

AMERICA AFTER NATURE

DEMOCRACY • CULTURE • ENVIRONMENT

61ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE GERMAN ASSOCIATION
FOR AMERICAN STUDIES
WÜRZBURG
JUNE 12-15, 2014



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Amerikastudien

Julius-Maximilians-

**UNIVERSITÄT
WÜRZBURG**





Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien e.V. German Association for American Studies

Prof. Dr. Udo Hebel (Regensburg)
President

Prof. Dr. Carmen Birkle (Marburg)
Vice-President

Prof. Dr. Philipp Gassert (Mannheim)
Executive Director

Conference Organization



American Studies
Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg
http://www.anglistik.uni-wuerzburg.de/international_conference_2014_america_after_nature/

Conference Office

Philosophiegebäude, Bauteil 5, Room 5 E 7
Am Hubland. 97074 Würzburg

Opening Hours:

Friday, June 13, 2014: 8am-5:30pm

Saturday, June 14, 2014: 8am-5:30pm

Contact Details (during opening hours only):

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Organizer

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Conference Logo: Michael Markwick (Berlin)

Photo: Katharina Andres

Design: Eva Hedrich





President's Welcome

"As the greatest lessons of Nature through the universe are perhaps the lessons of variety and freedom, the same present the greatest lessons also in New World politics and progress," Walt Whitman writes at the beginning of *Democratic Vistas*. Whitman's emphasis on diversity, democracy, and individual freedom may provide a cue among many possible others for "America After Nature: Democracy, Culture, Environment," the 61st Annual Conference of the German Association for American Studies. Whitman's contention that nature informs the concepts and ideas at the core of America's political, cultural, and social structure, and contemporary scholars' repeated argumentation that nature's restructuring will not remain without consequences for the political, social, and economic constitution of future cultures may provide conceptual and historical frameworks for the 2014 GAAS conference. The topic of the conference reflects the concern of the interdisciplinary venture of American Studies with political participation and social outreach and the willingness of the American Studies community to engage in topical debates in full recognition of its scholarly integrity and academic responsibility.

The variety of lectures and workshops gathered for the conference program addresses affiliations of (American) nature with democracy and art; a reevaluation of the cultural, intellectual and political histories of US-American environmentalism and their relation to global forms and manifestations of green thought and activism; a revision of problems and concepts such as environmental justice and environmental governmentality within and beyond the conceptual frame of America, the U.S. and the Americas; and questions that engage the politics and poetics as well as the ethics and aesthetics of representation under the condition of the current ecological crisis. In the best tradition of GAAS annual conventions since the 1950s, "America After Nature: Democracy, Culture, Environment" implicates central issues, approaches, theories, and materials that have determined the scholarly field of American Studies over the past decades and that will certainly continue to drive our discipline as transnational American Studies. The 2014 Annual Conference of the German Association for American Studies comes at a point in time when German American Studies enjoys the highest national and international reputation for its path-breaking scholarship, its defining openness to institutional, curricular, and social reform, and its proven role as a turntable in international academic transfer and exchange. At the same time, the ongoing debate in Germany about educational restructurings, uncertainties in research funding, and the processes and directions of internationalizing German universities put a heavy strain on many American Studies scholars and programs. It will be crucial in the years ahead to secure and extend the decidedly interdisciplinary potential and the highly visible international position of German American Studies in the best interest of American Studies research and teaching and for the benefit of all the people pursuing the project of American Studies.

Special gratitude goes to the local organizers and American Studies colleagues at the University of Würzburg, to all contributors to the conference program, and to all sponsors of the 2014 annual convention for their generous support. I am convinced that we will see a most productive and memorable conference which will have a lasting impact on American Studies in Germany and beyond.

