



**re
presentations
and uses
of the
american
revolution
in past
and present**

**21st international conference
july 7 – 9 2022**

bios & abstracts



**bayerische
amerika-akademie**

2022

thursday july 7

3.00 PM **Introduction**

Volker Depkat (University of Regensburg),
Karsten Fitz (University of Passau)
Susanne Lachenicht (University of Bayreuth)

3.30 PM **Visual Memories of the American Revolution**

Chair: **Karsten Fitz** (University of Passau)

Thomas Giese (Düsseldorf)

Reframing Leutze: "Washington Crossing the Delaware" in a New Context

Erika Piola (Library Company of Philadelphia), **virtual**

Watching the "Watchman's Cry": Anatomy of an Antebellum Engraving of the End of the American Revolution

Lauren B. Hewes (American Antiquarian Society), **virtual**

The 19th-Century Reuse and Revival of Paul Revere's "The Boston Massacre"

Mark Thistlethwaite (TCU School of Art)

The American Revolution's Evolving Visual Imagery in the 21st Century, So Far

5.30 PM **Coffee Break**

6.30 PM **Welcome and Award Ceremony**

Welcome by John Stubbs, Consul for Public Affairs (U.S. Consulate Munich)

BAA Dissertation and Honorary Member Award

7.00 PM **Keynote Address**

Chair: **Heike Paul** (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Alan Taylor (University of Virginia)

The American Revolution and the Contemporary Culture War

friday july 8

9.00 AM **The American Revolution in Historiographical Traditions**

Chair: **Andrew O'Shaughnessy** (Monticello)

Bertrand van Ruymbeke (University of Paris 8)

"La plus grande et la plus importante des révolutions": French Contemporaneous Writings on the American Revolution (1780s-1790s)

Csaba Lévai (University of Debrecen)

Interpretations of the American Revolution in Communist Hungary

Ghislain Potriquet (University of Strasbourg), **virtual**

The Coming of Age of American History in France, 1870-1900

10.30 PM **Coffee Break**

11.00 AM Young Scholars' Forum

Chair: **Volker Depkat** (University of Regensburg)

Markus Diepold (University of Regensburg)

"No Knife Near Our Dish": The Material Culture of Food, Hospitality, and Commensality in 18th Century Haudenosaunee-European Diplomacy

Lisa Seuberth (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Whiteness as Usual? American Africanism in the 21st-Century Novel

Thomas Stelzl (University of Passau)

Discussing War and Peace: Representations and Uses of the Past in German-American Foreign Policy

12.30 PM Lunch Break

2.00 PM Revolutions, Independence and Political Exiles

Chair: **Ursula Prutsch** (LMU Munich)

Susanne Lachenicht (University of Bayreuth), **cancelled**

German Exiles in Revolutionary France: Changing Perspectives on the American Revolution

Alessandro Bonvini (SSM, Naples)

Echoes of the American Revolution in the Risorgimento: Views from the Republican Diaspora in the United States (1835-1860)

Charlotte Lerg (LMU Munich)

19th-Century German Exile Historiography in America: Writing 1848 into an Atlantic Revolutionary Tradition

4.00 PM Coffee Break

4.30 PM Keynote Address

Chair: **Susanne Lachenicht** (University of Bayreuth)

Sarah M.S. Pearsall (Johns Hopkins University)

Representing Revolution

5.45 PM Coffee Break

6.00 PM BAA Members' Meeting

saturday july 9

9.00 AM Loyalists and Conservatives

Chair: **Volker Depkat** (University of Regensburg)

Jannik Keindorf (University of Duisburg-Essen), **virtual**

Counter-Revolutionary Solidarity? Loyalist Refugee Communities in Jamaica in the Aftermath of the American Revolution

Alexander Kruska (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

"As Gently as the Ripe Apple Falls from the Tree": The Foundation of the American Republic in 19th-Century German Conservative Thought

Annabelle Meier (Georg-August-University Göttingen)

An Aspirational "Quiet" Revolution: The Perception of American Independence in German Constitutionalism

11.00 PM Coffee Break

11.30 PM Staging, Singing, and Dancing the American Revolution

Chair: **Kerstin Schmidt** (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)

Nassim Balestrini (Karl-Franzens-University Graz), **virtual**

Staging the American Revolution: Dramatic Genres and/as Political Discourse

Vanessa Vollmann (University of Passau)

Reimagining Milestones: Myths of the American Revolution in the Musical "Hamilton"

1.00 PM Coffee Break

1.30 PM Presentation of AMERICA 2026

Bertrand van Ruymbeke (University of Paris 8)

2.00 PM Wrap up

thursday july 7, 3.30 PM

Visual Memories of the American Revolution

Chair: Karsten Fitz is professor of American Studies/Cultural and Media Studies at the University of Passau and a member of the Bavarian American Academy.

Thomas Giese (Düsseldorf)

Reframing Leutze: "Washington Crossing the Delaware" in a New Context

Thomas Giese lives in Düsseldorf and is a member of Forum Vormärz Forschung e.V. During and after his studies of art and art history at the Düsseldorf Academy (1977–1983), Giese was engaged in a group called Wandmalgruppe Düsseldorf, which initiated and realized mural projects in neighborhoods with children, youth, and grassroots initiatives. From 1984 on, this included projects abroad such as in Turin, Italy. 1985–1987 he participated in exhibitions, like the DGB exhibition on Berlin's 750th anniversary. 1996–2004 he was involved in neighborhood work in Duisburg-Marxloh. Press contributions have been augmented from 2015 on by academic papers in the *Forum Vormärzforschung Yearbook* and the *Heine-Jahrbuch*.

