Interdisciplinary Roundtable in the first part of the winter semester. This forum aims to create an environment in which everyone below senior faculty level can present and discuss their ongoing projects of various sorts – a draft chapter of their dissertation, a paper for an upcoming conference, a research outline, a grant application, etc. It is an open forum where everybody can choose his/her own format and project to present. It is also explicitly a place for work-in-progress, with all the accompanying uncertainties, open questions, and loose ends.

On November 8, **Simon Strick** started the Roundtable with his talk on “Feeling (Alt) Right: Affective and Identitarian Strategies of Online Extremism.” On November 22, **Diane Negra** spoke on “Age Disproportion in the Post-Epigraph Chick Flick: Reading *The Proposal*.” In the New Year, on January 24, **Lee Flamand** started the IR with

his talk on “Gothic Anti-Enlightenment: C.B. Brown’s Wieland and the Riotous Young Republic.” On February 7, **Fabian Eggers** gave a presentation on “An Author Who Feels Their Pain: The Emotional Economy Underlying David Foster Wallace’s *The Pale King*.”

### International Graduate Conference 2019

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Graduate Conference presents “American Ambiguities – Is Now the Era of our Discontent?” takes place at the John-F.-Kennedy-Institute from May 22–24, 2019. The conference is organized by the



INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE CONFERENCE 2019 ON “AMERICAN AMBIGUITIES”

doctoral candidates who started their doctorate in 2018. This year, we are aiming for a GSNAS conference that fully embraces the interdisciplinary possibilities of North American Studies, connects the scholarly community, and stimulates exciting discussion. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual graduate conference takes the notion of ambiguity as its point of departure in order to explore this concept in the North American context from the colonial era to the present. How are ambiguous ideals of American freedom simultaneously modes of exclusion for certain groups? What effects have these ambiguities had on policy-making and public discourse? How have they been depicted through old and new literary and visual forms? The conference will offer a vibrant mix of academic papers, engaging panels, and keynote presentations. Confirmed keynote speakers so far include Andrew Hartman (Illinois State University), and Laura M. Stevens (University of Tulsa). For more information, please visit our website at [www.gsnasconference2019.com](http://www.gsnasconference2019.com).

### Visiting Professors

In the winter term 2018, the Graduate School welcomed **Diane Negra** (UCD Clinton Institute). She co-taught the disciplinary seminar “Advanced Theories and Methods in Culture” with Tim Lanzendörfer, delivered the welcome lecture on October 15 and gave a talk on “Celebrity Death: The Posthumous Persona of Amy Winehouse” on November 14, 2018. She also served as an additional advisor to the students as they research their dissertation projects.

In the summer term 2019, the Graduate School welcomes **Dagmar Herzog** (City University of New York) and **Yogita Goyal** (UCLA).

### Guest Lectures

**Donald Pease** (Dartmouth College), long-term member of the International Advisory Board of the Graduate School, gave a talk titled “Surveillance, Spectacle, and (In) Securitization after Trump” on October 17 as part of the Ringvorlesung.

### GSNAS Alumni/Alumnae

**Tobias Jochum** (Literature), **Juliane Graf** (History) und **Johannes Kohrs** (Literature) successfully finished their doctoral studies. Congratulations!



## JOHN F. KENNEDY INSTITUTE



### DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL STUDIES

**Frank Kelleter**, the chair of the department, also holds the position of Executive Director of the Graduate School of North American Studies (GSNAS) at Freie Universität Berlin. After the recent success of FU Berlin in several funding schemes of the federal excellence strategy, he is now 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. He was on sabbatical during the winter term 2018/19.

**Winfried Fluck** delivered the opening lecture “The Current State of American Studies” at a symposium with the same title at Groningen University in the Netherlands. He continues to serve as co-director of the “Futures of American Studies” at Dartmouth College, where he gave a talk on “The Limits of Critique and the Affordances of Form: Literary Studies after the Hermeneutics of Suspicion” at last year’s event in June. In November, he contributed to the conference “The Return of the Aesthetic in American Studies” at the University of Frankfurt – His talk was titled “What is Freedom? The

Contribution of Contemporary Art.” An interview on this topic is available on the [conference website](#). During the last year, Fluck also served on the academic advisory board of the exhibit „Es war einmal in Amerika. 300 Jahre US-amerikanischer Kunst“ at the Wallraff-Museum Köln.



LAURA KATZMAN AND JFKI STUDENTS AT THE WALLRAFF-MUSEUM, COLOGNE

**Martin Lütke** was on parental leave in the winter term 2018/19. He is co-organizing a panel entitled “‘This Is America’: Music, Video, and Medial Entanglement in the Popular” with Julius Greve (Oldenburg) for the upcoming annual meeting of the DGfA in Hamburg in June 2019. In January, Lütke taught a seminar session (on digital sports games) and gave a talk on “Motown Memories: Popular Music and Post-Racial Fantasies of the 1960s” at the University of Graz. In March 2019, he was awarded the

[Einstein Junior Fellowship](#) which will fund his research project on Critical Whiteness Studies in the coming three years.

**Tim Lanzendörfer** filled in as substitute professor during Martin Lütke's parental leave. Tim has recently completed his Habilitation project "Speculative Historism: Utopian Pasts and Futures in the Contemporary Novel" at the Obama Institute at the University of Mainz.

