

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



Bayerisch-Amerikanisches  
Zentrum im Amerika Haus e.V.



U.S. Consulate General, Munich

9-10 July 2010

Conference venue: Amerika Haus, Karolinenplatz 3, in the center of Munich.



**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 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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12<sup>th</sup> Academy Conference 2010

Rachel  
Carson  
Center



## Green Cultures Environmental Knowledge, Climate, and Catastrophe

**Munich, 9-10 July 2010**

A conference organized by the  
**Bavarian American Academy**  
and the **Rachel Carson Center**

## 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