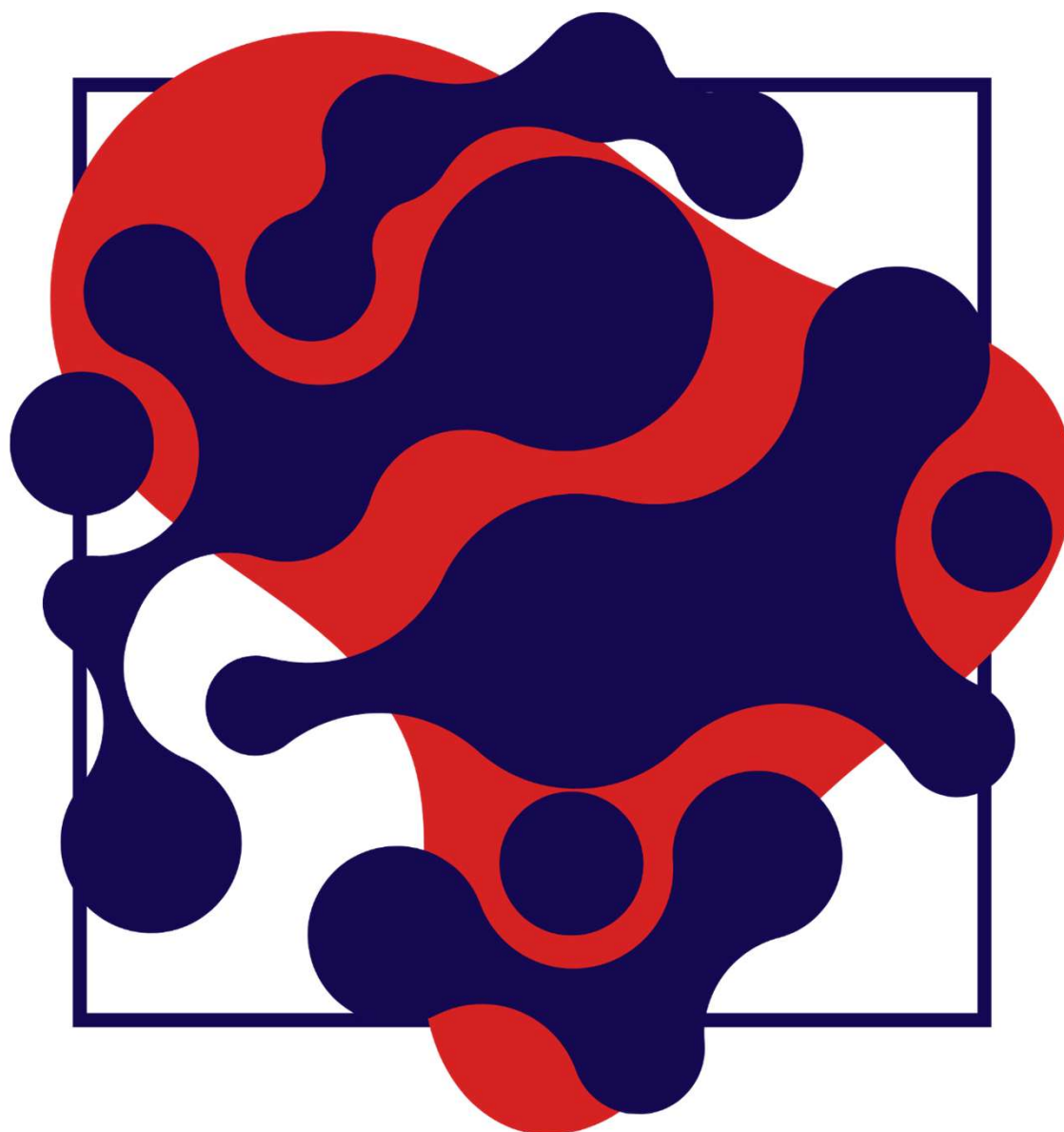


KINSHIP IN AMERICAN STUDIES

Including the 72nd annual GAAS/DGfA meeting



May 28–30, 2026

Conference Organization

Silvia Schultermandl

Chris Wahlig

Sarah Pyke

Gulsin Ciftci

Kare Mayurathan

University of Münster

Schlossplatz 2

48149 Münster

Conference Assistance

Frederik Bosman

Noah Braun

Aline Franzus

Sophia Haber

Laura Hartrampf

Sabrina Meyer

Nazli Özcelik

Anna Westhofen

Conference Website



Homepage: Chris Wahlig

Logo Design: Aline Franzus

DGFA/GAAS OFFICERS

President: Prof. Dr. Christian Lammert, Freie Universität Berlin

Vice President: Prof. Dr. Andrew Gross, Universität Göttingen

Executive Director: Prof. Dr. Regina Schober, HHU Düsseldorf

WiFi Info:

- via **eduroam**: members of other universities
OR
- via **GuestOnCampus**: Connect to the SSID "GuestOnCampus" and start any web browser. You will be automatically redirected to the login page. Confirm the terms of use and click on "log in for free". Please note that the connection is not encrypted.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Welcome from the Organizers | 1 |
| Welcome from the Rector of the University | 2 |
| Welcome from the President of GAAS/DGfA | 3 |
| Program Overview | 5-7 |
| Exhibition: Book Studio Zines | 8 |
| Keynote Lectures | 9-10 |
| Current Events Panel | 11-12 |
| Workshops 1-6, Friday 11:00-13:00 | 13-14 |
| Workshops 7-12, Friday 14:30-16:30 | 15-16 |
| Workshops 13-17, Saturday 11:00-13:00 | 17-18 |
| Sponsors | 19-20 |
| Quiet/Safer Spaces Survey DEI | 21 |
| Schloss Overview Link to Interactive Map Miscellaneous | 22 |
| City (Campus) Map | 23-24 |

WELCOME to Münster!

We are delighted to welcome you to our conference, “Kinship in American Studies” and the 72nd annual meeting of the German Association of American Studies. We appreciate that you travelled to Münster to engage with us in inspiring and thought-provoking conversations about kinship, including its valence as a prism through which to investigate important concerns of the field of American Studies.

The theme of the conference – Kinship in American Studies – resonates with core themes in American studies, presently and historically: the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* by the U.S. Supreme Court, the forceful separation of families of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers at the U.S.-Mexico border, Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*, the AIDS quilt, the 1950s housewife, Dorothea Lange’s “Migrant Mother,” 27 rue de Fleurus, bachelor societies and paper sons, the boarding school system, the cult of domesticity, republican motherhood, Sally Hemings, Benjamin’s Franklin’s address “Dear Son,” *partus sequitur ventrem*, etc. This eclectic but by no means exhaustive list can be understood as an urgent call for more differentiated definitions of what kinship means in the specific contexts evoked above.

With this conference, we heed this call and explore how kinship has been defined as both an emancipatory practice of minoritized subjects and communities and a site of biopolitical power of the state, the empire, settler colonialism, and white supremacy. Foundational writers of kinship theory problematize kinship not only by conceptualizing kinship practices outside of white, heteronormative family settings, but by critically interrogating the ambivalence around kinship as a critical idiom which encompasses the promises and violences that kinship has engendered historically, epistemologically, and ontologically. Building on this earlier feminist, queer, and critical race theorist work in American studies, more recent research explores the desires, grammars, and potentialities inherent in kinship idioms as well as their political and aesthetic dimensions. As Tyler Bradway and Elizabeth Freeman astutely observe, “The idioms of kinship are not simply riven with ideological ruses waiting to be exposed; they are also invested and bound up with desire, fantasy, and affect.” (*Queer Kinship: Race, Sex, Belonging, Form* 3).

