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**Nachricht:**

Newsletter, North American Studies Program, December 10, 2008, 7/2008

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Dear Subscribers,

since this is the last NAP Newsletter of this year, we would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas, a wonderful time between the years, and a good start into a successful and happy year 2009!

Sincerely, your NAP Team

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\*\*\* 1. UPCOMING EVENTS

+++ Dienstag, 16.12.08 | 18-20 Uhr c.t. | HS 17 (Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie)

Prof. Anna Hartnell (American and Canadian Studies, University of Birmingham, UK)

"Narrating Katrina: the 'Right of Return' and the Limits of National Identity"

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the language used to describe Katrina evacuees from New Orleans underscored their uncertain location in the United States. Not only were many of the evacuees black, as was widely noted at the time, but they also came from a geographically marginalized region with higher poverty rates than almost anywhere else in the US. This talk traces the various narratives around questions of national identity that have arisen from the storm. It outlines the ongoing realities of displacement, and explores the implications of the fact that New Orleans residents are now calling for the 'right of return', a principal of international law enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, evacuees strongly objected to the media's insistence on labeling them 'refugees', yet now they have appropriated a similar rhetoric themselves to describe their experiences. The journey between these two positions will be explored via discussions of some of the writing and film emerging on Katrina, and will conclude with an analysis of the disparity between the emergent 'Katrina tourism' industry, on the one hand, and the soaring homelessness rates, on the other.

Anna Hartnell is an expert on narratives of exile and the African-American civil rights movement. She wrote a PhD thesis entitled "Exodus as Postcolonial Narrative: Excavating the Promised Land in Religious Rhetoric of 'The Elect' in the United States" and published essays on Martin Luther King and Malcolm X as well as the prize-winning article "Exodus as Travelling Theory: Excavating the Promised Land in the African American Imagination."

+++ Dienstag, 23. 12.08 | 10-12 Uhr c. t. | HS 17 (Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie)

Prof. Dr. Hans Dieter Laux, Geographisches Institut der Universität Bonn

"Die Präsidentschaftswahlen vom 4. November 2008 – ein historisches Ereignis aus wahlgeographischer Sicht"

Die Präsidentschaftswahlen vom 4. November 2008 können in mancherlei Hinsicht als ein historisches Ereignis gedeutet werden. Dies gilt nicht für die Wahl des ersten Präsidenten afroamerikanischer Herkunft, sondern offenbar auch für die Höhe der Wahlbeteiligung sowie die Mobilisierung neuer Wählerschichten vor allem unter den „Minderheiten“ in der amerikanischen Bevölkerung. Eine Analyse aus wahlgeographischer Perspektive, d.h. vor allem die Betrachtung der regionalen Unterschiede in den Wahlergebnissen, ermöglicht Deutungen des Wählerverhaltens, die bisher noch nicht im Zentrum der Berichterstattung standen.

Hans Dieter Laux studierte Geographie, Germanistik und Philosophie und lehrte bis zum Eintritt in den "Ruhestand" im Frühjahr 2007 am Geographischen Institut der Universität Bonn die Bereiche Bevölkerungs-, Sozial- und Stadtgeographie. Im Rahmen seines regionalen Schwerpunkts USA war er von Beginn an mit dem Nordamerikastudienprogramm der Universität eng verbunden. In Forschung und Publikationen beschäftigte er sich seit 1990 vor allem mit Fragen der Stadt- und Regionalentwicklung in Kalifornien sowie den Problemen der Einwanderung von Asiaten in die USA. Zu seinen Publikationen zählen: *EthniCity: Geographic Perspectives on Ethnic Change in Modern Cities* (hg. mit C. Roseman u. G. Thieme, 1996), *Koreans in Greater Los Angeles: Socioeconomic Polarization, Ethnic Attachment, and Residential Patterns* (mit G. Thieme, 2006) und *Los Angeles Restructuring: Ethnic and Socio-Economic Transformation into a "Galactic Metropolis"* (mit G. Thieme, in: *GR International Edition 4.2* [2008]: 36-43).