Udo Hebel

President of the German Association for American Studies

Greetings from the Local Organizer

Welcome to all of you—colleagues, friends, and distinguished guests—to Unterfranken and to the Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg! This year's Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies (GAAS) marks the third time that we at Würzburg have had the pleasure and the privilege of hosting the yearly national gathering of our professional organization. The topic of the first conference held here, in 1981, was "Politics, Culture, and Society in Andrew Jackson's America," followed fifteen years later, in 1996, with a focus on "The South". Whether it is merely serendipity or an expression of Würzburg's *genius loci* I leave for others to decide, but the lectures and papers to be presented at this year's conference once again will propose and query correspondences between democracy and culture, nationality and regionality, nature and society. The 1981 and 1996 GAAS conventions were organized by Prof. Gerhard Hoffmann, who was appointed the first Chair of American Studies at Würzburg in 1971. His research and teaching concentrated on postmodernism, the American novel, and Native American literature and culture. Between 1972 and 1978 Hoffmann served as Treasurer/Executive Director, and from 1978 to 1981 as President of the GAAS. He is also one of the three editors-in-chief of the renowned American Studies Monograph Series published by Universitätsverlag Winter, Heidelberg. In 2013, the GAAS decided to publicly honor Prof. Hoffmann's engagement in the advancement of American Studies in Germany as well as his academic achievements in our discipline with an honorary membership. And I am so pleased to announce that the certificate of recognition will be presented to him here, at the opening ceremony of this year's conference. After Prof. Hoffmann's retirement in 1998/99, Prof. Jochen Achilles was appointed Chair of American Studies. He continued the Würzburg tradition of concentrating on the history and culture of contemporary US-American (and Anglophone) literatures, but shifted the focus to the study of American drama and theater as well as the short story. This year's conference, "America After Nature: Democracy, Culture, Environment" marks the most recent repositioning of the research agenda of American Studies at Würzburg – one that bends toward an interdisciplinary inquiry into the political, social, epistemological, and aesthetic challenges that confront the American democratic experiment in the "age of ecology" (J. Radkau). Once again, welcome! We hope that you find the conference stimulating and informative and enjoy your time here as well as your stay in the city of Würzburg.

Catrin Gersdorf
Chair of American Studies



Conference Program

Thursday, June 12, 2014		
7:30am-4:00pm 12:30pm	DGfA/GAAS Board Meeting Lunch	Studiensaal Bürgerspital
2:00-4:00pm	PGF Meeting	ÜR 15
3:30-4:45pm	Distribution Conference Folders	Foyer Neubaukirche
5:00pm	<p>Conference Opening</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Udo Hebel (GAAS President), Prof. Dr. Alfred Forchel (JMU President), Prof. Dr. Roland Baumhauer (Dean Philosophische Fakultät I), Marion Schäfer-Blake (Mayor of the City of Würzburg), John B. Emerson (US Ambassador to Germany)</p> <p>Music: Cenk Ergün (Composition), Molly Bashaw (Performance)</p> <p>Award Ceremony</p> <p>Ambassador's Grant Fulbright American Studies Award Christoph Daniel Ebeling Fellowship Best AmSt Article Award</p> <p>GAAS Honorary Membership Prof. Gerhard Hoffmann</p> <p>Music: Cenk Ergün (Composition), Molly Bashaw (Performance)</p> <p>Introduction: Gesa Mackenthun</p> <p>Robert Bullard (Texas Southern University): "Strategies for Building Environmentally Just and Sustainable Communities for All: Why Equity Matters"</p>	Neubaukirche
7:00-10:00pm	Reception	Foyer Neubaukirche/ Innenhof

Friday, June 13, 2014		
8:00am-5:30pm	Conference Office	5 E 7
9:00-10:30am	<p>Introduction: Christine Gerhardt</p> <p>Ursula K. Heise (University of California, Los Angeles): "BioCities: Urban Ecology and the Reinvention of Nature"</p>	HS 0.004
10:30-11:00am	Coffee break	ZHSG Z6
11:00am-12:30pm	<p>Introduction: Miriam Strube</p> <p>John M. Meyer (Humboldt State University): "American Environmentalism and the Resonance Dilemma"</p>	HS 0.004
12:30-2:00pm	Teaching American Studies Lunch Diversity Lunch	La Pineta Mensa
2:00-5:00pm	Parallel Workshops 1-7	ÜR 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21
3:00-3:15pm	Coffee break	Phil.-geb.,
5:15-6:30pm	Women's Caucus	HS 2
7:30pm	Wine Tasting	Hofkeller