**Alexander Starre** presented his ongoing book project on American Knowledge Cultures at the turn of the 20th century in the American Studies research colloquium at the University of Erlangen in November. In December, he contributed a presentation titled "The Organic Book in American Publishing: From William Addison Dwiggins to the Digital Present" to the interdisciplinary workshop "@LIBB: Changing Literacies for the Boundless Book" at the Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome. His co-edited volume (with Heike Schäfer) *Medium, Object, Metaphor: The Printed Book in Contemporary American Culture* is now under contract with Palgrave Macmillan and set to appear later in the year. As part of his MA-level lecture, Alexander was able to host several guest speakers, among them Peter Onuf (Virginia), Annette Gordon-Reed (Harvard), and Richard Peña (Columbia).



ALEXANDER STARRE, ANNETTE GORDON-REED, HANNAH SPAHN AND PETER ONUF

**Kathleen Loock** continues the work on her book project "Remakes, Sequel, and Prequels in Hollywood Cinema: A Cultural History" as a Dahlem Postdoc Fellow. During

the winter term, Loock has taught and lectured on her research at the JFKI and in different international contexts. In October, she was invited to the NTNU Trondheim (Norway) within the Erasmus+ Program of the European Commission. At the Department of Art and Media Studies in Trondheim, she taught classes on videographic criticism, and on seriality, television, and TV series revivals. In November, she joined the English Department at Nanjing University (China) as a visiting professor where she held a guest lecture on the Hollywood film franchise and taught a class on the film remake from early cinema to the sound era. In January 2019, she was invited to give a guest lecture entitled "Second-Order Seriality: Remakes – Sequels –Prequels" at the University of Hamburg. With the generous budget from her Dahlem Postdoc Fellowship, Loock organized the workshop "Remake Studies: New Methods and Approaches" on October 25, 2018. The workshop brought together a group of renowned scholars and practitioners to discuss and probe new methods and approaches for remake studies. Her own contributions focused on "Graphs, Stats, and Networks: Remake Studies in the Age of Digital Humanities" (with Vitaly Belik, FU Berlin) and on "Hollywood Memories/Movie Generations: Remake Studies and Global Reception Practices." On December 20, Loock organized a joint lecture together with Shane Denson (Stanford University), in which they talked about videographic criticism as a new digital research practice, screened and discussed selected video essays, and examined the place of videographic work in film and media studies, in the digital humanities, and in academia more broadly.

**Simon Strick** began his Volkswagen Foundation research project on the subject of "Feeling Alt-Right: Affective Strategies of Online Extremism" at the JFK-institute in June 2018. He published a [first article](#) from the project – "Alt-Right Affekte: Provokationen und Online-Taktiken" in the peer-reviewed journal *Zeitschrift für Medienwissenschaften*, along with several [blog entries at the journal's gender-blog](#). His first blog-article on the Alt-Right, written together with PD Dr. Gabriele Dietze – "Angriff der Betamännchen" – received an honorable mention for best article by the Gender-AG of the German



Society for Media Studies. Strick gave a series of talks from the project, among them lectures at Flensburg University, at the international conference “Populism and Gender” (Bielefeld), the symposium “Challenging Comfort” at the University of Koblenz-Landau. He also spoke at several outreach engagements, e.g. at the Berlin *Institut für Wirtschaftsgestaltung*. He also hosted an “Alt-Right-Roundtable” at the JFKI, the first in a series of public progress reports on the project open for students and faculty, and welcomed Diana Negra (UCD) as a respondent. At the annual DGfA Conference in June, Strick and Olga Tarapata (Cologne) organized a panel on Disability Studies and American Studies; his next panel proposal with Simon Schleusener – on the influence of Trump and the Alt-Right on Popular Culture – was accepted for the DGfA 2019 in Hamburg.

**Maria Sulimma** submitted and defended her dissertation “Serial Gender, Gendered Serialities: Practices of US-American Television Narratives in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” in the winter term. In December, Sulimma joined the American Studies department at the University Duisburg-Essen and now serves as a postdoctoral researcher in the research training group “Scripts for Postindustrial Urban Futures: American Models, Transatlantic Interventions.” The culture department wishes her all the best at her new post!

In addition to teaching her classes on the history of photography and museum studies in the United States, **Terra Visiting Professor Laura Katzman** participated in a Study Day (December 3) for the exhibition *Once Upon a Time in America* at the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum in Cologne, leading two seminars on social realism. Katzman also organized the following field trips for her museum studies MA seminar: Martin Gropius Bau (December 12); Brücke-Museum (January 10); Bode Museum (February 6). For the latter two, she arranged special behind-the-scenes tours with curators and directors of both museums. On December 11, at the Literaturhaus Berlin, she delivered a talk and participated in a panel discussion on the book, *Entangled Memories: Remembering the Holocaust in a Global Age* (Universitätsverlag Winter, 2017), to which she contributed a chapter on Gunter

Demnig’s Stolpersteine. On January 17, she delivered a lecture on New Deal photography for Alexander Starre’s class on “American Modernities.” Katzman has been invited to lecture in spring 2019 on her current research on documentary photography in 1940s Puerto Rico at the University of Birmingham, UK, and will present a paper that was accepted for the *Camera Memoria Seminar* on the histories of photography, hosted by the University Paris VII Denis Diderot.