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\*\*\* 2. NAP NEWS

+++ Wir freuen uns, Simone Knewitz zum 15. Dezember 2008 als neue wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin gewonnen zu haben. Frau Knewitz hat ihren Magister in Nordamerikastudien in Bonn absolviert und arbeitet an einer Dissertationsschrift mit dem Titel "A Poet is flesh and blood as well as brain: Amy Lowell, William Carlos Williams, and the Modernist Poetics of the Body". Wir freuen uns auf die Zusammenarbeit mit Simone Knewitz und wünschen ihr einen guten (Neu-)Start im Nordamerikastudienprogramm!

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\*\*\* 3. NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

+++ Upcoming Lecture in the "Brown Bag Lecture Series," University of Cologne. This lecture series is organized by the Department of Anglo-American History and the Department's Student Council.

+ 12 December 08, 12:00 to 13:30 in room 010 (Philosophikum)

Gerold Krozewski (University of Sheffield)

Britain and the End of Empire: The Politics of Shifting Economic Relations in the Mid-20th Century

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\*\*\*4. INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

+++ Stellenausschreibung International Office Universität Bonn: Stud. Hilfskraft (B.A. oder M.A. Studierende)

Im Dezernat für Internationale Angelegenheiten / International Office sind ab Februar/März 2009 zwei studentische Hilfskraftstellen für die Betreuung von Programmstudenten mit 9-15 Stunden/Woche zu besetzen.

Das "Junior Year-Program" ist konzipiert für ausländische Studierende aller Fachrichtungen. Die Mehrzahl der Teilnehmer kommt aus den USA und Südostasien. Die Studierenden können Lehrveranstaltungen aus allen Fachbereichen der Universität wählen. Für Studierende, die ihre Kenntnisse der deutschen Sprache noch erweitern oder festigen müssen, gibt es Intensiv- und Themenkurse. Das Programm wird abgerundet durch ein umfangreiches Rahmenprogramm mit Exkursionen, Konzerten, einer einwöchigen Semesterexkursion usw.

Aufgaben:

- Planung und Organisation des Einführungskurses und Semesterrahmenprogramms und Durchführung von Programmpunkten wie z.B. Exkursionen (auch mehrtägig)
- allgemeine Betreuung der Studierenden (u.a. 1x wöchentlich Anwesenheit während der "Kaffeestunde")

- Unterstützung bei Veranstaltungen anderer Programme des International Office

Wir erwarten:

- organisatorisches und praktisches Geschick, Zuverlässigkeit und Selbstständigkeit
- im Idealfall Auslandserfahrung
- eine offene, integrative Persönlichkeit mit Interesse an Teamarbeit und der Bereitschaft mit Menschen anderer Kulturkreise umzugehen
- zeitliche Flexibilität und Bereitschaft, auch außerhalb der normalen Bürozeiten zu arbeiten (März und September sind aufgrund der Einführungskurse besonders arbeitsintensive Phasen)
- gute Englischkenntnisse

+++ Institute for Cultural Diplomacy Programs, February 2009:

- + The ICD Academy for Cultural Diplomacy (2-6 February 2009)
- + Europe Meets Latin America: A Forum for Young Leaders (9-13 February 2009)
- + Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: A Forum for Young Leaders (16-20 February 2009)
- + Cultural Diplomacy in Africa: A Forum for Young Leaders (23-27 February 2009)

The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD) is pleased to announce four programs taking place in Berlin, February 2009. All programs are currently accepting applications.

The ICD is an international, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization focused on the theoretical and practical promotion of cultural exchange as a tool for improving relations in all areas. To learn more about our activity, please visit [www.culturaldiplomacy.org](http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org).

The ICD Programs have been developed to facilitate intercultural exchange at the grass roots, civil society and political levels. They bring together Young Leaders from across the world for an analysis of cultural diplomacy, an exploration of the relationship between their cultures, and to create a sustainable network between like-minded individuals. Following the completion of the programs, the participants are encouraged to use this network to develop their own leadership initiatives in the field of cultural diplomacy.

