

# 16TH TRANSATLANTIC STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM

## CHALLENGES TO TRANSATLANTICISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY: RE-ENVISIONING THE TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP

NEW YORK, MARCH 24-31, 2018



*in cooperation between, and supported by:*

OSU Graduate School, School of Public Policy

Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany

University of Warsaw, Poland

Max Kade Foundation

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New York University



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## CONTENTS

1.	NOTES ON PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.....	2
2.	PREPARATORY SEMINARS.....	2
3.	ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS.....	2
4.	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION / CALL FOR PAPERS .....	3
5.	SYMPOSIUM WEEK FIELD TRIPS .....	3
	<b><i>Sunday, March 25th: Arrival in New York</i></b> .....	4
	<b><i>Monday, March 26th: Meetings and Site Visits</i></b> .....	4
	<b><i>Tuesday, March 27th: Meetings and Site Visits</i></b> .....	5
	<b><i>Wednesday, March 28th: Meetings and Site Visits</i></b> .....	6
	<b><i>Thursday, March 29th: Conference</i></b> .....	7
	<b><i>Friday, March 30th: Optional Activities &amp; Opera</i></b> .....	7
	<b><i>Saturday, March 31st: Departure</i></b> .....	7
6.	SYMPOSIUM CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY.....	8
	<b>Faculty</b> .....	8
	<b>Student Organizers</b> .....	9
	<b>Conference Program</b> .....	11
	<b>9:00 AM Introduction</b> .....	11
	<b>9:15 AM Panel 1: Transatlantic Relationships</b> .....	11
	<b>10:40 AM Panel 2: Climate and Energy</b> .....	13
	<b>1:00 PM Panel 3: Globalization</b> .....	15
	<b>2:20 PM Panel 4: Politics and Media</b> .....	17
	<b>3:45 PM Panel 5: Transatlanticism</b> .....	19
	<b>4:45 PM Final Q&amp;A; Closing Remarks</b> .....	21

This report is an addendum and expansion of the main symposium report, located at <http://www.trasym.org/report.html>.

## 1. NOTES ON PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The program will continue in the current configuration. The theme was set in response to elections in Europe and the US that seemed to strengthen anti-transatlantic sentiments.

Responding to institutional changes at OSU, the cooperation with Diversity & Cultural Engagement was concluded.

## 2. PREPARATORY SEMINARS

A preparatory seminar was taught by PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee in Winter Semester 2017/18 at Humboldt University, which incorporated a selection process. Prospective symposium participants on the Humboldt side submitted their proposals and were accepted based on academic merits.

Another seminar was taught by Dr. Philipp Kneis in Winter Quarter 2018 at Oregon State University, to prepare the students who answered the call to participate in the symposium.

At Warsaw University, Dr. Tomasz Basiuk prepared the students in Winter 2018.

All classes were coordinated by drawing from the same core syllabus (available on <http://www.trasym.org/trasym16.html>) to ensure that students — despite their different fields — shared the same background. A video conference between all partners was held in February, allowing an exchange of ideas and introductions.

## 3. ORGANIZERS AND PARTICIPANTS

### **Number of Participants: 28**

Organizers: 4

Dr. Philipp Kneis, Dr. Allison Davis-White Eyes (OSU)

PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee (Humboldt)

Dr. Tomasz Basiuk (Warsaw)

Student/Assistant Organizers: 8

Sara Fehlhaber, Maria Elena Martin Sanchez, Ayla Wopker (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Yousef Allouzi, Jessica Andrepont, Celia Balderas, Jonathan Sandoval (Oregon State University),

Agnieszka Ziemińska (Warsaw University)

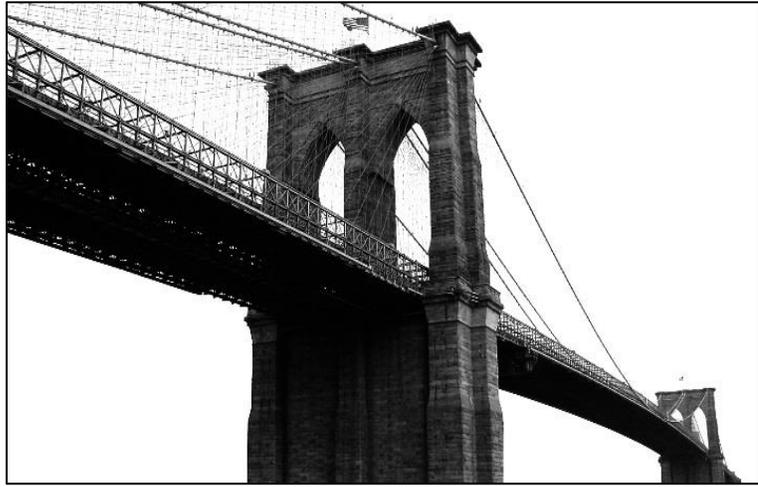
Students: 16

(Humboldt: 9, OSU: 4, Warsaw: 3)

## 4. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION / CALL FOR PAPERS

After World War II, transatlantic relations were seen as a necessity in the West in order to rebuild Europe, to locate Germany securely within a democratic framework, and to meet the challenges of the Cold War. The Transatlantic Relationship was never free of conflicts, but in case of doubt, it was regarded as instrumental in promoting Western cooperation and security.

Now, 70 years after the Marshall Plan was implemented, the Transatlantic Relationship seems to be more in



Brooklyn Bridge

question than ever. It would be easy to attribute that situation to the agitations of few political leaders and demagogues, or to the short-term strategic interests of a few countries. A solid transatlantic framework should be able to successfully meet such disturbances.