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

### **Prof. Dr. Max Steinhardt**

In summer 2018 Prof. Dr. Max Steinhardt’s article “More than Just Friends? School Peers and Adult Interracial Relationships,” jointly written with [Luca Merlino](#) and [Liam Wren-Lewis](#), has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Labor Economics*. The article uses a rich data set on students in US schools to demonstrate that racial composition in schools is an important factor of interracial marriage. In particular, they find that white students who had more black students in their cohort are more likely to date and marry blacks as adults. It is not that these students date more blacks in school – the number of students of the opposite gender does not have any impact – but instead students in cohorts with more blacks end up having more social interactions with blacks and are more likely to make black friends. The paper’s findings suggest that these interactions lead to students who are as adults less likely to think that race is an important factor within a relationship.

During the winter semester 2018, Steinhardt had the article titled “Bitterness in Life and Attitudes towards Immigration,” jointly written with [Panu Poutvaara](#), published in the *European Journal of Political Economy*, linked [here](#). The paper shows that bitter people, who feel they have not gotten what they deserve in life, worry more about immigration. This relationship holds for respondents with different levels of skills, job security, men and women, and respondents from former East and former West Germany. The paper further shows that bitterness has important political consequences.

Supporters of far-right and populist right-wing parties are, on average, much more bitter than supporters of the mainstream parties.

In April, Steinhardt gave a talk about homeownership of US immigrants at the Workshop on Labour Economics in Trier. During the summer, Steinhardt presented his recent work about the impact of xenophobic violence on immigrants' integration at the 13<sup>th</sup> International German Socio-Economic Panel User Conference in Berlin and the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Congress of the European Economic Association and 71<sup>st</sup> European Meeting of the Econometric Society in Cologne.

#### **Prof. Jonathan Fox, Ph.D.**

During the 2018/2019 winter semester, Prof. Jonathan Fox presented his paper titled "Rural Health in the Progressive Era: Revisiting the Hookworm Intervention in the American South" (joint with Theocharis Grigoriadis) at the Social Science History Association conference in Phoenix, Arizona. He also revised and resubmitted a book chapter titled "The usage of historical family reconstitution databases in the study of kin effects - What can we learn from evolutionary approaches?" (joint with Kai P. Willführ and Eckart Voland) for an upcoming volume on Evolutionary Demography and finished and submitted an article titled "A Positive Relationship Between Fertility and Economic Development Across Sub-National Regions?" (joint with Sebastian Klüsener and Mikko Myrskylä).

#### **Prof. Dr. Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich**

On his Edward Tenenbaum research project, Prof. Dr. Carl-Ludwig Holtfrerich returned to the US for archival research for two and a half weeks in late October 2018. He consulted the archives of Yale University where Tenenbaum graduated BA in June 1942 best of his class. He then worked for OSS in Washington, D.C. as a civilian until he was inducted into the US Army in mid-December 1942. For officer's training, he was again stationed at Yale because half of the campus had been taken over by the US Army for officer candidate school. Later on, Tenenbaum expressed how much he disliked the military training as compared to his academic training in Yale. Holtfrerich then went for ten days into the national

archives at College Park at the outskirts of Washington, D.C. Highlights of his trip were interviews with two of Edward Tenenbaum's children.

#### **Dr. Aleksandra Peeva**

Aleksandra Peeva (Visiting Lecturer) is teaching the Master's lecture and seminar *US Economic Policy* and the Bachelor's lecture *Development of the American Economy* at JFKI. She is currently working on three interconnected topics, namely (1) the persistent effects of political conflict on trade; (2) trade interdependencies which constrain politics; and (3) the effectiveness of sanction imposition. Using a country-pair panel from 1965 till 2005, she examines the long-term effect of sanction imposition on bilateral trade flows and the consequences of the effect persistence. The lifting of a sanction does not prompt bilateral commercial exchange to return back smoothly, because the sanctioned country has turned to trade with other partners in the meantime. Further, she finds that trade interdependence constrains nations in the use of sanctions against human rights-abusing countries. Finally, Peeva explores how the 2014 US/EU sanctions regime against Russia affected support for Vladimir Putin as a presidential candidate in the 2018 Russian elections.

#### **Dr. Wolfgang Strehl**

Dr. Wolfgang Strehl finished his doctoral dissertation "Essays on Macroeconomics and Inequality" in 2018.



MEMBERS OF THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

This semester, the department of history invited a total of seven guest speakers:

**Gareth Davies** (University of Oxford), „A Government of War with itself: Disaster Politics and the American State;”

**Daniel Manulak** (University of Western Ontario), “A Mission with a Mission: Canada, The Third World, and South African Apartheid, 1984–1994;”

**Adam Hjorthén** (University of Stockholm), „Friendship, Power, and Innocence: Cross-Border Commemoration of Swedish Settlement in America;”

**Julius Wilm** (University of Copenhagen), “Limits of Settler Colonialism: Free Land Policy in Antebellum America;”

**Norbert Finzsch** (Universität zu Köln), “We know the lesbian habits of kleitoriazein [...] which justify the resection of the clitoris’: Cliteridectomy in the West, 1600 to 1960;”

**John Leary** (Wayne State University), “Border Monsters: Fantasies of Insurgency along the U.S. -Mexico Frontier from Pancho Villa to the Present;” and

**Antoon de Baets** (University of Groningen), „The Persecution of Historians as a Crime against History.“

In other news, the program for the impending conference, “Culture and International History VI – Visions of Humanity,” 6–8 May 2019, is now [online](#). All interested present and former members of the JFKI are welcome!

