

Dr. Ramona Curry, Associate Professor of English, Media and Cinema Studies, Gender and Women's Studies; Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois, Urbana; and currently Fulbright Distinguished Chair at University of Uppsala, Sweden. She received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University, her M.A. from the University of Tübingen, and a B.A. from the University of Chicago. Professor Curry teaches American and international cinema history and historiography; writing about film; issues of gender, race/ethnicity and social class in media and popular culture; trans-national media flows; cross-cultural media adaptations; genre theory.

Dr. Crister Garrett, Professor for American, Transatlantic, and International Studies at the Institute for American Studies, Leipzig University. He earned his PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles, in contemporary politics and history. Professor Garrett taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and directed the European Studies Program. His teaching and research focuses on current political and economic transformations in the U.S. and Europe, transatlantic relations and global governance. Professor Garrett held the Fulbright-Leipzig Chair during 2003-2005, has been a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow, a Rotary Fellow, and a DAAD International Guest Scholar.

Registration

To register, please contact ...

Nadja Wieland
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or

Astrid Eisenhardt
Beraterin im Unterstützungssystem des IQMV
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Registration closes on **02 March 2015**.

Organizers

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



IQMV



Teach about the USA

Annual Rostock In-Service Training
for English Teachers

The U.S., Immigration and Diversity in the 21st Century

Date: Friday, 13 March 2015
Time: 09:30 – 16:00
Place: Internationales
Begegnungszentrum
Rostock e.V.
Bergstr. 7a
18057 Rostock



Philosophische Fakultät
Institut für Anglistik/Amerikanistik

Program

9:30 – 9:45

Welcome Remarks

Prof. Dr. Steffi Morkötter and Dr. Andrea Zittlau,
both Rostock University
Dr. Susanne Wiedemann, U.S. Consulate General
Hamburg, and Dr. Martina Kohl, U.S. Embassy Berlin

9:45 -11:15

Lecture and discussion

"Immigration Reform in the U.S.: A Current Debate"
Prof. Dr. Crister Garrett, Leipzig University

Coffee Break

11:45-13:15

Part I: Lecture and discussion

"Issues of Diversity and Immigration on the American
Screen: A Brief Historical Overview"
Prof. Dr. Ramona Curry, University of Illinois, Urbana

Lunch Break

14:30 -15:30

Part II: Workshop

"Beyond Character and Story: How Cinematic Images
and Sounds Express Perspectives on Diversity and
Immigration"
Prof. Dr. Ramona Curry

15:30 -16:00

Wrap-Up & Closing Remarks
Prof. Dr. Steffi Morkötter

Abstracts

Immigration Reform in the U.S.: A Current Debate

As a nation of immigrants, the United States has long struggled with how best to create unity within a pluralistic society. Immigration reform and the attempt to regulate immigration has been a much debated issue since the late 19th century. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 marked the beginning of federal regulations, while new laws in 1965 ended the quota system that favored European immigrants. Today, the need for immigration reform is predominantly discussed in the context of curbing illegal immigration. As a national survey by the Pew Research Center and USA TODAY, conducted Dec. 3-7, 2014, documents, the public is divided over President Obama's recent executive action that expands the number of undocumented immigrants permitted to stay and work in the U.S. At the same time, Americans continue to broadly support a pathway to legal status for people in this country illegally.

This talk will explore the various concerns many political and social organizations have raised over immigration reform and outline the Democratic and Republican Parties' approach to a new reform bill. It will discuss the impact immigration continues to have on American society and culture, analyze demographic trends and debunk myths surrounding an often highly emotional issue.

"Issues of Diversity and Immigration on the American Screen: A Brief Historical Overview"

Globally circulated American cinema has helped shape the visions of the United States held by millions of people world-wide. Although any fictional film can at best only partially represent a culture, U.S.-made cinema has shown systematic

Abstracts

"partiality" to stories featuring white (and usually middle-class) Americans as main characters, with actors of other ethnic/racial backgrounds either unseen or conventionally relegated to playing fools for comic relief, villains, or supportive side-kicks. Even centrally placed immigrant characters in fictional films are usually of European background. Understanding how and perhaps why Hollywood cinema has historically ignored or skewed images of the diversity of American experiences and perspectives (a continuing practice despite the occasional exception) is a step toward acquiring a more complete view of U.S. society. A second step is grasping how films work to communicate points-of-view to audiences through cinematic means like camera framing and lighting, which can undercut a nominally progressive representation of diversity in U.S. society.

Prof. Curry's two-part presentation will begin with an illustrated lecture about historical patterns in character casting, settings and narratives in Hollywood cinema.

"Beyond Character and Story: How Cinematic Images and Sounds Express Perspectives on Diversity and Immigration"

A second session in workshop format will demonstrate ways of teaching critical media literacy, through comparison of two films [e.g., *Do the Right Thing* (Spike Lee, 1989) and *(L.A.) Crash* (Paul Haggis, 2004)] with relevant thematic similarity. Both sessions will consider at least briefly contemporary TV series.