

Akademik Qualifikationen

- 1986 International Baccalaureate, Goethe-Gymnasium, Frankfurt.
- 1986-1993 Magisterstudium der Amerikanistik, Politikwissenschaft und Germanistik an der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main.
- 1994-2001 Promotion zum Doktor der Philosophie bei Prof. Dr. Walter Kühnel (Universität Frankfurt) mit der Dissertation: *Virtuous Democrats, Liberal Aristocrats: Political Discourse and the Pennsylvania Constitution, 1776-1790*.
- 2003-2013 Habilitationsprojekt zum Thema *Tocquevillian Moments: Transatlantic Visions of an American Republican Culture*

Berufstätigkeit

- 1996-2001 Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter in der Abteilung Amerikastudien des Instituts für England- und Amerikastudien der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.
- 1999-2001 Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter am Zentrum für Nordamerika-Forschung (ZENAF) der Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.
- 2001-2009 Hochschulassistent am Lehrstuhl Geschichte Nordamerikas und Großbritanniens (Prof. Dr. Horst Dippel), Fachbereich Gesellschaftswissenschaften an der Universität Kassel.
- 10/2010-4/2011 Vertretungsprofessur für nordamerikanische Geschichte, Universität Münster
- 3/2010- Research Associate am ZENAF, Goethe Universität Frankfurt
- 10/2011-2/2012 Lehrbeauftragter am Institut für England- und Amerikastudien an der Universität Frankfurt
- 4/2012-7/2012 Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter in Vertretung für nordamerikanische Geschichte, Universität Münster

Stipendien u.ä.

- 1992 Kurzstipendium des DAAD zur Finanzierung eines Fachpraktikums in der Communications and Public Policy Abteilung der San Francisco AIDS Foundation, San Francisco, Ca.
- 1995 Forschungsstipendium für Dissertationsrecherchen des John F. Kennedy Instituts für Nordamerikastudien der FU Berlin.
- 1996 Forschungsstipendium des DAAD für Dissertationsrecherchen in Philadelphia, Pa.
- 2005 Christoph Daniel Ebeling-Stipendium der DGfA und der American Antiquarian Society.
- 2007 Einladung zur Teilnahme am *German-American Frontiers of Humanities*-Symposium (GAFOH) 2007 der Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung und der American Philosophical Society.

Mitgliedschaften in wissenschaftlichen Vereinigungen

- Organization of American Historians (OAH)
Verband der Historiker und Historikerinnen Deutschlands (VHD)
Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR)
Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture (OIEAHC)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien (DGfA)
European Association of American Studies (EAAS)
American Studies Association (ASA)

Veröffentlichungen

In Arbeit

“an indissoluble union between moral, political, and physical happiness.” The Body Politic and the Citizen’s Health in the Creation of the American Republic, 1774-1793. *The Health of the Nation*. European Association of American Studies 2012 Conference Volume, 2013.

“ ‘Beware the wit of Voltaire.’ Benjamin Rush and the Limits of American Cosmopolitanism”. *Cosmopolitanism and Nationhood in the Age of Jefferson*. Ed. Peter Nicolaisen and Hannah Spahn. Thomas Jefferson Foundation, 2013.

“The Antebellum South and New Orleans in Tocqueville and Three German Travel Accounts.” *The U.S. South and Europe*. Ed. Cornelis van Minnen and Manfred Berg. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 2013.

Verfügbar

“ ‘...let Cato’s virtues fire:’ Das Catobild in der amerikanischen Revolution. *Historische Zeitschrift*. Beiheft No. 55 (2011): 203-217.

" ‘...to convert men into republican machines.’ Rush, Foucault, and the Making of Virtuous Bodies in the Early Republic." *Making National Bodies: Cultural Identity and the Politics of the Body in (Post-)Revolutionary America*. Hg. Stefan Brandt und Astrid Fellner. Trier: WVT, 2010: 61-79

"Repression and Exclusion as Keys to Liberty and Democracy. The Political Thought of James Fenimore Cooper." *Political Repression in US History*. Hg. Cornelis van Minnen und Sylvia L. Hilton. Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2009: 41-55.

