

57th Annual Convention of the German
Association for American Studies



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Amerikastudien

American Economies

May 27 – 30, 2010

Humboldt–Universität zu Berlin

HU200



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Conference Organization:

Abteilung Amerikanistik
Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
www.angl.hu-berlin.de

Conference Location:

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
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Simon Strick



Welcome

There could hardly be a more timely or more urgent issue than the one chosen as the central topic for this annual convention of the German Association for American Studies. In face of the current global crisis, which is seen by many as the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s, questions of economy continue to dominate public and political discourses to an unprecedented degree.

Even though a more severe economic breakdown could apparently be averted by the various counter-reactions introduced by governments both in the U.S. and abroad, it is still difficult to assess the overall damaging effects and, even more, to predict the mid- and long-term effects of the disaster on both global markets and national budgets.

Especially in the U.S., the economic meltdown marks more than the fatal culmination of individual greed, reckless underpricing of risks, and the failure of supervisory control. It also severely shattered the belief in the self-regulatory forces of the free market that for many has stood as the most essential element of an American economy. What John Cassidy has called the 'utopian economics' of the last forty years rested on the 'notion of financial markets as rational and self-correcting mechanisms' – a notion that has been attacked, among others, by George Akerlof and Robert Shiller who insist that economic behavior for the most part is deeply influenced by 'irrational' impulses. Consequently, much of the political initiatives emerging in the wake of the crisis have focused on the introduction of stronger regulatory and supervisory mechanisms to keep the unpredictable dynamics of the open market at bay.

These debates are of course not unprecedented; in fact, they appear to be a constant element throughout much of the economic, social and cultural history of the United States. Indeed, it could be argued, that the complexity – and thus also probably the unpredictability – of economical trends, developments and cycles per se is due to the fact that these developments are never purely economic, but always social, political, and cultural as well.

Thus the annual conference will be concerned with 'American Economies' in the plural rather than the singular: not only as an attempt to acknowledge the diversity of the American economy in itself, both in its practices and its theories and models, but also as an effort to investigate and analyze the various and complex interdependence of economic, political, social and cultural aspects and forces. The workshops and keynotes offered over the course of the convention are thus meant to present a multidimensional approach to American economies, their historical development and formation, as well as their contemporary significance and global influence.

Peter Schneck

President, German Association for American Studies



Thursday, May 27th, 2010

8:30

Editors' Meeting "Amerikastudien"

Gastraum, Cum Laude, HU (Hauptgebäude)
Unter den Linden 6

10:00

DGfA Board Meeting

Gastraum, Cum Laude, HU

12:00

Lunch DGfA Board

Hilton Berlin, Restaurant
Mohrenstr. 30

13:30

DGfA Board Meeting

Gastraum, Cum Laude, HU

15:00

PGF Young Scholars Forum

Hauptgebäude HU, Room 3119
(Eingang Audimax)



17:00

Conference Opening

Peter Schneck

(President DGfA)

Christoph Marksches

(President Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Philip D. Murphy

(Ambassador of the United States of America to Germany)

Award Ceremony

United States Ambassador's Grant 2010-11

Audimax (Hauptgebäude, Unter den Linden 6,

Eingang vom Innenhof)

18:00

Opening Lecture

The Great Crisis and the American Response

James K. Galbraith

(University of Texas, Austin)

Audimax (Hauptgebäude, Unter den Linden 6,

Eingang vom Innenhof)

20:00

Reception of the DGfA

Foyer Audimax



Friday, May 28th, 2010

9:00

Keynote Lecture I

Gender, Metaphor and Economics

Julie A. Nelson

(University of Massachusetts)

Senatssaal HU, Unter den Linden 6

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00

Keynote Lecture II

*The Economies of Misfortune: Explosion, Implosion
and the Meltdown of American Exceptionalism*

Patricia Williams

(Columbia Law School)

Senatssaal HU

12:30 Lunch

PGF Lunch

Restaurant Nolle, Georgenstraße 203

Roundtable: Teaching American Studies

Cum Laude, HU (Hauptgebäude)

14:00

Workshops: Series 1

Seminargebäude am Hegelplatz

Dorotheenstr. 24



Workshop 2 (Room 1.501):