Saturday, June 14, 2014		
8:00am-5:30pm	Conference Office	5 E 7
9:00-10:30am	Introduction: Ruth Mayer Julie Sze (University of California, Davis): "Environmental Justice and Environmental Humanities in the Anthropocene"	HS 0.004
10:30-11:00am	Coffee break	ZHSG Z6
11:00am-2:00pm	Members' Meeting	HS 0.004
2:00-3:00pm	PGF Lunch	ÜR 15
3:00-6:00pm	Parallel Workshops 8-14	ÜR 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21 Phil.-geb.
4:00-4:15pm	Coffee break	
6:15-8:00pm	DFG Info	HS 2
6:15-8:00pm	AK Electronic Publishing	ÜR 20

Sunday, June 15, 2014		
9:30-11:00am	Introduction: Christa Grewe-Volpp Sylvia Mayer (University of Bayreuth): "Risk Narratives: Climate Change, the American Novel, and the World Risk Society"	Toscanaaal
11:00-11:30am	Coffee break	Residenz
11:30am-1:00pm	Introduction: Christof Mauch Frank Zelko (University of Vermont): "Holism, Ecology, and the (Non-Ironic) Enchantment of Modernity"	Toscanaaal
2:00pm-4:00pm	Guided Sightseeing Tour	Fountain in front of the Residenz

Rooms at **Philosophiegebäude**: 5 E 7 (Conference Office), HS 2, ÜR 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21

Room at **Zentrales Hörsaal- und Seminarraumgebäude Z6**: HS 0.004

Rooms at **Residenz**: Studiensaal der Graphischen Sammlung im Martin von Wagner-Museum, Toscanaaal

Rooms at **Alte Universität**: Neubaukirche, Foyer Neubaukirche, Innenhof

Meeting place for wine tasting and guided sightseeing tour: Franconia Fountain in front of the Residenz

Transportation: On **Saturday, June 14** we offer a special bus service from downtown to Campus Hubland. Two additional busses will depart from the parking lot on Residenzplatz at 8:30am.





Workshops 1-7 (Friday, June 13, 2014, 2pm-5pm)

Workshop 1. Nature, Technology, and the Body: Posthumanist Interfaces of the Networked Self

Workshop 2. Black Ecologies

Workshop 3. The Right to Urban Farming and a Rooftop Garden? Ecological Urbanism and (the End of) Politics

Workshop 4. Tracing the Roots and Evolution of American Environmental Politics

Workshop 5. Citizens of America? Citizens of the Earth? Environmental Consciousness and the Power of Images

Workshop 6. Disaster Discourses

Workshop 7. A World on the Move: The Environmental Politics of Migration

Workshops 8-14 (Saturday, June 14, 2014, 3pm-6pm)

Workshop 8. Risky Business: American Negotiations of ‚Natural‘ Risks and Opportunities

Workshop 9. Scrap, Spam, Bit Rot: the Politics and Poetics of Digital Detritus

Workshop 10. „Shock and awe, beauty and despair - it’s all there“: Eco-Photography’s Views on the Transnational Landscape

Workshop 11. The American National Narrative and the Global Environmental Challenge

Workshop 12. Teaching American Democracy, Culture, and Environment in the EFL Classroom

Workshop 13. American Romanticism and the Politicization of Nature

Workshop 14. PGF Workshop





Friday, June 13, 2014, 2pm-5pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 16

Workshop 1

Nature, Technology, and the Body: Posthumanist Interfaces of the Networked Self

Our workshop will consist of three thematic clusters which will each be allotted one hour of discussion time: 1) Theoretical Perspectives on Posthumanism; 2) Posthumanist Narratives; 3) Posthumanist Politics. Each of these clusters will include 4-5 participants engaging in a critical discussion based on their paper proposals. Instead of conventional paper presentations, participants will be given up to 7 minutes to present their main arguments in a concise and precise way. Individual presentations will be followed by a roundtable/general discussion of about 30 mins. It is our aim to bring together a whole range of perspectives, identify prevalent theoretical positions, and explore the field of critical posthumanism in/for American Studies. We therefore want to encourage lively debates from a variety of different angles rather than only presenting a few selected perspectives.

