CONFERENCE DETAILS

HOST
Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.
Lauterstr. 2
67657 Kaiserslautern
Tel: 0631/366100
Fax: 0631/3661015
Info@atlantische-akademie.de
www.atlantische-akademie.de

VENUE
PfalzAkademie, Franz-Hartmann-Straße 9
67466 Lambrecht, Tel. 06325-1800-0
Email: info@pfalzakademie.bv-pfalz.de

PARTNERS
Political Science II, TU Kaiserslautern
German Association for American Studies (GAAS)
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

TARGET GROUP
Students and researchers of American politics, members of the GAAS and a larger interested audience

ACCREDITATION
The conference is accredited by the Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung for teachers from Hesse.
IQ-No.: 01583374

FEE
Professionals 85 Euro (single room) / 70 Euro (double room)
Students 45 Euro / 50 Euro (without overnight accomodation)

REGISTRATION (THROUGH NOVEMBER 6TH, 2015)
Further details on our website:
www.atlantische-akademie.de/dgfa-2015

DIRECTIONS

BY CAR
Coming from the...
North, South, and East
Autobahn A 65, Exit Neustadt/Lambrecht,
B 39 Neustadt/Kaiserslautern.
West
Autobahn A 6, Exit Enkenbach/Neustadt,
B 48 to Hochspeyer,
B 39 Kaiserslautern/Neustadt.

BY TRAIN
Take the train to Lambrecht (Pfalz). The PfalzAkademie is in walking distance (~15 minutes) and directions are signposted.
The PfalzAkademie can arrange for conference guests to be picked up at the train station for a fee of 3.50 Euro.
Please contact the PfalzAkademie if you wish to be picked up.

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM
REVISITED

Friday, November 13
through
Saturday, November 14, 2015
PfalzAkademie Lambrecht
ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

From the very beginning America has considered herself as a nation with a mission, and John Winthrop’s (1630) “city upon a hill” as the sacred Urtext of “American Exceptionalism” permeates every period of U.S. political and cultural history. Discussions of U.S. identity often point at America’s exceptional self-image, holding that the United States has a unique place in history, differing fundamentally and qualitatively from all other nations in the world.

In academia, American exceptionalism has been identified as American Creed explaining political and socio-economic trends in history (Seymour M. Lipset, 1996), as an exceptional-exemptional self-image in the context of American foreign policy (Michael Ignatieff, 2005) or most recently as a myth (Stephen M. Walt, 2009) or an idea that has been corrupted over time – especially after 9-11 (Godfrey Hodgson, 2009).

In 2009, almost two centuries after Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of America as creating “a distinct species of mankind”, President Obama challenged the virtuous meaning of “American Exceptionalism” by saying “I believe in American exceptionalism, just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism”.

The purpose of this conference is to deconstruct the notion of American exceptionalism and to raise a variety of questions. What are the historical roots and the contemporary interpretations of American exceptionalism? Is exceptionalism still working in times of very high party polarization? Is Barack Obama an exceptional president in domestic and foreign policy?

These and other concerns will be at the center of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Political Science Section of the German Association for American Studies.

Dr. David Sirakov  
Atlantische Akademie  
Lukas D. Herr, M.A.  
TU Kaiserslautern

Marcus Müller, M.Ed.  
TU Kaiserslautern  
Prof. Dr. Jürgen Wilzewski  
TU Kaiserslautern

CONFERENCE PLAN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

1.30pm – 2pm:
INTRODUCTION

2pm – 4pm Panel 1:
SOMETHING DIFFERENT OR SOMETHING SPECIAL?  
AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM IN A  
COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE  
Chair: Dr. David Sirakov (Atlantische Akademie)

Sebastian Dregger, M.A. (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)  
An Exceptional Constitution? U.S. Constitution Compared to  
Other Constitutions on the International and Subnational  
Level

Prof. Dr. Christian Lammert (FU Berlin)  
Exceptionalism Unbound? Income Inequality in the U.S. in  
Comparative Perspective

Dr. Susan McEwen-Fial & Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Muno  
( Universität Mainz)  
Dreams are but Shadows? American and Chinese  
 Exceptionalism Compared

4.30pm – 6.30pm Panel 2:
MORE THAN A MYTH? THE DECONSTRUCTION OF  
AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM  
Chair: Dr. Steffen Hagemann (TU Kaiserslautern)

Dr. Torben Lütjen (HHU Düsseldorf)  
Polarization and American Exceptionalism on the Waning of the American Consensus

Prof. Dr. Frank Austermuehl (Aston University)  
Thats Ok with me. We are America: The Construction of American Exceptionalism in U.S. Presidential Discourse

Hendrik W. Ohnesorge, M.A. (Universität Bonn)  
Westwards to the East: Examining the Role of China in the  
Notions of American Exceptionalism and Manifest Destiny

7.30pm – 9pm Keynote Address:
Prof. Jeffrey Meiser, PhD (University of Portland)  
AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM:  
HISTORICAL ANOMALY OR ENDURING REALITY?  
Introduction: Prof. Dr. Jürgen Wilzewski (TU Kaiserslautern)

CONFERENCE PLAN (CONT.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

9am – 11am Panel 3:
STILL EXCEPTIONAL? AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM AND  
THE TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICAN POWER  
Chair: Marcus Müller, M.Ed. & Lukas D. Herr, M.A.  
(TU Kaiserslautern)

Dr. Henrike Viehrig (Universität Bonn)  
Projecting Exceptionalism? The Limits of Soft Power and American Public Diplomacy

Dr. Boris Vormann (FU Berlin)  
Outside the Laws of History? The Exceptionalism of American Empire

Curd Benjamin Knüpfer, M.A. (FU Berlin)  
Digital Exceptionalism? Power and Hegemony in an Online Information Environment

11.15am – 12.45pm Panel 4:  
READY TO LEAD ONCE MORE? AMERICAN  
EXCEPTIONALISM AND U.S. FOREIGN POLICY  
Chair: Dr. Florian Böller (TU Kaiserslautern)

Lukas D. Herr, M.A. (TU Kaiserslautern)  
A myth that matters? American Exceptionalism as antecedent of American foreign policy preferences

Tatiana Prorokova, M.A. (Universität Marburg)  
American Exceptionalism and the Policy of Interventionism:  
From the Early European Settlements to the Twenty-First Century

Golareh Khalilpour, M.A. (Universität Stuttgart)  
National Identity and Democracy: Exploring the Roots of American and European Approaches to Democracy Promotion

2.15pm – 3pm  
Business Meeting

The program is subject to change without notice.