The conference is taking place at Schloss Münster, and we are grateful that the University of Münster provides us this location for all our conference events: the three keynotes, all the workshops, the current events panel, and the publishers’ book tables. We also have a BIPOC safer space and a quiet room. After we officially close the conference in the Aula, there will be a conference party at Yolk for conference participants.

Once again, welcome to Münster!

Silvia Schultermandl, Sarah Pyke, Gulsin Ciftci, and the Münster organizing team

WELCOME from the RECTOR

Dear conference participants,

I am pleased to welcome you to the international conference on ‘Kinship in American Studies’ at the University of Münster, which brings scholars from Germany and abroad to Münster.

The University of Münster is committed to interdisciplinary research and the close integration of research and teaching embedded in strong international networks. This conference reflects these priorities in several ways. It brings together different disciplinary perspectives within American Studies, connects scholarly work to current political and cultural debates, and actively involves early career researchers and students. That the conference is open to the wider university community underscores our understanding of the university as a space for exchange, discussion, and critical engagement.

The topic of kinship addresses fundamental questions of social organization, belonging, and responsibility. As the program demonstrates, these questions are explored across a wide range of media and contexts, including literature, visual culture, education, archives, and contemporary public discourse. Such breadth is characteristic not only of research in American Studies, but also of research at the University of Münster more broadly, where complex social phenomena are routinely examined from multiple methodological and disciplinary perspectives.

The conference also highlights an area of research that has gained particular visibility in recent years: the study of book banning and young readers in the United States. The ‘Current Events Panel’ on ‘Navigating the New Normal? Book Bans & Challenges in the USA’ connects academic analysis with pressing societal concerns and illustrates how humanities-based research contributes to understanding contemporary conflicts around education, culture, and democracy.

Finally, this conference aligns well with the University of Münster’s strategic impact areas, especially Dynamic Societies and our focus on addressing societal challenges through humanities research. I would like to thank Professor Schiltermandl and her team for organizing this conference and for their sustained commitment to research, teaching, and international collaboration at our university. I wish all participants a successful conference, productive discussions and lasting memories.

Best wishes,

Johannes Wessels
Rector

WELCOME from the PRESIDENT of GAAS/DGfA

Dear colleagues and friends of American Studies,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you, on behalf of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA), to this year's annual conference, "Kinship in American Studies," here at the University of Münster. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to Silvia Schultermandl and the local organizing team for their intellectual vision, their meticulous planning, and their unwavering commitment to fostering a space of vibrant scholarly exchange. Bringing together such a rich and diverse community of researchers in these times is itself a small act of academic kin-making—logistically demanding, intellectually ambitious, and, I suspect, occasionally dependent on nerves of steel and strong coffee.

The conference theme, *Kinship*, speaks directly to the social, cultural, and political pressures that define our present moment. Across the United States and beyond, conflicts over migration, race, gender, sexuality, and sovereignty are invariably framed through questions of who belongs, who is cared for, and whose lives are recognized as connected and worthy of protection. By treating kinship not only as a formalized status—marriage, genealogy, family membership—but also as a set of emerging practices of care, affiliation, and solidarity, this conference opens up a broad field for rethinking many of the central problems of American culture, history, and politics. It invites us to examine how bonds are imagined and institutionalized, how they are stretched across borders and temporalities, and how they are challenged or reconfigured in moments of crisis.

The keynote lectures exemplify this breadth and depth in exemplary fashion. Shannon Gibney's address on "The Kinship of Loss," which draws on her speculative memoir *The Girl I Am, Was, and Never Will Be*, foregrounds the ambivalent and often painful constellations of transracial adoption as a "kinship of loss." Her work reminds us that kinship is never purely comforting or harmonious; it is also shaped by histories of trauma, dispossession, and structural inequality, and by the creative, sometimes speculative strategies through which individuals and communities seek to narrate and reimagine these histories. That a memoir can serve as a guide to alternative modes of kinship—at once critical and deeply personal—underlines how literary and cultural forms enable us to confront the unresolved questions at the heart of belonging.

Katharina Gerund's keynote, "Military Spouses Making Kin: Families, Friends, and Foremothers," turns our attention to the military as a powerful site where nation, family, and affect intersect. By examining representations of military spouses across different media—from memoirs by Dana Canedy and Lily Burana to Jehanne Dubrow's re-imagining of *The Odyssey* and the television series *The Unit*—her talk complicates the familiar figure of the "happy home front heroine" and the nostalgic ideal of the heteronormative nuclear family. Gerund's analysis shows how spouses "make kin" across time and cultures, cultivating friendships, communities, and alternative relationships that both rely on and subtly unsettle the hegemonic discourses of marriage, gender, and military culture. In doing so, she invites us to consider how kinship narratives underpin national imaginaries and how they might be reworked from within.

Mark Rifkin's keynote on "The Politics of Kinship" adds yet another crucial dimension by tracing the concept's deeply racialized history in the context of Indigenous studies. He reminds us that "kinship," even when invoked to celebrate alternative networks of care, emerges from nineteenth-century efforts to translate Indigenous political forms into the language of liberal governance, often as evidence of supposed backwardness and failure. Rifkin's analysis of how discourses of family and kinship have been used to mark non-liberal social formations as deviant, and thus in need of state intervention, challenges us to rethink the very frameworks through which we recognize political orders and forms of collective self-organization. Drawing on Indigenous perspectives, his work opens up new possibilities for imagining kinship not as a privatized sphere separate from politics, but as a terrain on which questions of sovereignty, jurisdiction, and governance are actively contested.

Taken together, these keynotes exemplify the intellectual richness of this conference and the field of American Studies more broadly. They demonstrate how the idiom of kinship allows us to connect seemingly disparate phenomena—transracial adoption, military culture, Indigenous sovereignty—while also attending to the specific histories and power relations that shape each of these contexts. In a moment often characterized as polarized and fragmented, they also underscore the importance of nuance, historical depth, and critical self-reflection—qualities that may not always trend on social media, but that remain essential for understanding the worlds we inhabit. And if this all sounds rather serious, it is worth noting that kinship, in theory and in practice, also leaves room for awkward conversations, unexpected alliances, and the occasional family disagreement over methods or footnotes.

This brings me to the role of our own scholarly community. Associations such as the DGfA depend on forms of intellectual kinship: the willingness to share ideas and resources, to support emerging scholars, to engage critically yet respectfully across differences in perspective, discipline, and position. Conferences like this one remind us that scholarship is a collective endeavor, sustained not only by polished publications but also by workshops, panel discussions, informal conversations over coffee, and the reassuring discovery that others are grappling with similar conceptual and practical challenges. In difficult socio-political times, this form of community—sometimes fragile, often demanding, but rarely dull—matters a great deal.

