

## Call for Papers:

# "Long Live the King! Authoritarian Right-Wing Populism and Democratic Backsliding in the United States"

Special Issue of *Amerikastudien / American Studies*

Provisional Publication Date: 2026

### Scope and Aims

Recent political developments in the United States have ignited urgent debates about the stability and future of U.S.-American democracy. This special issue seeks to critically examine the rise of authoritarian right-wing populism and democratic backsliding through interdisciplinary lenses, drawing on the diverse methodologies of American Studies. Contributions will explore historical continuities, contemporary crises, and future trajectories with a focus on institutional, cultural, and sociopolitical dimensions.

We welcome submissions from political science, history, sociology, cultural studies, literary studies, media studies, and related fields. The issue aims not only to diagnose challenges but also to propose pathways for reinvigorating democratic norms and institutions.

### Suggested Topics

- Institutional erosion: Voting rights restrictions, executive overreach, or judicial independence under threat as well as political interference in federal agencies, educational institutions, and the freedom of the press.
- Historical parallels: Far-right movements, government corruption, and populist rhetoric in U.S. history.
- Sociocultural drivers: Inequality, demographic change, and identity politics in fueling ethno-nationalism.
- Media ecosystems: Social media's role in polarization, disinformation, and conspiracist narratives.
- Cultural narratives: Representations of fascism, strongman politics or dystopia in contemporary literature and art.
- Religious-political intersections: Shifting boundaries between church and state.
- Counter-strategies: Legal, grassroots, or pedagogical efforts to strengthen democratic resilience.
- Gendered and racialized order: Exclusionary practices, mass deportation, epistemic violence, misogyny, transphobia, efforts to end birthright citizenship and DEI.

*(This list is illustrative, not exhaustive. Creative interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged.)*

### Submission Guidelines

1. **Abstracts** (250–300 words) and a brief CV must be submitted by **March 15, 2025**.
2. **Full manuscripts** of full-length articles (8,000–10,000 words) are due by **June 30, 2025**.

3. All submissions must adhere to:
  - MLA 7th edition citation style.
  - The journal's Style Sheet (<https://www.amerikastudien.org/submissions>).
  - Clear terminology consistency (e.g., Civil Rights Movement, LGBTQIA+).
4. Include an abstract (200 words), keywords, and a works cited list with active links where applicable.

### **Timeline**

- **Abstract Deadline:** March 15, 2025
- **Notification of Acceptance:** April 1, 2025
- **Full Manuscript Submission:** June 30, 2025
- **Projected Publication:** 2026 (pending editorial and peer-review approval)

### **Curatorial Process**

- Selected contributors will receive editorial feedback from curators to ensure coherence, stylistic consistency, and academic rigor.
- The issue will undergo in-house and external peer review.

### **Contact**

Submit proposals and inquiries to [clammert@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:clammert@zedat.fu-berlin.de) by March 15.