

# Perspectives on American Literature and Culture

Literature/Culture Research Colloquium — Summer Term 2025

John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies  
Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. (c.t.), Room 201

16 April	Marco Caracciolo (Ghent University) "Algorithms, Uncertainty, and the Ambiguities of Play in Richard Powers's <i>Playground</i> "
30 April	Dustin Breitenwischer (University of Hamburg) ""You just take a look at him once in a while": Ralph Ellison's Frederick Douglass"
7 May	Birte Christ (Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen) "Why Helmut Read Hemingway: American Authors and the Post-War (Re-)Construction of a Broad German Reading Public"
14 May	Heike Paul (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg) "From Lost Colony to Lost Cause: American Beginnings Revisited"
21 May	Sianne Ngai (The University of Chicago) "Inhabiting Error: From 'Last Christmas to 'Senior's Last Hour.'"
28 May	Andrew Hartman (Illinois State University) "Karl Marx in America"
4 June	Werner Sollors (Harvard University) "Approaches to American Literature in Cosmopolitan and Ethic Contexts"
11 June	Alexis Salas (Terra Visiting Professor) "Plant Papi Politics: Queer Latinx Artists Regrounding Nature"
18 June	Katja Sarkowsky (University of Augsburg) "Writing Rivers: Water, Relationality, and Political Critique"
25 June	Russ Castronovo (University of Wisconsin-Madison) "Frozen Subjectivity: Vulnerability and Aesthetics at the End of the World"
2 July	Christa Buschendorf (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main) "Artists and Intellectuals in Times of Repression: A Symposium on 'Art and Morals' at Smith College in 1953"
9 July	Julia Faisst (TU Dortmund University) "Disappearing Children: Border Narratives of Underage Migration"
16 July	Katharina Gerund (University of Zürich) "The Waiting Wives of the Forever Wars: Military Spouses in Post-9/11 US Culture"