The Town Hall of the American Studies Department invites you to join our virtual roundtable:

**learning from each other:**

**Challenging Neoliberal Diversity Strategies**

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**PROGRAM**

**23.06.2021, 18H–20H**

18H
Welcome

18.10H
Short inputs by

Maithu Bui und Heiko-Thandeka Ncube
(Universität der Künste, #exitracismudkberlin)

Jesse Gravina
(HU Berlin, Kitchen Table Talks)

Dr. Aki Krishnamurthy
(Alice Salomon Hochschule, EmpA)

N.N.
(HU Berlin, Black Student Union)

19H–19.30H
Q&A / Panel Discussion

19.30H–19.50H
Breakout rooms

19.50H–20H
Closing

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By inviting academics/activists from other universities to speak and present their work, we seek to discuss resonances in structural discrimination within our institutions as well as highlight anti-racist and anti-oppressive practices that we are engaged in. Together, we want to learn from each other by emphasizing the intersections between academia and activism and thus put pressure on our institutions to enforce real and sustainable change beyond superficial “diversity” work.

What is Townhall?

Students and faculty of the American Studies division organize virtual Town Hall meet-ups in which we come together and talk about racism in the US and Germany, white supremacy in academia, as well as possible anti-racist practices and actions at and beyond the department.

Faculty members and students from other departments and universities are welcome!
COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS

- none of us knows everything; together we know a lot

- one diva, one mic: one person talking at a time. try not to interrupt people when they’re talking and give them space to say what they need to say. thinking aloud is encouraged!

- address people with their name: inquire after their pronouns. we invite you to put your pronouns in your name on zoom if you feel comfortable.

- all spaces have power dynamics, so be aware of your privileges and positionality in the space. talking about race and racism can be challenging

- step up, step back / move up, move up: be aware of how much you contribute to the discussion. if you usually talk a lot, think about moving into listening more. if you haven't said anything for a while, see if you can move into talking more. there are no obligations to perform here, but this is a space to address difficult topics in a safer way.

- what's said here stays here, what's learned here leaves here: maintain confidentiality of individual people, but bring knowledge of what you have learned out into the world

- take your needs into account: if you need to take a break, leave the room, mute yourself, or turn off your camera, this is all okay!

- silence is ok! zoom and other online platforms make it sometimes challenging to interpret nonverbal communication. we acknowledge that silence doesn't always mean disengagement but can mean thinking and deeper reflection

- use non-oppressive language: be mindful about what words you use

- there are hierarchies of knowledge: try to be clear and simple when speaking.

If you would like to add something to the list, please let us know.

Our Agreements are Inspired by Anti-Oppression Resource Training Alliance.