Money and Gender in North American Literature and Culture

Chairs: Sladja Blazan / Eva Boesenberg (HU Berlin)

Katja Kanzler (Leipzig): "Pay Day": The Discourse of Money in Literature by Antebellum "Factory Girls"

Michaela Keck (Oldenburg): Elizabeth Stoddard's Challenge of Gendered Economies in New England Society

Simone Knewitz (Bonn): "A real piece of progress": Feminist Economic Reformism in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's Novel *What Diantha Did*

Katharina Rapp (HU Berlin): "Can't Buy Me Love": Lipsha Morrisey's Relation to Money in Louise Erdrich's *The Bingo Palace*

Viola Amato (Stuttgart): Female Villains and Sex Trafficking in Disney Fairy-Tale Animation

Sladja Blazan (HU Berlin): Concluding Remarks: Gender, Economics, and *The Wire*

Workshop 3 (Room 1.607):

Privatization of Security: Patterns of State-Industry Relations in a Post-Heroic Society

Chairs: Florian Böller / David Sirakov / Jürgen Wilzewski (TU Kaiserslautern)

Zeljko Branovic (Berlin): Die Privatisierung der U.S. amerikanischen Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik seit dem Ende des Ost-West Konfliktes

Jutta Joachim and Andrea Schneiker (Hannover): Rivalry or Partnership? Humanitarian Organizations and Private Military and Security Companies

Gerhard Kümmel (Strausberg): Private Militär- und Sicherheitsfirmen im Kontext der These von postheroischen Gesellschaften



Friday, May 28th, 2010

Workshop 4 (Room 1.506):

Property - Belonging - Autonomy: Economies in (Neo-)Slave Narratives and Fictions of Slavery

Chairs: Christa Buschendorf / Stephanie Müller (Frankfurt)

Catrin Gersdorf (FU Berlin): The Cool and the Calm: Emotional Modernity and the Economy of Slavery in Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass

Laura Bieger (FU Berlin): The Known Worlds of Place, Community and Property: Economies of Belonging in Edward P. Jones

Heike Schäfer (Mannheim): Sounding the Psychological Costs of Enslavement and Autonomy: Toni Morrison's Use of Polyphonic Narration in *A Mercy*

Stefanie Müller (Frankfurt): The Logic of Property in Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*

Workshop 8 (Room 1.608):

Enterprise and Drama: Performing Capital on the American Stage

Chairs: Ilka Saal (Erfurt) / Ralph J. Poole (Salzburg)

Laura Pollard (East Anglia): The Quest for a Long Run: How *Man of La Mancha* Marketed Its Impossible Dreams

Guilia Palladini (Pisa): The Amateur Hour: Love Labour or Projection toward Capital?

Leopold Lippert (Vienna): We're Going to Pottery Barn to Buy Lamps: Capitalism, Consumption, and the Theatre of Homonormativity

Sabrina Huettner (Würzburg): No Country for the Infirm: Capitalism, Aids, and the American Drama

Jochen Achilles (Würzburg): Play as Enterprise in Suzan-Lori Parks's *Topdog/Underdog*

Thomas Irmer (FU Berlin): Chris Kondek's *Dead Cat Bounce*



Workshop 9 (Room 1.605):

Alternative American Economies: Gift, Theft, Gambling

Chairs: Bärbel Tischleder (FU Berlin) / Kirsten Twelbeck (Hannover)

Andrea Zittlau (Rostock): The Dirty Work – Theft and the Birth of Anthropology

MaryAnn Snyder-Körber (FU Berlin): “Gift Money”: *Nightwood* and the Funding Logics of Late Modernism

Ulla Haselstein (FU Berlin): The Allure of the Fetish

Dorothea Löbbermann (HU Berlin): Pornotopic Economies: Samuel R. Delany's *The Mad Man*

Workshop 11 (Room 1.601):

Economics and Narrative

Chairs: Winfried Fluck / Fabian Lindner (FU Berlin)

Fabian Lindner (FU Berlin): Discounting an Uncertain Future: The Role of Narratives in Economics

Eric Erbacher (Paderborn): Selling the Inner City – Narrative Constructions of Urban Imaginaries at the Turn of the Millennium