Aufklärung, Konstitutionalismus, atlantische Welt. Eine Festschrift für Horst Dippel. Hg. Thomas Clark und Ulrich Schnakenberg. Kassel: Kassel University Press, 2009.

“ ‘I am allways in our dear beloved America.’ Überlegungen zu Christoph Daniel Ebelings erschriebener Republik.” *Aufklärung, Konstitutionalismus, atlantische Welt. Eine Festschrift für Horst Dippel*. Hg. Thomas Clark and Ulrich Schnakenberg. Kassel: Kassel University Press, 2009: 115-132.

"Fenimore Cooper's *The American Democrat* and the Political Dimension of Manners." *Civilizing America. Manners and Civility in American Literature and Culture*. Hg. Dietmar Schloss. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag C. Winter, 2009: 151-171.

“Beam Me Across, Scotty: Star Trek as a Case Study in the Liminality of 'Cult'." *Cult Fiction & Cult Film: Multiple Perspectives*. Hg. Marcel Arbeit und Roman Trušník. Olomouc: VUP, 2008: 195-208.

"The American Democrat Reads *Democracy in America*. Tocqueville and Cooper in the Transatlantic Hall of Mirrors." *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 52 (2007): 187-208.

"We, the Volk: Modern and Radical Constitutionalism from the American Revolution to the German Direct-Democracy Debate." *Europe’s American Revolution*. Hg. Simon Newman. London: Palgrave, 2006: 123-146.

"Celsius 9/11: Michael Moore's German Reception and the (Contemporary) Image of America." *Safeguarding German-American Relations in the New Century: Understanding and*

Accepting Mutual Differences. Hg. Hermann Kurthen, Stefan Immerfall, and Antonio Menendez. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2006: 213-229.

"The Last Stand? Manliness and Race in the Work of Frederic Remington." *America: Home of the Brave*. Hg. Michal Peprník und Mathew Sweney. Olomouc: VUP, 2005: 51-73.

"Die *Démocratie* in Amerika: Zur Wirkungsgeschichte Tocquevilles in den Vereinigten Staaten." *Alter Staat - Neue Politik. Tocqueville's Entdeckung der modernen Demokratie*. Hg. Karlfriedrich Herb, Oliver Hidalgo. Baden Baden: Nomos, 2004: 155-175.

"No Masters, No Masses. The American Dream of a Republican (Political) Culture." *Popular Culture and Democracy: An Easy/Uneasy Relationship*. Hg. Michal Peprník und Mathew Sweney. Olomouc: VUP, 2004: 37-63.

"Getting Ourselves Back to the Garden. Nature and Technology in Ernest Callenbach's Ecotopia." *"Nature's Nation" Reconsidered. American Concepts of Nature from Wonder to Ecological Crisis*. Hg. Hans Bak, Walter Hoelbling. Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2003: 414-426.

"Civilization, Disease, and Political Order: Benjamin Rush's 'Enquiry into the Natural History of Medicine among the Indians of North-America.'" *Colonial Encounters*. Hg. Hans Jürgen Grabbe. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag C. Winter, 2003: 125-138.

"Tugendhafte Demokraten - Liberalismus und Republikanismus in der amerikanischen Revolution am Beispiel des Wahlrechts in Pennsylvania." *Jahrbuch zur Liberalismus-Forschung*. 13. Jahrgang. Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2001: 11-44.

East-West American Studies Conference 14-17 October, 1998. Hg. Christa Buschendorf, Astrid Franke und Thomas Clark. *ZENAF Conference Proceedings 1*. Frankfurt: Zentrum für Nordamerikaforschung, 2000.

"Introduction." *Germany, the Philippines, and the Spanish-American War. Four Accounts by Imperial Naval Officers On German Activities between the Battle of Manila Bay and the Spanish-American Armistice*. Hg. Karl Heinz Wionzek. Manila: National Historical Institute, 2000: xiii-xxii.

Vorträge (seit 2008)

"'an indissoluble union between moral, political, and physical happiness.' The Body Politic and the Citizen's Health in the Creation of the American Republic, 1774-1793." Plenary Lecture, *The Health of the Nation*. Biannual Conference of the European Association for American Studies, Izmir, 4/1/12.