1) Theoretical Perspectives on Posthumanism

Hanjo Berressem (Köln)

“We Have Never Been Human“: Posthumanism Before Posthumanism

Laura Bieger (Freiburg)

Posthuman Belonging: Contemplating the Narrative Agency of
Networking Self

Stefan Danter (Mannheim)

Tales of Multiplicity – Varieties of Posthumanism and their Effects on the
Humanist Subject/Self

Shane Denson (Hannover)

Metabolic Images: Post-Cinematic Interfaces with a Postnatural World

Wojciech Malecki (Wrocław)

Nature After America, or Pragmatist Thought and Its Consequences for
Posthumanism

2) Posthumanist Narratives

Alexandra Berlina (Duisburg-Essen)

Posthumanism, Surrealism and the Hybrid Self in Michael Cunningham's
SPECIMEN DAYS

Alexander Dunst (Paderborn)

Philip K. Dick's Posthumous Posthumanism

Michaela Giesenkirchen Sawyer (Utah Valley University)

Gertrude Stein's Posthumanism

Julian Henneberg (Berlin)

Posthuman Powers: A Novelist in Search of the "Third Culture"

Manlio Della Marca (Rom/München)

"From Singular to Connected Paradigms of the Mind and Brain": Globally Networked Intelligence and Posthuman Civil Liberties in Ramez Naam's Nexus

3) Posthumanist Politics

James Dorson (Berlin)

Critical Posthumanism in the Posthuman Economy: The Case of Mr. Squishy

Frederike Offizier (Potsdam)

Securing the Human: Biotechnology and Identity Construction

Simon Schleusener (Berlin)

Posthumanist Politics: Ethics and Ontology in the Philosophy of the New Materialism

Florian Zappe (Berlin)

Lifelogging, Sousveillance and the Position of the (Post)human Subject

Chairs

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Friday, June 13, 2014, 2pm-5pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 12

Workshop 2

Black Ecologies

Benjamin Fagan (University of Arkansas)

Revolutionary Nature: Time and Space in the Caribbean Archipelago

John Barnard (College of Wooster)

Sustainable Farms and Slave Plantations: Morrison and the Black Agrarian Ideal

Sibylle Machat (Flensburg)

Earthseed: Social Justice and Environmental Consciousness in Octavia Butler's PARABLE Novels

Nassim W. Balestrini (Graz)

Hip-Hop Life Writing and African American Urban Ecology

Chair

Juliane Braun

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Friday, June 13, 2014, 2pm-5pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 11

Workshop 3

The Right to Urban Farming and a Rooftop Garden? Ecological Urbanism and (the End of) Politics

Bryan Sentes (Montreal)

A Critical Survey of Urban Ecological and Cultural Practice in Montreal

Boris Vormann (Berlin)

The Spatial Politics of the Triumphant City

Tim Wood (New York)

Hip-Hop Culture and Urban (Social) Ecology

Dennis Büscher-Ulbrich (Kiel)

The Big Green Apple? Green Ideology and Ecological Urbanism in New York City

Chairs

Dennis Büscher-Ulbrich

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Friday, June 13, 2014, 2pm-5pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 10

Workshop 4

Tracing the Roots and Evolution of American Environmental Politics

Michelle Mart (Penn State University)

National Audubon Society and the Transformation of American
Environmental Politics

Anna-Katharina Wöbse (Genf)

The Americanisation of Environmental Diplomacy after World War II

Ella Müller (Freiburg)

Now or Never? Why Anti-Environmentalism Failed to Prevent the U.S.
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

Andreas Grieger (Rachel Carson Center/LMU München)

Global 2000 and the Struggle over American Environmental Diplomacy
in the Early 1980s

Chairs

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Friday, June 13, 2014, 2pm-5pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 15

Workshop 5

Citizens of America? Citizens of the Earth? Environmental Consciousness and the Power of Images

Frank Baron (University of Kansas)

Alexander von Humboldt's Images and Their Impact

Anna Thiemann (Münster)

Biodiversity and American Racialism: The Birds of America and Jim Crow

Frank Mehring (Nijmegen)

Visualizing the "Walden State of Mind": The Urban Matrix in Henry David Thoreau's Environmental Imagination

Karsten Fitz (Passau)

The Ecological Indian in the American Visual Imagination

Heike Schwarz (Augsburg)

"Running the Numbers": The Visualization of the Invisible Human (De-) Nature in Chris Jordan's Photographic Art

Gisela Parak (Museum für Photographie, Braunschweig)