Yet what appears to be visible now is probably a cultural shift, a notion that Transatlanticism itself is not only not anymore important, but also not desirable. Indeed, such questioning seems to extend to the ideas of globalization, free trade and internationalism. There has always been this criticism on the political left, but now the same critique can be heard, albeit in different tones, on the political right as well.

Faced with such an unusual bipartisan anti-global and anti-international coalition, we will need to investigate possible root causes of such changes in the political spectrum in an age of uncertainty in which every reliable societal marker seems to be under question.

The 16<sup>th</sup> Transatlantic Students Symposium explored the cultural, social, economic and political dimensions of such a shift, and discuss possible remedies to restore and possibly re-envision the Transatlantic Relationship.

## 5. SYMPOSIUM WEEK FIELD TRIPS

- Site Visits:** Museum of the American Indian; Ground Zero; Brooklyn Bridge; Brooklyn Heights / DUMBO; African Burial Ground; Ellis Island; Metropolitan Opera
- Institutional Visits:** WeAct (Environmental Community Organization in Harlem); Der Spiegel (German News Magazine); Office of Multicultural Affairs, PACE University; Caribbean Cultural Center; Polish Cultural Institute; United Nations; Talk at NYU “The New World Disorder”



Harlem



Meeting at Environmental Community Organization *WeAct*



Meeting at German News Magazine *Der Spiegel*

**Sunday, March 25th: Arrival in New York**

**Monday, March 26th: Meetings and Site Visits**

- 8:00 AM Orientation and Welcome at the Hotel
- 9:30 AM Meeting at *WeAct*, a Community Environmental Justice Organization
- 1:00 PM Meeting at *Der Spiegel*, German Political Magazine
- 3:00 PM Museum of the American Indian
- 5:00 PM Walking tour of Lower Manhattan (Ground Zero visit) to Brooklyn Heights (walk across the Brooklyn Bridge);
- 6:30 PM Dinner on our own in Brooklyn Heights/DUMBO



Brooklyn Bridge



At Central Station



Meeting at PACE University



African Burial Ground Museum



Meeting at Caribbean Cultural Center



***Tuesday, March 27th: Meetings and Site Visits***

- 8:00 AM Daily Orientation
- 9:30 AM Talk with Dr. Denise Belen-Santiago, Dir. of Multicultural Affairs, Pace University
- 12:30 PM African Burial Ground
- 3:00 PM Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora



The group in transit



**Wednesday, March 28th: Meetings and Site Visits**

- 8:30 AM Daily Orientation
- 10:00 AM Polish Cultural Institute
- 12:15 PM United Nations Visit
- 6:30 PM "New World Disorder" Talk at NYU



Meeting at Polish Cultural Institute



United Nations





Talk at NYU



Symposium Student Conference



Metropolitan Opera after *Lucia di Lammermoor*

**Thursday, March 29th: Conference**

9:00 AM-5:30 PM      Student Conference

**Friday, March 30th: Optional Activities & Opera**

9:00 AM              Leave for Ellis Island visit

11:00 AM            Leave for Brooklyn Museum visit

7:30 PM             Metropolitan Opera: *Lucia di Lammermoor*

**Saturday, March 31st: Departure**

## 6. SYMPOSIUM CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, USA

### **Faculty**

#### **Dr. Tomasz Basiuk, Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program**

Tomasz Basiuk holds a doctoral degree in English from the University of Warsaw and a post- doc degree from the University of Gdańsk. Author of *Exposures. American Gay Men's Life Writing since Stonewall* (2013) and a book on the novelist William Gaddis (in Polish, 2003). Co-editor of several volumes in queer studies and in American Studies. Co-founder of the electronic queer studies journal *InterAlia*. He teaches in the American Studies program at the University of Warsaw.

#### **Dr. Allison Davis-White Eyes, Oregon State University, Office of Institutional Diversity**

Allison Davis-White Eyes holds a B.A., M.A. from U.C.L.A and a Ph.D. from Oregon State University. She currently serves as the Director of Community Diversity Relations in the Office of Institutional Diversity at OSU. In addition, she serves as affiliate faculty in the School of Public Policy and as adjunct faculty in the School of Language, Culture and Society with a research emphasis in post-colonial cosmopolitanism and mobilities of culture and identity. Dr. Davis-White Eyes has held positions in higher education for over 20 years and has created research partnerships and collaborations between Oregon State University, Tribal communities and international universities--designed to enhance the student experience, and to provide opportunities for experiential learning that critically explore narratives of difference and representation.

#### **PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**

PD Dr. Isensee teaches in the American Studies Program at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. After completing his Ph.D. on 19th century American literature, he pursued a postdoctoral research project on 20th century American Adolescent Literature (Habilitation in 2002). With a particular interest in transatlantic and transnational topics, he has more recently focused in his research on (visual) media with a special emphasis on the cultural work of digital media. He has published extensively in the field of American literature on American Naturalism and on 20<sup>th</sup> century young adult literature, as well as in Cultural Studies on multicultural education, cultural identity formation, as well as digital media. His current research work encompasses the contemporary American adolescent novel, the cultural and social history and present models of transatlantic, transnational and global education as well as the impact of digital media on the production and distribution of knowledge in American culture. He has frequently held long-term as well as short-term guest professorships at universities and colleges in the United States and in Europe.