If there is a hopeful note to be emphasized, it is perhaps this: that our work on kinship, in its many forms, equips us not only to analyze the fractures and inequalities of the present, but also to imagine more just and sustainable forms of relation. We may not be able to resolve all tensions—familial, institutional, or otherwise—during the next few days, but we can at least use this conference to think together about how we might inhabit our various communities with greater care, curiosity, and reflexivity. And should the debates become heated, we can remind ourselves that this, too, is a time-honored feature of kinship—academic and otherwise.

I wish you all a stimulating and rewarding conference, many inspiring conversations, and ample opportunity to (re)connect with colleagues and friends here in Münster.

With my best regards,

Christian Lammert
President of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2026

16:30–18:30 Editorial Board Meeting ES 203*

*Englisches Seminar, Johannisstr. 12-20

THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

09:30–14:00 Board Meeting ES 131*

15:00–17:30 Registration packages available **Foyer***

15:00–16:00 PGF Get-Together ES 131*

Presentation, Carina Reibold: ES 130*
*Dissertationen im Verlag publizieren:
Buchveröffentlichungen mit J.B. Metzler*

16:00–17:00 BIPoC Get-Together ES 131*

*Englisches Seminar, Johannisstr. 12-20

17:30 Conference Opening & Welcome **Aula***
Awards Ceremony

18:00–19:30 **KEYNOTE 1:** Shannon Gibney **Aula***
The Kinship of Loss
Moderator: Daniel Stein

19:30–20:30 Reception **Foyer***

*Schloss, Schlossplatz 2

FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2026

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 09:00–13:00 | Registration packages available | Foyer |
| 09:00–10:30 | KEYNOTE 2: Katharina Gerund <i>Military Spouses Making Kin: Families, Friends, and Foremothers</i> Moderator: Isabel Heinemann | Aula |
| 10:30–11:00 | COFFEE BREAK Meet the Editors, Astrid Franke & Timo Müller <i>American Studies – A Monograph Series</i> (Winter Verlag Stand) | Foyer |
| 10:30–17:00 | Exhibition: Book Studio Zines | Foyer |
| 11:00–13:00 | WORKSHOPS 1–6 (see pp. 13-14 for more details) | |
| 13:00–14:30 | LUNCH BREAK | on your own |
| 13:00–14:30 | Diversity Round Table | Senatssaal |
| 13:15–14:15 | Digital American Studies Initiative: <i>Teaching, Learning, and AI: An Open Exchange</i> | S 9 |
| 14:30–16:30 | WORKSHOPS 7–12 (see pp. 15-16 for more details) | |
| 16:30–17:00 | COFFEE BREAK | Foyer |
| 17:00–18:00 | FLINTA Caucus for Gender Equity | Aula |
| 18:00–20:00 | DINNER BREAK | on your own |
| 20:00–21:30 | CURRENT EVENTS PANEL Emily Drabinski, Maude Hines, Kelly Jensen, Corinna Norrick-Rühl; Cedric Essi (Moderator): <i>Navigating the New Normal? Book Bans and Challenges in the USA</i> | Aula |

PROGRAM OVERVIEW (cont'd)

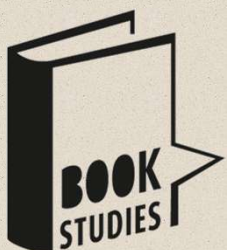
SATURDAY, 30 MAY 2026

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 09:00–10:30 | KEYNOTE 3: Mark Rifkin <i>The Politics of Kinship</i> Moderator: Katharina Fackler | Aula |
| 09:00–11:00 | Registration packages available | Foyer |
| 10:30–11:00 | COFFEE BREAK Meet the Editors, Astrid Franke & Timo Müller <i>American Studies – A Monograph Series</i> | Foyer Foyer (Winter Verlag Stand) |
| 11:00–13:00 | WORKSHOPS 13–17 (see pp. 17-18 for more details) | |
| 13:00–14:30 | LUNCH BREAK | on your own |
| 13:00–14:30 | PGF Meeting | Senatssaal |
| 14:30–16:30 | DGfA/GAAS General Meeting | Aula |
| 16:30–17:00 | Mentoring Meeting | Senatssaal |
| 17:00 | Conference Closing | Aula |
| 20:30 | Conference Party YOLK: Bennostraße 5 | |

EXHIBITION: Book Studio Zines

The Book Studio, conceived by the Chair of Book Studies as a space for experiencing (and experimenting with) the materiality of the book, will present a selection from their Mini-Zine Library of nearly two hundred zines. Zines are small booklets often associated with subcultures and DIY production practices as well as grassroots community action. The materials on display will highlight a variety of topics and forms, and include examples created by University of Münster students.

As Josef Beery has stated in *Teaching the History of the Book*: “Time spent working with letterforms, illustration, and page building, as well as printing and binding techniques, immerses students in the story of the book” (2023, 108). Through a range of different workshops and bookish events, the Book Studio offers staff and students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in areas of printing, bookbinding and book construction, illustration, erasure poetry, artists’ books, paper marbling, zine making, and more.



KEYNOTE LECTURES

Meet our keynote speakers!

KATHARINA GERUND

(University of Zurich)



Military Spouses Making Kin: Families, Friends, and Foremothers

The nuclear family with its heteropatriarchal structures as well as its 1950s nostalgic connotations is central to contemporary representations of military culture. The military family frequently stands in for a nation imagined along familial lines. Especially military spouses have gained visibility and affective agency at least since the post-9/11 era and often in the culturally idealized form of what I have termed “happy home front heroine.”

My talk examines how military spouses, real and imagined, (try to) make kin across time, across cultures, and beyond ‘traditional’ family ties. I will analyze cultural representations in different genres and media that position modern military spouses within a long historical genealogy, showing how they cultivate friendships, community, and connections within and beyond military culture. My case studies include memoirs by journalists Dana Canedy and Lily Burana, Jehanne Dubrow’s re-imagining of *The Odyssey*, and the prestige TV show *The Unit*. These texts engage with and, to some extent, validate hegemonic discourses on marriage, family, and gender roles, thereby providing a framework for military spouses to become intelligible. Yet, as I argue, they also represent attempts at making kin beyond these confines as they highlight the sisterhood of “Unit wives,” the transhistorical community of women waiting at the home front, and the need to foster (alternative) relationships that not always endorse the dominant logics of military culture.

Katharina Gerund is professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of Zurich and currently serves as president of the Swiss Association for American Studies (SANAS). She completed her PhD in American Studies at the University of Bremen and her Habilitation at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität (FAU) Erlangen-Nürnberg. Her dissertation has been published as *Transatlantic Cultural Exchange: African American Women’s Art and Activism in West Germany* (transcript, 2013). Her second book manuscript, which received FAU’s Habilitation Award in 2025, is tentatively titled “Happy Home Front Heroines? Military Spouses in the Cultural Imaginary of the US.” Katharina’s research and teaching spans cultures of war and critical military studies, cultural theory and US popular culture, affect and sentimentality, cultural mobility, as well as race and gender in the transatlantic world. Her most recent publications include “Liberation, Re-Education, Democratization: The Politics of Gratitude in German-American Relations after 1945” in *Contemporary European History* 34.2 (2025) and “Feeling Barbie: Mothers, Daughters, and White Feminist Genealogies” in *Feminist Theory* 26.3 (2025, with Stefanie Schäfer) as well as the co-edited special issues *Re-Thinking Solidarity (Amerikastudien / American Studies 2023*, with Nathalie Aghoro and Sylvia Mayer) and *Civilization, Democratization, Containment: Strategies of Re-Education in Imperial Settings and Beyond (The International History Review 2024*, with Jana Aresin).