On the non-academic side, the department is thrilled to share that three members have been welcoming newborns in their families this semester, among those **Sarah Epping** and **Carolin Viktorin**, and a fourth one is on the way: Congratulations to all of you! We know what you are accomplishing and wish you strength, energy, patience – and eventually more sleep!

**Markus Bierkoch** joined the department as a doctoral candidate on a Gerda-Henkel fellowship this fall, co-supervised by Jessica Gienow-Hecht and Michael Göbel. His work centers on German-speaking migrants and their descendants in New York City from 1898 until 1933, notably the question how different groups within the complex and multi-layered migrant community competed in framing German-American ethnicity. In February 2019, Bierkoch’s book *Alldeutsche in den USA. Die New Yorker Ortsgruppe im frühen 20. Jahrhundert* was published in the series *Zivilisationen & Geschichte* edited by Ina Ulrike Paul and Uwe Puschner.

On December 5, 2018, **Helen Gibson** gave a lecture in the JFKI Ringvorlesung 2018/19 („Surveillance and Social Order: Visibility, Invisibility, and the Blurring of Boundaries“) on „Leisure and Risk in Cars: Resisting Racist Surveillance by Early Automobile Insurers.“ Later that month, she was elected as a representative of the Diversity Roundtable to the German Association for American Studies (DGfA) at large, along with her



colleagues Cedric Essi (Universität Bremen) and Anna-Lena Oldehus (Leibniz Universität Hannover). On January 16, 2019, Helen delivered a talk on “Jim Crow Automobile Insurance: Racialized Logics of Joy and Risk on American Highways” in the “Geschichte des europäisch-transatlantischen Kulturraums” colloquium at Universität Augsburg. On February 9, she discussed her dissertation research in a short presentation entitled „Remembering Jim Crow Auto Insurance“ in the Young Scholar’s Forum of the 2019 Annual Conference of the Historians in the DGfA (“Remembering and Forgetting in American History”) in Lichtenfels, Bavaria.

One of most exciting news in **Jessica Gienow-Hecht’s** academic diary for the past semester is the appropriation of the proposal “SCRIPTS – Contestations of the Liberal Script,” in September 2018, after close to four years of intensive collaboration with some 40 colleagues in economics, law, philosophy, political science and sociology. SCRIPTS is a Cluster of Excellence funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) over a time span of seven years; the JFKI is one out of several area and research centers participating in the venture. The cluster examines the causes of the current contestations of the liberal script, as well as the consequences for the global challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century (<https://www.scripts-berlin.eu>). In this context, Gienow-Hecht will be a board member of the Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies (BGTS). She will help put together a junior research group that is dedicated to the historical dimension of the liberal script and its challenges, and will serve as co-coordinator (with sociologist Steffen Mau, Humboldt-Universität) of the research unit “Borders” (<https://www.scripts-berlin.eu/research/research-units/borders/index.html>). In that context, she has just won a grant to kick off a pilot project titled “Performing the Liberal Script: Audiovisual Arts and the Aesthetics of Self-Determination” (with Jakob Vogel, Centre Marc Bloch/ Sciences Po).

In other news, this fall, Gienow-Hecht performed a whirlwind tour through four North American cities, conducting several collaborative talks, participating in a workshop at Carleton University, Ottawa and giving three papers in four days. Among these were “Power,

Humanity and Technology” (Canadian-German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Toronto), as well as “Music and Human Rights” at the Colloque “Musique et sorties de guerres” at the Université de Montréal and the Human Rights Research and Education Centre (University of Ottawa). At the German Historikertag in Münster, September 25–28, she participated as a board member in the annual membership meeting of the Arbeitsgruppe Internationale Geschichte and gave the Laudation for the annual winner of the AIG’s dissertation prize (Sonja Großmann, “Sowjetische Freundschaftsgesellschaften in Westeuropa: Instrumente und Akteure der Cultural Diplomacy im Kalten Krieg (1945–1991),” Tübingen, 2017). In November, she spoke about gender and humanitarian intervention in the DFG Kolleg-Forschergruppe “The International Rule of Law—Rise or Decline?” at Humboldt-Universität’s law school, delivered another Laudation for the winner of the ifa research award in Stuttgart (Elisabeth Marie Piller, “Re-Winning American Hearts and Minds—German Public Diplomacy and the United States, 1902–1937, NTNU, 2017), and gave a talk at the Industrie-Club Düsseldorf titled “Humanitäre Intervention und Historische Herausforderung.” In January, she was invited to contribute a lecture on “Culture and International History” to the Ringvorlesung “Theorien, Methoden und Geschichte der Geschichtswissenschaft,” organized by Oliver Janz at the Friedrich Meinecke Institute of History at Freie Universität Berlin. Upon invitation of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and following a preview of the movie “On the Basis of Sex,” at the Berlin Zoopalast, Gienow-Hecht participated in a panel dedicated to women’s rights, on February 26, 2019. In March, she gave a keynote on music and human rights before members of the Musicological Society of Finland at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

Finally, Gienow-Hecht published “Of Dreams and Desire: Diplomacy and Musical Nation Branding Since the Early Modern Period,” in *International Relations, Music and Diplomacy: Sounds and Voices on the International Stage*, edited by Frédéric Ramel and Cécile Provost-Thomas (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), 259–274. She has also been invited to join the “Music and Nation” international research network that seeks to encourage and develop research on the relationships between music, identity,

politics, and cultural diplomacy in the modern era. The network links up historians and musicologists from Great Britain, France, and Germany, among those the [Royal Northern College of Music](#) in Manchester and the [Centre d'Histoire Culturelle des Sociétés Contemporaines](#) from the Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines.