Environmental Photography under the EPA: Documerica's Contradictory Vision

Chairs

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Friday, June 13, 2014, 2pm-5pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 21

Workshop 6

Disaster Discourses

Christina Kannenberg (Konstanz)

"Rich Countries Wear Tattered Underwear": Narratives of the 1998
Montreal Ice Storm

Nadine Klopfer (München)

"Riding it out": New Orleans, Disasters, and a Sense of Place

Susann Köhler (Erlangen-Nürnberg)

After the Flood: Hurricane Katrina and the Politics of Ruin Photography

Mathilde Köstler (Mainz)

Ron Thibodeaux' Hell or High Water: How Cajuns Counter the Rita and
Ike Amnesia

Adam Murphree (New York University)

Practical Theodicy after Hurricane Sandy: Ecological Impotence, Disaster
Evangelism, and Other Christian Responses to Environmental Disaster in
New York City

Chair

Florian Freitag

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Friday, June 13, 2014, 2pm-5pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 13

Workshop 7

A World on the Move: The Environmental Politics of Migration

Gesa Mackenthun (Rostock)

Dead Buffaloes and Pleistocene Overkill: The Myth of the Un-Ecological Indian

Alexandra Ganser (Wien)

From "Wall-flower" to "Queen of the Forest": Nature and Mobility in Caroline Kirkland's *A NEW HOME, WHO'LL FOLLOW?* (1839)

Judith Rauscher (Bamberg)

Dwelling in Diaspora: The Environmental Politics of Displacement in Arthur Sze's *THE GINKGO LIGHT*

René Dietrich (Mainz)

Reversing the Migration: Environmental Politics and Decolonization in *INTO AMERICA: THE ANCESTOR'S LAND*

Johannes Fehrle (Mannheim)

"Zombies Don't Recognize Borders": Framing Ecology through Popular Culture

Chairs

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Saturday, June 14, 2014, 3pm-6pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 13

Workshop 8

Risky Business: American Negotiations of 'Natural' Risks and Opportunities

Tim Lanzendörfer (Mainz)

Commercializing Risk and Facing Disaster: Nathaniel Rich's *ODDS AGAINST TOMORROW*

Hannes Bergthaller (National Chung-Hsing University, Taiwan)

Risk, Life, and the Logic of Immunity in Nathaniel Rich's *ODDS AGAINST TOMORROW*

Michaela Castellanos (Bayreuth)

Balancing on Irony's Edge: Risk Staging in *STAR TREK IV: THE VOYAGE HOME*

Julia Faisst (Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)

Wear Your Shelter: Natural Risks and Speculative Sustainability in Mary Mattingly's *NOMADOGRAPHIES*

Sonja Schillings (FU Berlin)

A Narrow Vision of Humanity: The Risks of Objectivity Claims to Nature and Family in Flannery O'Connor's "A View of the Woods"

Julia Leyda (Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan)

Hyperbolic Risk and Neoliberal Resilience: *SUPERSTORM SANDY* and *SHARKNADO* as Transmedia Events

Chairs

Florian Groß

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Saturday, June 14, 2014, 3pm-6pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 10

Workshop 9

Scrap, Spam, Bit Rot: the Politics and Poetics of Digital Detritus

Bärbel Babette Tischleder (Göttingen)

Celebrating Rusty Toys: Pixar's Economies of Nostalgia in the Age of Digital (Re)Animation

Stefanie Müller (Frankfurt)

Corporate Waste and Democratic Flotsam in Neal Stephenson's SNOW
CRASH

MaryAnn Snyder-Körber (FU Berlin/Göttingen)

Flarf: E-Detritus Composition and the Affordances of the Avant-Garde

Michael Sauter (Augsburg)

Dream Dumps – Cultural Explorations of Decaying Cyberspace

Sebastian Domsch (Greifswald)

Big Data, Big Waste: The Politics of Mining versus Forgetting

Chairs

Andrew S. Gross

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Saturday, June 14, 2014, 3pm-6pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 16

Workshop 10

**“Shock and awe, beauty and despair - it’s all there”:
Eco-Photography’s Views on the Transnational
Landscape**

Astrid Böger (Hamburg)

The Farm Security Administration File as Eco-Photographic Archive

John Toohey (Concordia University Montreal)

The Progressive Landscape: Lawrence Engel and the Nevada Photo Service

Antonia Purk (Erfurt)