#### **Dr. Philipp Kneis, Oregon State University, Political Science Program**

Philipp Kneis holds an M.A. in American Studies and History from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and a Ph.D in American Studies from the University of Potsdam. He is one of the founding members of the Transatlantic Students Symposia. He teaches in the Political Science program at OSU. His main research interests pertain to intersections of culture and politics in the US and the European Union.

## **Student Organizers**

### **Aisha Said, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program**

Aisha Said is originally from Cairo, Egypt, where she received her German Abitur. In 2015, she graduated from Potsdam University in Germany and earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in English & American Studies and General & Theoretical Linguistics. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in American Studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin. She has developed a strong interest in global education, especially institutions of higher education and their access to knowledge in national contexts. She is currently writing her Master Thesis on the American and Western influence on Egypt's higher education institutions with emphasis on the American University in Cairo (AUC). Said also does volunteer work with newly arriving refugees in Berlin by helping children improve their German language skills and integrating them into German society.

### **Yousef Allouzi, Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program**

Yousef Allouzi is an author and second year Masters of Public Policy student who grew up in Texarkana, AR but currently lives in the Pacific Northwest. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Economics and minor in Philosophy from Oregon State University. His research interests are in energy and international policy. He has spent time working abroad in the country of Jordan and has over ten years' experience working in both local and federal government.

### **Jessica Lee Andrepont, Oregon State University, Public Policy Ph.D. Program**

Jessica Lee Andrepont is a second-year Public Policy PhD Student at Oregon State University, a social scientist at the Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC), and a Political Science Instructor. Her major research interest includes the intersection of sea level rise policy and social justice. Lee Andrepont earned her BA from Pace University in Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies and received an Honorary Minor in Queer Studies. She earned her MPA, with a concentration in Urban Policy and Planning, from the University of San Francisco. She was born and raised in Texas, but her heart home is New York City.

### **Celia Balderas, Oregon State University, Master of College Student Services Administration**

My name is Celia Balderas, I am 21 years old, I am the second oldest of seven children, and I am originally from Eastern Washington (the state), and I am a first generation college student. I graduated from Washington State University in the Spring of 2017 where I majored in Comparative Ethnic Studies and Spanish. Currently, I am a first year graduate student in the College Student Services Administration program at Oregon State University. My current research interests include first generation college student experiences while abroad. This interest was sparked by my own studying abroad experience in Costa Rica during the summer of 2015.

### **Filip Boratyn, Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program**

Filip Boratyn is a second year MA student of American Studies at the University of Warsaw. Having completed his BA on the topic of the traces of end-of-20th-century thought in *The Big Lebowski*, he is now writing a master's thesis on the phenomenon of anti-comedy. His research interests include literary and cultural studies, with particular emphasis on film, comics, and comedy.

**Sara Fehlhaber, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program**

Sara Fehlhaber did her bachelor's degree in American Studies with a minor in Language, Literature and Culture at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. She devoted her thesis to the fields of social studies and visual studies, two of her research interests, which furthermore include comparative literature and Latin-North American studies. Currently, she is writing her master thesis with a focus on class studies to finish her degree in American Studies at Humboldt-University of Berlin.

**Jonathan Sandoval, Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program**

Jonathan Sandoval graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas with a B.A. Degree in Environmental Studies. I grew up in both Texas and Oklahoma. I worked for the city of Georgetown, Texas before enrolling in OSU's Master of Public Policy Program in the Fall of 2016. My area of interest in Public Policy is International Policy. My favorite hobby is playing tennis, which I played in High School and Undergrad.

**Maria Elena Martin Sanchez, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program**

Barcelona native, Maria Elena Martin Sanchez, completed her undergrad in English Studies at the Universitat de Barcelona in (2015) which also included a year abroad at York University in Toronto, Canada. She is currently finishing up the third semester of her North American Studies graduate program at Humboldt University in Berlin. She has since developed a keen interest in Culture, Gender, and African American Studies and has plans to pursue a postgrad in global studies upon graduation.

**Ayla Violetta Estelle Wopker, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program**

Ayla graduated from Potsdam University and earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in Cultural Studies and English & American Studies. She also acquired a certificate in Gender Studies at the institute for sociology in Potsdam. During her studies, she developed a special interest in linguistics and conducted several case studies on language use across the world. Currently, she is in her last semester of pursuing a master's degree in American Studies at the Humboldt University of Berlin. She has developed a strong interest in a psychological approach to literature and culture, which she is using in her Master Thesis about the representation of trauma in today's literature and media.

**Agnieszka Ziemińska, Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program**

Agnieszka Ziemińska is a second year MA student at the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw where she also completed her BA degree. She is the President of a student organization Queer UW that provides a space for students to explore their interests in queer studies. Her research interests are in feminism, gender and queer studies. She is currently working on her thesis about bisexual erasure within the LGBTQ\* movement.

## **Conference Program**

“Emcee” for the Day: Celia Balderas, OSU

**9:00 AM**      ***Introduction***

**9:15 AM**      ***Panel 1: Transatlantic Relationships***

**Anissia Orto,**

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:**

**“A Milestone in EU-Cuba Relations: The Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement - Boon or Burden?”**

**Bio:** Prior to attending the American Studies Master’s Program at HU Berlin, Anissia Orto graduated with a Bachelor’s of Law from the University of Potsdam second best in her class in 2017. Having specialized in United States law, she took advantage of an exchange opportunity at the University of Mississippi, to which she will presumably return as a Fulbright scholar in 2018. This past summer, Anissia served as an intern at the U.S. Department of State, assisting Deputy Cultural Affairs Attaché Mr. Jeremy Fowler and his team in the Embassy’s Public Affairs Office in Berlin. She currently supports the German democracy working as a student assistant at the German Bundestag. Her research interests include the US South, the Civil Rights movement, Puerto Rico’s legal status issue, and US-Cuba relations.

