



Teach about the USA

New Ways of Teaching American Literature

Annual Rostock In-Service Training for English Teachers

Date Friday, 08 March 2013

Time 09:15 – 16:30

Place Internationales Begegnungszentrum Rostock e.V.
Bergstr. 7a, 18057 Rostock

Program

09:15 – 09:30 Welcome & Opening Remarks

09:30 – 10:45 “The Emancipated Imagination: Democratic Education through American Literature for Children and Young Adults”,
Lecture by Patricia Bloem

As teachers choose texts and frame literature lessons, they wittingly or unwittingly prepare students for the world they will enter as adults and citizens. What is new in American literature for children and for young adults; specifically, what is new that is well suited for the classroom? The speaker, Dr. Patricia Bloem, argues that new texts, especially multicultural texts, serve an emancipatory function, address democratic ideals, and foster classroom discussions on democratic values. She will conclude with a question and answer session and will provide an annotated bibliography.

Coffee Break

11:15 – 12:30 “Mash-Ups, Remixes, and Hybrids: The New American Literature”,
Lecture by Tony Magagna

In his lecture, Dr. Tony Magagna will highlight the trend among contemporary American writers to bend, break, or simply ignore many traditional literary “boundaries”. He will discuss how, amid the pervasive social, cultural, and technological diversity of the global era, American writers have increasingly blurred the edges of genre, form, and canon to craft a new American literature that challenges what we define as both “literature” and “American”.

Lunch Break

13:30 – 14:30 “Humanizing the ‘So-Called Enemy’: Teaching the Poetry of Naomi Shihab Nye”,
Workshop with Patricia Bloem

In a practical application of her lecture, Dr. Bloem will introduce the poetry of Naomi Shihab Nye, a Palestinian-American poet for children, young adults, and adults. Throughout the interactive session, teachers will read texts, discuss them in small groups, try out various teaching strategies, and engage in a brief Readers’ Theatre.

Coffee Break

15:00 – 16:00 “Teaching the New American Literature”,
Workshop with Tony Magagna

In this workshop, we will discuss texts that represent the shifts in contemporary American literature that might be introduced into your classrooms. Whether using graphic novels to teach the English language alongside aspects of American culture, or reading stories that emphasize the impact of media and technology (as well as global culture) on American life, such texts can be powerful tools to engage student interests. In addition, we will explore ways in which non-traditional forms of literature and analysis - such as using Twitter or Facebook - might be used successfully in the classroom to convey lessons on literary analysis to a new generation of students.

16:00 – 16:30 Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks

Faculty

Dr. Patricia L. Bloem



is Professor of English at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. She has published many articles on teaching and is co-author of *The Writer's Community* and co-editor of *Ideas without Boundaries: International education reform through reading and writing for critical thinking*. Her current research focuses on international children's and young adult literature and how our students and teachers learn from the experience of reading these texts.

Dr. Tony R. Magagna



is currently the Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies at Potsdam University. In the United States, he serves as Assistant Professor of English at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. He grew up in Southwest Wyoming and earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Wyoming. In 2008, he completed his Ph.D. in English at the University of California-Davis, where he focused his research on modern and contemporary American literature, specializing in the literature and culture of the American West and in issues of space, place, and region in American literature. He has published several articles in the field and is currently at work on a book manuscript based on his dissertation, entitled *Placing the West: Landscape, Literature, and Identity in the American West*. While in Germany, Dr. Magagna is teaching a variety of courses, including courses on the contemporary literatures of California and the American West, Native American literature, modern American drama, and contemporary American regionalism.

Organizers

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Linke
Dr. Katja Schmidt

Rostock University

Dr. Stefan Heumann

Consulate General Hamburg

Dr. Martina Kohl

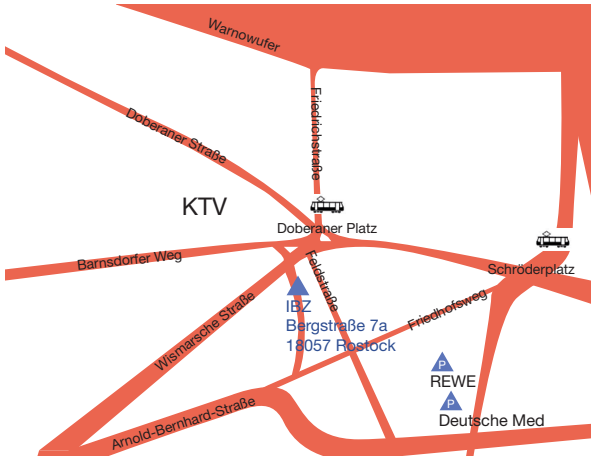
U.S. Embassy Berlin



Universität
Rostock



Location



Parking garages are located at the *Deutsche Med* and at *REWE*. From the tram stations *Doberaner Platz* and *Schröderplatz* it is a 5-minute walk to the **IBZ**.

Registration

To register, please contact ...

Nadja Wieland

Beraterin im Unterstützungssystem des IQMV
SSA Rostock
Schwerpunkt Englisch Sek. 1
Telefon: **038209/875296**
Email: **n.wieland@iq.bm.mv-regierung.de**

or

Astrid Eisenhardt

Beraterin im Unterstützungssystem des IQMV
SSA Schwerin und Rostock
Schwerpunkt Englisch Gymnasien
Telefon: **038426/22 040** oder **0172/3 111 503**
Email: **a.eisenhardt@iq.bm.mv-regierung.de**

Registration closes on **01 March 2013**.