

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

### HOST

Atlantische Akademie e.V.

Lauterstr. 2

67657 Kaiserslautern

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Atlantische  
Akademie



Rheinland-Pfalz

### VENUE

PfalzAkademie, Franz-Hartmann-Straße 9

67466 Lambrecht, Tel. 06325-1800-0

Email: info@pfalzakademie.bv-pfalz.de

### PARTNERS

German Association for American Studies (GAAS)

German Research Foundation (DFG)

### TARGET GROUP

Students and researchers of American politics, members of the GAAS and a larger interested audience

### ACCREDITATION

The conference is accredited by the Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung for teachers from Hesse.

IQ-No.: 01375845

### FEE

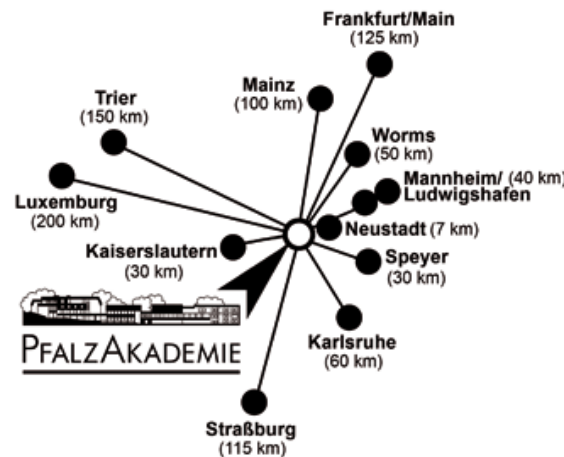
Professionals 65 Euro (single room) / 50 Euro (double room)

Students 65 Euro (single room) / 35 Euro (double room)

REGISTRATION (UNTIL NOVEMBER 5TH, 2013)

Further details on our website:

## DIRECTIONS



### BY CAR

Coming from the...

North, South, and East

Autobahn A 65, Exit Neustadt/Lambrecht,  
B 39 Neustadt/Kaiserslautern.

West

Autobahn A 6, Exit Enkenbach/Neustadt,  
B 48 to Hochspeyer,  
B 39 Kaiserslautern/Neustadt.

### BY TRAIN

Take the train to Lambrecht (Pfalz). The PfalzAkademie is in walking distance (~15 minutes) and directions are signposted.

The PfalzAkademie can arrange for conference guests to be picked up at the train station for a fee of 3,50 Euro. Please contact the PfalzAkademie if you wish to be picked up.

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY



Deutsche Gesellschaft  
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## THE UNITED STATES IN CRISIS?

*Democracy, Politics, Policy, and Political  
Institutions in an Age of  
Uncertainty and Risk*



Friday, November 8  
thru  
Saturday, November 9, 2013

PfalzAkademie Lambrecht



Atlantische  
Akademie



Rheinland-Pfalz

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Discussions of politics and policy in the United States recur, more and more often, to narratives and metaphors of crisis. This is not a new phenomenon: alluding to crisis in debates about the United States and its political system is arguably as old as U.S. democracy itself. But the 2008 economic and financial crisis—that has since converged with a massive budget deficit and political gridlock in Washington D.C. —, has raised some serious questions about political governability and the functioning of the democratic decision making process in the US.

The purpose of this conference is to raise a variety of questions pertaining to this theme. A first perspective addresses the intrinsic problems of democracy in the US. Is the democratic system functioning normally? The 2008 crisis that, in the beginning, was identified as a consequence of dangerous short-termist practices and incentive structures in the financial industries has soon evolved into a series of sovereign-debt crises in the course of the past five years. How do the ways in which the crisis is being politically managed and explained relate to the specific functioning of the political system in the United States? Finally, crises can be moments in which taken-for-granted understandings of the political system and the political economy can be put into question. Given recent crisis tendencies, are we observing a shifting relation between state, society, and market?

We would like to kindly invite you to the Annual Meeting of the Political Science Section of the German Association for American Studies.

Wolfgang Tönnesmann  
*Atlantische Akademie*

Prof. Dr. Christian Lammert  
*FU Berlin*

Florian Böller, M.A.  
*TU Kaiserslautern*

Markus Siewert  
*Universität Frankfurt*

Dr. David Sirakov  
*Atlantische Akademie*

Dr. Boris Vormann  
*FU Berlin*

## CONFERENCE PLAN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2013

### 2pm – 4pm Panel 1: PHENOMENA OF CRISIS AND AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS

Chair: Prof. Dr. Christian Lammert (FU Berlin)

Prof. Dr. Michael Dreyer (Universität Jena)  
The Constitution in Crisis? Symptom or Cause,  
and How to Fix it

Sören Reimer, M.A. (Universität Jena)  
The Politics of Trust and the Office of Congressional Ethics

Sebastian Dregger, M.A. (Universität Trier)  
The Polarization of American Politics and the American  
Adversarial Legal System

### 4.30pm – 6.30pm Panel 2: SYMPTOMS OF CRISIS – THE FOREIGN POLICY ARENA

Chair: Dr. Boris Vormann (FU Berlin)

Dr. Alexander Brand and Dr. Wolfgang Muno (Universität  
Mainz)  
Turning Left = Turning Away? The United States, Venezuela,  
and the Crisis in Hemispheric Relations

Dr. Henrike Viehrig (Universität Bonn)  
Framing Military Interventions in Transatlantic Perspective

PD Dr. Thomas Greven (FU Berlin)  
Gridlocked Politics at the Water's Edge. Partisan Polarization  
and US Global Leadership

Silke Schmidt  
First World Crisis, Third World Aid - Grameen America and the  
U.S. Politics of Poverty

### 7.30pm – 9pm Keynote Address I: Sean M. Theriault (University of Texas) Chair: Markus Siewert (Universität Frankfurt)

## CONFERENCE PLAN (CONT.)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2013

### 9am – 11am Panel 3: SYMPTOMS OF CRISIS – THE DOMESTIC ARENA

Chair: Dr. David Sirakov (Atlantic Academy)

Dr. Ahmed Badawi  
When Crisis Becomes Opportunity: Discursive Formations,  
Power Relations and the Resilience of the Liberal Political  
Order in America

Guergana Stolarova, Dipl.-Pol. (FU Berlin)  
A Way Out of the Health Care Crisis?

Henriette Rytz, M.A. (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik,  
Berlin)  
Political Polarization and Societal Polarization - Two Sides of  
the Same Coin?

Dr. Torben Lütjen (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf)  
Inside the Echo Chamber: How the Political Purification of  
two Counties Exemplifies the Perils of Ideological  
Segregation in America – Observations from Ethnographic  
Field Research in Wisconsin

### 11.15am – 1pm Panel 4: CRISIS DIMENSIONS – CRISIS PERCEPTIONS

Chair: N.N.

Karin Mac Donald (University of California at Berkeley)  
Redistricting

Tim Dittmann, M.A. (Universität Nürnberg-Erlangen)  
The Crisis of Conservatism

Oliver Kausch (TU Kaiserslautern)  
They Don't Absorb? The Tea Party and the Party Competition

Thomas Schmitt (Universität Erfurt)  
Incentivized Ignorance

### 2pm – 3.30pm Keynote Address II: Bruce E. Cain (Stanford University, California) Chair: Markus Siewert (Universität Frankfurt)