SHANNON GIBNEY

(Minneapolis Community & Technical College)

The Kinship of Loss

Using her 2023 speculative memoir *The Girl I Am, Was, and Never Will Be* as a guide and her work on transracial adoption as a kinship of loss, Shannon Gibney will explore the generative power of this nascent genre. She will examine how those with histories of trauma might use the speculative to create alternate modes of kinship — both in their creative/critical work and lived experiences.

Shannon Gibney is professor in the English Department at Minneapolis Community and Technical College and an award-winning author and editor of novels, anthologies, picture books, and Young Adult literature. The through-line in all her work is stories that may have previously gone untold.

Sometimes these perspectives have remained hidden because the speakers have not had an outlet for their stories; other times, the stories carry darkness and fear that we prefer to look away from. *The Girl I Am, Was, and Never Will Be* (Dutton, 2023), exemplifies this approach, as does Gibney's novel, *Dream Country* (Dutton, 2018), which Kirkus describes as “a necessary reckoning of tensions within the African diaspora — an introduction to its brokenness and a place to start healing.”



MARK RIFKIN

(University at Buffalo)

The Politics of Kinship

What is kinship? While scholars, activists, and intellectuals often turn to it as a way of thinking beyond the nuclear family form, the kinship-concept comes out of nineteenth-century efforts to transpose Indigenous political forms into the terms of liberal governance as evidence of Native peoples' barbaric, backward inability to understand true home and family and to separate them from politics. Even when used in the present to praise alternative networks of care and interdependence, kinship still bears this deeply racialized history and orientation. Tracing these patterns from the nineteenth century illustrates how alternative political orders have been translated as expressions of failed Family rather than as governance.

Drawing on work in Indigenous studies, this presentation will illustrate how discourses of family and kinship present divergence from normative liberal social patterns and jurisdictional frameworks as dangerous and disruptive racial tendencies, while also casting such collective forms of self-organization and placemaking as disorder in need of state intervention. Racialization works through presenting what might otherwise be understood as collective modes of self-governance as, instead, signs of ingrained deviancy (tendencies toward savagery, criminality, alienness, etc.), in ways that work to neutralize and contain political orders -- Indigenous and otherwise -- that would otherwise potentially pose a challenge to the legitimacy of the state and existing legal geographies. Drawing on Indigenous frameworks opens new possibilities for envisioning what kinds of relations, networks, and formations can and should be seen as governance on lands claimed by the U.S.

Mark Rifkin is professor of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies and Indigenous Studies at the University at Buffalo. He is author of nine books, including *The Cambridge Introduction to Queer and Trans Studies*, *Beyond Settler Time: Temporal Sovereignty and Indigenous Self-Determination*, and *When Did Indians Become Straight?: Kinship, the History of Sexuality and Native Sovereignty*. His work has won a number of awards including the John Hope Franklin Prize for Best Book in American Studies from the American Studies Association, Best Subsequent Book from the Native American & Indigenous Studies Association, and Best Special Issue from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals. He also has served as president of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association.



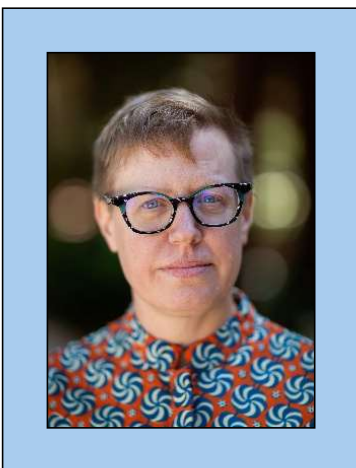
CURRENT EVENTS PANEL

Navigating the New Normal? Book Bans & Challenges in the USA

Book bans and challenges in US public schools have been increasing at unprecedented rates over the past five years, with PEN America reporting a ‘complex and extensive climate of censorship’ across the country in their 2025 report, ‘The Normalization of Book Banning’. Isolated protests by concerned individuals have been replaced by well-funded, coordinated attacks from organizations such as Moms for Liberty and No Left Turn for Education. Since January 2025, these threats to young people’s freedom to read have been playing out in a broader context of repression, backed up by legislation and policy at both state and federal level. Individuals – such as Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden – have been removed from their posts; specific topics and materials have been deleted from government websites; funding has been withdrawn.

Meet our panelists!

EMILY DRABINSKI



Emily Drabinski is Associate Professor and Chair of the Queens College School of Information Studies at the City University of New York. She publishes and presents widely on topics related to knowledge organization, collective power, and critical perspectives in librarianship. From 2023-2024 Drabinski served as President of the American Library Association.

MAUDE HINES



Maude Hines is Professor of English, Chair of Black Studies, and affiliated faculty of Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Portland State University. She received her Ph.D. in Literature from Duke University, along with graduate certificates in African-American Studies and Women's Studies. She specializes in American literature, with particular emphasis on critical childhood studies, African American literature, and the Gothic.

KELLY JENSEN

Kelly Jensen works at the intersections of writing, censorship, mental health, literature, and feminism. She is the author of three critically acclaimed and award-winning anthologies for young adults. At Book Riot, she focuses on talking about book industry news, publishing, libraries, censorship, and young adult literature. She was named a person of the year in 2022 by *Publishers Weekly* and a Chicagoan of the year in 2022 by the *Chicago Tribune* for her anti-censorship work. She has also earned commendation from the American Association of School Librarians for her censorship coverage.



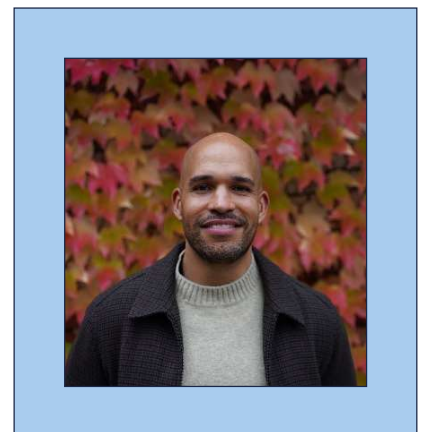
CORINNA NORRICK-RÜHL

Corinna Norrick-Rühl is professor and Chair of Book Studies at the English Department of Münster University. She is founder of the Banned Books Network Münster, along with Silvia Schaltermandl (Chair of American Studies) and co-founders Dr. Sarah Pyke and Dr. Jennifer Gouck (WiRe Fellow). Her research focuses on book publishing and culture, including celebrity book culture, contemporary publishing, children's and YA literature, and literary prize culture. Some of her publications include *Research Methods in Publishing and Book Studies* (Routledge 2025; co-authored with Rachel Noorda); *Are Books Still 'Different'? Literature as Culture and Commodity in a Digital Age* (Cambridge UP 2023; co-authored with Caroline Koezler); *Book Clubs and Book Commerce* (Cambridge UP, 2019).



