

Contributors

Christa Buschendorf was Professor and Chair of American Literature and Culture at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt from 1998 to 2015. She published on the American reception of Schopenhauer, on the afterlife of antiquity in the U.S., and on ancient myths in American poetry. Currently, she is exploring the approach of relational sociology in (African) American Studies. She co-edited *Civilizing and Decivilizing Processes: Figurational Approaches to American Culture* (with Astrid Franke and Johannes Voelz, 2011); *Violence and Open Spaces: The Subversion of Boundaries and the Transformation of the Western Genre* (with Stefanie Mueller and Katja Sarkowsky, 2017); and she edited conversations with Cornel West on *Black Prophetic Fire*, 2014.

Dennis Büscher-Ulbrich is Assistant Professor of American Studies and Cultural Studies at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel. He received his PhD from Universität Hamburg for a dissertation on Bruce Andrews and the problem of political subjectivity in avant-garde poetry and has published articles and book chapters on (post-)Marxism, critical urban studies, black music, and avant-garde poetics. He is currently working on a post-doctoral project on capitalist urbanization and racialized surplus populations, tentatively titled “Parallax City: Surplus Rebellions and the Real of Capital.”

Astrid Franke is Professor of American Studies at Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen. She received her PhD from the Kennedy Institute at Freie Universität Berlin and then became an Assistant Professor of

American Studies at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt. She has published on stereotypes in Modern American novels, on the concept of the public in literature, and the relation of poetry and (in-)justice. Interested in sociological concepts and literature, she is also a member of the Collaborative Research Center “Threatened Orders,” leading a project on the surprising resilience of the racial order in the United States.

Nicole Hirschfelder studied in Frankfurt, Madison, and Yale and completed her PhD at Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen. In 2014, she published her first book, *Oppression as Process: The Case of Bayard Rustin*. She currently teaches in the American Studies Department at Tübingen and is working on her second book project which deals with the narrativity and visual representation of disasters. In 2016, she was a visiting professor at the University of Maryland. Her research interests include figurational sociology, the Civil Rights movement, disaster & catastrophe, and the concept of the *gaze*.

Johannes Kohrs graduated from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt in 2013 and received the university’s “Chautauqua Prize” for his master’s thesis on the representation of the Black Church in African American Literature. Currently enrolled at the Graduate School of North American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin, he spent the winter and spring terms 2017 as a visiting student researcher at Stanford University to complete his PhD project on African American literary humor, focusing on the satiric novels of Percival Everett.

Luvena Kopp graduated from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt and currently is a doctoral candidate and faculty member at the American Studies Department, Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen. Her research interests include figurational sociology, film studies, social inequality, and African American literature and culture. She was a Fulbright Fellow at New York University and a participant in the 2016 Fulbright American Studies Institute titled “Why Black Lives Matter: Race and Politics in the U.S.” Her dissertation investigates aspects of symbolic power in the films of Spike Lee; her article “Satirizing Satire: Symbolic Violence and Subversion in Spike Lee’s *Bamboozled*” was published in 2014.

Stephan Kuhl is a postdoctoral researcher in the project “American Literature and the Transformation of Privacy” at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt. He earned his doctorate at Goethe-Universität with a dissertation that investigates Richard Wright’s literary adaptations of psychoanalysis on the basis of Pierre Bourdieu’s theory of practice. He is the recipient of the 2016 Obama Dissertation Prize of the Transnational American Studies Institute at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, as well as a contributor to the forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Richard Wright*. His research interests include African American literature and culture, psychoanalysis, and relational sociology.

Marlon Lieber is Assistant Professor of American Cultural and Media Studies at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel. He has recently completed his doctoral dissertation on the novels of Colson Whitehead at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt. From July to December 2015 he was Visiting Research Scholar at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He has published articles and book chapters on Colson Whitehead, the relation of neoliberalism to issues such as ‘post-blackness’ or ‘post-raciality,’ and the dialectic of technology and nature in Leo Marx.

Nicole Lindenberg is a lecturer at Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster. She studied English and Philosophy at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Currently, she is working on her PhD thesis “Masking the ‘ideal white American male’ – Passing and Split Habitus in Ralph Ellison’s *Three Days Before the Shooting...*” (working title), a project for which she has received funding from the Hans Böckler Foundation. From 2014 to 2015 she was a fellow at the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress.

Stefanie Mueller received her PhD in American Studies from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt in 2011. She is the author of *The Presence of the Past in the Novels of Toni Morrison* (2013), which was nominated for the Toni Morrison Society Book Prize in 2015. The study explores Morrison’s later novels on the basis of both literary analysis and sociological theory, specifically the work of Pierre Bourdieu and Norbert Elias. Her research interests also include TV Studies, Law and Literature, and the intersections of cul-

ture, law and economics. Her current monograph project explores literary and legal fictions of the American business corporation in the 19th century.

Timo Müller is Interim Professor of American Studies at Universität Regensburg. His research interests include modernism, environmental studies, and African American literature. He is the author of *The Self as Object in Modernist Fiction: James, Joyce, Hemingway* (2010) and *The African American Sonnet: A Literary History*, forthcoming with the University Press of Mississippi. He edited the *De Gruyter Handbook of the American Novel of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries* (2017) and co-edited the textbook *English and American Studies: Theory and Practice* (2012). Other publications include articles in *Anglia*, *Arizona Quarterly*, and *Twentieth-Century Literature*. In 2012–13 he held a visiting fellowship at the Du Bois Institute, Harvard University.

Wibke Schniedermann is a postdoctoral researcher and teaching centre coordinator at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen. She received her PhD from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt for a thesis on symbolic domination in Henry James's novels. Her current research investigates self-narrations of homeless persons. She is the co-editor of *Class Divisions in Serial Television* and has published on representations of homelessness, Henry James, and critical concepts in the study of culture.