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For possible changes in the lecture program please consult the American Studies homepage http://www.angl.hu-berlin.de/

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American Studies
This semester, the Du Bois Lecture Series of Humboldt University's Institute for English and American Studies addresses the issues of populism and (new) nationalism. Starting point of the lecture series are the U.S. presidential elections as well as recent populist and nationalist tendencies in Europe, including Germany. This semester's talks engage comparatively with the current political situations on both sides of the Atlantic and will be held either in English or in German. Speakers include scholars, journalists and members of NGOs.


American Studies Program
The American Studies Program at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is invested in transdisciplinary approaches to North American literary and cultural productions. Viewed in their socio-historical contexts, we focus on aspects of identities, diversity and mediality in their various representations. In their teaching and research, our faculty members demonstrate their commitment to training students in the fields of critical race theory, gender studies as well as cultural and narrative theory as it pertains to literary, visual and popular culture, as well as diasporic, transatlantic and intersectional studies.

Post-Obama, The Age of Trump and the Dilemmas of the Black Studies Project
December 13, 2016 – in English
Rinaldo Walcott (OISE/University of Toronto)

Populism and (New) Nationalisms in Europa
January 24, 2017 – in German
Gespräch mit Mark Terkessidis (Freier Journalist, Migrationsforscher)
Richard Gebhardt (Politologe, Publizist)

Roundtable: Challenging the Backlash. Strategies against Populism and (New) Nationalism
January 31, 2017 – in German
Encarnación Gutiérrez Rodríguez (Universität Gießen)
Koray Yılmaz-Günay (Vorstandsmitglied beim Migrationsrat Berlin/Brandenburg)
Sabine am Orde (Innenpolitische Korrespondentin, taz)
Katrin Frisch (HU Berlin, English Department)

Populism in German/American Media
February 7, 2017 – in German
Sheila Mysorekar (Freie Journalistin, Wissenschaftlerin, Vorsitzende Neue Deutsche Medienmacher)

Middletown: The Lower Middle Class in the US
February 14, 2017 – in English
Tobias Endler (Heidelberg Center for American Studies)
Martin Thunert (Heidelberg Center for American Studies)

The W. E. B. Du Bois Lecture Series are named in honor of William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1868 to 1963), an important and influential intellectual, scholar, public figure and writer of 20th century America. After doing graduate work at Harvard University, he was a doctoral student at Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität (now Humboldt-Universität) from 1892 to 1894. The first African American ever to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard in 1895, he was subsequently professor of economics and history at Atlanta University from 1897 to 1910 and became widely known for his numerous historical and analytical studies of the social, economic, political and cultural status of Black people in the United States. In his famous book The Souls of Black Folk (1903), which combined political essays, cultural critique, autobiographical sketches, and fiction, Du Bois elaborated his notion of the inescapable "double consciousness" that characterizes the lives of Black Americans and his vision of the crucial role racial conflicts were to play all over the world in the new century: "The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color line." He was a co-founder of the racially integrated civil rights organization National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As editor of The Crisis, the journal of the NAACP, from 1910 to 1934, Du Bois created a forum situating African Americans in the wider frame of a revised notion of a multicultural democratic society in the United States and its interrelations with other parts of a postcolonial world. He emigrated to Ghana in 1961 where he edited the Encyclopedia Africana. Du Bois died in Ghana in 1963.