From the Text to the Photo Book: Jamaica Kinkaid’s Technique of Ekphrasis

Ingrid Gessner (Regensburg)

“We see the surface, but there is something beyond the surface”:
Recovering Masumi Hayashi’s EPA Superfund Site Photocollages

Dustin Breitenwischer (Freiburg)

Catherine Opie’s American Cities and the Poetics of Being There

Ralph J. Poole (Salzburg)

“and there is grass growing in the parking lots”: Urban Ruins and Guerilla Aesthetics

Chairs

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Saturday, June 14, 2014, 3pm-6pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 21

Workshop 11

The American National Narrative and the Global Environmental Challenge

Yvonne Kaisinger (Salzburg)

Traversing Boundaries: Radiation and Pollution in Contemporary
Hawaiian Literature

Christian Klöckner (Bonn)

“What goes around, it comes back around“: (Eco-)Systemic
Interdependencies in David Foster Wallace’s INFINITE JEST

Hanna Straß (München)

Ecological Indians, Ecocide, and Environmental Preservation:
Environmental Discourses in Linda Hogan’s PEOPLE OF THE WHALE (2008)

Antonia Mehnert (München)

“The World is Beating a Path to Your Door“: Climate Change, Butterflies
and Ethical Glocalism in Barbara Kingsolver’s FLIGHT BEHAVIOR

J. Jessie Ramirez (Frankfurt/M.)

Green Futures: Toward a Postnational Ecology

Alexa Weik von Mossner (Klagenfurt/München)

American Eco(dys)topias and the Transnational Dimensions of Ecological
Citizenship

Chairs

Alexa Weik von Mossner (Universität Klagenfurt/Rachel Carson Center, München)

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Saturday, June 14, 2014, 3pm-6pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 12

Workshop 12

Teaching American Democracy, Culture, and Environment in the EFL Classroom

Fortbildung in bayerischen Schulen/FIBS-Veranstaltungsnummer: E448-0/14/1

14:00-14:30 **Joannis Kaliampos (Lüneburg) / Martina Kohl (U.S. Embassy, Berlin) / Torben Schmidt (Lüneburg)**

Education for Sustainability and Going Green: Intercultural Learning in a German-American Blended-Learning Project

14:30-15:00 **Roman Bartosch (Köln)**

Tricky Natures: Apocalypses and Animal Others in the EFL Classroom

15:00-15:30 **Philipp Siepmann (Bochum)**

Natural Hazards, Human Vulnerability: A Cultural Studies Approach to Teaching Hurricane Katrina in the EFL Classroom

16:00-16:30 **Bianca Göbler (Siebengebirgsgymnasium Bad Honnef / Bonn)**

Consumerism Galore: Teaching Global Issues to a Global Generation with M.T. Anderson's FEED

16:30-17:00 **Laurenz Volkmann (Jena)**

Nature Poetry / Eco-Poetry: "Alternative" Perspectives on Teaching American Studies

Chairs

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Saturday, June 14, 2014, 3pm-6pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 11

Workshop 13

American Romanticism and the Politicization of Nature

Stefanie Schäfer (Jena)

National Landscapes, Romantic Crosscurrents: The Uses of Nature in Revolution Narratives by James Fenimore Cooper and John Neal

Thomas Clark (Tübingen)

Shabby Imitations: Nature and Civil Government in Cooper's *THE PIONEERS* and Emerson's "Politics"

Devin Zuber (Berkeley)

The Anarchy of Nature: Thoreau, Occupy, Aesthetics of Dissent

Philipp Löffler (Heidelberg)

Negative Education: Melville, Self-Hood, and the Politics of Reading Nature

Sascha Pöhlmann (München)

Whitman's Futures: Performing Utopia

Heike Schäfer (Konstanz)

Nature, Media Culture, and the Romantic Quest for the Real

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Saturday, June 14, 2014, 3pm-6pm - Philosophiegebäude ÜR 15

Workshop 14

PGF Workshop

The Postgraduate Forum hosts a panel discussion with all keynote speakers which is primarily intended for post-graduate level scholars. The format allows young scholars and the keynote speakers to engage in vigorous scholarly exchange on the overall conference topic in general and the respective keynotes in particular. In preparation for the workshop — so to speak as ‘food for thought’ — the keynote speakers have provided drafts of their lectures and/or topical publications. We will make this material available in advance via the PGF newsletter and to all other participants interested in our workshop (please e-mail us at pgf@dgfa.de). We are looking forward to lively discussions.

