



A Great Divide?

America between Exceptionalism and Transnationalism

International Conference

Convener: Michael Kimmage (Catholic University of America), Uwe Lübken (LMU/Amerika-Institut), Andrew Preston (University of Cambridge), Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson (GHI)

May 21-22, 2015

Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität; Munich, Germany

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Please register at: info@cas.lmu.de

Program

Thursday May 21, 2015

10 – 10:30 Opening remarks, conference organizers

10:30 – 12:00 Panel 1: Foreign Policy

Chair and Commentator: Andrew Preston (University of Cambridge)

Dirk Bönker (Duke University)

Commonality, Difference, and Interconnection: U.S. and German Naval Militarisms before World War I

Julio Decker (Darmstadt University)

Regular Empires: The United States, the German Empire and Colonial Infrastructure Projects

12:00 – 2:00 Lunch

2:00 – 3:30 Panel 2: Academia/Intellectual Life

Chair and Commentator: Charlotte Lerg (LMU)

Emily J. Levine (The University of North Carolina at Greensboro)
Exceptional Institutions: Cities, Capital, and the Rise of the Research University

Daniel Geary (Trinity College Dublin)
Critical Exceptionalism

3:30 – 4:00 coffee break

4:00 – 5:30 Panel 3: Political Economy
Chair and Commentator: Angus Burgin (Johns Hopkins University)

Samuel Zipp (Brown University)
"Toward Interdependence? Wendell Willkie, One World, and the Problem of American Exceptionalism during World War II"

Brendon O'Connor (University of Sydney)
The Ideology of American Exceptionalism

6 – 8 Keynote address and reception

Mary Nolan (New York University)
*American Exceptionalism, Transnationalism, Globalization, or Divergent Paths?
In Search of a Paradigm for the Neoliberal Era*

Introduction by Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson (GHI)

Reception

Friday May 22, 2015

9:30 – 11:00 Panel 4: Law

Chair and Commentator: Michelle Engert (LMU / American University)

Katharina Schmidt (Yale)
De-Naturalizing "Jurisprudential Exceptionalism": German Free Lawyers, American Legal Realists and the Transatlantic Turn to "Life"

Helle Porsdam (University of Copenhagen)

Rights Talk: American Exceptionalist or Global Ethical Discourse?

11:00-11:30 coffee break

11:30-1:00 Panel 5: Culture

Chair and Commentator: Casey N. Blake (Columbia University)

Laura MacDonald (University of Portsmouth)

"We Know We Belong to the Land": Postwar Musicals Sing an American Tune Abroad

Sarah Earnshaw (LMU)

The Universality of American Exceptionalism: Securing the National through the International

1:00-3:00 Lunch

2:30-4:00 Panel 6: Political Culture

Chair and Commentator: Matthew Sutton (Washington State University)

Stefan Hübner (Bundeswehr University Munich)

"Nobody Wants to Be like America" – The YMCA, the United States' Asian Cold War Allies and Nation-Branding through Sports Events (c. 1913-1974)

Julius Wilm (University of Cologne)

"A bounty of this kind has uniformly been refused by the United States": Mexico, Texas, and the Origins of Free Land Policy in the USA, 1829-1842

4:00-4:30 coffee break

4:30-5:30 Closing remarks, discussion