

# Amerika-Haus-**B**ibliothek Schülervortrag

November 27, 2012, 5:30 p.m.

## Immigration and the United States: Of Melting Pots and Border Fences

Speaker: Dr. Markus Hünemörder, Amerika-Institut, LMU München

The United States of America is a nation of immigrants (and yes, even Native Americans immigrated at one time). This lecture will examine immigration as a historical, social, cultural, and political phenomenon. We will look at major immigration waves in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as today. Who came and why? How did American society react to the influx of newcomers then and now? Many metaphors have been offered for the process of integrating immigrants: the "melting pot", the "salad bowl", the "stew" and even the "pizza"; are any of these images useful? While the United States has accepted untold millions of immigrants from all over the world, immigration has also been the source of sharp political and social conflict. Examples include the 19th century nativist movement and today's debate about keeping out illegal immigrants by building a fence along the border with Mexico. The lecture will analyze these conflicts and put them in perspective. Finally, immigration has also been the topic of political satire and popular culture, which will help us cast a more humorous light on this serious topic.

**Fee: 1 Euro**

**Registration for students of the "Gymnasiale Oberstufe" and teachers:**

Christine Waleczek

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