Organizers:

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Keynote Speakers

Robert D. Bullard

Robert D. Bullard is Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University. Prior to coming to TSU he was founding Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University. He has published widely on sustainable development, environmental racism, urban land use, climate justice, and emergency response. His book, *DUMPING IN DIXIE: RACE, CLASS AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY* (Westview Press, 2000), is a standard text in the environmental justice field. His most recent publications include *GROWING SMARTER: ACHIEVING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND REGIONAL EQUITY* (MIT Press, 2007), *THE BLACK METROPOLIS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: RACE, POWER, AND THE POLITICS OF PLACE* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2007) and, with Beverly Wright, *THE WRONG COMPLEXION FOR PROTECTION: HOW THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO DISASTER ENDANGERS AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES* (New York University Press, 2012).

Ursula K. Heise

Ursula K. Heise teaches in the Department of English and at the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA. She is a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow and served as President of ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment) in 2011. Her research and teaching focus on contemporary literature, environmental culture in the Americas, Western Europe and Japan, literature and science, globalization theory, and media theory. Her books include *CHRONOSCHISMS: TIME, NARRATIVE, AND POSTMODERNISM* (Cambridge University Press, 1997), *SENSE OF PLACE AND SENSE OF PLANET: THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMAGINATION OF THE GLOBAL* (Oxford University Press, 2008), and *NACH DER NATUR: DAS ARTENSTERBEN UND DIE MODERNE KULTUR* (After Nature: Species Extinction and Modern Culture, Suhrkamp, 2010).

Sylvia Mayer

Sylvia Mayer is Chair of American Studies and Anglophone Literatures and Cultures at the University of Bayreuth and former President of EASLCE (European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture, and Environment). Her research and teaching focus on the cultural imagination of global risk, ethics, and ecologically oriented approaches to literary and cultural studies. Her publications include *NATURETHIK UND NEUENGLAND-REGIONALLITERATUR: HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, ROSE TERRY COOKE, SARAH ORNE JEWETT, MARY E. WILKINS FREEMAN* (Winter, 2004), *THE NAME OF THE SOUND: DAS MOTIV DES KLANGES IN DEN ROMANEN TONI MORRISONS* (Mattes, 1995) and, with Catrin Gersdorf, *NATURE IN LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES: TRANSATLANTIC CONVERSATIONS ON ECOCRITICISM* (Rodopi, 2006).

John M. Meyer

John M. Meyer teaches in the Department of Politics at Humboldt State University. His research focuses on the ways in which environmental concerns can form the basis for effective social criticism. He is the author of *POLITICAL*





Keynote Speakers

NATURE: ENVIRONMENTALISM AND THE INTERPRETATION OF WESTERN THOUGHT (MIT Press 2001) and co-editor of the OXFORD HANDBOOK OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICAL THEORY (forthcoming) and THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS OF SACRIFICE (MIT Press, 2010). During the 2012-2013 academic year, Meyer worked as a research fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich.

Julie Sze

Julie Sze is an Associate Professor and the Director of American Studies at UC Davis and the founding director of the Environmental Justice Project for UC Davis's John Muir Institute for the Environment. Her research investigates environmental justice and environmental inequality, culture and environment, race, gender and power, and urban/community health and activism. Winner of the 2008 John Hope Franklin Publication Prize for the best published book in American Studies, Sze's book NOXIOUS NEW YORK: THE RACIAL POLITICS OF URBAN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (MIT Press 2007) analyzes the culture, politics, and history of environmental justice activism in New York City within the larger context of privatization, deregulation, and globalization.

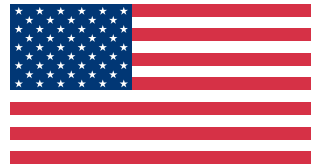
Frank Zelko

Frank Zelko teaches in the Department of History at the University of Vermont. His research focuses on the history of environmental movements and his monograph MAKE IT A GREEN PEACE! THE RISE OF COUNTERCULTURAL ENVIRONMENTALISM (Oxford University Press, 2013) is the first serious book-length history of Greenpeace. Zelko has published work on environmental activism in the US, Canada, Germany and Australia, and is currently editing a volume on the environmental history of the world's oceans. During the 2003-2004 academic year, Zelko was Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Environmental History at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C.

