Workshop “Uncertainty and Risk: (Un)stable Histories in America from the Late Colonial Period to the Gilded Age”
June 30 – July 2, 2016
Seminar Room of the Graduate School of North American Studies,
Lansstr. 5, 14195 Berlin

Thursday, 30 June 2016

2.30 pm – 3 pm: Introduction
Elisabeth Engel (GHI, Washington) & Sebastian Jobs (JFK Institute, Berlin)

3 pm – 5.00 pm: The Risk of Resistance
Lydia Plath (Canterbury University)
*Racial Mobility, Racial Ambiguity, and Racial Control: The Lynching of Francis McIntosh in St Louis in 1836*

Sebastian Jobs (JFK Institute, Berlin)
*Uncertainty in Disguise – Slave Revolts in the Nineteenth-Century South*

Comment: Alexander Starre (JFK Institute, Berlin)

6 pm – 8 pm: Keynote
Jonathan Levy (University of Chicago)
*Radical Uncertainty, The History of an Idea*

Friday, 1 July 2016

9.00 am – 11.00 pm: Risk and Insurance
Elisabeth Engel (GHI, Washington)
*A wild, ungovernable thing: ‘Constructions of Risk in the Early Republic, 1770s-1840s*

Sharon Ann Murphy (Providence College)
*Risky Investments: Banks and Slavery in the Antebellum American South*

Comment: Olaf Stieglitz (Universität Köln)

11.30 am – 1.30 pm: Risk and Environment
Eleonora Rohland (Universität Bielefeld)
*Hurricane and Slave Revolt? Risk and Uncertainty in New Orleans in 1812*

Joseph Giacomelli (Cornell University)
*Mysterious Agencies: Uncertainty, Risk, and Climate Change in the Gilded-Age United States*

Comment: Simone Müller (Universität Freiburg)
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Lunch break

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm: The Civil War

Martha Hodes (New York University)
*The Uncertainty and Risks of Racial Classification in the Nineteenth Century*

Sabine Mischner (Universität Freiburg)
*The American Civil War as a Permanent State of Suspense: Uncertainty, Information and Communication during War*

Comment: Silvan Niedermeier (Universität Erfurt)

**Saturday, 2 July 2016**

9 am – 11.00 am: Risk, Uncertainty & Crime

Bruce Dorsey (Swarthmore College)
*The “Factory Girl”: Uncertainty and Risk in Working Women's Lives*

Sean Cosgrove (Cornell University)
*Tales of Jack the Clipper: Narratives of Risk in Gilded-Age Chicago*

Comment: Michaela Hampf (JFK Institute, Berlin)

11.30 am – 12.30 pm Final Discussion