

The Bavarian American Academy promotes and coordinates the interdisciplinary cooperation of scholars in the social and cultural sciences in the widest sense, specializing in aspects of North American culture, society, politics, and economics in their hemispheric and global contexts.

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DFG Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft
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U.S. Consulate General Munich



Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations

**Conference venue:
Amerikahaus, Barer Straße 19a, Munich**



18th International Academy Conference The State of Human Rights: Historical Genealogies, Political Controversies, and Cultural Imaginaries

The BAA's 2018 international conference investigates the role of human rights, both in diachronic and synchronic perspectives and with an interdisciplinary research design.

Since their proclamation in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights have become a dominant language in controversies over ethics around the globe and a normative basis for concepts of a just society and ideas of the public good. This concerns a variety of issues, from slavery and warfare through fights over indigenous rights and disputes over preserving the heritage of minorities, to same sex marriage debates or current conflicts over asylum law and the status of refugees.

What is the state of human rights both within and beyond the boundaries of the nation state and how can it be considered from a multidisciplinary angle?

This conference offers perspectives from literary and cultural studies, history, political science, philosophy, sociology, and law, looking at historical controversies on human rights as well as at its current political and imagined state(s).

Contributions reflect theoretical implications of interdisciplinary work on human rights agency and also take into account the significance of cultural texts in envisioning and critically reflecting the 'state of human rights.'

**no conference fee
registration requested**

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18th Academy Conference



The State of Human Rights

Historical Genealogies,
Political Controversies,
and Cultural Imaginaries

**July 5-7, 2018
International Conference
Amerikahaus Munich**



**bavarian
american academy**

Thursday, 5 July 2018

13.30 **Registration**

14.00 **Young Scholars Panel: Human Rights**

Chair: **Kerstin Schmidt** (University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt)

Florian Tatschner (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

"We Seek Our Basic, God-Given Rights as Human Beings": Hoping for Human Rights in the Work of César Chávez

Sunčica Klaas (University of Potsdam)
Writing Wrongs – Righting Wrongs: Human Rights and Testimony in the Contemporary American Autobiography

Katharina Matuschek (University of Regensburg)
"These People are Animals": Dehumanization and the Effort to Regain Humanity in Prison Autobiographies

15.30 **Coffee Break**

16.00 **Lars Vadjina** (University of Tuebingen)
Human Rights and Jimmy Carter: On a Mission to Change the World

Robin Oliver Leick (University of Munich, LMU)
The Bumpy Development of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as a Prime Example of the Genesis of Human Rights Codifications

17.30 **Coffee Break**

18.00 **Welcome and Conference Opening**

Heike Paul (Bavarian American Academy)
Stephen Ibelli (U.S. Consulate General Munich)

Award Ceremony

BAA Dissertation Award

19.00 **Keynote Address**

Saskia Sassen (Columbia University)
Toward a New Language of Human Rights

Reception

Friday, 6 July 2018

09.00 **Panel I: Inventing Human Rights in the Pre-Modern Era**

Chair: **Prof. Dr. Volker Depkat** (University of Regensburg)

Kerstin von Lingen (University of Heidelberg/
University of Vienna)
The Legacy of the Marten's Clause: Debating Crimes Against Civilians, 1899-1945

Micheline Ishay (University of Denver)
Human Rights in the Age of Populism

10.30 **Coffee Break**

11.00 **Panel II: Democracy and the Quest for Human Rights in Troubled Times**

Chair: **Jürgen Gebhardt** (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

Benjamin Gregg (University of Texas at Austin)
The Human Rights State Within and Beyond Sovereign Nations

Regina Kreide (University of Gießen)
Human Rights as Placeholders: Between Legitimacy and Criticism

12.30 **Lunch Break**

14.00 **Panel III: Rights on Paper: Intersections between Literature and Human Rights**

Chair: **Kerstin Schmidt** (University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt)

Greta Olson (University of Gießen)
From Law and Literature to Literature and Human Rights

Crystal Parikh (New York University)
"I Haven't Come Back... I've Come Here": American Innocence and the Refugee Child

Martin Puchner (Harvard University)
Cultural Rights and World Literature

16.00 **Coffee Break**

Friday, 6 July 2018

16.30 **Panel IV: The Cultural Imaginary of Human Rights after World War II in a Transatlantic Perspective**

Chair: **Heike Paul** (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

Jane Lydon (University of Western Australia)
Visualizing Human Rights and Constructions of Indigeneity

Gerd Hurm (University of Trier)
"The Family of Man" (1848/1955): Feminist Foremothers, Women's Rights, and Human Rights

18.30 **BAA Members Meeting (members only)**

Saturday, 7 July 2018

10.00 **Panel V: Civil Rights and Law**

Chair: **Erik E. Lehmann** (University of Augsburg)

Peter T. Wendel (Pepperdine School of Law)
Civil Rights and Law in the U.S.: Historical Roots and Recent Developments

Thomas M.J. Möllers (University of Augsburg)
A Comparative and Critical View of Civil Rights and Law in the U.S. and Germany

12.00 **Concluding Keynote**

Chair: **Heike Paul** (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

Heiner Bielefeldt (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)
Human Rights: Practice and Philosophy

13.00 **End of Conference**