**Abstract:** My presentation examines transatlantic relations between the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Cuba in the light of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA). I address the question why and to what effect the EU, contrary to the US, enters into diplomatic relations with Cuba. Starting with the common ground to establish democracy in Cuba, I will provide a historical approach of the US’s strategy to enforce political change from the exterior by means of the unilateral US Embargo to the EU’s strategy to incite change from the interior by means of bilateral diplomacy. Subsequently, I compare the societal consequences caused by the embargo to the ones provided for in the PDCA.

**Kesiniya Rengarajan,**

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:**

**“Do the United Nations reflect ‘A new world order’? – Understanding the multilateralism of present transatlantic relationships in view of the United Nations”**

**Bio:** Kesiniya Rengarajan, comes from Tamil Nadu, India and is passionate about creating a better world through literature and other mediums of expression. She completed her undergraduate degree in English Literature in India and moved to Germany for her Master’s Program in American Studies. She plans to write her Master’s Thesis in the upcoming semester and move back to India later in the year where she aims to actively advocate for free quality education and poverty eradication through a better social security system.

**Abstract:** When we discuss the Transatlantic relationship the first perspective that comes to our mind and the most commonly discussed one is the bilateral relationship between the United States

and Europe. The multilateral perspective, although not as common, has also gained significant importance in the past decade. Multilateralism of the Transatlantic relationship most commonly brings into discussion the African and Latin American Nations that also share an Atlantic shore. But is there more to that multilateralism than we think? Considering the current power positions and economic positions of world countries, especially developing countries such as Brazil, India, and South Africa, is there a need for a more advanced multilateral approach to the current Transatlantic relationship? Kesiniya's research takes the United Nations as a platform to analyze the advanced perspectives of multilateralism and the layers of complications this adds to the bilateral transatlantic relationship between United States of America and Germany in 2018.

**Janina Koch,**

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:**

**“Rethinking and Revitalizing Transatlantic Relationships – African Dance and Cultural Diplomacy: Using Kizomba as a soft power to bridge cultural differences”**

**Bio:** Janina Koch is currently studying in her second year of the Masters program in American Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin. She holds a Bachelor's degree in English Philology as her major and Journalism Science as her minor which she completed at Freie Universität Berlin. Janina's academic interests comprise postcolonial studies and the African Diaspora. She hopes that she will pursue a career in which she can contribute to a more open and tolerant society.

**Abstract:** An unconventional perspective of a transatlantic relationship that focuses on Europe and Africa. There is not only a need for reconciliation with regard to Europe's colonial history, but also the need that ties with Africa will become increasingly important for Europe. In the process of rethinking African and European relations, it is necessary to change misconceptions and prejudices against African people and those from the African Diaspora on the civic level. This presentation centers around African dance and Cultural Diplomacy: Using *Kizomba* as a soft power to bridge cultural differences in Europe.

**Christine Gottwald,**

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:**

**“Transatlantic Mottos”**

**Bio:** Christine Gottwald is a first semester Master's student in the American Studies Program at the Humboldt-University in Berlin. She received her bachelor's degree in American Studies with a minor in Area Studies at the Humboldt-University in Berlin. The focus in her academic life lies in the Cultural Studies aspects of American Studies with a special interest in film, Gender Studies and cultural understanding. Christine Gottwald will present on the topic of the underlying philosophies in the mottos of the United States and the European Union.

**Abstract:** The United States of America and the European Union both have philosophical mottos that stand in for their key values, when it comes to identity formation and politics. The United States of America's motto is “E Pluribus Unum”, translated: “from many, one”. The European Union has “In Varietate Concordia”, translated: “united in diversity”. These very different mottos still influence the entities actions and their transatlantic relationship today. Finding a motto for the transatlantic relationship could be a way to verbalize the core values and goals of the transatlantic partnership, create

a sense of unity and orientation when negotiating which directions and decisions to make in the future. It could be an acknowledgment of the willingness to cooperate with each other and a reminder, that this transatlantic relationship is manifest already. A motto as a manifesto for a transatlantic relationship.

**Aleksandra Rabenda,**

**Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program:**

**“President Trump’s Travel Ban and its Negative Impact on Transatlantic Cooperation Between the United States and Chosen African and European Countries”**

**Bio:** Aleksandra Rabenda is a 1st year MA student from the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw. Her biggest passion is volunteering in different NGO’s: she is a member of ASC Students’ Union and Students’ Parliament. Also, she works as an English teacher and camp counsellor for disabled children. When it comes to academic interests, Aleksandra’s favorite field of study are presidential and congressional campaigns. That is why, her BA thesis focused on the incumbency advantage in the U.S. House of Representatives. Public diplomacy and political marketing are extremely intriguing for her, while traveling and watching TV series happen to be best form of relax.