Abstract

In 1844, the year of Polk's election, and through "Polk's War" of expansion against Mexico 1846–1848, the German-American painter Emanuel Leutze, born in Schwäbisch Gmünd and raised in Philadelphia, was living in Düsseldorf. In "Französische Maler" (*French Painters*), the Düsseldorf-born poet Heinrich Heine mentions "Bonaparte, der ein Washington von Europa werden konnte, und nur dessen Napoleon ward". By analogy, we could say the eleventh US president, James K. Polk, who should have been a "Washington", became only an imperialistic "Napoleon". Giese discusses how Leutze's painting on the one hand references prior pictures of the Revolution, and on the other, the pictures which were created at Düsseldorf in Europe at that time, especially those of Carl Friedrich Lessing, a great-nephew of the famous proponent of the Enlightenment. Different times have looked to Leutze's painting to mobilize the public for the ideals of the Revolution. To this day, the work provokes discussion, not to mention caricatures and satirical photomontages as a statement on the politics of contemporary US presidents.

Erika Piola (Library Company of Philadelphia)

Watching the "Watchman's Cry": Anatomy of an Antebellum Engraving of the End of the American Revolution

Erika Piola is curator of Graphic Arts and director of the Visual Culture Program at the Library Company of Philadelphia. Her research interests include the antebellum Philadelphia print market, 19th-century ephemera, and American visual culture and its intersections with African American and women's history. She is editor and contributor to *Philadelphia on Stone: Commercial Lithography in Philadelphia, 1828–1878* (2012). Recent work has included the exhibition *Imperfect History: Curating the Graphic Arts Collection at Benjamin Franklin's Public Library* (2021–2022) and an essay in *Circulation and Control: Artistic Culture and Intellectual Property in the Nineteenth Century* (2021). She is currently working on a chapter about Philadelphia printseller Sarah Hart for *Female Printmakers, Publishers and Printsellers in the Eighteenth Century: The Imprint of Women in Graphic Media, 1735–1830*.

Abstract

In 1856, international printsellers Goupil & Co. published *Cornwallis is Taken! The Watchman's Cry - Philadelphia 1781*, a parlor print depicting the moonlit announcement of the surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown at the Philadelphia residence of Thomas McKean, president of the Continental Congress. Designed, engraved, and printed by British-born transplants Eugenio H. Latilla, Thomas Doney, and William Pate, the print depicts an imaginary of a swath of the society in the city that was at the heart of the start and end of the Revolution. Among the men, women, and children rendered are an African American caregiver, a man with an amputation, and an Indigenous woman. A narrative seemingly born in a 1850s popular history text, the visual conception of the historical moment was issued as more households hung framed prints on their walls. An historical image depicting 19th-century conceptualized tropes of race, gender, and disability, its reading in the 21st century provides a kaleidoscope of visual interpretation about those who created, distributed, consumed, and embodied this visual memory of the American Revolution. This paper will examine the sociopolitical cultures that informed the creation of the print – its anatomy – and those affecting the kaleidoscope of its visual interpretation, now and then.

Lauren B. Hewes (American Antiquarian Society)

The 19th-Century Reuse and Revival of Paul Revere's "The Boston Massacre"

Lauren Hewes is a vice president and the Andrew W. Mellon curator of Graphic Arts at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she oversees the acquisition, cataloging, conservation, curatorial, and readers' services departments and builds and cares for the Society's extensive collections of prints, photographs, and ephemera. Her research focuses on 19th-century American portraiture, printmaking, and photography. Her publications include "J.H. Bufford's Parlor Gems" in *Imprint Magazine* (2021), *Beyond Midnight: Paul Revere* (2019), *Radiant with Color & Art: McLoughlin Brothers and the Business of Picture Books, 1858-1920* (2017), "The Circulation of French lithographs in the United States" in *With a French Accent: American Lithography to 1860* (2012), *In Pursuit of a Vision: Two Centuries of Collecting at the American Antiquarian Society* (2012), "The Cosmopolitan Art Association Engravings, 1856-1861," *Imprint Magazine* (2006), and *Portraits in the Collection of the American Antiquarian Society* (2004). She previously held positions at the Print Council of America, the US National Park Service, and Shelburne Museum and was, from 2016 to 2018, president of the American Historical Print Collector Society.

Abstract

Paul Revere's politically-charged engraving *The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King-Street*, was printed in Boston, Massachusetts, in March 1770. That year several derivative versions were made – a broadside using the same plate, a faithful copy engraved by a local clockmaker, a fold-out plate in a pro-colonist London publication, and an illustration inside *The Freeholders Magazine*. But what happened after 1770? At the start of the 19th century, Revere's work as an engraver (and his most famous print) seems to have been entirely forgotten. This paper will examine the reemergence of Revere's *Massacre* design in the 1830s when the image was used to educate a new generation of Americans about the events of the Revolution. In the 1850s, the *Massacre* was repurposed again by supporters of abolition. Here the design was

modified to emphasize the death of Crispus Attucks in order to remind viewers that people of color had served their country and deserved to be full citizens.