**Adam Hjorthén** returned from his parental leave in September. He will spend most of the winter semester in Stockholm and return to Berlin full-time in April 2019. Welcome back! His first book, *Cross-Border Commemorations: Celebrating Swedish Settlement in America*, was published by University of Massachusetts Press in November. The book examines how histories of Swedish colonial settlement, pioneering, and immigration in America have been used by cultural leaders, politicians, and businessmen to promote international relations between the United States and Sweden at times of great geopolitical transformations. He also presented the book in the JFKI History colloquium.

At the SAAS General Meeting in September, he was reelected to serve a second term (2018–2020) as the President of the Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS). He also co-organized the SAAS's 10th biennial conference, titled "Open Covenants: Pasts and Futures of Global America." The meeting was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on September 28–30, 2018, and featured keynote lectures by David R. Roediger (University of Kansas), Sylvia Mayer (Bayreuth University), and Frida Stranne (University of Halmstad).

On November 1–2, Hjorthén was invited to Washington, D.C., to participate in a workshop at the Swedish Embassy and in a panel discussion at George Washington University, both covering the theme "Swedish Footprints in the United States: New Perspectives on Swedish-American History." The main organizer of both events was the Embassy of Sweden in Washington, D.C. On December 12, he also gave a public lecture at the Stockholm City Archives, where he talked about the history of Swedish-American genealogy.

During the last six months, **Sebastian Jobs** has been busy with various speaking engagements. In September 2018, he participated in a panel discussion at the [GAIN](#)

[conference](#) in Boston that debated career opportunities for young scholars in Germany. Also in September, he gave a talk at the annual conference of the International Society for Cultural History in New York on the African American identity performed in military parades. In October, he participated in a workshop in Berlin in honor of Alf Lüdtke's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Together with scholars from Germany, France and the U.S., he organized another workshop of the project on "Labor – Consumption – Violence" which received financial support from Humboldt University's re:work and Freie Universität's Center for International Cooperation. Furthermore, in December, Jobs gave a talk as part of the FMI's lecture series on "Quellen der Geschichte." Finally, in August 2018, Jobs's comments were featured in a *Washington Post* [article](#) on the effects of racism on current German and U.S. societies.

After submitting her dissertation entitled "Intimate Histories: African Americans and Germany since 1933," **Nadja Klopprogge** now holds the position of university assistant at the chair for Modern History at the University of Basel since February 2019. Kudos to you, Nadja!

**Maximilian Klose** presented his dissertation project in Prof. Dirk van Laak's colloquium at the University of Leipzig, in November 2018. He will further present his work at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., in late March 2019.

**Sönke Kunkel** gave a presentation on "Promoting Urban Disaster Mitigation in Asia and Africa: Urban Development Policies and the 1960s to 1980s Intellectual Origins of Resilience" at the European Association for Urban History's Biannual Meeting in Rome, in August 2018. In October, he organized an international workshop with the theme of "Transforming Cities: Urbanization and International Development Policies in the Global South in the Twentieth Century," funded by the DFG and organized jointly with Marc Frey of the Bundeswehr Universität München. One month later, he also organized an international workshop on "Governing Environmental Change: Science Diplomacy and the Global Politics of Knowledge since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century." The workshop took



place in Berlin and was organized jointly with Nadin Heé, Mariko Jacoby (both Freie Universität Berlin), and Simone Turchetti of the University of Manchester. Kunkel's contribution explored the origins of UNESCO's global science diplomacy in response to global natural disasters. Cooperating with Dominique Marshall of Carleton University, Ottawa the same month, he also staged a four-week transatlantic collaborative teaching project. In January 2019, Kunkel gave a presentation on the history of 'Global America' within the Berlin Global History Lecture Series. He was also invited to serve as a reviewer for the *Zeitschrift für Weltgeschichte*.

Since November 2018, Prof. Kunkel's book *Empire of Pictures: Global Media and the 1960s Remaking of American Foreign Policy* (New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2018) is available as paperback.

**Anna Rauscher** has won the doctoral fellowship in Jessica Gienow-Hecht's DFG-project "The Quest for Harmony: Classical Music, Emotion, and the Discourse on Human Rights in the United States since World War II," and has joined the department as a Ph.D. candidate in fall 2018. The working title of her dissertation project is *Counterpointing Quiet Diplomacy: Classical Music, Human Rights and Political Activism*. **Alon Ravid** has joined the department as a student assistant in the same project. Welcome to both of you!

**Verena Specht** traveled to the 6<sup>th</sup> ADM Valencia International Staff Training Week for administrative staff organized by the Universitat Politècnica de València in December. The training included specific job shadowing (student services, finances and accountancy, institutional communication), applied language / IT training, and topic-oriented coaching workshops. She got to know colleagues from many different European universities and built up new networks and promising cooperations in regard to JFKI student exchange programs.