CEDRIC ESSI

Cedric Essi is Senior Research and Teaching Associate at the English Department of the University of Zurich. His research sits at the intersection of critical race studies, law and literature, gender studies, queer theory, and critical kinship studies. He has held fellowships at Yale's Gilder Lehrmann Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, & Abolition (BAA Fellow) and the Department of African American Studies at UC Berkeley (Fulbright Fellow). Essi currently serves as the review editor of *Amerikastudien / American Studies* and is serving as moderator for the Current Events Panel.



WORKSHOP 1:

S 1

Kinship and Civil War from 1861 to the Present

CHAIRS: Julius Greve (Oldenburg) | Sascha Pöhlmann (Dortmund)

SPEAKERS:

- **Michael Hochgeschwender** (Munich): *American Catholic Integration Narratives after the Civil War*
- **Dustin Breitenwischer** (Hamburg): *'It made us kin': On Frederick Douglass's Post-Civil War Rhetoric*
- **Verena Adamik** (Potsdam): *Too Close for Comfort: White Incest Uniting the Nation in Dixon Jr. & Du Bois*
- **Cornelia Klecker** (Innsbruck): *Flyover Fictions and Civil War Metaphors: Political Polarization in the 21st-Century United States*

WORKSHOP 2:

S 2

Children, Childhood, and Critical Modalities of Kinship

CHAIRS: Layla Koch (Heidelberg) | Mahshid Mayar (Innsbruck)

SPEAKERS:

- **Julia Faisst** (Dortmund): *Kid or Kin? Contestations of Racialized Belonging and Removal in Contemporary Novels of Migration*
- **Martina Koegeler-Abdi** (Lund, Denmark): *Children of the Enemy: The Role of Kinship in Reclaiming National and Emotional Belonging of 'Children Born of War'*
- **Annika Schadewaldt** (Leipzig): *Topsy-Turvy: The (Im)Possibilities of Interracial Kinship and the Figure of the Twin in William Melvin Kelley's dem*
- **Madeline Zehnder** (HU Berlin): *Nineteenth-Century Child Readers and Settler-Colonial Networks of the Book*

WORKSHOP 3:

S 8

Migrant Mother & Her Kin: Picturing Displacement in U.S. Visual Culture

CHAIRS: Karsten Fitz (Passau) | Nicole Maruo-Schröder (Koblenz)

Respondent: **Astrid Böger** (Hamburg)

SPEAKERS:

- Grit Grigoleit-Richter** (Passau): *Racialized Visual Regimes: Latina Migrant Mothers at the Southern Border*
- Anna Marta Marini** (FU Berlin): *'Your son quietly asks you when you are going home': Multimodal Representation of Migrant Motherhood in The Waiting Game (2018)*
- Mona Raeisian** (Marburg): *Unkinning: Kinship, (in-)Visibility, and Coerced Sterilization of Migrant Women in No Más Bebés*
- Simon Schleusener** (Erlangen-Nürnberg): *Politics of (In-)Visibility: Social Photography, Kinship, and the Limits of Empathy*

WORKSHOP 4:**S 9****Sideways Kinships: Counter-Hierarchical Relations in American Studies****CHAIRS:** Phillip James Grider (Duisburg-Essen) | Andrew Wildermuth (Erlangen-Nürnberg)**SPEAKERS:**

- **Can Aydin** (Dresden): *"I needed Jonny to be in the world": Indigenous Kinship as Model for Authorship in Jonny Appleseed*
- **Sarah Earnshaw** (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt): *Common Struggle, Distinct Terrain: Solidarity, Autonomy, and Recomposing Class Power in Tech Worker Organizing*
- **Lukas Etter** (Siegen): *"To Sleep, Repose": On the Logic of Community in Ann Plato's "Lines" (1840) and Her Essays (1841)*
- **BJ Lillis** (Omohundro Institute, Williamsburg, Virginia): *'Straight Away Home': Kinship, 'Conspiracy,' and Enslaved Community Across and Against the Colonial Household*
- **Sissi Möss** (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt): *"At My Feet?": Horizontal Relations with Inuit Land as Modes of Resistance in Tanya Taqaq's Split Tooth*

WORKSHOP 5:**Senatssaal****Adoption, (Re-)Kinning the Politics of Family in American Studies****CHAIR:** Silke Hackenesch (Cologne)**SPEAKERS:**

- **Rosemarie Peña** (Rutgers/BGHRA): *Rekinning, Reculturation and the Archive*
- **Sabrina Thomas** (Wisconsin-Madison, USA): *The Waiting Child: Race and Responsibility for the Black Amerasian Children of Vietnam*
- **Atalie Gerhard** (Saarland/Jena): *Adoption versus Homecoming: Indigenous (Re)Constructions of Family in mother and Rose Quartz*

WORKSHOP 6:**S 055****Masculinity & Kinship: Intersections of Care, Social Justice, and Privilege****CHAIRS:** Nathalie Aghoro (Munich) | Peter Hintz (Leipzig) | Stefan Schubert (Leipzig)**SPEAKERS:**

- Jan D. Kucharzewski** (Mannheim): *Killing for Kinship: Hunting, Violence, and Fraternal Care in Cooper and Melville*
- Johanna Kluger** (Bonn): *'The Guys Are My Family': Kinship and Masculinity in the Popular Romance Novel*
- Kristina Seefeldt** (Freiburg): *Brotherhood Among Soldiers: Rescue on the Battlefield and Beyond*
- Florian Groß** (Hannover): *'I do it for the child of a child I will never meet. I do it for the land': Serial Male Melodrama and Patrilinear Kinship in Yellowstone*

WORKSHOP 7:

Senatssaal

Uncanny Kinship(s): Planetary Encounters in the USA

CHAIRS: Dominik Steinhilber (Konstanz) | Florian Wagner (Jena)

SPEAKERS:

- **Jannis Buschky** (Konstanz): *The Space of the Nation or the Space of the Planet? Going Underground in Edwin Lanham's Oil Novel Thunder in the Earth (1941)*
- **Loredana Filip** (independent): *The Uncanny Mundane: Clay, Earth, and Planetary Attention*
- **Dominik Steinhilber** (Konstanz): *The Uncanny Roots of Black Selfhood: Unsettling Race and Ecology in Frederick Douglass's Autobiographies*

WORKSHOP 8:

S 1

Kinship as Relationality, Relationality as Kinship: Inquiries into Contemporary Life Writing

CHAIRS: Stefanie Mueller (FU Berlin) | Katja Sarkowsky (Augsburg)

SPEAKERS:

- **Svenja Engelmann-Kewitz** (Düsseldorf): *Confessional Kinship: Vulnerability and Relationality in Silicon Valley Life Writing*
- **Helga Lenart-Cheng** (St. Mary's, California): *Platformed Kinship: Genetic Genealogy and Relationality in Contemporary Life Writing*
- **Dorothee Marx** (Kiel): *Choreographies of Care: Crip Kinship/Crip Authorship in Contemporary Disability Life Writing*
- **Frederike Offizier** (Potsdam): *Life Writing in and of the Disaster Landscapes*

WORKSHOP 9:

S 2

Queer Affective Kinships in Contemporary American Literature

CHAIRS: Lukas Hellmuth (Würzburg) | Anne Stellberger (Bayreuth)

SPEAKERS:

