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

- Bayerisch-Amerikanisches Zentrum im Amerika Haus e.V.
- U.S. Consulate General, Munich

The Bavarian American Academy promotes and co-ordinates 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 Rachel Carson Center is a joint initiative of LMU Munich and the Deutsches Museum. Generously supported by the German Ministry for Research and Education, its goal is to further research and discussion in the field of international environmental studies and to strengthen the role of the humanities in the current political and scientific debates about the environment.

Academy Conference 2010
Green Cultures
The conference will focus on environmental knowledge production in the U.S. by taking as starting points the impact of natural catastrophes and of public debates on climate change and environmental threats. Papers will address the social, political, economic, ecological, and cultural effects of natural catastrophes. At stake will be issues such as disaster management and politics, disaster as spectacle, and the popular imagination of catastrophe which point to the role of language, texts, and the media in creating and limiting knowledge about environmental issues and about the political, economic, and ethical dimensions of the human-nature relationship. In bringing together historians and geographers, literary and cultural studies scholars, political scientists, anthropologists, and scientists from the United States and Europe, the conference will demonstrate that the human experience and imagination of environment have played a truly important role in American culture.

No Conference Fee
Registration Requested

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The conference organized by the Bavarian American Academy and the Rachel Carson Center.

Green Cultures
Environmental Knowledge, Climate, and Catastrophe

Munich, 9-10 July 2010

Conference venue: Amerika Haus, Karolinenplatz 3, in the center of Munich.
09 FRIDAY, 9 JULY

9.00 Welcome
Klaus Benesch
Director, Bavarian American Academy
Christof Mauch
Director, Rachel Carson Center
Christoph Parchmann
Head of International Affairs Unit, Bavarian Ministry of Sciences, Research, and the Arts

9.45 Panel I
Natural Hazards and the Making of America
Chair: Heike Paul (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)
Sherry Johnson (Florida International University*): Foreign Interest and the Cuban Earthquake of 1880: Dis-remembering Disaster in the Age of Laissez-Faire
Lawrence Culver (Utah State University*): Manifest Disaster: Climate and the Making of America

11.15 Coffee Break

11.45 Panel II
Ambivalent Legacies: Environmental Imperialism and Notions of Progress
Chair: Klaus Benesch (University of Munich)
Andrew Isenberg (Temple University, Philadelphia*): Buffalo Commons: The Past, Present, and the Future of an Idea
Gordon Winder (University of Munich*): The Other Machine in the Garden: The Reaper, the Great West, Wilderness, and the American Mind

13.15 Lunch Break

09 FRIDAY, 9 JULY

15.00 Panel III
Understanding Disaster – Explaining Politics
Chair: Barbara Hahn (University of Würzburg)
Heike Egner (University of Mainz*): Natural Disasters and Cultures of Risk: A Radical Constructivist’s Perspective on Risk
Andreas Falke (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg): Why is the U.S. a Laggard in Climate Change Policy or is it?

16.30 Coffee Break

17.00 Panel IV
Forgetting and Remembering Catastrophes
Chair: Volker Depkat (University of Regensburg)
Uwe Lübken (University of Munich*): The 1937 Ohio River Flood: A Forgotten Disaster?
Craig Colten (Louisiana State University): Forgetting the Unforgettable: Losing Social Memory and Resilience in New Orleans

18.45 BAA MEMBERS’ MEETING (Members only!)
Annual Meeting of the Bavarian American Academy

10 SATURDAY, 10 JULY

9.00 Panel V
Environmental Knowledge and the Imagination: Literature and Film
Chair: Sylvia Mayer (University of Bayreuth)
Stacy Alaimo (University of Texas at Arlington): Trans-corporeal Knowledges: Science, Environment, and the Material Self
Alexa Weik (University of Fribourg*): Facing The Day After Tomorrow: Filmed Disaster, Emotional Engagement, and Climate Risk Perception

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 Greetings, U.S. Consul General Conrad Tribble
BAA Dissertation Award Ceremony

11.15 Keynote Address
Sustainable Development - The New Name For Peace?!
Klaus Töpfer (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam / Former Under Secretary General United Nations)

12.00 Podiumsdiskussion
Was können Deutschland und die USA in Sachen Umwelt voneinander lernen?
Moderation: Jeanne Rubner (Süddeutsche Zeitung)
Albert Göttle (Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt)
Christof Mauch (Rachel Carson Center / LMU München)
Karsten Smid (Greenpeace Deutschland)

13.00 End of Conference

*currently Rachel Carson Fellow