Mark Thistlethwaite (TCU School of Art)

The American Revolution's Evolving Visual Imagery in the 21st Century, So Far

Mark Thistlethwaite is professor emeritus of the School of Art, Texas Christian University, where he was the inaugural holder of the Kay and Velma Kimbell Chair of Art History. A recipient of TCU Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching, his courses focused on the art and visual culture of the United States (colonial to contemporary) as well as on public art and the history of graphic design. His publications include *Painting in the Grand Manner: The Art of Peter F. Rothermel (1812-1895)* (1995), *Grand Illusions: History Painting in America* (1988) with W. Gerdtz (eds.), and *The Image of George Washington: Studies in Mid-Nineteenth-Century American History Painting* (1979). Currently, he is co-curating the exhibition *Night and Day: Frederic Remington's Final Decade*, to open at the Sid Richardson Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, in late 2022.

Abstract

On February 13, 2022, during the Super Bowl, the productivity platform ClickUp aired an ad portraying the signing of the Declaration of Independence as a near calamity before Thomas Jefferson utilized the company's app to save the day. ClickUp's commercial centered on the idea: "What if moments in history could be made easier using its product?" The ad also begged the central questions of this presentation, how and why does contemporary visual culture accommodate and appropriate American Revolution subjects in an age dubbed post-heroic, post-historical, and post-truth? Surprisingly, perhaps, 21st-century visual culture – encompassing fine art, as well as editorial cartoons, advertising, and online memes – has produced more expansive and idiosyncratic images of the American Revolution than ever before. Renderings filtered through the variegated lens of contemporary complexities, contradictions, and desires challenge and often subvert earlier depictions, while at the same time implicitly acknowledging and perpetuating their significance in visualizing a sense of national identity.

thursday july 7 2022, 7.00 PM

Keynote Address

Chair: Heike Paul is professor and chair of American Studies at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg and director of the Bavarian American Academy.

Alan Taylor (University of Virginia)

The American Revolution and the Contemporary Culture War

Alan Taylor is the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Professor of History at the University of Virginia. He taught at Queens College of Oxford University, the University of California at Davis, and at Boston University. For a dozen years, Taylor served as the faculty advisor for the California State Social Science and History Project, which provides curriculum support and professional development for K-12 teachers in history and social studies. Taylor has published several books, among them *American Republics: A Continental History of the United States, 1783-1850* (2021), which won the New-York Historical Society's annual Barbara and David Zalaznick Book Prize in

American History, *Thomas Jefferson's Education* (2019), *American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804* (2016), *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia* (2013), and *The Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, & Indian Allies* (2010). In 2016, he became member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in 2020, received membership in the American Philosophical Society.

Abstract

The presentation will discuss the politics in the United States (within and beyond the academy) around interpreting the American Revolution, with a special focus on the controversial impact of the 1619 Project in bringing slavery to the forefront. The controversy revives some deeper historiographical issues around the nature of progressive and consensus interpretation of the revolution as foundational for pervasive divisions within the United States.

friday, july 8 2021, 9.00 AM

The American Revolution in Historiographical Traditions

Chair: Andrew O'Shaughnessy (Monticello) is vice president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello in Virginia, the Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, and professor of History at the University of Virginia.

Bertrand Van Ruymbeke (University of Paris 8)

"La plus grande et la plus importante des révolutions": French Contemporaneous Writings on the American Revolution (1780s-1790s)

Bertrand Van Ruymbeke is professor of American Civilization and History at the University of Paris 8. He works on early America, the American Revolution, and 18th-century Franco-American relations. Former member of the Omohundro Institute Council (2017-2021), he is an honorary member (senior) of the Institut Universitaire de France (class of 2015-20). He is the author of *L'Indépendance des États-Unis: Heritage et Interpretations* (2021), *Histoire des États-Unis: De 1492 à nos jours*, 2 vols. (2021), *The Atlantic World of Anthony Benezet (1713-1784)* (2016), *A Companion to the Huguenots* (2016), *L'Amérique avant les États-Unis: Une histoire de l'Amérique anglaise, 1497-1776* (2013, paperback revised edition 2016), *Les huguenots et l'Atlantique*, 2 vols. (2009-2012), coeditor of *Constructing Early Modern Empires* (2007), and *From New Babylon to Eden: The Huguenots and Their Migration to Colonial South Carolina* (2006). He is currently writing a French history of the American Revolution and is the coordinator of the European and Transatlantic consortium America 2026.

Abstract

The American Revolution raised tremendous literary interest in France from the late 1760s to the 1790s. At first, translations of major American essays were published. Then French authors started to reflect on the American Revolution and its possible impact on ancien régime France. At the same time, Académies and learned societies organized essay contests on the New World and on the American Revolution. State constitutions were also translated in French and commented by the philosophes. Finally, histories of the American Revolution were published soon after its completion with the 1783 treaty of Paris. France, of course, signed a treaty of alliance with the United States in 1778 and sent troops to fight for its independence. While the Revolutionary War involved France's military, diplomatic as well as financial and economic resources on a large scale, the

educated public was very much concerned about the Anglo-American crisis and French's involvement, pondering the global – meaning European – lasting political and institutional impact this faraway revolution would have. This paper seeks to offer a panorama of French publications and perceptions of the American Revolution in the last third of the 18th century.