- **Katharina Röder** (Dortmund): *"It is time to imagine.": Chosen Family as a Means of Survival in Contemporary Dystopian Worlds*
- **Leonie Kratzenstein** (Leipzig): *Rural Queer Orphanhood: Exile in the City, Exile in the Camp*
- **Babette Tischleder** (Göttingen): *The Queer Art of Literary Taxidermy: Making Oddkin in/as Postmortem Fiction*
- **Nino Liam Töndury** (Freiburg): *The Art of Witnessing: Ekphrastic Encounters with Queer Affective Kinship in A Little Life*

WORKSHOP 10:**S 8**

Formed Under Pressure: Kinship and the Planetary Technosphere

CHAIRS: Maxine Broich (KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt) | Laura Cwalina (Düsseldorf)**SPEAKERS:**

- **Kylie Crane** (Rostock): *Thinking Kin with Fossil Fuels*
- **Jens Temmen** (Ingolstadt): *"We're strong. We're fast. We don't break": Transhumanism and Synthetic Kinship in Alien: Earth*
- **Burak Sezer** (Dortmund): *Abyssal Kinship: Oceanic Cybernetics in Richard Powers' Playground*

WORKSHOP 11:**S 055**

Interdisciplinarity as Political & Pedagogical Kinship: MAGA's Targeting of the Sciences and the Humanities

CHAIRS: Michael Aaron Mason (Münster) | Michael Wong (Denver) | Yagmur Su Kolsal (Münster)**SPEAKERS:**

- **Michael Mason** (Münster): *MAGA and the History of US Conservative Hostility to "Woke" Science*
- **Verena Wurth** (Cologne): *The EPA, Environmentalism, and the Pretence of Unification*
- **Meredith Shadwill** (Georgia Northwestern Tech, USA): *Interdisciplinarity Under Attack*
- **Ron Doel** (Florida State, USA): *Interdisciplinarity as Cooperative Practice: Political Insights from American Science in the Long Twentieth Century*

WORKSHOP 12:**S 9**

The Scales of Queer Kinship: Contestations over (Anti-) Normativity

CHAIRS: Gero Bauer (Tübingen) | Cedric Essi (Zurich)**SPEAKERS:**

- **Gero Bauer** (Tübingen): *From Chosen Families to Microbial Cohabitation: The Conceptual Range and Potential Limits of Queer Kinship*
- **Anne Potjans** (HU Berlin): *Black/Female/Queer/Kin: (Im)Possible Junctions*
- **Katharina Motyl** (Bonn): *'Queer' Enslaved Motherhood in Robert Jones, Jr.'s Novel The Prophets (2021)*
- **Sabrina Mittermeier** (Kassel): *(Un)Making Queer Kinship on Screen: Ryan Murphy, Homonormativity and American Television*

WORKSHOPS SATURDAY, 30 May 2026, 11:00-13:00

WORKSHOP 13:

S 9

Narratives of Human/Animal Kinship Relations on Turtle Island

CHAIRS: Alisa Preusser (Potsdam) | Stefanie Schäfer (Mannheim)

SPEAKERS:

- **Corina Wieser-Cox** (Bremen): *Imagined Indigeneity, Settler-Colonialism, and the Eco-Erotics of Human/Animal Love in Ernesto Contreras's I Dream in Another Language*
- **Stefan Benz** (Bonn): *Human/Animal Kinship as Sonic Practice: Inupiaq Relationality in Nasugraq Rainey Hopson's Young Adult Novel Eagle Drums (2023)*
- **Lisa Bölinger** (Göttingen): *Against Anthropomorphism: Speculative Kin-Making in Barbara Gowdy's The White Bone*
- **Nicole Waller** (Potsdam): *Thinking Politics with Human-Animal Relations: Pluriverse, Blockade, Diaspora*

WORKSHOP 14:

Senatssaal

Autokinship: Mapping Kin-Like Relations within the Self in American Culture and History

CHAIRS: Mita Banerjee (Mainz) | Katie Jacques (Kassel)

SPEAKERS:

- **Katie Jacques** (Kassel): *Toward a Theory of Autokinship: A Cultural-Historical Perspective*
- **Matthias Heinrich Klestil** (Innsbruck): *Versional Narratives and Autokinship: Quantum Aesthetics as Care of the Self in Micaiah Johnson's The Space Between Worlds*
- **Carmen Dextl** (Regensburg): *Performing Autokinship at Mature Age: Negotiating Humanness in American Modern Dance*

WORKSHOP 15:

S 8

Transatlantic Kinship and Subalternity

CHAIRS: Anthony Chukwudumebi Obute (Tübingen) | Elena Furlanetto (Dortmund)

SPEAKERS:

- **Elena Furlanetto** (Dortmund): *"An Epic that Repeats Itself": The Black Atlantic and the Black Mediterranean as Literary Kin*
- **Oluwadunni Talabi** (Bremen): *Black Atlantic Romantic Outlaws and Enlightenment Sensibility: Piracy, Revolt and Civic/Moral Reckoning in Maxwell Philip's Emmanuel Appadocca; or, Blighted Life (1854)*
- **Estelle Krewiss** (Münster): *Oceanic Kinship by the Atlantic's Shores in Jesmyn Ward's Salvage the Bones and Alexis Pauline Gumbs' Undrowned*
- **Julia Schwarzmeier** (Trier): *Water, Kinship, & Passing in The Vanishing Half (2020) by Brit Bennett*

WORKSHOP 16:

S 2

Remaking Kin with the Machines: Conceptualizing Relationality in the Technological Age

CHAIRS: Juliane Gamböck-Strätz (Marburg) |
Ruxandra Teodorescu (Erlangen-Nürnberg)

SPEAKERS:

- **Marlon Lieber** (Frankfurt): *Post-Oedipal Communism: Technology and Kinship in ME O'Brien and Eman Abdelhadi's Everything for Everyone*
- **Philipp Leonhardt** (Innsbruck): *Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants and D/deaf Cyborgs: A Return to Eugenics or the Hearing World?*
- **Andrin Albrecht** (Jena): *Per Machinam: Considering Artificial Intelligence as Kin-Making Technology*
- **Karin Höpker** (Konstanz): *Embodied Machines, Attachment, and Emotional Labor in Contemporary AI Fiction*

WORKSHOP 17:

S 1

Kinship, Community, and Belonging in Language Education

CHAIRS: Silke Braselmann (Jena) | Ricardo Römhild (Bonn)

SPEAKERS:

- **Meredith Shadwill** (Georgia Northwestern Tech, USA): *Teaching English as a Second Language to Students in Appalachia*
- **Katharina Glas** (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile): *(Relational) Systems thinking for sustainability education in the EFL classroom: developing experience-based interactive workshops*
- **Lorena Bickert** (Würzburg): *Teaching Ecological Kinship with the Broadway Musical Hadestown*
- **Uwe Küchler** (Tübingen): *Kinship Across Boundaries and Differences: Teaching Migration Narratives, Environmental Justice, and Belonging*

SPONSORS

[transcript]