"This Is Not America: The Ambivalence of the Antebellum South in European Travel Accounts." *The U.S. South and Europe*. 9th Middelburg Conference of Historians of the United States. Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, Netherlands, 4/28/11.

"'beware the wit of Voltaire.' Transatlantic Asymmetries and the Limits of American Cosmopolitanism." *Cosmopolitanism and Nationhood in the Age of Jefferson*. International Symposium of the John F. Kennedy Institute, Berlin with the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, Charlottesville, Virginia. Free University Berlin, 12/03/10.

“Tugend und Freiheit. Das Cato-Bild in der amerikanischen Revolution [Virtue and Liberty. The Image of Cato in the American Revolution].” *Konstruktion und Verargumentierung von Antike in Nordamerika, 1763-1809*, University of Marburg, 11/13/09.

“Saving the American Republic: The Concept of Moral Education as a Critique of Liberal Capitalist Democracy.” *Education and the USA*. Annual Conference of the German Association for American Studies, Jena, 6/6/09.

“From ‘Fights of Nations’ to ‘Trans-National America.’ Multi-Ethnicity, Stereotyping and Hierarchical Cosmopolitanism in the Early 20th-Century U.S.” *Cosmopolitan America? The United States in Transition*. Biannual Conference of the Nordic Association for American Studies, Copenhagen, 5/29/09.

“Not So Fast....Revising the Liberal Myth of American Mobility.” *America in Motion*. International Symposium of American Studies, Olomouc, Czech Republic, 9/8/08.

Lehrveranstaltungen

Hauptseminare / Master

American History to 1865

This unscripted lecture, based on copious notes, combines the presentation of scholarly controversies and innovations on key issues with presentations of my own current research and the display of a number of textual, visual (e.g. historical maps, depictions of Native Americans) and aural (e.g. slave songs) sources. It aims to provide students with a solid orientation, while avoiding a simplistic master narrative or homogenizations of complex and disputed issues, rather intending to stimulate students' curiosity towards further inquiry into American history.

The American Revolution

With a focus on political and constitutional history, this seminar introduced the topic to students of history with limited knowledge of the US. Introduction to source collections, historiography, current schools of thought, race and gender issues, new scholarship on Revolutionary politics and the economy, European receptions of the Revolution, originalism and the uses of history in current Second Amendment debates were addressed. Methods included source analysis, student presentations, a mock constitutional convention, E-learning modules.

American History in Film

Small workshop, in which students studied the debate among and between historians and film studies scholars on the relationship between academic scholarship, public history and the role of (fiction) film as presently a main source of historical knowledge. Introduction to the semiotics of film and analytical techniques; exercises, screenings, presentations, analysis and discussion of classic, mainstream and non-commercial films, viz. “Cabeza de Vaca,” “Birth of a Nation,” “Revolution” and “The Patriot,” “Walker,” “Glory,” “Amistad,” and “C.S.A.”

The 1960s in the U.S.: Society, Politics, Culture

Focus on the ideological foundations and historical context of the student movement, Vietnam war protest movement, civil rights movements (Blacks, Chicanos, Red Power, Gay and Lesbian), counterculture and their interrelation. Ongoing transnational comparison, e.g. through student presentations on student movements in Europe and Japan and comparative work on US Weatherman group and German Red Army Faction. Inclusion of current research on the rise of conservatism in the 1960s and its consequences for the present. Historiographical reflection on the significance of many scholars' active participation in 1960s

movements. Frequent comparative view with current situation, development and responses at universities to clarify factors and forms of (de)politicization of students. Student research task on approx. forty movements, parties and organizations of the 1960s compiled into an online resource.

The American Right since World War II

Interdisciplinary seminar which analyzed and critiqued historical, political and sociological models explaining the (radical) American right. Topics included White Power, Militias, Christian Right, John Birch Society, transnational Neonazi networks and comparisons with German analyses of the extreme Right. Beyond classical sources, the seminar analyzed online media (KKK, Neonazi groups,) and studied documentaries. Methods included interactive student presentations, plenary debates, mind mapping, film- and text analysis, online tasks.