**Jean-Michel Turcotte** gave a presentation at the Conference of the *New Diplomatic History Network*, held at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Institute in Middelburg, Netherlands entitled "War Captivity, Humanitarianism and Diplomacy: The Cases of German Prisoners of War,

1940–1946 and North Korean and Chinese POWs, 1950–1953," in October 2018. On November 28, he presented his research on "International Humanitarian Law, Military Powers and Prisoners of War" at the workshop *Comparing Militaries* at Bielefeld University. Later, he participated in the JFKI Ringvorlesung (Surveillance and Social Order) with a presentation on "Securing and Understanding Prisoners of War, 1940–1953: US Policy and the Surveillance of Enemy Captives from World War II to the Korean War." In January 2019, he published an article titled "An Important Contribution to the Allied War Effort': Canadian and North Atlantic Intelligence on German POWs, 1940–1945," in the journal [Intelligence and National Security](#).

**Carolin Viktorin**, Jessica Gienow-Hecht, Annika Estner and Marcel Will collaborated on an essay titled "Beyond Marketing and Diplomacy: Exploring the Historical Origins of Nation Branding," which appeared in their collectively edited volume, *Nation Branding in International History* (New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2018).

**Leonie Werle** joined the History Department as a Ph.D. candidate in October 2018. Her dissertation project, supervised by Prof. Sönke Kunkel, is concerned with the visualization and U.S. media representation of Nazi atrocities in the concentration camps liberated by the U.S. forces in 1945. Welcome, Leonie!

## DEPARTMENT OF LITERATURE

The literature department has started a new program to enrich the students' engagement with literature and critical theory through practical experience. Drawing on the vibrant, Berlin-based literary and cultural scene, we continued our theater excursions: at the end of the year, a group of twenty went to see Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy Letts' latest play "Wheeler" at the Berliner Ensemble. As always, theater critic and former lecturer at the Kennedy Institute, Thomas Irmer, introduced the production and mediated the discussion among students and faculty after the performance. We were delighted that the artistic

director of the Berliner Ensemble, Oliver Reese, was able to join us and emphatically shared his thoughts on the state of contemporary theater. The second theater event took place on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We went to see *Coming Society*, an interactive performance by writer-director Susanne Kennedy and visual artist Markus Selg at Volksbühne Berlin. The highlight of the winter semester was the reading by Yaa Gyasi, internationally acclaimed Ghanaian-American author of *Homegoing* and recent fiction fellow at the American Academy, on January 22nd, 2019.

In October, **Ulla Haselstein** was invited as a keynote lecturer to the graduate conference “New Pathways in North American Studies: Paradigms, Strategies, Developments” organized by the Department of English and American Studies at Masaryk University Brno. She spoke on “Progressivism, Seriality, and Gertrude Stein.” She also encouraged the exchange of doctoral researchers to deepen academic relations between the graduate program at Masaryk University and the Kennedy Institute’s GSNAS.

Moreover, Ulla Haselstein is now a member of the consortium in charge of the international doctoral program “Literary, Historical and Cultural Studies” based at the University of Cagliari.

As a member of the DFG- funded research network “Narrative Liminality and/in the Formation of American Modernities,” **James Dorson** was invited to speak at Leipzig University in October. His lecture titled “‘These bourgeois cities will kill you:’ Anti-Urbanism, Populism, and California Naturalism” is a product of his research project “Narrating Complex Causality.” In November, Professor Dorson gave a talk on “Form vs. Genre” at the Swiss Association for North American Studies conference “The Genre of Genres,” University of Lausanne.

**Florian Sedlmeier** was appointed visiting professor of literature at the Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik (IAA) at Universität Hamburg, where he serves as acting head of department, while Susanne Rohr is on leave on an “opus magnum” grant by the Volkswagen Foundation. **Tobias Jochum** and **Johannes Kohrs** successfully

completed their doctoral studies. Congratulations to both!

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Over the course of this semester, the Department of Political Science was able to welcome multiple guest speakers and host events such as a talk organized by the US embassy on the current US foreign policy held by Peter Rough from the Hudson Institute, Washington DC. The department is also eagerly awaiting the appointment of the next Junior Professor in Political Science at the John F. Kennedy Institute after a long and fruitful appointment committee; the position is expected to be filled by the late coming summer semester.

**Prof. Dr. Christian Lammert** published his new book “[Contours of the Illiberal State: Governing Circulation in the Smart Economy](#)” in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Boris Vormann (Bard College Berlin) in February. The articles in this publication look at the enduring central role of the United States in the Smart Economy through a comparative historic lens. Beyond this, Lammert gave multiple interviews in different media outlets, including but not limited to, *Der Spiegel*, *Deutschlandfunk* and *Radio 1*, predominantly talking about President Trump’s policy attempts, though particularly on the government shutdown and the border wall issue, as well as comments on the ongoing Mueller investigation. He also hosted a number of guest lecturers during this year’s Department colloquium, such as Sean Theriault from the University of Texas at Austin, Terri Towner from Oakland University and Stéphanie Chouinard from the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston. Besides, Christian held a range of panels regarding contemporary topics at different venues:

- “Amerika unter Trump – Demokratie in der Krise?” Talk at the DAZ Stuttgart, Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung, vhs Stuttgart. Stuttgart, October 25, 2018.
- “Das Ende des amerikanischen Traums?” Ungleichheit und soziale Mobilität in den USA, Lecture at the Münchener Volkshochschule/



Amerikahaus München, München, October 30, 2018.

