Democracy and its Limits
The United States in Perspective

Annual Conference of

The Political Science Section of the German Association for American Studies

Date: November 5-6, 2020

Location: Online - Webex-based;

Links will be shared after registration and shortly before the respective event

Please register for free here until noon (CET) November 1, 2020

Co-hosted by

Bard College Berlin

John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin

With the friendly support of

Atlantische Akademie

Philipp Schwartz Initiative

Organizers: Aysuda Kölemen, Christian Lammert, David Sirakov & Boris Vormann

Questions? Please contact politics@jfki.fu-berlin.de

#Limits2Democracy

#GAASPolSci20

Thursday, November 5

15:00-16:30

Opening Remarks & Panel 1: Trump in Power: Illiberalism and Democracy

Chair: Betsy Leimbigler (Freie Universität Berlin)

Michael Weinman (Bard College Berlin): A Passing Storm? American Illiberalism and the 2020 Elections

Jörg Hebenstreit (Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena): Independence under Threat – Attempts of Expanding Presidential Supervisory Authority over Independent Agencies under the Trump Administration

Michael Dreyer (Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena): Packing the Courts? Donald Trump, Checks and Balances, and the "Least Dangerous Branch"

Elena Broda (Universität Passau): Perfect Phone Call or Abuse of Power? How Ideological Media Framed Trump's Impeachment

17:00-18:30

Panel 2: **Fake News, Social Media, and Political Communication**

Chair: Gülçin Balamir Coşkun (Humboldt Universität Berlin)

Maren Schäfer (Heidelberg Center for American Studies): "Totally Compromised Kangaroo Courts" and the "Fake News Media" – Donald Trump's Anti-Democratic Right-Wing Populist Rhetoric

Curd Knüpfer (Freie Universität Berlin) and **Michael Oswald** (Universität Passau): Tapping the Sphere of Deviance: Right-wing News Sites as a Peripheral Network to the Trump-Fox News Information Nexus

Mike Cowburn (Freie Universität Berlin): Republican Legislator Adoption of the Fake News Label on Twitter

Martin Thunert (Heidelberg Center for American Studies): (Dis)Trust of Experts and Contemporary Populism: The Case of the United States in Perspective

19:30-21:00

Assessing the Elections

Panel Chair: David Sirakov (Atlantische Akademie)

Sean Theriault (University of Texas): Congressional Elections: What Happened and Why?

Rachel Bitecofer (Niskanen Center): Negative Partisanship in the 2020 American Election

Friday, November 6

10:00-11:30

Business Meeting of the Politics Section

13:30 -14:45

Panel 3: **The New Normal? International Relations under Trump**

Panel Chair: Florian Böller (TU Kaiserslautern)

Cornelia-Adriana Baciu (Johns Hopkins University): Paradoxes of American Exceptionalism and Restraint. A Neo-Classical Realism Perspective

Ana-Constantina Frost (Freie Universität Berlin): Whose Foreign Policy Is It Anyway? Studying Diaspora Politics in a Time of International Upheaval

Jakob Wiedekind (Leibniz Universität Hannover): The New De Facto Veto? Tracing the Impact of SAPs as a New Measure of Presidential Power in Foreign Policy

15:00-16:15

Panel 4: **Persisting Problems: Inequalities and Social Rights**

Chair: Aysuda Kölemen (Bard College Berlin)

Guido Rohmann (Freie Universität Berlin): 'Left behind' - A Term We Should Leave Behind?

Betsy Leimbigler (Freie Universität Berlin): Interactions between Illiberalism and Institutions: Economic and Social Rights in the U.S.

Laura Kettel (Freie Universität Berlin): Contested Governance: The Federal Response to Homelessness in the United States

16:30-17:45

Panel 5: **Race and Public Policy**

Chair: Christian Lammert (FU Berlin)

Rachel Wetts (Brown University): Activating and Harnessing White Racial Prejudice in the 2020 US Election

Aysuda Kölemen (Bard College Berlin): Race as a Category in Evaluations of Deservingness and Undeservingness of Government Assistance

Candis Smith (Penn State University): Who Stands a Chance? Disparate Worldviews on the Social Constructions of Vulnerable Populations

19:00-20:30

What Is to Be Done?

Keynote Lecture by Ruth Wilson Gilmore (CUNY Graduate Center)

Introduction: Boris Vormann (Bard College Berlin)

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