Conference Organizers
Michael Mayer
Akademie für Politische Bildung
Michael Butter
University of Tübingen
Simon Wendt
Goethe University of Frankfurt

Registration
Please register by January 15, 2018 with
Simon Wendt
wendt@em.uni-frankfurt.de

Conference Fee
Including room and board 110 Euro
Reduced Fee 65 Euro

Meals
All meals are included in the conference fee.
Vegetarian meals can be served if the Academy is notified in advance.

Tutzing is located approximately 40 km southwest of Munich on Lake Starnberg.

From the Central Station (Hauptbahnhof): Take the urban railway S-6 to Tutzing or the regional train (RB) towards Garmisch-Partenkirchen/Innsbruck/Murnau/Kochel/Seefeld till Tutzing. The train departs from track 27-36 (main level) every half hour.

From the airport take the urban railway S-1 or S-8 to Munich Central Station and follow the instructions above.

The Academy is located in about 22 walking minutes from the Tutzing Train Station. You will also find cabs and a Bus directly at the front entrance.

Take freeway A95 towards Garmisch-Partenkirchen, then exit to Starnberg and continue on the federal highway (B2 / direction Weilheim) until you enter the town of Traubing, then take a left. At the end of the road turn right to Tutzing. The Akademie für Politische Bildung is on your left shortly after passing the town sign Tutzing.

Heroism and the Heroic in American History
February 9-11, 2018

Annual Conference of the Historians in the German Association for American Studies
Generously supported by
Embassy of the United States of America
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikastudien
The conference aims to critically reconsider the history of heroism in the United States from the American Revolution to the present, taking seriously the constructed nature of heroism and the myriad functions it serves in U.S. society. Heroes do not simply exist; they are created through practices of representation, and especially narration. Without a story, there is no hero. Nevertheless, the effects of heroism are real and palpable. As a social and cultural construct, it serves important functions in human societies, but few historians have done justice to the topic’s complexities. Too often, scholars still imply that heroism is “real,” ignoring the fact that heroes are the product of intricate heroization processes that elevate real or imagined people to heroic status through reoccurring iterations about what is believed to be heroic at a certain point in time. The conference’s speakers will shed fresh light on the various ways in which heroism has been constructed, while also probing its social, cultural, and political functions in U.S. history. They will both critically examine the existing scholarship on American heroism and present case studies that might offer new trajectories for future research.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2018

3:00 PM Arrival, Registration, Coffee and Tea in the Main Lobby
4:15 PM Welcome Address and Introduction  
Michael Mayer  
Michael Butter  
Simon Wendt

5:00 PM Gender, Race, and Everyday Heroism in the Progressive Era  
Simon Wendt  
Women as Murderers, Victims, and (Anti)Heroines in the National Abortion Debate, 1970s-1990s  
Isabel Heinemann  
University of Münster

8:00 PM Our American Heroes: Themes in the Early Historiography of Superheroism  
Michael Goodrum  
Canterbury Christ Church University

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018

8:15 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Workshops on Current Ph.D. Projects
10:30 AM Tea and Coffee  
Keynote Address  
11:00 AM New Directions in Heroism Research: The Perspective of Political Science  
Bruce Peabody and Krista Jenkins  
Fairleigh Dickinson University
12:30 PM Lunch

Panel 2: Heroism and War  
Chair: Isabel Heinemann

3:00 PM The War of 1812 and the Changing Heroization of American Presidents  
Michael Butter  
Heroes Beyond the Color Line? The Harlem Hellfighters on Parade  
Sebastian Jobs  
Free University of Berlin
4:30 PM Tea and Coffee

Panel 1: Gender, Race, and the Uses of Heroism in the 20th Century  
Chair: Michael Butter

5:00 PM Gender, Race, and Everyday Heroism in the Progressive Era  
Simon Wendt

6:30 PM Dinner  
Keynote Address

Panel 3: Television and American Heroism  
Chair: Sebastian Jobs

9:00 AM Heroes for the Small Screen: Constructions of Heroism in Western Television Series of the 1950s and 1960s  
Brigitte Georgi-Findlay  
Technical University of Dresden  
Happy Home Front Heroines? Army Wives in Post-9/11 American Culture  
Katharina Gerund  
University of Erlangen-Nürnberg
10:30 AM Tea and Coffee

Panel 4: A Case Study in Popular Culture: The Musical Hamilton  
Chair: Simon Wendt

10:45 AM The Heroism of Knowledge and Wit: Representing the American Revolution in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Hamilton  
Nassim Balestrini  
University of Graz  
The Heroization of Alexander Hamilton in Hamilton: An American Musical  
Svenja Hohenstein and Katharina Thalmann  
University of Tübingen
12:00 PM Lunch and Departure

Keynote Address  
5:00 PM ‘Life is at Stake’: Acts and Arts of Black Heroism in a Transatlantic Imaginary  
Celeste-Marie Bernier  
University of Edinburgh  
6:30 PM Dinner  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018

8:15 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Panel 3: Television and American Heroism  
Chair: Sebastian Jobs

10:30 AM Tea and Coffee  
Keynote Address

11:15 AM Heroes Beyond the Color Line? The Harlem Hellfighters on Parade  
Sebastian Jobs  
Free University of Berlin  
Happy Home Front Heroines? Army Wives in Post-9/11 American Culture  
Katharina Gerund  
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