- “Die Krise der Demokratie,” Evangelische Erwachsenenbildung, Westerkappeln, November 8, 2018.
- “Inequality, Responsiveness, and the Viability of Democratic Rule,” Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Political Science section of the DGfA, Passau, November 26, 2018.
- “The Liberal Roots of Populism,” Presentation as part of the Workshop “Contesting Liberalism: The Global Politics of Populism,” Forum for the Study of Global Conditions, Leipzig, January 25, 2019.
- “Besser als sein Ruf. Das Wohlfahrtsregime in den USA,” Lecture at the Bergische Universität Wuppertal, sozialwissenschaftliches Kolloquium, Wuppertal, January 28, 2019.

**Prof. Dr. Lora Viola** has been awarded the prestigious 2018 DRS Award for Excellent Supervision in recognition of exemplary doctoral supervision. The award especially notes her engagement with respect to intellectual development, methodological training, and commitment to open communication. The prize was awarded at the 70th Anniversary of Freie Universität Berlin on December 4, 2018. The DFG-funded TATAS project, focusing on the theoretical and empirical relationship between trust in government, government transparency, and security surveillance policies organized a Workshop Weekend at the John F. Kennedy Institute in mid-November. The event attracted a multi-national array of participants of whom some gave talks at the institute. Viola also co-hosted and co-taught this semester’s Ringvorlesung with Prof. Dr. Markus Kienscherf, titled “Surveillance and Social Order – Visibility, Invisibility, and the Blurring of Boundaries.” Next to speakers from our own institute, a host of internationally renowned guest lecturers gave talks during the course, among them Donald Pease of Dartmouth College, Kirstie Ball of the University of St. Andrews, David Lyon of Queen’s University, Randolph Lewis of the University of Texas at Austin and Julia Scher of the Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln.

**Prof. Dr. Margit Mayer** is continuing her work in the field of urbanism. In addition to publishing articles such

as “Cities as Sites of Refuge and Resistance,” Margit lectured on urban life, urban refugee politics and citizen engagement in Berlin, New York City, Malmö and Gothenburg.

**Priv.-Doz. Dr. Thomas Greven** continues to write about American politics for the online journal “Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft” and its English edition “International Politics and Society”:

- Aufschwung für wen? Warum die republikanische Wirtschaftspolitik alles andere als ein Erfolg ist. Eine Replik auf Michael J. Boskin, in: [Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft](#), August 28.
- Of trolls, tragedies and conspiracies. What Nick Drnaso’s graphic novel Sabrina reveals about the dark mood of the Trump Era, in: [International Politics and Society](#), August 13.
- The dire State of the Union(s). American unions are doing badly. This affects the prospects for Democrats in the US midterm elections, in: [International Politics and Society](#), July 11.

He also wrote about American politics, labor unions, and comics for various print and online media, for instance:

- Linke Perspektiven in den USA – Die Suche nach einem neuen sozialdemokratischen Projekt, in: INDES. Zeitschrift für Politik und Gesellschaft, 2/2018. [Left Perspectives in the United States]
- Ein bisschen Sozialismus mit Kapitalismus, in: Gegenblende. Das [DGB-Debattenportal](#), Oct. 30. [The Democrats Before the Midterm Elections]
- Comics und die globale Wirtschafts- und Finanzkrise, in: Comixene. Fachmagazin Comic + Cartoon, No. 128 (Fall), 6-11. [Comics and the Global Economic and Financial Crisis]
- Konflikt zwischen Basis und Überbau, in: Gegenblende. Das [DGB-Debattenportal](#), Aug. 23

Greven gave talks on the Midterm Elections (Amerikahaus München, October 15, “Blaue Welle für Checks and Balances? Die Demokraten und die Midterm Elections”), on the state of American politics in the Trump era (Ver.di-Bildungszentrum, Gladenbach, October 4, “Amerika gegen den Rest der Welt – sind die USA noch

zu retten?“), and on the possibilities and limits of graphic journalism (Fachhochschule Würzburg, October 8, “Möglichkeiten und Grenzen des Comic-Journalismus”). He also participated in a panel discussion on legislation to establish gender parity on party lists (RBB Presseclub, Potsdam, October 17, “Paritätsgesetz jetzt?”).

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

On December 12, 2018 the members of the department of sociology visited the Vivian Maier [Exhibition](#) at the Willy-Brandt-Haus.



VISIT OF THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT TO THE WILLY-BRANDT-HAUS

The department held its Colloquium's Day on January 25, 2019 where MA candidates and PhD students presented their works in progress.

Over the last couple of months, **Prof. Dr. Markus Kienscherf** continued to work on his research monograph

on the political economy of US policing. In July 2018, he presented two papers at the International Sociological Association (ISA) World Congress in Toronto. His article ‘Race, Class and Persistent Coloniality: US Policing as Pacification’ was published online in [Capital & Class](#) in November 2018. He co-organized a lecture series on ‘Surveillance and Social Order’ with Lora Viola.