**Abstract:** On January 27, 2017, President Donald Trump signed an executive order number 13769, titled “Protecting the Nation From Terrorist Attacks by Foreign Nationals.” The order is commonly referred to as “travel ban” or “muslim ban.” This presentation covers the subject of the executive order and all of its revisions, as well as discusses the provisions, legal cases, and challenges related to the ban. In spite of the fact that the ban was introduced a year ago, and many of its provisions have already ended, it still has a harmful effect on different spheres related to international relations of the United States with other countries. Thus, the focus of this presentation is the analysis of long lasting consequences of the ban in terms of transatlantic cooperation with some African, as well as European countries, which were both directly and indirectly affected by the ban. Specifically, it examines different areas of international cooperation that suffer because of the executive order. Accordingly, these are: cultural and academic exchange, cooperation between governments, and new global threats such as terrorism. The main question answered in the presentation is if the United States can be trusted as a reliable ally when one takes into consideration the President’s decisions regarding foreign policy.

**10:40 AM      Panel 2: Climate and Energy**

**Yousef Allouzi,**

**Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program:**

**“Exploring the Origins of the Anti-Wind Movement in Imperial Valley, CA”**

**Bio:** Yousef Allouzi is an author and second year Masters of Public Policy student who grew up in Texarkana, AR but currently lives in the Pacific Northwest. He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BS in Economics and minor in Philosophy from Oregon State University. His research interests are in energy and international policy. He has spent time working abroad in the country of Jordan and has over ten years’ experience working in both local and federal government.

**Abstract:** The movement towards renewable energy continues to employ the same siting processes used for fossil fuel extraction. This has resulted in an exchanging of externalities by transferring the

impacts of industrial scale renewable energy projects solely onto the local community. In this case study of Tule and Ocotillo Wind energy facilities in southern California, I examine this exchange of externalities and conclude that in the process of siting these industrial scale wind farms local community input was marginalized, local government was co-opted by higher levels of government, and regulation of developers was too general. Because climate change will require the construction of substantially more renewable energy facilities, I argue that an overhaul of the public participation portion of the siting process is necessary. I further argue that a process that gives each stakeholder (community, government, developer) an equal part in the decision making process will result in more positive feedback for industrial sized renewable energy projects, thus perpetuating the construction of facilities throughout the United States.

**Jessica Lee Andrepont,**

**Oregon State University, Public Policy Ph.D. Program:**

**“Taking the Global to the Local on Climate Justice: The Sea Level Rise Threat to Gulf and Atlantic Coast-Situated Communities of Color in the United States”**

**Bio:** Jessica Lee Andrepont is a second-year Public Policy PhD Student at Oregon State University, a social scientist at the Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC), and a Political Science Instructor. Her major research interest includes the intersection of sea level rise policy and social justice. Lee Andrepont earned her BA from Pace University in Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies and received an Honorary Minor in Queer Studies. She earned her MPA, with a concentration in Urban Policy and Planning, from the University of San Francisco. She was born and raised in Texas, but her heart home is New York City.

**Abstract:** Climate change is a global phenomenon that is already adversely affecting wide swathes of populations and regions across the planet. On the global scale, the concept of climate justice began as an offshoot of the environmental justice movement. Social justice advocates acknowledged the need to address the unequal burden of the negative impacts of global warming that are being situated on Global South nations as a direct result of the consumption excesses of the Global North. Additionally, climate justice includes a mandate for the Global North policies conceived to mitigate and adapt to climate change for the 2100 time horizon be reexamined as they are too protracted. However, as more research has taken an intersectional-approach to environmental threats and demographic data, it has been revealed that there are many marginalized communities in the Global North that require a similarly conceptualized climate justice response for their regions, as well. Specifically, communities of color living along the Gulf and Atlantic coasts of the United States are more likely to be impoverished, which leads them to have fewer resources available to lessen their exposure to sea level rise (climate change threats), making them just as likely as many Pacific Islander communities to have already been impacted by climate change. The global-scaled climate justice movement – and their subsequent policy recommendations – may need to evolve again, back to the local-scale.

**Hanna Eiermann,**

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:**

**“Global warming is a total, and very expensive, hoax!” – Climate Change as a Challenge to the Transatlantic Relationship in the Post-factual Trump Era”**

**Bio:** Hanna is a first-year Master’s student at Humboldt-University Berlin. She holds a B.A. in American Studies with a minor in Communications from Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz. During her undergraduate studies, she spent a semester at California State University, Monterey Bay. Her research interests include cultural studies, media, and intercultural communication. She has been working in television for several years.

**Abstract:** Ever since Donald Trump took office, there has been a lot of controversy revolving around the issue of climate change, bringing the U.S. into yet another conflict with the EU in the face of an already tense atmosphere. Therefore, my aim is to focus on the relationship between the EU and the U.S. regarding climate change. In my presentation, I will argue that even though Donald Trump has pulled the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement and has publicly denied climate change, not all is lost for the EU-U.S. relationship regarding climate change. Rather, new opportunities in the shape of collaboration between major U.S. states and the EU are likely to be created.

**11:30 AM      Lunch**

**1:00 PM      Panel 3: Globalization**

**Najam uz Zehra Gardezi,**

**Oregon State University, Public Policy Ph.D. Program:**

**“Universalism in the Welfare Regimes”**

**Bio:** I am a Fulbright scholar from Pakistan, which is where I completed my undergraduate and graduate degrees in Economics. I had been teaching economic theory for three years at a university in Lahore, Pakistan before coming to the Oregon State University to pursue a PhD in Public Policy. My research interests are focused on social policy and development, particularly the impact and inclusive design of welfare programs.