Csaba Lévai (University of Debrecen)

Interpretations of the American Revolution in Communist Hungary

Csaba Lévai (1964) is an associate professor of History at the University of Debrecen. He was educated at the University of Debrecen and the Loránd Eötvös University of Budapest. Lévai teaches 18th- and 19th-century history. His research interests are the history of the British colonies in North America, the history of the American Revolution, and the history of slavery in British North America and the United States of America. His publications include *"The Execrable Commerce": Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Emergence of the Slave Systems in British North America* (2020, in Hungarian), (as ed.) *American History and Historiography* (2013, a collection of his essays, in Hungarian), *The Republicanism Debate. A Historiographical Discussion of the Intellectual Background of the American Revolution* (2003, in Hungarian), and *New Order in a New World*, a collection of writings by the American Founding Fathers (1997, in Hungarian). His works have been published in seven countries (Hungary, Great Britain, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, and Germany) in Hungarian and in English. He was a two-times Fulbright scholar at the University of Virginia, and he was also a research fellow at the *International Center for Jefferson Studies* in Charlottesville, Virginia, and at the *Fred W. Smith Library for the Study of George Washington* in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

Abstract

Hungary was part of the Soviet bloc between 1948 and 1990. Consequently, the American Revolution officially was interpreted within the Marxist-Leninist ideological framework of the ruling party. But this period was not homogeneous either, and the interpretation of the American Revolution was somewhat different during the Stalinist dictatorship of the first half of the 1950s, and during the slightly milder regime of János Kádár (1956-1989). The official interpretation of the American Revolution was determined by several factors. The changing relationship of the Soviet Union and the United States, and as a result, the changing relations of Hungary and the United States had a great impact on it. But it was also changing as a result of the special intentions of the Kádár regime towards the United States. In the first half of the 1950s, the dogmatic Marxist-Leninist interpretation was obligatory. But during the second half of the 1960s and the 1970s, a milder version of the original thesis was in use. This was the period of the consolidation of the Kádár regime after the putting down of the anti-Soviet uprising in 1956, and the period of détente in world politics. Hungarian leaders wanted better relations with the United States, mainly for economic and financial reasons. A few Hungarian historians were allowed to visit the United States with the help of different scholarships, and greater emphasis was put on the argument that after all, the American Revolution was a progressive event from the point of view of the progress of mankind towards communism. This approach characterized the scholarly books and articles which celebrated the bicentenary of American independence in 1976. As the part of this milder approach, the publication of the works of non-Marxist classics of

American historiography (Charles A. Beard, Henry Adams) in the 1980s could be also interpreted as a sign of the relative ideological laxity of the late Kádár regime.

Ghislain Potriquet (University of Strasbourg)

The Coming of Age of American History in France, 1870-1900

Ghislain Potriquet has been associate professor of American Studies at the University of Strasbourg since 2010. He earned his doctorate in American studies from the University Paris III – Sorbonne Nouvelle. After publishing on language minorities in the United States, he developed an interest for comparative historiography. He contributed to *Remembering Early Modern Revolutions* (2018), with a chapter entitled "How the American Revolution Earned its *Indépendance*." Second to his interest for French historians of the United States are German historians. He is currently working on a book about French historians of the United States, from 1848 to the present.

Abstract

The proclamation of the Third Republic ushered in an era of reform. In French academia, efforts were undertaken to bring *universités* on par with their foreign counterparts. As an academic discipline, history took a "methodical turn" over that very period. This paper will examine the works of French historians of the United States to assess the extent of such progress towards methodical, academic history. Works by Émile Boutmy, Adolphe de Chambrun, and Henri Doniol will be discussed. Each author studied the American Revolution and the adoption of the 1787 Constitution, commemorating in distinct ways the centennial anniversary of these foundational events.

friday, july 9 2021, 11.00 AM

Young Scholars' Forum

Chair: Volker Depkat is professor of American Studies at the University of Regensburg and a board member of the Bavarian American Academy.

Markus J. Diepold (University of Regensburg)

"No Knife Near Our Dish": The Material Culture of Food, Hospitality, and Commensality in 18th Century Haudenosaunee-European Diplomacy

Markus J. Diepold is a PhD student and research assistant in American Studies at the University of Regensburg, currently working on his thesis as part of the DFG-Project "Entangled Objects? The Material Culture of Diplomacy in Transcultural Processes of Negotiation in the 18th Century." His research focus is on early Modern History, Material Culture Studies, Diplomatic Theory, Food Culture, Native American History and Culture, and Critical Indigenous Theory.

Abstract

This paper aims to investigate what role various forms of food practices – such as the hosting of feasts and provisioning of delegations, as well as larger food-related questions concerning land use and trade of agricultural tools or liquor – played in 18th-century diplomatic interactions between European and Haudenosaunee actors in the American Northeastern woodlands and how the presence or absence of these practices impacted their commercial, military, and political relations.

Lisa Seuberth (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

Whiteness as Usual? American Africanism in the 21st-Century Novel

Lisa Seuberth is a PhD candidate and research associate in American Studies at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg. She passed her First State Examination in December 2020 in English and French and is currently working on her project on “White Supremacist and Anti-Black Discourses in Contemporary US American Literature”. Her research interests mainly concern Postcolonial Studies, African American Studies, and Critical Race Theory with a special focus on Critical Whiteness Studies. In her research, she focuses on the role popular and prestigious literatures play in the constant (re-) construction of racialized US-American identities.

