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.

The organizers wish to thank the following institutions for their support:



DFG Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft German Research Foundation

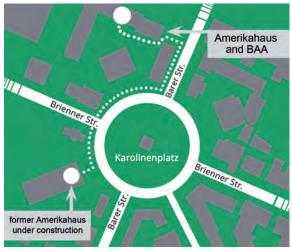


U.S. Consulate General Munich



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

Bavarian American Academy Amerikahaus, Barer Str. 19a 80333 Munich, Germany Fon 089-55 25 37-41 Fax 089-55 25 37-37 info@amerika-akademie.de www.amerika-akademie.de



The State of **Human Rights**

Historical Genealogies, Political Controversies, and Cultural Imaginaries

Academy Conference

8th

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

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 Testimoniality 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