A Republican Empire: American Expansionism

A classic reading and debating seminar, which combined historical, political science and cultural studies perspectives (ideological origins of manifest destiny, history of territorial expansion and US foreign policy 1776-2007; realism vs. idealism debate on 1840s, current interpretations of the Iraq War; visual representations of American imperialism and racial hierarchies.) Methods included plenary and small group discussions, mock debates (e.g. on the Texas annexation question), close reading of 19th century Congressional speeches, iconographic interpretation.

North American Colonial History in an Atlantic Context

This course employed the Atlantic paradigm to introduce new perspectives on classic topics of colonial history (images of America, first contact, colonial wars, settlement strategies, immigration, slave trade, fur trade, sugar economy, Britain, Netherlands, Spain, France as rival powers, etc.). Focus on current scholarship and theory, working with sources and refining students' presentation techniques.

American Cultural Iconography: Visual Sources in US History

Compact seminar including field trip to the art exhibition „I like Amerika: Fictions of the Wild West“ (Kunsthalle Schirn, Frankfurt). Theoretical texts on the “visual turn,” introduction to analyzing visual sources with exercises, students projects and presentations on caricature (Thomas Nast), painting (landscape painting and industrialization), photography (Lewis Hine).

Negotiating America: A Transatlantic Debate on Cultural and Political Identity

Interdisciplinary compact course in cooperation with Dr. Kristina Hinz-Bode (American Studies, Kassel) and Dr. Astrid Franke (American Studies, Frankfurt). Using literary and historical sources from the Revolutionary era (Freneau, Crèvecoeur), the 1830s (Cooper, Tocqueville) and the 1910s (Antin, Bourne, various films), as well as theoretical texts on identity, nation and postcolonialism, students discussed and developed approaches towards understanding the constitution of American identities in European mirrors (and vice versa).

Tocqueville and his Transatlantic Reception

This traditional reading- and presentation-based course, complemented by an e-learning module focused on analyzing Tocqueville in various American and European contexts, utilizing recent transnational scholarly perspectives. Simultaneously, Tocqueville's *Democracy in America*, which was closely analyzed through various online tasks and in-class exercises and discussions, served as an example of an interdisciplinary historical, political and sociological perspective on the US.

Envisioning the Republic: An American Reader

An intensive reading and debating course involving guest lecturers and student presentations. Used central texts in intellectual history to understand the heterogeneity and transformation of American self images. Aimed at deepening source analysis skills and knowledge of key strains in American thought and training oral skills in debate and presentation. Topics included *republican motherhood* and feminism, individualism and communitarianism, the Declaration of Independence and its appropriation by women, workers and African Americans in the 19th and 20th centuries, assimilation vs. pluralism debates in the early and late twentieth century, European and American views on the death penalty, popular culture and hegemony in the 1960s.

Democracy and Constitution. Transatlantic Perspectives since 1776

Comparative analysis of American, French and British discourses on constitutionalism and democracy, involving historical and current theoretical texts and sources. Student projects dealt with US Revolutionary constitutionalism, Napoleonic constitutions, progressive reform constitutions in the early 20th century US, and the current British debate on a written constitution and their transatlantic aspects.

The Constitutional Discourse of the American Founding

A source-based seminar introducing the Early American Imprints and various anthologies to students through exercises and presentations. Included a special project section in which students worked with a collection of rare archival resources on the constitutional debate in Pennsylvania from my dissertation project.

Proseminare / Bachelor**Introduction to Modern History / American Expansionism (Historisches Proseminar Einführung in die neuere Geschichte / Amerikanischer Expansionismus)****European Images of America**

Centered on the premise of the structural continuity of key images of America since 1492, the seminar confronted students with their own prejudicial conceptions of America and proceeded to contextualize them as part of a long transatlantic history. Combining theoretical readings on the construction of knowledge, ethnocentrism, postcolonialism and travel writing etc., coursework involved the presentation and discussion of visual and textual sources from 15th century woodcuts to 19th century accounts by Trollope and Tocqueville. A further section gave special emphasis to German images of America and the US since the Wilhelmine age, through the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich to the perception of Bush and the Iraq War and the reception of Michael Moore, focusing on the function and appropriation of mutually constructed auto- and heterostereotypes in specific historical or socio-cultural contexts.