Abstract

This paper focuses on the reverberations of the White supremacist discourse Morrison called "American Africanism" in contemporary US-American literary writings. It is guided by the conviction that a rise in the critical awareness of Whiteness can be diagnosed in the United States between the 19th and the 21st century, reflected and encouraged by its national literatures. In contrast to many canonical works of the 19th and 20th centuries that promoted, or stayed ambiguous towards, American Africanism, contemporary prestigious literatures increasingly engage in a cultural shift within the US American public sphere by teaching racial literacy and transcultural recognition. Framing Morrison's concept with recent publications in Critical Whiteness Studies and Critical Race Theory, this presentation proposes that a combination of close and distant readings for American Africanism can be used to disclose not only latent white supremacist ideas but also literary strategies for their deconstruction.

Thomas Stelzl (University of Passau)

Discussing War and Peace: Representations and Uses of the Past in German-American Foreign Policy

Thomas Stelzl is a doctoral candidate and research assistant in American Studies and History Education at the University of Passau. His research focus is on American culture and politics, international relations, and conspiracy theories. More specifically, his PhD thesis addresses the issue of “Cultural Bias in Post-9/11 German and American Foreign Policy”. The most recent classes he taught in Passau focused on American ideologies and on conspiracy theories in the United States as well as in Germany. In 2017, Thomas Stelzl was awarded the Bavarian American Academy's Post-Graduate Research Fellowship at Duke University and, in 2021, the University of Passau's Good Teaching Award.

Abstract

In the light of the current events in Ukraine, the so-called "West" seems united as rarely before. However, when Germany's new foreign minister Annalena Baerbock spoke at the Emergency Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Ukraine on March 1st, 2022, she admitted: "I have heard some of my colleagues say, when I was speaking on the phone around the world in the last days: 'You are calling on us to show solidarity for Europe. But where have you been for us in the past?' And frankly speaking, I am telling you: I hear you. We hear you. And I truly believe we should always be willing to critically question our own actions, our past engagements in the world. I am willing to do so." Indeed, Germany's self-proclaimed "deep[...] aware[ness] of its historic responsibility" (to quote Baerbock's UN speech once more) has repeatedly served as a justification to be critical of allies, particularly the United States, where American

exceptionalism provides a quite different cultural backdrop. Looking at a small selection of case studies concerning military conflicts of the last 20 years, this paper will show how specific interpretations of the past and the cultural peculiarities they cause have been used to explain different foreign policy decisions in the United States and in Germany.

friday july 8 2022, 2.00 PM

Revolutions, Independence and Political Exiles

Chair: Ursula Prutsch is professor of American Studies at LMU Munich and a member of the Bavarian American Academy.

Susanne Lachenicht (University of Bayreuth)

German Exiles in Revolutionary France: Changing Perspectives on the American Revolution

Susanne Lachenicht is professor of Early Modern European and Atlantic History at the University of Bayreuth. She has been a visiting professor/fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, at the EHESS, Paris, and at the universities Toulouse Jean Jaurès and Angers. Together with Lauric Henneton (UVSQ), she founded the Summer Academy of Atlantic History (SAAH). From 2012 to 2014, she was president of the European Early American Studies Association (EEASA). She is one of the co-editors of OUP's bibliography "Atlantic History" and a member of the *Journal of Early American History's* (Brill) advisory board. Her publications include *The TransAtlantic Reconsidered* (2018/2020) with Charlotte Lerg and Michael Kimmage (eds.), *Connecting Worlds and People. Early Modern Diasporas* (2016) with Dagmar Freist (eds.), *Die Französische Revolution* (2012/2016) with Kirsten Heinsohn (eds.), *Europeans Engaging the Atlantic. Knowledge and Trade* (2014, as ed.), *Hugenotten in Europa und Nordamerika: Migration und Integration in der Frühen Neuzeit* (2010), *Diaspora Identities: Exile, Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism in Past and Present* (2009), and *Information und Propaganda: Die Presse der deutschen Jakobiner im Elsaß* (2004).

Abstract

With the American War of Independence, dreams of a reform of the Holy Roman Empire, of its "federal" constitution seemed to become more concrete. However, it was the French Revolution that would shatter and fundamentally change Germany's constitution. While many Germans had welcomed the outbreak of the French Revolution in the first place, the period of terror and the revolutionary wars changed how Germans looked at France – except for a small group of radical admirers of the revolutionary process who had had to flee the Holy Roman Empire. Some of these political exiles, such as Friedrich Cotta or Georg Wedekind, supported the French in their military campaigns to "free Germans from slavery". However, in 1797, 1799, and during the period of Napoleonic occupation, their expectations that the French would "republicanize" and "democratize" Germany were disappointed. This paper addresses how, between 1776 and 1815, representations of the American Revolution developed in the writings of these German exiles, against the background of the revolutionary process in France. Which place did they attribute to the American Revolution in the Age of Revolution?

