

## Faculty

**Dr. Monica Cure** is Professor of Literature at the Biola University in California, USA. She specializes in late nineteenth/early twentieth century British and American literature and culture, and representations of otherness. In her forthcoming book, "Picturing the Postcard: The Invention of the Postcard Through the Lens of Turn-of-the-Century Literature, and the Fantasy of New Media", she explores the literary and cultural evolution of the postcard at the turn of the twentieth century and what that reveals about the discourse of new media.

**Helen Gibson** is a Ph.D. Candidate at the John-F.-Kennedy Institute at the Free University Berlin. Her research interests include the intersection of the histories of citizenship and incarceration in the United States and the limits of consumption-as-citizenship in American society. She is currently researching the historical relationship between civil rights and automotivity within the intersecting arenas of consumer capitalism, the American legal system, and race relations.

**Holly-Jane Rahlens**, a born New Yorker, grew up in Brooklyn and Queens and graduated from Queens College (City University of New York). She moved to Berlin, Germany, soon after, where she has lived virtually all her adult life. While remaining an American citizen, she has flourished in the German media world, working in radio, television, and film as an actress, producer and commentator as well as creating a series of highly praised one-woman shows.

### Registration

To register, please contact:

Nadja Wieland  
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or

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Registration closes on **07 March 2018**.

### Organizers

*Prof. Dr. Gabriele Linke, Rostock University*  
*Dr. Katja Schmidt, Rostock University*  
*Dr. Martina Kohl, U.S. Embassy Berlin*



## Teach about the USA

Annual Rostock In-Service Training for  
English Teachers

*Communication, Participation and  
Imagination: U.S. Civic Life in the  
Past, the Present and the Future*

Date: Friday, 16 March 2018  
Time: 09:30 – 16:00  
Place: Internationales Begegnungs-  
zentrum Rostock e.V. (IBZ)  
Bergstr. 7a  
18057 Rostock



## Program

**9:30**

Welcome remarks

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Linke, Rostock University

Dr. Martina Kohl, U.S. Embassy Berlin

**9:45 -11:15**

“From Postcards to Tweets”

Lecture and discussion with Monica Cure, Biola University

Coffee Break

**11:45-13:15**

“Limits of the Open Road: Driving while Black in Jim Crow America and Today”

Lecture and discussion with Helen Gibson, Free University Berlin

Lunch Break

**14:15 -15:45**

“Infinitissimo - The Man Who Fell through Time”

Reading and discussion with Holly-Jane Rahlens, Berlin

**15:45 -16:00**

Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Linke, Rostock University

Dr. Martina Kohl, U.S. Embassy Berlin

## Abstracts

### Monica Cure, “From Postcards to Tweets”

Identity theft. Bullying. Decline in literacy. Superficial relationships. These are things we associate with the internet and social media but they were, in fact, fears people had about the postcard in the late 1800s when it was first invented. Learning about the history of the postcard as new media can teach us lessons about how we relate to new media today.

### Helen Gibson, “Limits of the Open Road: Driving while Black in Jim Crow America and Today”

Driving cars, a practice frequently associated with the performance of American citizenship, is a phenomenon that developed early in the twentieth century. Half of American families owned an automobile by 1927, and by the 1930s, Black and White Southerners owned cars at comparable rates. Much like today, purportedly universal access to driving for work and leisure was, in fact, significantly hampered by racist practices designed to hinder Black mobility. This talk focuses on William Pickens, scholar, activist and Director of Branches for the N.A.A.C.P. (1920-40), who, in order to circumvent the racism of trains and experience his full citizenship and humanity travelled the country in a Ford car. It explores

## Abstracts

driving-as-citizenship for Black Americans and the practice of automotivity then and today.

### Holly-Jane Rahlens, “Infinitissimo – The Man Who Fell through Time”

“Infinitissimo” is the tale of a quest through time and space to rescue a lost emotion — love. It’s the year 2264. Despite incredible technical advances, scientists of the 23<sup>rd</sup> century are at a loss to solve the problem of a decimated human population. The young historian Finn Nordstrom, a specialist for turn-of-the-millennium popular culture, is asked to translate newly-discovered diaries written by a young girl in extinct German.

Do these early 21<sup>st</sup> century vintage diaries hold a secret that can revitalize humankind?

The book can be taught in the EFL classroom as part of the “Science and Technology” or “Individual and Society” curriculum, grades 10 to 12/13 (grades 8/9 if taught in German).

[www.holly-jane-rahlens.com](http://www.holly-jane-rahlens.com)