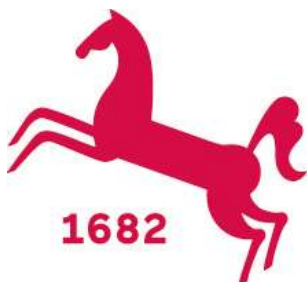
INDEPENDENT
ACADEMIC
PUBLISHING



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Amerikastudien

DFG

Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft



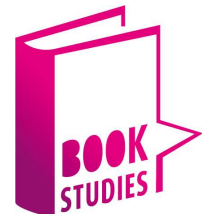
J.B. METZLER



Universitätsverlag
WINTER
Heidelberg



**bavarian
american academy**



De Gruyter Brill



Discover our programme in

American Studies



For over 50 years, the Peter Lang Group has been publishing research results from the field of American Studies worldwide. Our publishing programme includes a large number of titles from renowned authors and editors. Have a look at

WWW.PETERLANG.COM

to find an overview of our entire programme or visit us at our stand for our newest titles.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Stay up-to-date on new publications, events and news about the group – follow us on   

Peter Lang Group AG, Avenue du Théâtre 7, 1005 Lausanne, Switzerland. Email: editorial@peterlang.com

Quiet (Safer) / Meeting Spaces

- **S 151**, first floor of Schloss – **BIPoC safer space**
- **S 062**, lower level of Schloss – **private space for special needs** (Please inform us during the conference if/when you need to access this room).
- **Festsaal**, Schlossplatz 5, second floor – **quiet space** (not barrier-free)

In addition to these rooms, there are open seating areas in the lower level of the Schloss. The grounds around the botanical garden (behind the Schloss) also provide a nice area to relax and take a break (weather permitting).

SURVEY: Diversity, Experiences, Improvements

This survey aims to make visible categories of diversity within the DGfA/GAAS and give members of the Association a space to anonymously share experiences and provide suggestions with regards to questions of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

It came out of the joint efforts of a small working group of interested folks within the Diversity Roundtable. Your answers are anonymous. Ultimately, this survey is part of a longer process of making the DGfA/GAAS more inclusive and is supposed to help the current Interim DEI Officer as well as future DEI Officers do their work effectively.

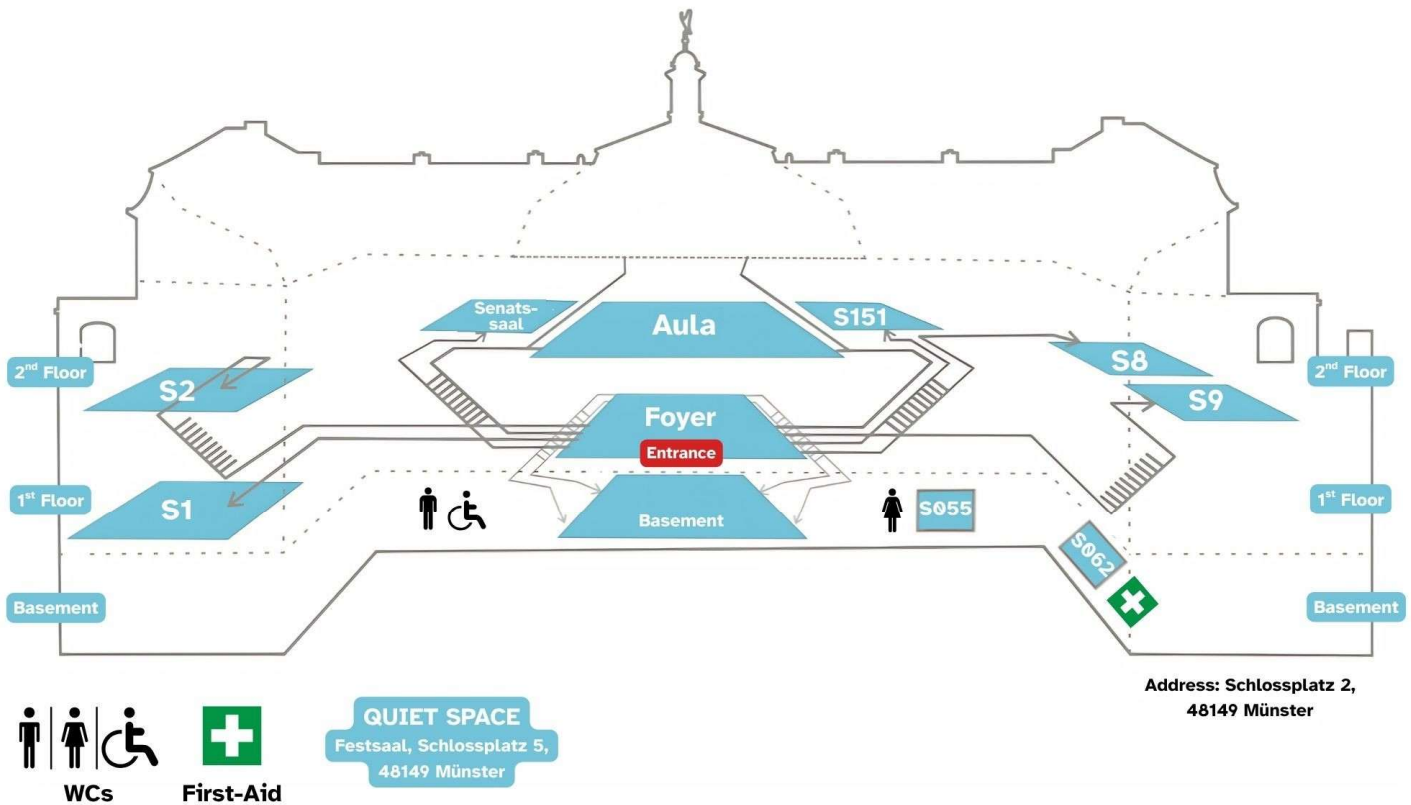
Your conference folders include the survey in paper form. You may choose to answer all or just some questions of this survey.

You can either return the survey to the anonymous collection box at the registration desk, or if you prefer to take the survey digitally, FOLLOW THIS QR CODE:



If you have questions or suggestions, please reach out to one of the Diversity Roundtable co-speakers – Phillip James Grider, Linda Hess, or Mareike Spsychala – at the conference directly or send them an e-mail: diversity_roundtable@dgfa.de.

Room Overview: Schloss



Interactive Map with Restaurants, Bakeries, Places of Interest, etc.:

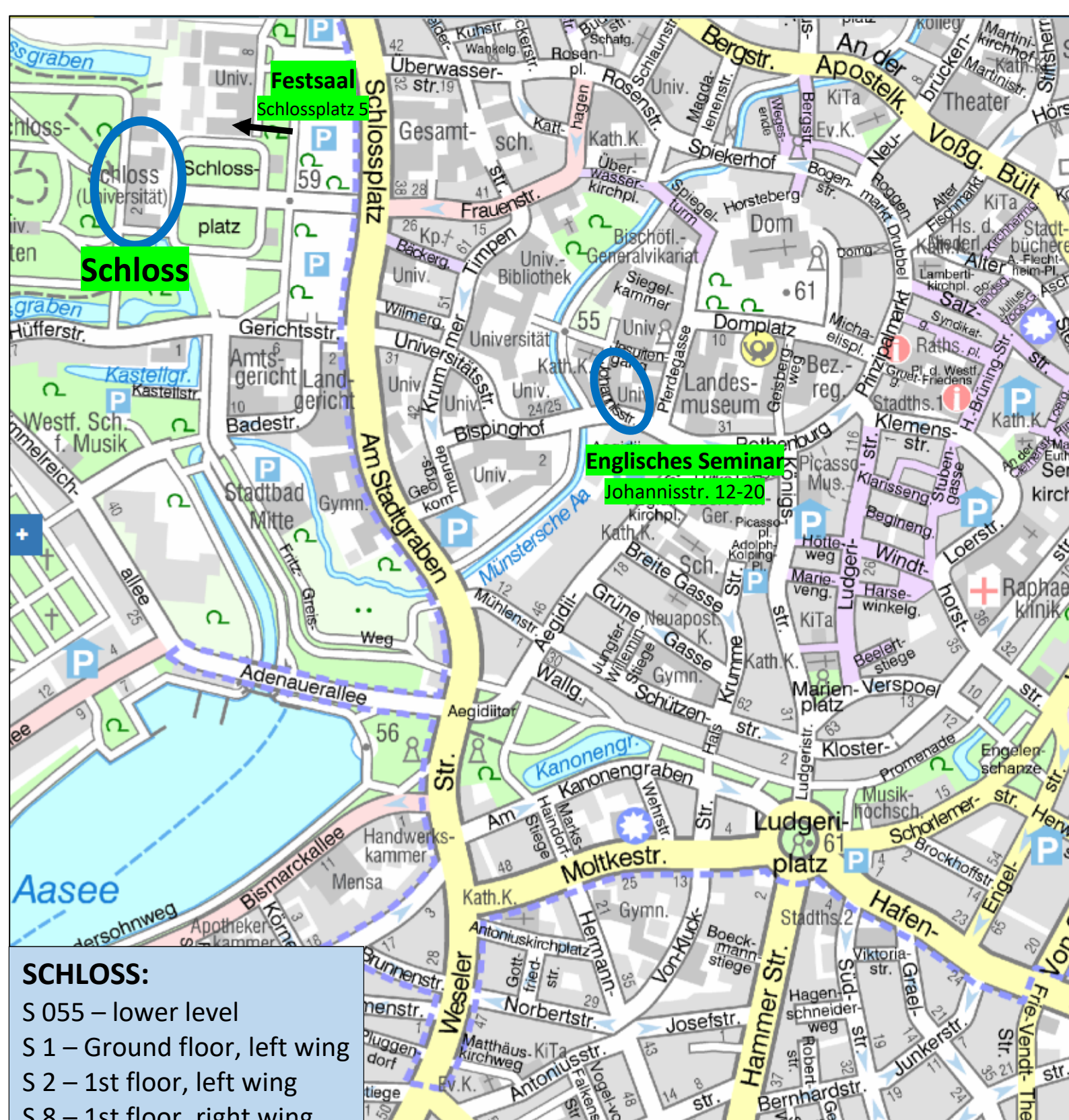


Conference Party: YOLK, Bennostraße 5

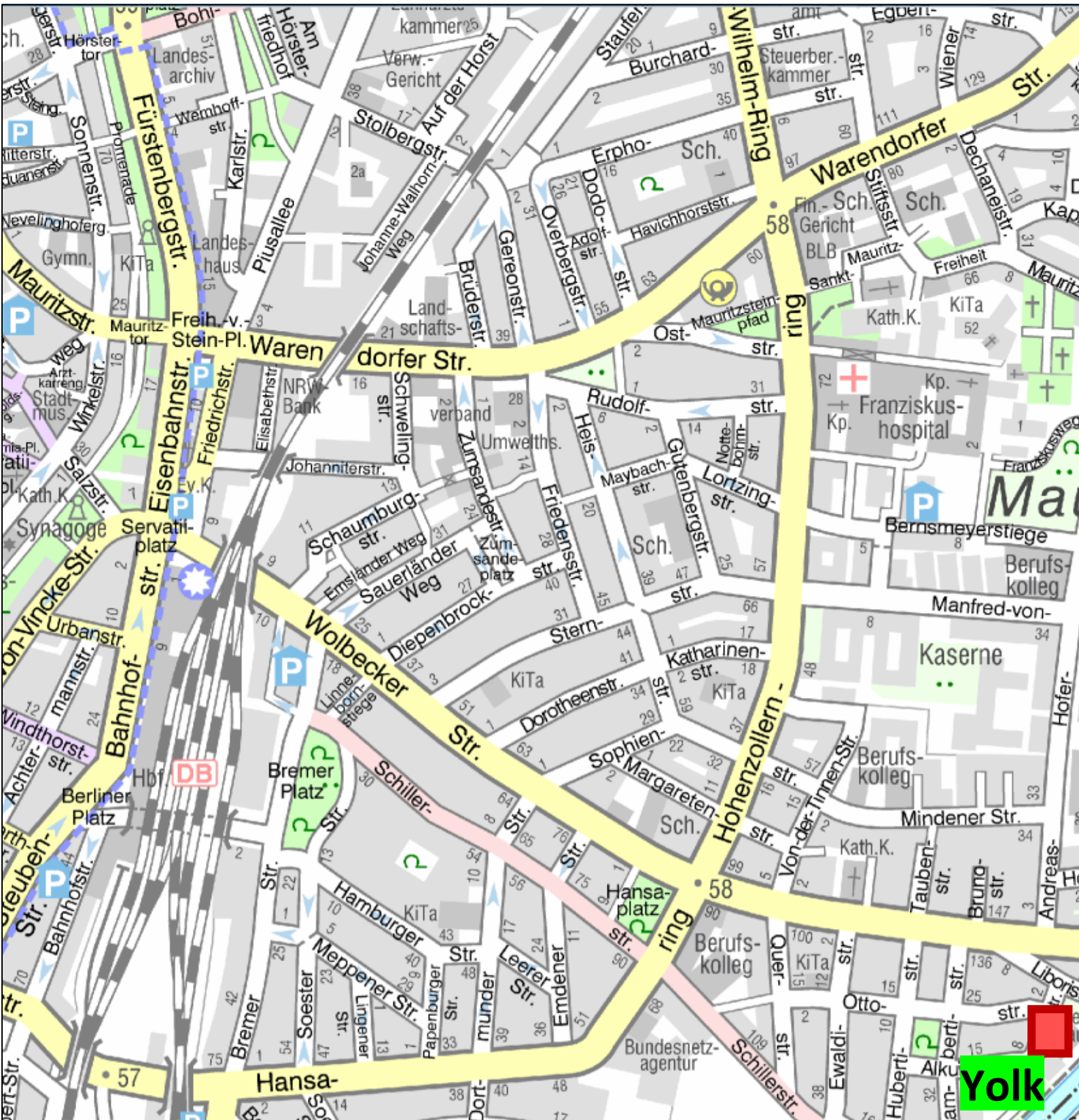
Miscellaneous Information

- Parking is available at the Schlossplatz for a fee.
- The botanical garden is free of charge and open from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm.

CITY MAP (Campus Plan)



SCHLOSS:
 S 055 – lower level
 S 1 – Ground floor, left wing
 S 2 – 1st floor, left wing
 S 8 – 1st floor, right wing
 S 9 – 1st floor
 Senatssaal – 1st floor
 AULA – 1st floor



Yolk