Alessandro Bonvini (SSM, Naples)

Echoes of the American Revolution in the Risorgimento: Views from the Republican Diaspora in the United States (1835-1860)

Alessandro Bonvini is currently a research fellow at the Scuola Superiore Meridionale (University of Naples "Federico II"). He has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Storici and at the German Historical Institute, Rome, and Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute, Florence. He obtained a PhD in History from the University of Salerno, in joint supervision with Pontificia Universidad Javeriana of Bogota. His research interests focus on entangled revolutions, nationalisms, and volunteerism in arms in the 19th-century Atlantic world. His first book is *Risorgimento atlantico: I patrioti italiani e la lotta internazionale per le libertà*, Rome-Bari (2022). He is a member of the editorial board of *Il Mestiere di Storico* and *La Rassegna storica del Risorgimento*.

Abstract

Echoes of the American Revolution widely resounded throughout the Risorgimento. Liberal and Republican writers overflowed with enthusiasm for the independence of the Thirteen Colonies, praising the moral virtues of the new nation, the adoption of advanced practices of political participation, and the establishment of a representative government. George Washington became a symbol of liberty; the US constitution a benchmark for future written constitutions, and the Congress a potential model for the creation of a national assembly. Even though historiography has long analyzed the influence of the American Revolution in pre-unification Italy, less attention has been paid to actors who experienced the United States. From the mid-1830s, economic migration, exile, and proscriptions moved to the United States some hundred patriots, who principally settled on the East Coast. These émigrés acted as cultural transfers, contributing to create, shape, and transmit narratives of the American Revolution focusing on three key features: the Republican ethos of the founding fathers, the federalist system, and the pursuit of economic and religious freedom.

Charlotte Lerg (LMU Munich)

19th Century German Exile Historiography in America: Writing 1848 into an Atlantic Revolutionary Tradition

Charlotte A. Lerg assistant professor teaches North American history and transatlantic studies at LMU Munich where she also serves as managing director of the Lasky Center for Transatlantic Studies. Holding an MA in Modern History and Philosophy from the University of St. Andrews and a PhD in History from Tübingen University, she has also taught at the Universities of Bochum, Münster, and Jena. She held the BAA fellowship at the John W. Kluge Center (Library of Congress) and a fellowship at the German-Historical-Institute in Washington DC. Her Habilitation *Universitätsdiplomatie. Prestige und Wissenschaft in den transatlantischen Beziehungen 1890-1920* was published in 2019. Lerg has also written a textbook in German on the American Revolution (second ext. edition 2022). Further publications focus on cultural diplomacy and transatlantic relations in the 19th and 20th century, especially on the 1848 Revolutions, the First World War, and the Cold War. She is one of the editors in chief of *HIC. International Yearbook for Knowledge and Society*. Her current research projects are concerned with Canadian memory culture, visual knowledge, digital public humanities, and Revolution historiography.

Abstract

In his famous 1909 compendium on *The German Element in the United States*, Albert Faust relayed that "many a son of liberty" made his way across the Atlantic in 1848-1849. This observation at the beginning of the 20th century was really the tail end of the 1848-romanticism among German-American authors. Deconstructing their myths has long been an established part of the scholarship on mid-19th-century German immigration to the United States. This paper, however, will focus not on the myths but on the mythmakers. Unlike traditional narratives that highlighted German contributions during various historical periods in North American history, these authors aimed to inscribe the German example into the Atlantic (especially American) narrative of Revolution. At a time when there was a heightened impetus to elevate German ethnicity in the United States, especially during the last third of the 19th century, the 1848 revolutions became a peculiar point of reference, that functioned along a unique kind of historiographical logic.

friday, july 8 2022, 4.30 PM

Keynote Address

Chair: Susanne Lachenicht is professor of early modern European and Atlantic History at the University of Bayreuth and a member of the Bavarian American Academy.

Sarah M.S. Pearsall (Johns Hopkins University)

Representing Revolution

Sarah M.S. Pearsall is professor of history at Johns Hopkins University, she previously taught at Cambridge University. Her research specializes in the history of North America in the early modern era, especially the colonial and revolutionary periods of what is now the United States. She is the author of *Polygamy: A Very Short Introduction* (2022), *Polygamy: An Early American History* (2019), and *Atlantic Families: Lives and Letters in the Later Eighteenth Century* (2008). She is currently working on a book entitled *Freedom Round the Globe: A New History of the American Revolution*, which will appear in 2026. The book focuses on a global perspective on the American Revolution as all kinds of women and men around the world buckled against what seemed to be increasingly oppressive forms of authority and slavery; and their struggles for freedom influenced how this American story played out in the years from 1763 to 1788.

Abstract

How should we remember and commemorate the American Revolution? This question grows more pressing as we approach 2026 and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The American Revolution has long been a topic of lively scholarly debate, but it is also a matter of significant public and civic interest especially in the United States. This lecture will consider these matters of commemoration and representation in part to think through how best to mark the upcoming anniversary.

saturday, july 9 2022, 9.00 AM

Loyalists and Conservatives

Chair: Volker Depkat is professor of American Studies at the University of Regensburg and a board member of the Bavarian American Academy.

