



HEIDELBERG
CENTER
FOR AMERICAN
STUDIES



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

AUTHORITY AND TRUST IN AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Annual Conference of the Political
Science Section of the German
Association for American Studies
(GAAS/DGfA)

June 6-8, 2024



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Amerikastudien



Atlantische
Akademie



GKAT



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DAY 1 – THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

06:00 pm, Welcome and Opening Keynote Address
On the Democratic Duty to Trust the People

Roberto Frega, French National Scientific
Research Center (CNRS)

in cooperation with the Graduiertenkolleg “Authority and Trust”
(GKAT). Followed by a reception at the HCA.

DAY 2 – FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

08:45 – 09:00 am, Welcome

09:00 – 10:30 am, Panel 1

Authority and Trust in American Media and the Digital Sphere

Chair: Sarah Wagner

Mike Cowburn (Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)) –
*Blasting the Elephant: Reconceptualizing Right-Wing “Alternative
News” as Republican “Digital Surrogates”*

Matt Sheedy (University of Bonn) – *Remixed Spiritualities and
the Gurus who Shape Them: On the Authority of Popular Digital
Influencers*

Caroline Leicht (University of Southampton) – *#WomenWin –
How Gendered Representations of Candidates in Political Satire
Affect Public Discourse during US Presidential Elections*

Christoph Rosa (Free University Berlin) – *Partisanship and news
media consumption as moderators of the COVID 19 pandemic’s
impact on mental health in America*

10:30 – 11:00 am, Coffee Break

11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Panel 2

Authority and Trust in the Supreme Court, Justice System, and the Role of Polarization

Chair: Michael Dreyer

Sebastian Dregger (University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt) – *The
US Supreme Court as Guardian of the Constitution – Losing
„Authority“ (as understood by Hannah Arendt)?*

Sofie Sabbioni (University of Basel) – *“Fuck the government
and the corrupt justice system”: Distrust and Rejection of State
Authority in U.S. American Far-Right Fiction*

Manfred Berg (Heidelberg University) – *Gun Rights and
Polarization*

12:30 – 01:30 pm, Lunch at HCA

01:30 – 03:00 pm, Panel 3
American Authority in the World

Chair: David Sirakov

Marcus Dietrich (Heidelberg University) – *In the Dollar we
(must) trust? A socialist perspective on the emergence of
international finance*

Jan Hornat (Charles University Prague) – *State responsabilization
and the reproduction of the liberal international order: the US
and the appeals of status recognition*

Eva Rieger (University of Passau) – *Bigotry, bombs, and burkas
– Contestations of feminism in US foreign policy*

Richard Lange (Heidelberg University) – *How Distrust in Europe
Changed American Global Authority - Anti-Europeanism and EU-
criticism in United States Foreign Policy after the Cold War*

03:00 – 03:30 pm, Coffee Break

03:30 – 05:00 pm, Panel 4

Domestic Division, Foreign Policy Volatility, and International Trust of U.S. Global Authority

Chairs: Florian Böller, Gordon Friedrichs

Julia Simon (University of Bremen) – *The transatlantic transfer
of domestic divisions: Anti-Wokeness as right-wing civilizational
populism*

Hubert Zimmermann (University of Marburg) – *Ending the
Forever Wars: Discourse Coalitions in U.S. Debates on Military
Intervention Abroad*

Jakob Wiedekind (Leibniz Universität Hannover) – *Shifting
Tides: Patterns of Lawmaking in US Foreign Policy*

Gordon Friedrichs (MPIL Heidelberg), **Florian Böller** (RPTU
Kaiserslautern-Landau) – *Does Anybody Care? Grasping the
Effect of Domestic Polarization on U.S. International Relations*

05:00 – 05:30 pm, Coffee Break

05:30 – 07:00 pm, Keynote II

Authority and Trust in the Age of Social Media and AI: What to Expect in the Super-Election Year of 2024

Ulrike Klinger, Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)/
Slubice

8.00 pm, Conference dinner for conference participants
at Urban Kitchen

DAY 3 – SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

09:00 – 9:45 am, Business Meeting

10:00 am – 11:30 am, Panel 5
**Authority and Trust in the GOP, Conservatism, and
Radicalization**

Chair: Martin Thunert

Philipp Adorf (University of Bonn) – *The Party of the Working
Class or the Party of White Nationalism? The Composition of the
GOP in the Trump Era*

Zoe Krueger Weisel (Eurac Bozen) – *Conservatives and science:
Understanding U.S. conservatives’ growing distrust in science*

Grit Grigoleit-Richter (University of Passau) – *The Racial Trust
Gap*

11:30 – 11:45 am, Coffee Break

11:45 am – 01:15 pm, Panel 6
Democracy and the Question of Scale

Chair: Christian Lammert

Dirk Jörke (TU Darmstadt) – *The Federalism of the Anti-
Federalists*

Ewa Atanassow (Bard College, Berlin) – *Tocqueville’s dilemmas,
and ours*

Laura Kettel (Aarhus University) – *State Level Incentives in
Housing Policy*

Boris Vormann (Bard College, Berlin), **Christian Lammert** (Free
University Berlin) – *Authority, Legitimacy, and Scale*

01:15 pm, Concluding Remarks

01:30 pm, Light Lunch and End of Conference