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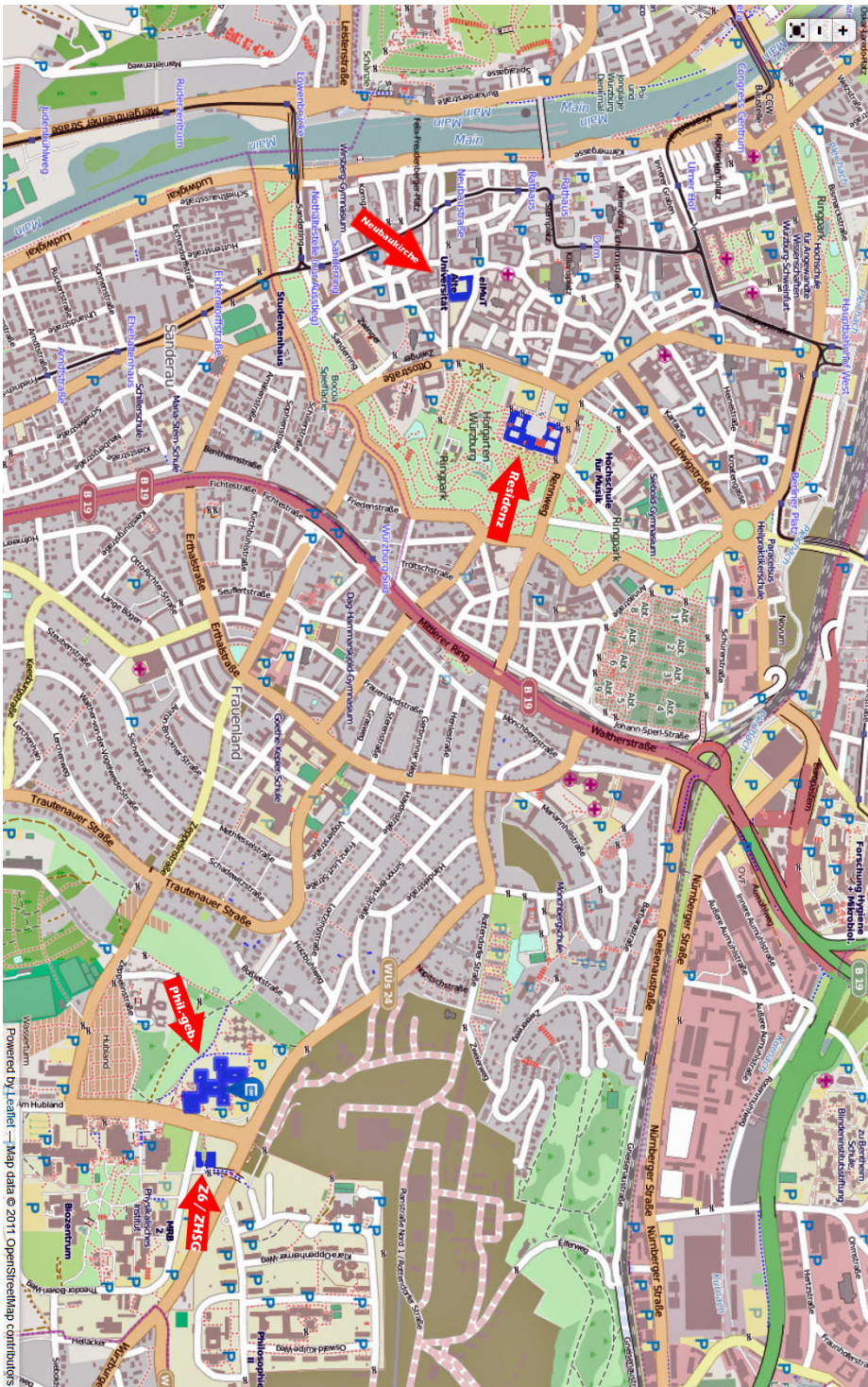


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