Jannik Keindorf (University of Duisburg-Essen)

Counter-Revolutionary Solidarity? Loyalist Refugee Communities in Jamaica in the Aftermath of the American Revolution

Jannik Keindorf is a PhD candidate at the ERC Project "Atlantic Exiles: Revolution and Refugees in the Atlantic World, 1770s-1820s" at the Historical Institute of the University of Duisburg-Essen. 2017-2021, he did his master of arts in History and Philosophy at Ruhr-University Bochum. During this time, he was also a research assistant at the Historical Institute for the MERCUR-project *Doing Globalization – At Home: Ständische Lebensführung als frühmoderne Verflechtungspraxis* in 2020, and at the Institute for Social Movements from 2017 to 2019. His research interests are the history of the British Empire (late 17th - early 19th century), early modern history, global history, and refugee history.

Abstract

This paper explores the uses of the American Revolution for those who remained loyal to the British Empire and fled the United States in its aftermath. It focuses on the Caribbean as a central stage for counter-revolutionary activity by loyalist refugees committed to the idea of imperial 'improvement'. Jamaica was a key destination, with about 10,000 loyalist exiles seeking refuge here. However, the historiography emphasizes how they struggled to make a living. The paper tries to bring this verdict into question by analyzing the ties between loyalism and imperial improvement, and the role they played in the reception of loyalist refugees. It seeks to show that the American Revolution became a key point of reference to both loyalist refugees and the Jamaican host society for demonstrating their unconditional loyalism towards the British crown. It asks if this commonality managed to bridge the divide of imperial and national allegiance enforced during the Age of Revolutions.

Alexander Kruska (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

"As Gently as the Ripe Apple Falls from the Tree": The Foundation of the American Republic in 19th-Century German Conservative Thought

Alexander Kruska is a lecturer in Political Science at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg and teaching coordinator for FAU's Social Studies Education programme. From 2011 until 2015, he worked as an archivist at FAU's "Gerlach archive" and, until 2018, as research associate at the Political Science Department. His PhD dissertation (*Die Polemik der Restauration*, FAU, 2017) deals with the polemics the infamous reactionary Karl Ludwig von Haller used to fight against early liberal thought and its democratic ideals. His latest publication is *Military Dictatorship as the "Reign of the Mightier": Karl Ludwig von Haller's Organicist Concept of Natural Order and Autocratic Rule* (2021). Kruska's main research interests are political theory, history of political institutions, and German conservatism in the 19th century.

Abstract

In the aftermath of the French Revolution, early German conservative thought is determined by a specific approach to the maintenance of political order. As sacred boundaries not to be broken, the criteria of legitimacy and tradition shall define the

narrow path of politics. But unlike the "philosophical republic" of revolutionary France, the foundation of the American republic is not considered an exception from this concept despite its birth in revolutionary war. On the contrary, the perception of the breakaway of the thirteen North American colonies from their sovereign's rule gives an insight into the conservatives' notion of the development of legitimate political order. The paper outlines and compares the argumentation regarding the establishment of non-monarchical government in America in the writings of some of the most influential thinkers and politicians of early German conservatism: Friedrich von Gentz, Karl L. von Haller, E. Ludwig von Gerlach, and Friedrich J. Stahl. All of them support a particular notion of legitimate republicanism, based on a sharp distinction between the American and the French Revolution, its origins, and its different contexts. In their eyes, however, also lawful republics like the young United States represent artificial and fragile constructs susceptible to democratic temptations. And whereas monarchies are based on obedience to the crown, a republic is held together by nothing but the rulers' spirit of brotherhood and a (British) sense of liberty.

Annabelle Meier (Georg-August-University Göttingen)

An Aspirational "Quiet" Revolution: The Perception of American Independence in German Constitutionalism

Annabelle Meier holds a degree in law and history from the Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg. From 2016 to 2020, she was a research assistant at the chair of Philosophy of Law, Constitutional and Administrative Jurisprudence, where she worked on her doctoral thesis ("Die Jellinek These vom religiösen Ursprung der Grundrechte," submitted 2021). Her research interests include constitutional law and history, especially history of human rights. In September 2018, she was BAA-fellow at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition of Yale University. Currently, she is a legal trainee at the Fulda district court and research assistant at the department for fundamentals of law at Georg-August-University Göttingen.

Abstract

While the French Revolution sent shockwaves through Europe with neighboring monarchies in fear of upheaval and France itself ultimately dissolving into terror, the American Independence unfolded as a "quiet" nation building process. This American "conservatism" attracted the attention of German liberals who had lost hope to fulfill their republican goals during the restoration period that followed the constitutional movement in 1848. For them, the American example provided the useful narrative that there is no inescapable connection between constitutional rights and revolutionary terror. Prominent scholars, like Troeltsch and Jellinek reviewed the American Independence in an a-historical fashion, framing it as "rights-based" and "a-democratic". This perception of the American Revolution, that deliberately sidelines its democratic core, shows what has been thinkable in Wilhelminian Germany: Constitutionalism with individual rights sans democracy – a view on history that illustrates the long way to democracy in 19th century Germany and might even explain today's discrepancy between the American "political" and the German "juridic" take on democracy.

saturday, july 9 2022, 11.00 AM

Staging, Singing, and Dancing the American Revolution

Chair: Kerstin Schmidt is professor of American Studies at KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt and deputy director of the Bavarian American Academy.