The follow-up initiatives are supported by the ICD through an online forum and personal consultation, and allow the ICD principals of inter-cultural relations based on dialogue, understanding and trust to spread much further

+ The ICD Academy for Cultural Diplomacy (2 - 6 February 2009)

The ICD offers the Academy for Cultural Diplomacy to allow individuals of all backgrounds to gain an introduction in, or deepen their knowledge of, the field of Cultural Diplomacy. A diverse, inter-disciplinary curriculum featuring leading figures from the public sector, private sector and civil society will stimulate discussions of the salient issues in the field of Cultural

Diplomacy today. The program is designed to complement more traditional academic studies in the area, as well as accommodate individuals from a professional background.  
Further info: [www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en\\_icdacademy\\_introduction](http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en_icdacademy_introduction)  
Enquiries: [academy@culturaldiplomacy.org](mailto:academy@culturaldiplomacy.org)

+ Europe Meets Latin America: A Forum for Young Leaders (9–13 February 2009)  
The relationship between Europe and Latin America, whilst strong in certain areas, can be further strengthened to the benefit of both. Important areas for consideration include Europe's role in the economic development of Latin America, and the cooperation of the two regions on global issues. Cultural Diplomacy can help by facilitating sustainable cooperation between Europe and Latin America based on an understanding and awareness of the respective cultures, and the challenges faced within each region. Europe Meets Latin America: A Forum for Young Leaders will bring together young leaders from the two areas for a consideration of the bi-regional relationship, and to look at how it can be supported by Cultural Diplomacy.  
Further info: [www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en\\_program\\_emia\\_introduction](http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en_program_emia_introduction)  
Enquiries: [emia@culturaldiplomacy.org](mailto:emia@culturaldiplomacy.org)

+ Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: A Forum for Young Leaders (16–20 February 2009)  
Cultural Diplomacy in Europe: A Forum for Young Leaders (CDE) has been designed to bring together young, influential people from Europe and across the world to explore the need for, and practice of, Cultural Diplomacy within Europe. Though increasingly integrated on a political level, cultural divides in Europe can be seen on both the intra- and inter-national levels. CDE will examine the origin and development of these divisions, and consider the impact they have on economic, political and societal relations on the continent. Through carefully selected case studies and workshops, the CDE will then encourage the participants to explore the role Cultural Diplomacy can play in addressing these cultural divisions.  
Further info: [www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en\\_program\\_cdie\\_introduction](http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en_program_cdie_introduction)  
Enquiries: [europe@culturaldiplomacy.org](mailto:europe@culturaldiplomacy.org)

+ Cultural Diplomacy in Africa: A Forum for Young Leaders (23–27 February 2009)  
Cultural Diplomacy in Africa: A Forum for Young Leaders (CDA) was developed to fill the urgent need for cultural diplomacy on the African continent. There are a range of serious challenges confronting Africa today, from violent conflict to HIV Aids. In addressing these problems the individual African states must work closely and constructively with each other, and also with external influences. CDA will consider how Cultural Diplomacy can help to strengthen relations between different cultural groups within Africa, will highlight and look at examples of initiatives that currently exist in this area, and will encourage discussions on the role that external influences can, and should, place in the development of Africa. The Forum will produce a dynamic, informed group of individuals with the desire and necessary skills to organize their own follow-up initiatives in this area.  
Further info: [www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en\\_program\\_cda\\_introduction](http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en_program_cda_introduction)  
Enquiries: [cda@culturaldiplomacy.org](mailto:cda@culturaldiplomacy.org)

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This newsletter has been sent to you by the North American Studies Program, Department of English, American and Celtic Studies, University of Bonn. Coordination and editorial responsibility: Birte Christ, M.A., Assistant Professor of American Literature and Culture.

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact our office ([nap@uni-bonn.de](mailto:nap@uni-bonn.de)) or send an email directly to Birte Christ ([birte.christ@uni-bonn.de](mailto:birte.christ@uni-bonn.de)). For more information on the program and our activities, visit our website at [www.nap-uni-bonn.de](http://www.nap-uni-bonn.de).

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