

The Bavarian America Academy in Munich

invites applications for its

4th International Summer Academy for
Doctoral Students and Junior Faculty in American Studies



Democratic Cultures, Past and Present: Perspectives from Washington, D.C.

May 4 to 13, 2012 in Washington D.C

In cooperation with the German Historical Institute
and the American University

Ever since the publication of Alexis de Tocqueville's *De la Democratie en Amerique* (1835/40) scholars on both sides of the Atlantic have addressed American democracy as both a specific manifestation of US-American historical and political developments and as a model for others. In this context, the program of our summer academy addresses both historical and current debates about American democracy and democratic cultures in various discourses across the academic disciplines. The plural used in the title of our event refers not only to semantic changes in a diachronic perspective, but also to the synchronic pluralism of perspectives on democracy in national, subnational, and transnational contexts. Fields of interest include the role of the media and various forms of 'representation' and ideological critique. Finally, we will discuss the contemporary rhetoric of crisis of democracy in the U.S. against the background of domestic and foreign political and social developments. Along those lines our summer academy seeks to address related issues in American history, politics, (popular) culture, and literature.

The program is structured into three parts

- a) **Work-in-Progress Presentations** by the doctoral participants
- b) **Keynote Lectures** on crucial issues of American democracy and democratic cultures, featuring
 - Prof. Lauren Berlant** (University of Chicago, to be confirmed)
 - Prof. Philipp Gassert** (Augsburg University)
 - Prof. Maria Höhn** (Vassar College)
 - Prof. Heike Paul** (FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg)
 - Prof. Werner Sollors** (Harvard University)
 - Prof. Barrett Watten** (Wayne State University, Detroit)
- c) **Supporting Program**

On the schedule are: an event at the National Endowment for the Humanities with **Dr. Christine Kalke**; an introduction to sources and research facilities at the Library of Congress with **Dr. Carolyn Brown** (John W. Kluge Center); and receptions, guided city tours, visits to museums and places of special interest in Washington D.C.

Application



We invite doctoral students and junior faculty to apply electronically with

- a statement of purpose
- a CV
- a 2-page project description
- one letter of recommendation

Please send your application **by March 1, 2012** to both:

- Meike Zwingenberger: mzwingenberger@amerika-akademie.de
- Heike Paul: heike.paul@amer.phil.uni-erlangen.de

**Ten participants will be selected based on the strength of their applications.
The tuition fee is 150 €**

Acceptance to the summer academy includes a full academic and cultural program, accommodation, and travel grant.

The summer academy is organized by the Bavarian America-Academy in cooperation with the Friedrich Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg (Prof. Dr. Heike Paul), Augsburg University (Prof. Dr. Philipp Gassert), the German Historical Institute (Dr. Britta Waldschmidt-Nelson), Washington D.C., and the American University (Prof. Katharina Vester), Washington D.C.