Nassim Balestrini (Karl-Franzens-University Graz)

Staging the American Revolution: Dramatic Genres and/as Political Discourse

Nassim W. Balestrini is professor of American Studies and Intermediality at the University of Graz, and director of the Centre for Intermediality Studies in Graz (CIMIG). Her research focuses on US-American literature and culture from the 18th century to the present. Particular interests include adaptation (as in her monograph *From Fiction to Libretto: Irving, Hawthorne, and James as Opera*, 2005, and in the edited volume *Adaptation and American Studies*, 2011) and life writing across media (as in *Intermediality, Life Writing, and American Studies*, 2018, co-edited with Ina Bergmann). Among her recent publications are articles and book chapters on hip-hop culture, climate change theater, Lin-Manuel Miranda's oeuvre, contemporary opera, and contemporary poetry. Contemplating borders and mobility – be it between nations, cultures, languages, or media – informs much of her research.

Abstract

The American Revolution occurred during a time period in which spoken drama and musical theater were not clearly distinguished. The uncertainties that scholars have experienced when trying to classify or categorize works from the last third of the 18th century have impacted the ways in which works from this era have been studied from different disciplinary perspectives. Beyond that, extant scholarship tends to ignore the respective role and contribution of multiple artists (e.g., playwright, lyricist, composer) and artistic media (e.g., spoken dialogue, songs, instrumental music) in specific works. This paper will focus on how research on such stage works about the political upheaval of the American Revolution and its aftermath could and should take specific cultural contexts and transatlantic genre histories into account in order to produce more complex understandings of theater as a participant in political discourse.

Vanessa Vollmann (University of Passau)

Reimagining Milestones: Myths of the American Revolution in the Musical "Hamilton"

Vanessa Vollmann is a lecturer in American Studies at the University of Passau. She handed in her dissertation, "Founding Mothers of Color: A Critical Race Feminist Investigation of the Female Founder Narrative in 'Hamilton'", in May 2022. An alumna of Passau, she found her way back to academia after 20 years as an interpreter and teaching interpreting. Her M.A. in political science and English literature from the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University in Frankfurt with a particular focus on New English Literatures and Cultures as well as her personal experiences of having grown up in post-colonial societies in Tunisia and Kenya have developed in her an acute interest in uncovering systemic power structures societies emit when rendering invisible voices that are placed outside the dominant narrative. Her most recent project is leading her into the realm of the so-called American "Fly Girls" – the women aviators whose stories of daring and bravery in the singular decade between the World Wars remain largely untold.

Abstract

Lin-Manuel Miranda's Broadway musical has become an established part of the cultural and historical discourse in the United States. The script is based on Ron Chernow's 2010 biography *Alexander Hamilton* and consequently has a strong foothold in White male American founder mythology. Miranda uses colorbent representation of its lead characters so that *Hamilton* can be read as a Founding Father "counterstory," to borrow the Critical Race Theory term for including marginalized voices in the dominant narrative. While *Hamilton* reclaims the framer narrative for Americans of Color in this way, it does not discredit the set of established beliefs and myths constructed around the idea of the Founding Fathers and in this way feeds into how, over time, the dominant imagination has replaced the facts surrounding the Revolution with these myths. This paper explores three such myths that have in common that in *Hamilton* they are constructed around female or feminized representations that also have at their core a female voice that has remained largely invisible in the framer mythology even into the 21st century.

saturday, july 9 2022, 1.30 PM

AMERICA 2026

Bertrand Van Ruymbeke (University of Paris 8)

Bertrand Van Ruymbeke is professor of American Civilization and History at the University of Paris 8. He works on early America, the American Revolution, and 18th-century Franco-American relations. Former member of the Omohundro Institute Council (2017-2021), he is an honorary member (senior) of the Institut Universitaire de France (class of 2015-20). He is the author of *L'Indépendance des États-Unis: Heritage et Interpretations* (2021), *Histoire des États-Unis : De 1492 à nos jours, 2 vols.* (2021), *The Atlantic World of Anthony Benezet (1713-1784)* (2016), *A Companion to the Huguenots* (2016), *L'Amérique avant les États-Unis: Une histoire de l'Amérique anglaise, 1497-1776* (2013, paperback revised edition 2016), *Les huguenots et l'Atlantique, 2 vols.* (2009-2012), coeditor of *Constructing Early Modern Empires* (2007), and *From New Babylon to Eden: The Huguenots and Their Migration to Colonial South Carolina* (2006). He is currently writing a French history of the American Revolution and is the coordinator of the European and Transatlantic consortium America 2026.

Abstract

In 2026, the United States will celebrate the 250th anniversary of its Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776), an event which had considerable repercussions in the Atlantic World in the 18th century and which will lead to numerous commemorative moments and publications worldwide. AMERICA 2026 (America, Europe, Revolutions, Independence and Commemorations in the Atlantic world) aims at studying both the contemporaneous impact of the American Revolution on European societies in the 18th century and at placing European historiographies in a comparative perspective. This project intends to build an unprecedented historiographical panorama and reflection through a collaboration between professors and scholars in France and in Europe and through regular and rich exchanges with their American peers. AMERICA 2026 seeks to fully contribute to the debates and to the cultural and academic productions that will accompany the commemorative moment and which will also lead to critical reviews of the study of the American Revolution (women, slaves, loyalism), of its world impact and of its influence on the history of modernity. AMERICA 2026 is aimed at becoming

the principal academic center in France and in Europe on the study of the American Revolution and its commemoration. The website will soon be available under the address www.america2026.eu.

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