

When *The Myths That Made America* came out ten years ago, it had a wide-ranging impact as a new and timely introduction to the field of American Studies. With its systematic analyses of core foundational myths that continue to shape US-American national identities today, Heike Paul's book has become a staple in American Studies classes in Germany and beyond. *The Myths That Made America* has proven to be a reference book for anyone interested in understanding US culture, society, and politics and has found a broad readership beyond academia, too.

The chapters cover the myths of "discovery," the "promised land," and the West, the various appropriations of Pocahontas and the Founding Fathers, as well as the powerful narrations about the melting pot and the self-made man. With examples ranging from popular and memorial culture to literature, textbooks, and everyday life, *The Myths That Made America* offers profound analyses based on state-of-the-art research and presents them in a highly accessible and engaging manner.

Ten years after its publication, this workshop on *The Myths That Made America* reflects on the book's uses in different classroom settings and assesses its ongoing relevance for teaching American Studies.



Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
English and American Studies

Organizers:

Dr. Katharina Gerund and Dr. Isabel Kalous
Chair of American Studies:
Culture and Literature
Bismarckstr. 1, 91054 Erlangen

THE MYTHS THAT MADE AMERICA

Teaching American Studies

Workshop at
FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg
October 9-10, 2024



PROGRAM

9 October 2024

Wassersaal, Orangerie (Wasserturmstr. 3)

7.00pm **America at a Crossroads:**
A Conversation with
Richard Slotkin and Heike Paul
Moderator: Katharina Gerund

8.30pm Reception

10 October 2024

Room: 00.15 PSG (Kochstr. 6a)

9.00-10.00am **Panel I**
Chair: Jana Aresin
Carsten Junker (TU Dresden):
Meta-Myth
Charlotte Lerg (LMU Munich) &
Stefanie Schäfer (U Mannheim):
Witches in America. A Mythbusting
Brew

10.00-10.30am Coffee Break

10.30am-12.00pm **Panel II**
Chair: Hana Vrdoljak

Anthony Obst (FU Berlin): John
Adams and the Myth of Law and
Order

Kathleen Loock (Leibniz U
Hannover): Myths and Monuments:
Teaching *The Myths That Made
America* in the Era of Symbolic
Removals

Nicole Schneider (LMU Munich):
American Dreams and the Myth(s)
of Black Representation

12.00-1.30pm Lunch Break

1.30-3.00pm **Panel III**
Chair: Alexander Dunst

Andrea Carosso (U of Torino):
Teaching *The Myths That Made
America* in Italy, after the American
Century

Carolina Falcão (UFRPE): Making
American Studies with a Foreign
Perspective: Notes on an
Experience of Course Designing
and Students' Interlocution

Yıldız Aşa and Nicola Konopka
(Bamberg U): Fostering Ethical
Pedagogics in American Studies:
The Transformative Impact of
Critically Engaging with *The Myths
That Made America*

3.00-3.30pm Coffee Break

3.30-4.30pm **Panel IV**
Chair: Stephen Koetzing

Teresa Pereira (FCSH-UNL/
CETAPS): Cowboys, Cordyceps,
and Zombies: The Remediation of
the Myth of the American West in
The Last of Us (2013)

Regina Schober (HHU Düsseldorf):
Female Digital Self-Making and the
Myths of Technoliberalism

4.30-5.00pm Coffee Break

5.00-6.00pm **Panel V**
Chair: Isabel Kalous

Ellen Barth (U Münster):
Cookbooks in the American
Melting Pot

Cedric Essi (UZH): Queer
Reproduction in the Melting Pot

Wrap-Up

7.00pm Conference Dinner