**Abstract:** Conventional wisdom about globalization appeared to condemn the future of welfare states in advanced countries. Statist and bureaucratic conceptions of social democracy, seen as advancing the hegemony of nation states were rejected for being incompatible with the ideals of economic liberalism. Free mobility of capital was argued to impose risk on countries with high levels of public debt limiting the scope for any form of expansionary government policy. The resulting neoliberal conformity (without significant attempts at domestic compensation) created a sense of economic anxiety, which arguably, has served the interests of the political right rather than those of social democratic or left parties. More recent evidence suggests that greater market integration requires governments to command a large share of the economy’s resources in order to mitigate external risk. Institutional arrangements governing the interactions of labor, government and business, earlier seen as incompatible with pressure of globalization, are deemed necessary for easing the costs of economic dislocation. In addition, the experience of Nordic welfare states shows that market friendly regulations in key areas of the economy can be consistent with high levels of state spending. Thus, there appears to be ample justification even in the era of globalization for countries to pursue policies

supporting welfare entitlements, public services and employment protection legislation. Even as cross class coalitions guide the future course of Left parties in Western democracies, the requisite economic adjustments need not be made at the expense of social democratic goals.

**Angela K. Nguyen,**

**Oregon State University, Political Science Program:**

**“From Global Village to Global Citizenship: A Solution for The Refugee Crisis”**

**Bio:** I am a Junior studying Political Science double option (International Affairs and Law & Politics) with a minor in Philosophy at Oregon State University. Outside of school, I am a member of Sigma Delta Omega (a sorority), treasurer for Pre-Law Society, judicial council member for the Associated Students of Oregon State University and President for the Collective Greek Council.

**Abstract:** The global village has been the cornerstone of society. Nearly every country is connected one way or another. Examining the way in which major powers such as the United States and Europe and their effect on the global village may reveal the issues that are not currently being confronted. Taking the concept of the global village, which was originally first coined by Marshall McLuhan, and dissecting the goals of current actions that are being done within the global village and how this would lead to global citizenship. Taking this concept, I view that this should be applied to the current refugee crisis as there is something being done but it doesn't quite seem like enough. Part of the reason seems that the goals fail to address the problem and anticipate the after effects of the given plans. There seems to be a disconnect of how each major power plans to address the issues. The U.S. wanting to use it's hard powers while Europe takes the path of soft power, both powers seem to be lacking in diplomacy to address the issue together. While the the UN Security Council has attempted to address the problem, there still seems to be some kind of discourse. A possible solution to all of this could be through global citizenship. The tenets of global citizenship is to be a citizen of the world rather than being devoted to one single polis, the shared goal and call seems to be to take of humans as humans of the world.

**Celia Balderas,**

**Oregon State University, Master of College Student Services Administration Program:**

**“First Generation College Students Abroad”**

**Bio:** My name is Celia Balderas, I am 21 years old, I am the second oldest of seven children, and I am originally from Eastern Washington (the state), and I am a first generation college student. I graduated from Washington State University in the Spring of 2017 where I majored in Comparative Ethnic Studies and Spanish. Currently, I am a first year graduate student in the College Student Services Administration program at Oregon State University. My current research interests include first generation college student experiences while abroad. This interest was sparked by my own studying abroad experience in Costa Rica during the summer of 2015.

**Abstract:** Studying Abroad has been found to be beneficial for college student experiences in providing global learning and competence. Students who have chosen to study abroad have been found to be more marketable in the job market. Although there are challenges for all students when studying abroad, I will be taking a closer look the challenges that may cause a lack of participation from first-generation college students

**Alexus Austin,**  
**Oregon State University, History Program:**  
**“Defining and Exploring the Meaning of Legal Citizenship”**

**Bio:** Alexis is currently finishing her Bachelor's degree in history with a minor in Spanish. In addition to her academic interests, she has worked in a number of positions both on campus and within the community. This includes her current positions as a Communications Representative within the department of Diversity and Cultural Engagement, as well as her work as an exhibition and research assistant for OSU's Special Collections and Archives Research Center where she is currently working on a project centering on the history of women at OSU. In the future, she hopes to continue to pursue her interests in graduate school.

**Abstract:** The paper addresses how the instruments of citizenship and naturalization through law fail to solve race-based inequities or the immigration problem but may rather contribute further to these issues.

**2:20 PM**      **Panel 4: Politics and Media**

**Jonathan Sandoval,**  
**Oregon State University, Master of Public Policy Program:**  
**“Hungarian Politics: A Study in Hungarian Political Exceptionalism”**

**Bio:** My name is Jonathan Sandoval. I graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas with a B.A. Degree in Environmental Studies. I grew up in both Texas and Oklahoma. I worked for the city of Georgetown, Texas before enrolling in OSU's Master of Public Policy Program in the Fall of 2016. My area of interest in Public Policy is International Policy. My favorite hobby is playing tennis, which I played in High School and Undergrad.

**Abstract:** Scholars posit that the successful consolidation of post-communist Central and Eastern European democracies can be linked to their subsequent accession to the European Union (EU). This led observers to assume that the continued democratization of Hungarian society was assured due to their integration into EU institutions. However, since the 2010 election of Viktor Orban, and his party FIDESZ, there have been concerning signs of democratic backsliding in Hungary. While these signs have also been observed in other post-communist nations, Hungary could potentially be termed a competitive authoritarian regime. In Hungary, this means a regime which has democratic institutions and norms in form but not in substance.

To understand how this has occurred in Hungary this study will use the model of Competitive Authoritarianism, which has three main factors that determine democratization outcomes. These factors are linkage, leverage, and organizational power. For Hungary, democratization was due to linkage and leverage from the EU. However, these previously influential linkages and leverages from the EU have failed to stop Hungary from backsliding under the current government. Instead, FIDESZ has utilized their strong organizational power in order to legitimize their actions. Therefore, the objectives of this study are two-fold. First, to determine why the EU's linkage and leverage has failed in Hungary. Second, to determine how FIDESZ has created and utilized their organizational power. The findings will be analyzed to determine if they are relevant to other post-communist nations that are experiencing democratic backsliding.