Priscilla Walton (Carleton University): Bankruptcies of Meaning: Enron Post 9/11

Birte Horn (Duisburg-Essen): The Value of a Margarita Machine, or: Explaining the Mystery of the American Economy in *South Park's* 'Margaritaville'

Dennis Mischke (Bochum): “It's not Cricket”: Confidence Games and Games of Confidence - an Economic Reading of Joseph O' Neill's *Netherland*

Winfried Fluck (FU Berlin): Reading Stock Market Reports



Friday, May 28th, 2010

Workshop 12 (Room 1.505):

Economies of Health – Healthy Economies

Chairs: Antje Dallmann (Leipzig) / Sunčica Klaas (HU Berlin)

Marc Prieue (Potsdam): The Trade of Healing in Puritan America

Philipp Kneis (Potsdam/Berlin): Aging Relations: Native American Discourses of Aging between Communal and Institutional Care

Katja Schmieder (Leipzig): Medicalization Multiplied: Popular Representations of Female Victims in the Maternity Ward

Anna Thiemann (Münster): Cultural and Mental Economies in Jonathan Franzen's *The Corrections*

Antje Dallmann (Leipzig/Berlin): Economies of Happiness: Ethics, Genomics, and Richard Powers's *Generosity*

17:00

Women's Caucus

Senatssaal HU

19:30

Roundtable

American Studies and the Economy

With

Georgiana Banita (Paderborn)

Sabine Bröck (Bremen)

Michael C. Burda (Berlin)

Winfried Fluck (Berlin)

Nadja Gernalzick (Karlsruhe)

Ulfried Reichardt (Mannheim)

Hosted by Ruth Mayer (Hannover)

Jacob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum (Universitätsbibliothek)
Auditorium, Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 1/3



Saturday, May 29th, 2010

American Economics

9:00

Keynote Lecture III

Discourses of Value: Reading Literature through Economics and vice versa

Eva Boesenberg

(Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Senatssaal HU

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00

DGfA Mitgliederversammlung/GAAS Business Meeting

Senatssaal HU

13:00 Lunch Break

14:30

Workshops: Series 2

Seminargebäude am Hegelplatz

Dorotheenstr. 24

Workshop 1 (Room 1.605):

“All the varied lands and all the growths and products”: The Economy of Nature, the Nature of Economy, and America’s Politics of Representation

Chairs: Hannes Bergthaller (Tapei) / Christine Gerhardt (Freiburg)

Sybille Machat (Flensburg): Economic and Ecological Criticism, Economic and Ecological Collapse: John Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*

Christian Hummelsund Voie (Östersund): “Redneck Currency”: Heedlessness and Possibilities in William Kittredge’s *American West*



Saturday, May 29th, 2010

Workshop 1 (continued)

Anne-Marie Scholz (Bremen): Intersections between the Economic and the Ecological: The American Dream and the "Drive-Thru" Tree

Hannes Bergthaller (Taipei): Symbolic Fields, Parallel Semantics: Rethinking the Relation between Nature and Economy in U.S. Culture

Workshop 5 (Room 1.607):

Moral Economy in the Age of the Market Revolution, 1815 – 1860

Chairs: Thomas Clark (Frankfurt) / Kristina Hinz-Bode (Kassel)

Thomas Clark (Frankfurt): Introduction

Mischa Honeck (Heidelberg): The Boons of Free Labor Cotton: Transatlantic Antislavery Economies and Mid-Nineteenth Century Reform

Johannes Völz (Frankfurt): The Market of Inspiration: Emerson on the Lyceum Stage

Herwig Friedl (Düsseldorf / Berlin): The Order of Things and the Economic Order: Emerson and the Idea of 'laissez-faire'

Daniel Göske (Kassel): German Literature and the (Moral) Economy of Periodical Literature in Antebellum America

Kristina Hinz-Bode (Kassel): Moral Economy as Literary Utopia in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Blithedale Romance*

Workshop 6 (Room 1.608):

Teaching American Economy in the EFL Classroom

Chairs: Nancy Grimm (Jena) / Martina Wolff (Köln)

Wolfgang Biederstädt (Köln): Should Consumer and Financial Literacy Be Included in the EFL Curriculum?