During the fall semester **Anne Nassauer** continued data collection and analysis for her project “Bad to the Bone? A study of US rampage school shootings and their origins” with the help of a student assistant. In November she presented preliminary findings of this project at the American Society of Criminology (ASC) Annual Meeting in Atlanta. At the ASC, she also presented a paper on “Novel Ways for Criminological Research: YouTube, LiveLeak and First Hand Observations of Crime” on a methodology panel. In October, her paper on the transnational diffusion of collective action (co-authored by Ion Bogdan Vasi, University of Iowa), was published in *Acta Sociologica*. Her paper “YouTube, Google, Facebook: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Online Video Research and Research Ethics” (co-authored with Nicolas Legewie, German Institute for Economic Research), was published in *Forum: Qualitative Social Research*. In fall 2018, she submitted her final book manuscript “Situational Breakdowns: Understanding Protest Violence and Other Surprising Outcomes.” The book is scheduled for publication with Oxford University Press in 2019. In November and December she finished and submitted three articles: on activists’ documenting dissent, on negotiations of space during protest, and on guidelines for analyzing video data. In January, she will participate as a paper commentator in a lecture series at University Bielefeld on the organization, duration, and dynamics of violence. In February, she participated in the lecture series “Surveillance and Social Order” at the JFKI with a talk on “Surveillance Footage of Crime in the US.”



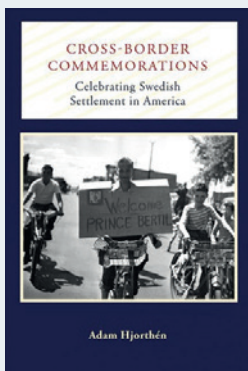
## PUBLICATIONS (BOOKS)



### Markus Bierkoch

*Alldeutsche in den USA. Die New Yorker Ortsgruppe im frühen 20. Jahrhundert* was published in the series *Zivilisationen & Geschichte* edited by Ina Ulrike Paul and Uwe Puschner.

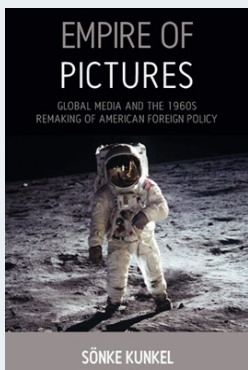
<https://www.peterlang.com/view/serial/ZG>



### Adam Hjorthén

*Cross-Border Commemorations: Celebrating Swedish Settlement in America*, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press

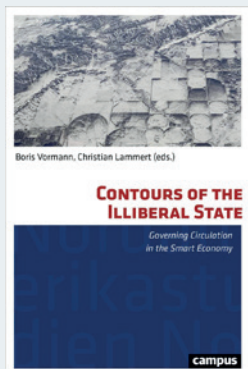
<http://www.umass.edu/umpress/title/cross-border-commemorations>



### Sönke Kunkel

*Empire of Pictures: Global Media and the 1960s Remaking of American Foreign Policy* (New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2018)

<https://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/KunkelEmpire>



### Christian Lammert (with Boris Vormann)

*Contours of the Illiberal State. Governing Circulation in the Smart Economy* (Frankfurt a.M.: Campus, 2019).

[https://www.campus.de/buecher-campus-verlag/wissenschaft/politikwissenschaft/contours\\_of\\_the\\_illiberal\\_state-15342.html](https://www.campus.de/buecher-campus-verlag/wissenschaft/politikwissenschaft/contours_of_the_illiberal_state-15342.html)

## PUBLICATIONS (CHAPTERS / PAPERS)

### Max Steinhardt

“Bitterness in Life and Attitudes towards Immigration”, jointly written with Panu Poutvaara, published in the European Journal of Political Economy, linked here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0176268017304512>.

### Jonathan Fox

“Rural Health in the Progressive Era: Revisiting the Hookworm Intervention in the American South” (joint with Theocharis Grigoriadis) at the Social Science History Association conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

He also revised and resubmitted a book chapter titled “The usage of historical family reconstitution databases in the study of kin effects - What can we learn from evolutionary approaches?” (joint with Kai P. Willführ and Eckart Voland)

“A Positive Relationship Between Fertility and Economic Development Across Sub-National Regions?” (joint with Sebastian Klüsener and Mikko Myrskylä).

### Markus Kienscherf

Kienscherf, Markus. „Race, class and persistent coloniality: US policing as liberal pacification.“ *Capital & Class* (2018): 0309816818815246.

### Gienow Hecht

“Of Dreams and Desire: Diplomacy and Musical Nation Branding Since the Early Modern Period,” in *International Relations, Music and Diplomacy: Sounds and Voices on the International Stage*, ed. Frédéric Ramel and Cécile Provost-Thomas (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), 259-274.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-63163-9>

### Carolin Viktorin, Jessica Gienow-Hecht, Annika Estner and Marcel Will

**Essay:** “Beyond Marketing and Diplomacy: Exploring the Historical Origins of Nation Branding,” which appeared in their collectively edited volume, *Nation Branding in International History* (New York, Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2018),

<https://www.berghahnbooks.com/title/ViktorinNation>



### Alexander Starre

His co-edited volume (with Heike Schäfer) *Medium, Object, Metaphor: The Printed Book in Contemporary American Culture* is now under contract with Palgrave Macmillan and set to appear later in the year



### Simon Strick

“Alt-Right Affekt: Provokationen und Online-Taktiken” in the peer-reviewed journal *Zeitschrift für Medienwissenschaften*

<https://www.zfmedienwissenschaft.de/heft/text/alt-right-affekte>

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