**Filip Boratyn,**

**Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program:**

**“Cynicism and Absurdity: The Discourse of 2016 Elections in Relation to Fictional Political TV Narratives”**

**Bio:** Filip Boratyn is a second year MA student of American Studies at the University of Warsaw. Having completed his BA on the topic of the traces of end-of-20th-century thought in *The Big Lebowski*, he is now writing a master’s thesis on the phenomenon of anti-comedy. His research interests include literary and cultural studies, with particular emphasis on film, comics, and comedy.

**Abstract:** Among many peculiar developments introduced by the 2016 elections on both sides of the Atlantic, namely the U.S. Presidential Elections and the Brexit referendum, there was an uncanny similarity and continuity between various aspects of several political television shows and the discourse of the campaigns. On the one hand, Armando Iannucci’s comedy series created in the United Kingdom and the United States, that is *The Thick of It* and *Veep*, shared a vision of politics as absurd and detached from reality, also espoused by the respective campaigns. In case of *Veep*, the connection was additionally strengthened by the show’s main character’s similarity to Hillary Clinton. On the other hand, *House of Cards*, first created in Great Britain and then remade in the U.S. as a Netflix show, put forward a cynical view of politics exploited by the Trump and Brexit campaigns to discredit their opponents. This paper aims to examine the above connection without interpreting it as simple relation of causality, but arguing in favor of adopting Joseph Cappella’s concept of “meme research” in the analysis of fictional political narratives to avoid reaching simplified conclusions.

**Agnieszka Ziemińska,**

**Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program:**

**Title: Would #metoo have an impact without the recent political shift towards the far right?**

**Bio:** Agnieszka Ziemińska is a second year MA student at the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw where she also completed her BA degree. She is the President of a student organization Queer UW which provides a space for students to explore their interests in queer studies. Her research interests are in feminism, gender and queer studies. She is currently working on her thesis about bisexual erasure within the LGBTQ\* movement.

**Abstract:** #Metoo, the movement against sexual harassment and violence, has had a significant impact on American public life in recent months and it also sparked some debates in Poland, although on a much smaller scale. However, there was a difference both in scale and reaction between both sides of the political aisle. In the US, the most prominent accusations were against Hollywood figures, who are associated with the left, and Democratic politicians and they resulted in almost universal condemnation. When accusations happened on the right, the reactions were not as strong – many conservatives simply dismissed them as untrue. In Poland, the only two highly publicized accusations were against two journalists on the left, with no cases on the right side of the political spectrum. Since both countries recently experienced a political shift and now have very conservative governments, the paper will examine how political climate impacted the movement and how it can provide an explanation as to why there is such a difference of scale and reactions across political lines. While there are a number of factors that made #metoo possible at this particular time, the paper will argue that the conservative turn in politics in Poland and the US was one of them.

**Carlota Surós Sancho,**

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:**

**“A fifth front of war: the challenge of a cyberspatial transatlantic relationship”**

**Bio:** An English Studies graduate, Carlota holds two Masters from Spanish universities (an M.A. in Museum Studies and Critical Theory and an M.A. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies), and is currently pursuing a third Masters in American Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin. She is also enrolled in a pre-doctorate program on Comparative Literature and Sociology at the Open University of Catalonia, Spain. Her interdisciplinary background and love for research has brought her to work extensively in the art field as a curator and mediator, as well as collaborating with several media as a writer and researcher. Her main academic interest falls into the intersection between urban sociology, human geography, critical theory and postcolonial studies, which she applies to cultural practices such as literature or contemporary art.

**Abstract:** My presentation will critically examine the erratic development of the transatlantic relationship on, in and regarding cyberspace from the early 2000s until 2018. For over a decade, there have been negotiations between partners of the Northern transatlantic relationship concerning the Internet, leading to NATO finally declaring it the new front in global war in 2016, and putting it at the forefront of transatlantic security and defense alliance. Despite all this, cooperation thus far has been volatile. The US, the UK and the EU have been simultaneously cyber-allies and adversaries; united when facing a common cyber threat, but ready to defend, protect or advance their own security and interests regardless of, or at the expense of, the other. A proof of this were Edward Snowden’s revelations in 2014, which posed an enormous threat to the fundamentals and common plans of the relationship and severely eroded the political engagement and trust between the parties involved. In light of all these facts, I will draw a current state of affairs on the situation, commenting on every major partner’s disparate agenda, their perceived threats and challenges, and evaluating the idiosyncrasies of the relationship. Does this volatility mirror the history of the transatlantic relationship or simply the inconstancy of the Internet sphere?

**3:45 PM      Panel 5: Transatlanticism**

**Ewa Pilkiewicz,**

**Uniwersytet Warszawski, American Studies Program:**

**“Postatlantic perspectives”**

**Bio:** Ewa Pilkiewicz holds a B.A. degree from the American Studies Center, the University of Warsaw (2016). Her B.A. thesis, *The Phantom of Carwin among Voices of Trauma in Charles B. Brown’s Wieland*, analyzed Clara Wieland’s cathartic writing in the context of normalizing strategy and healing, and likewise, interpreted a relation between the characters and their Other in the light of feminine *jouissance* and phallic *jouissance*. The thesis examined Brown’s use of ventriloquism as a narrative strategy, which echoed U.S. cultural and political schizophrenia at the end of the eighteenth century. Currently she is a second-year M.A. student at the ASC UW.