Carsten Albers (Paderborn): *Freakonomics* as an Introduction to Economics in the EFL-Classroom

Laurenz Volkmann (Jena): Teaching American Capitalism: Mission Impossible

Marco Althaus (Wildau): Today's American Economy for



Future European Managers

Martina Wolff (Köln) / Nancy Grimm (Jena): Roundtable
Discussion: The Scope and Objectives of Teaching
(American) Economy in the EFL Classroom

Workshop 7 (Room 1.606):

Commodifying Human Rights: American Economies of Life, Liberty, and Equality

Chairs: Christina Oppel / Anna Thiemann (Münster)

Kathy-Ann Tan (Tübingen): "Suffering Sells": The Commodification of Human Rights Narratives in the United States

Claudia Deetjen (Bayreuth): Shapeshifter Commodities: Brian Jungen's *Strange Comfort* (NMAI 2009/2010)

Pia Wiegink (Mainz): Protesting Corporate Greed and "The Problem of Speaking for Others"

Sabine Meyer (Münster/Mainz): "This ain't the American dream, this is the Third World": U.S. Capitalist Practices in *Powwow Highway*

Workshop 10 (Room 1.501):

Utopian Economies

Chairs: Heike Paul / Sebastian Schneider (Erlangen)

Alexandra Ganser (Erlangen): Spectacles of Consumption, Abundance, and Waste: Utopian Economies in Early Transatlantic Literature of Piracy?

Josef Raab (Duisburg-Essen): "A Cloud Palace for an Ideal Humanity": The American Utopias of Edward Bellamy and Barack Obama

Barbara Hedderich (Ansbach): Der vollkommene Markt ist unsere Utopie? Eine ökonomische Interpretation der Episode "Black Market" aus der Fernsehserie *Battlestar Galactica*

Stephen Kötzing (Erlangen): Contested Economies: "Aztek Socialism" vs. US Capitalism in Sesshu Foster's *Atomik Aztek*

Sebastian Schneider (Erlangen): The Cost of Living in the Utopian Community: M. Night Shyamalan's *The Village*



Saturday, May 29th, 2010

Workshop 13 (Room 1.601):

PGF – PostGraduiertenForum

Chairs: Sascha Pöhlmann / Torsten Kathke (München)

Group Discussion with the keynote speakers of the conference; open to all postgraduate students

Workshop 14 (Room 1.505):

Economic Policies of the Obama Administration: Reform Agenda versus Crisis Management

Chair: Welf Werner (Bremen)

Christian Lammert (Frankfurt / FU Berlin): Obama's Health Care Reform: Mission Accomplished?

Georg Simonis (Hagen): Climate Change Policy of the Obama Administration: Concepts and Domestic Economic Interests

Miranda Schreurs (FU Berlin): U.S. Energy Policy: What Has Changed under Obama?

Irwin Collier (FU Berlin): Fiscal and Monetary Responses to the Economic Crisis: A Critical Evaluation

Tobias Unkelbach (Bundesverband deutscher Banken, Berlin): U.S. Regulatory Reform of the Financial Sector: National and International Perspectives

17:30

Forum I: Information for Research Grant Applications at the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Alfred Hornung (Mainz)

Senatssaal HU



18:30

Forum II: Potentiale und Realisationen neuer Publikationsformen in der deutschen Amerikanistik

Chairs: Ingrid Gessner (Regensburg) / Juliane Schwarz-Bierschenk (Freiburg)

Carsten Hummel (ZUSAS, Halle-Wittenberg)

ASJ: American Studies Journal

Sebastian M. Herrmann (Leipzig)

Aspeers: Emerging Voices in American Studies

Susanne Leikam (Regensburg)

COPAS: Current Objectives of Postgraduate American Studies

Fritz-Wilhelm Neumann (Erfurt)

EESE: Erfurt Electronic Studies in English

Wilfried Raussert und Matthias Oppermann (Bielefeld)

FIAR: Forum for Inter-American Research

Nassim W. Balestrini (Regensburg)

Nabokov Online Journal

Respondents:

Alfred Hornung (Mainz)

Holger Kersten (Magdeburg)