African American History: An Introduction

Using Kelley/Lewis' *To Make Our World Anew* as a basis, this seminar introduced students to the little known (in Germany) experience of African-Americans, complementing the textbook with numerous textual, and audio-visual sources and writings on the evolution of black scholarship, theories of race, as well as the most recent debates on sources (e.g. over the authenticity of Equiano's slave narrative) and the political implications of scholarship (e.g. the reparations for slavery issue).

The Cold War

Built around an introduction to working with full-text databases on the Cold War (Digital National Security Archive, Declassified Documents Reference System and others). The

conception of thesis papers from topic search to thesis building was included as an explicit exercise within the seminar. Focus on problems of CW historiography, transnational approaches and their limits, interdisciplinary combination of historical and political science perspectives.

The Right to Vote in American History

Built around Alexander Keyssar's path-breaking study, this seminar highlighted the crucial political and symbolic significance of voting rights and outlined the complex, non-linear evolution of this civil right, adding a comparative German/European perspective and resorting to copious sources including petitions by slaves and free blacks, anti-suffragette caricatures and the rich body of political and public debate connecting the franchise with questions of virtue, property, race, gender, etc. This topic has an immediate appeal to students in the context of European debates on (im)migrant voting rights and citizenship and student activities, such as mock historical and real suffrage debates and comparative Euro-American analysis, were central to the course and its popularity and success.

Introduction to British and American Studies

A de facto lecture, due to high participation (150-200 students), providing a broad overview of US and British history, society and government. Six tutorials attached, in which students are introduced to basic research, reading and writing skills.

Topics in US History II: From Reconstruction to World War II

Traditional lecture- and discussion based survey. Source analysis, student presentations, and e-learning tasks aimed at improving all basic academic skills (research, reading, writing, presenting, arguing) in freshman students.

Topics in US History I: From European Discovery to Reconstruction

Traditional lecture- and discussion based survey. Source analysis, student presentations, and e-learning tasks aimed at improving all basic academic skills (research, reading, writing, presenting, arguing) in freshman students.

American History in Film

A large seminar (sixty-five students from originally 120) organized by necessity into large project groups conducting research and giving presentations on a number of historical films (ranging from "Birth of a Nation" to "JFK"), preceded by a theory section based on lectures and reading/writing exercises. The project format proved extremely demanding upon students in terms of organization and input, but resulted in highly competent work, excellent discussions and subsequent term papers. Large e-learning component with numerous exercises on semiotics of film and sequence analysis.

The Evolution of American Government

An introduction to key developments in and debates over democracy, representation, federalism, checks and balances and the Imperial Presidency, redistricting etc. combining social, political and institutional history with theories of democracy and government. Based on lectures and source work.

The 1960s in the US: Politics, Society, Culture

Fully student-centered seminar. Choice of topics and session organization by supervised project groups. Focus on key topics of the 1960s in the face of changing scholarship: new perspectives on Civil Rights Movement, Cuban Missile Crisis, student movement and counterculture. Introduction to critical reading of secondary literature and sources, presentation skills, project organization, didactic meta-reflection, feedback processes. An experimental seminar with highly motivated students and somewhat mixed results. The extensive evaluation was effectively utilized to improve future courses.

Ideologia Americana: Key Texts in American Intellectual History

An undergraduate version of the seminar “Envisioning the Republic.”

Slavery: History and Historiography

An introduction focusing on the complete transformation in the perception of slavery since the 1950s and the long invisibility of black scholarship aimed at sensitizing students to the inherent presentism of scholarship, while providing an introduction to a central chapter of American history. A traditional discussion-based course based on the reading of sources, monographs, articles and student presentations.

American Historiography

Lecture- and discussion based course built around Peter Novick’s monograph *That Noble Dream*, serving as an introduction to key phases and problems in the writing of US history.

Introduction to American Social and Intellectual History 1 & 2

Traditional survey seminar using a reader compiled from sources and secondary literature, combining lecture, discussion and student presentations, concluded with a written exam (multiple choice test plus essay writing).