**Abstract:** In the contemporary discussions about the future of the transatlantic relations, the word crisis is often employed. This essay does not analyze the reasons why and if the transatlantic relations

have deteriorated over time, but rather, endeavors to deconstruct the very concept of transatlanticism in order to deterritorialize it and question the values, or vocabularies, that it connotes. Reassessment of these vocabularies of crises, *i.e.* the migrant, separatist, or nationalist crises; opens a space for a more inclusive treatment of the now excluded others. Postatlantic analyses of these relations of power function in accordance with the posthumanist developments. They mediate the seemingly contradictory concepts of disintegration and companionship or transcendence and immanence to attenuate the rigidity of the Atlantic frames, and focus on the incessant flow of its being in flux.

**Nadja Riegler,**

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:**

**“‘The Yanks Have Colonized Our Subconscious’ – Contemplating Americanization and the Impact of Transatlantic Cultural Exchange”**

**Bio:** Nadja earned her Bachelor’s degree in English, American and Polish Studies at Potsdam and Warsaw University. After completing the program, she worked as a translator for audiovisual media, mainly for film and television, specializing in subtitling and audio description. She has been working for the Berlin Film Festival and the Arsenal, Institute for Film and Video-Art for seven years until today. In between all that, she felt the urge to return to university and now attends the MA American Studies program at HU. Obviously, her main interest are cultural studies and film culture but also, since she was growing up surrounded by Americans, having family in the U.S., she has always been interested in questions of transatlantic exchange. It goes without saying that Nadja is, also in her private life, consuming American art and media with a special passion for American Independent Film and Indie Music. Nadja is commuting between Berlin, where she is very grateful to be able to live, northern Bavaria, where she grew up and Reykjavik in Iceland, where she lost at least a piece of her heart. New York has always been a place of longing and the participation in the Transatlantic Symposium is a big honor for her.

**Abstract:** In this presentation, I will contemplate ‘Americanization’ and investigate the impact of transatlantic cultural exchange of past decades as well as the importance and possibilities of present affairs. My assumption is that cultural exchange is as important as ever, has the potential to effect societies and is able to have an impact on a political level. My supposition is that Americanization continues despite the tensions between the U.S. and Europe and that American ideas still have the power to shape attitude and change political opinion. I will give a review on influential phenomena in the history of transatlanticism and will talk about current events in arts and culture that may have the potential to create change. This year’s Berlin Film Festival, annually taking place in February, inspired my focus and gave me the impulse to talk about the most dominant themes of the festival, which were inspired by American debates. As a specific example, I will have a closer look at a brand new feminist initiative called ‘Nobody’s Doll’. An artist group around German actress Anna Brüggemann came up with the idea to launch a campaign within German film industry, being oriented towards ‘Mee Too’ and ‘Time’s Up’. It is a call for empowerment and emancipation of women in the cultural production and an attempt to push equality in Germany. Since there is assumedly mostly a correlation between cultural actors, society and politics this case seemed worth examining.

**Ilona Hagemann,**  
**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:**  
**“Right-Wing Populism in the Transatlantic Relationship and its Impacts on Higher Education”**

**Bio:** Ilona Hagemann is a first-year American Studies Master’s degree student. Prior to arriving at the Humboldt University in Berlin, she acquired a bachelor degree in International Communication and Translation with a focus on English and French and a media studies minor from Hildesheim University. Throughout her studies, she spent two semesters abroad. She earned an ERASMUS scholarship to study one semester at the Université François-Rabelais in continental France. Ilona also pursued a second semester abroad at the French overseas department Réunion Island at the Université de La Réunion. These semesters were an enormous gain for her as she found out new perspectives on France and the European Union from another angle of the world.

**Abstract:** The transatlantic relationship is changing. One important reason for this is the rise of right-wing populism on both sides of the Atlantic. First, I will provide a short definition of right-wing populism. Then I will refer to the US’ and EU’s recent rise of populism highlighting the narratives and ideologies behind it. My case study thereby focuses on the presence of right-wing populism in higher education in the US and Germany. I will examine if right-wing populism has gained influence and acceptance at campuses. Some of the questions I will address are: Is right-wing populism a menace to academic freedom? What has US freedom of speech in common with German’s legal situation and – vice versa – what are their differences? How do the populist positions affect higher education?

**Dominik Michaelis,**  
**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, American Studies Program:**  
**“The Transatlantic Crisis as a Transatlantic Jeremiad”**

**Bio:** Dominik is currently about to begin the second semester of his Master's degree at the Humboldt-University in Berlin, where he received a bachelor’s degree in American Studies and Cultural Studies. He is interested in mythologies and narratives in fiction and public discourse. In his BA thesis, he utilized Bourdieu's concept of hysteresis in order to create a narrative for understanding Trumpism and politicized late night comedy as cultural phenomena on the intersection of entertainment and politics.

**Abstract:** In his talk, Dominik will shed light on the jeremiad, an old Puritan rhetoric form that, while not too present in current memory, subliminally forms American public discourse until today. After highlighting its pervasiveness by pointing towards some choice moments in American history that can be described as secular jeremiads, he will argue that framing the ongoing narrative of the transatlantic crisis as a political jeremiad can help us form a particular, rather optimistic outlook on the future of transatlantic relationships.

**4:45 PM**      ***Final Q&A; Closing Remarks***