Senatssaal HU

20:00

Reading: Richard Price

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4

21:30

Conference Party/Cash Bar

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4



Sunday, May 30th, 2010

9:30

Keynote Lecture IV

*Race, Class, and Crime in the Redevelopment
of American Cities*

Mary Pattillo

(Northwestern University, Evanston)

Senatssaal HU

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30

Screening HBO's *The Wire*

Senatssaal HU

12:30

Panel Discussion

HBO's *The Wire* and American Economies

with

Richard Price (writer for *The Wire*), Patricia Williams,
Mary Pattillo, Frank Kelleter (Universität Göttingen)
and Tavia Nyong'o (New York University)

Hosted by Bärbel Tischleder (Universität Göttingen)
Senatssaal HU

14:00

End of Conference



Keynote Speakers

James K. Galbraith is currently Lloyd M. Bentsen Chair in Government and Business Relations and Professor of Economics at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. After attaining degrees in Economics at Harvard, King's College, Cambridge, and Yale, he served in several positions on the staff of the U.S. Congress. Additionally, he held a Fulbright Distinguished Visiting Lectureship in China in the summer of 2001, was named a Carnegie Scholar in 2003, and writes for various political and cultural publications. His recent research has focused on the measurement and understanding of inequality in the world economy. Galbraith's most recent book *The Predator State: How Conservatives Abandoned the Free Market and Why Liberals Should Too* was published in 2008.

Patricia J. Williams is Professor of Law at Columbia University and holds a BA from Wellesley College and a JD from Harvard Law School. Williams is a member of the State Bar of California and the Federal Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit and has served as an advisor on several legal and political councils. She was a fellow in the School of Criticism and Theory at Dartmouth College and has been an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin School of Law and its department of Women's Studies. Williams also worked as a consumer advocate in the office of the City Attorney in Los Angeles. In 1993, Harvard University Press published Williams's *The Alchemy of Race & Rights* to widespread critical acclaim, and in 2004 she published her most recent book *Open House: Of Family, Food, Friends, Piano Lessons and the Search for a Room of My Own*.

Julie A. Nelson is a member of the Economics Faculty at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, USA. She is the author of *Economics for Humans* (2006), *Feminism, Objectivity, and Economics* (1996), and several other books and articles. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, was a founding board member of the International Association for Feminist Economics, and is an Associate Editor of the journal *Feminist Economics*.



American Economies

Eva Boesenberg is Professor of North American Literature and Culture at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. She studied German, English, and Indology at the University of Freiburg and at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, after which she served as Assistant Professor of American Studies at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle. She has edited a volume on *Chancen und Grenzen des Dialogs zwischen den Geschlechtern* and has published articles on U.S.-American literature and culture from the 18th to the 20th centuries, the construction of whiteness, masculinities, and basketball. Her latest book *Money and Gender in the American Novel, 1850-2000* was published by Universitätsverlag Winter in April 2010.

Mary Pattillo is Professor of Sociology and African American Studies at the Faculty Affiliate Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University. She received her PhD in Sociology at the University of Chicago. Pattillo's areas of interest include qualitative methods, race and ethnicity (specifically the black middle class), and urban sociology. In books such as *Black Picket Fences* (1999) and *Black on the Block: The Politics of Race and Class in the City* (2007) and many published articles she investigates economic, spatial, and cultural processes in black Chicago neighborhoods. Pattillo is a founding board member and active participant in Urban Prep Charter Academy, the first all-boys public charter high school in Chicago.

Richard Price has written eight novels, including *Clockers*, *Freedomland* and *Samaritan*. His latest novel *Lush Life* appeared last year with Picador. He also wrote the screenplays for the movies *The Sea of Love*, *Mad Dog and Glory*, and *The Color of Money*, for which he received an Oscar nomination. For his work on the HBO series *The Wire* he won the 2007 Edgar Award for television writing. He is a chronicler of urban life, especially in New York. He was born in 1949 and brought up in the Parkside projects in the Bronx. He graduated from Cornell, and did graduate work in creative writing at both Columbia and Stanford.



Registration Office

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open from:

Thu 13:00 – 17:00

Fri 8:00 – 16:00

Sat 8:00 – 16:00

Sun 8:30 – 10:00

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A map of the campus and its vicinity is included in the conference folder.



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J.B. METZLER

