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 conference will take place at the Amerikahaus, Karolinenplatz 3, in the center of Munich.

Academy Conference 2015
Cultures of Inequality

In the United States income inequality has increased significantly. For decades wage growth has been especially slow for the middle class, whereas the top 10 percent of earners has benefitted the most from the economic upswing. The same is true for distribution of wealth. According to an analysis by the Pew Research Center, the wealth gap between America’s upper-income and lower-income families has reached its highest level.

There are not only disparities between regions of the United States, but also huge differences within American cities themselves that are often based on urban governance and housing policies. All this is true for Canada as well, but to a much lesser degree.

Additionally, there are inequalities between different ethnic groups as well as between men and women, which are often the result of a lack of social justice, equality of opportunity, or access to education and health services. These can also be seen in many novels and plays that deal with differences between individuals and groups of society, often along the ‘color line.’

The process of industrialization in the 19th century and deindustrialization and globalization in the 20th century have increased inequality but have had different effects on society in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

The BAA conference addresses the complex topic of inequality from different perspectives – historical, political, geographical, and cultural.

The conference will take place at the Amerikahaus, Karolinenplatz 3, in the center of Munich.

no conference fee
registration requested

Bavarian American Academy
Amerikahaus, Karolinenplatz 3
80333 Munich, Germany
Fon +49-89-54 50 40 30
Fax +49-89-54 50 40 35
info@amerika-akademie.de
www.amerika-akademie.de

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

Bavarian Center for Transatlantic Relations
U.S. Consulate General Munich

A conference organized by the Bavarian American Academy

Cultures of Inequality
July 9-11, 2015
**Thursday, 9 July**

**Conference Opening**

18.00 **Welcome**
- Barbara Hahn
  Director Bavarian American Academy
- Anthony Miranda
  Consul for Public Affairs, U.S. Consulate General Munich

**Award Ceremony**
- BAA Dissertation Award

**Opening Talk**
- Reymer Klüver (Senior Editor, Süddeutsche Zeitung)
  *Does the U.S. Need to Reinvent Itself?*

19.30 **Reception**

**Friday, 10 July**

9.00 **Panel I: Social Inequality and Reform in Atlantic History**
- Volker Depkat (University of Regensburg)
  Chair:
- Colin Gordon (University of Iowa)
  *Growing Apart: A Political History of American Inequality*
- Axel R. Schäfer (University of Mainz)
  *Beyond 'States' and 'Markets': Isaac M. Rubinow, Social Inequality, and Transatlantic Reform, 1890-1935*

10.30 Coffee Break

11.00 **Panel II: Urban Inequality**
- Barbara Hahn (University of Würzburg)
- David Wilson (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
  *The Death of City Neoliberal Governance: Long Live City Neoliberal Governance*
- Yvonne Franz (University of Vienna)
  *Housing (In)Equalities in Vienna and New York City?*

12.30 Lunch Break

14.30 **Panel III: Cultural Scripts of (In)Equality**
- Heike Paul (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)
  Chair:
- Bruce Robbins (Columbia University, NY)
  *On Being a Beneficiary: Discomforts of Global Inequality*
- Sabine Broeck (University of Bremen)
  *Unequality or (Social) Death? On the Devastation of Black Urban Life*

16.00 Coffee Break

16.30 **Panel IV: Writing Inequality: Literary Negotiations of Class, Globalization, and Social Justice**
- Kerstin Schmidt (University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)
  Chair:
- Sonali Perera (Hunter College, City University of NY)
  *Reading Tillie Olsen in a Global and Unequal World*
- Julia Faisst (University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)
  *Moving In and Out, Moving Up and Down: Re-Evaluating Real Estate in Twenty-First Century Drama*
- Rinaldo Walcott (University of Toronto)
  *After Black Lives Matter: Black Death, Capitalism, and Unfreedom*

**Saturday, 11 July**

10.00 **Panel V: Unequal Democracy in Transatlantic Perspective**
- Jürgen Gebhardt (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)
  Chair:
- Larry M. Bartels (Vanderbilt University, TN)
  *Political Inequality in Affluent Democracies*
- Susanne Pickel (University of Duisburg-Essen)
  *Unequal Democracies in Europe: Inequalities in Understandings of, Participation in, and Perception of Democracy*

11.30 Coffee Break

12.00 Lecture
- Gail Stephens (Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Winnipeg)
  *Launching a Human Rights Museum*

13.00 End of Conference