

# **Law and Order: Modes of Policing and Resistance in American History**

Annual Conference of the Historians of the German  
Association for American Studies (GAAS/DGfA)

**May 8–10, 2026**

**Wilhelm von Humboldt-Saal**

**Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin  
Unter den Linden 8  
10179 Berlin\***

Organized by Helen Gibson and Sebastian Jobs, Freie Universität Berlin

\*The conference venue includes several flights of stairs and is also easily accessible via elevator.

## Friday

### **2:30–3:00 p.m. Opening Remarks**

Helen Gibson, Sebastian Jobs, John Woitkowitz (Berlin)

### **3:00–5:30 p.m. Policing Gender and Sexuality**

Chair: Nadja Klopprogge (Tübingen)

#### **Nicole Sara Colaianni (Heidelberg)**

No Checks and Balances: Corporate Policing of ‘Sexual Harassment’ after the Faragher and Ellerth Supreme Court Decisions

#### **Mona Raeisian (Marburg)**

From Welfare to Warfare: Legal Sterilization as Policing in Care and Reform Institutions

#### **Ted Richthofen (Bonn)**

Policing Gender: Bootleggers, Policewomen, Crossdressing, and the KKK during Alcohol Prohibition in Colorado

#### **Andrew Wells (Kiel)**

Cato’s Rape: Race and the Policing of Sex in Colonial New York City, 1664-1763

## Break

### **6:30–8:00 p.m. Keynote**

Chair: Helen Gibson (Berlin)

#### **Mia Bay (Cambridge, UK)**

The Streetcar Wars: Everyday Violence in Making American Segregation

## Dinner

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## Saturday

### **9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Roundtable: Precarious Archives – Accessibility, Erasure and Opportunities**

Chair: Sebastian Jobs (Berlin)

**John Woitkowitz (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin) and Kristen Iemma (Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin)**

## Break

## **11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Early Career Scholars Forum**

### **Panel 1 (Adolf von Harnack-Saal)**

Chair: Andreas Etges (München)

#### **Sujato Datta (Berlin)**

Bombs, Bureaucracy and Business As Usual: The British Indian Agent-General in Washington and the Second World War

#### **Richard Julius Lange (Heidelberg)**

More than Paradise and Power? Accessing the Origins of Post-Cold War Transatlantic Differences

#### **Anja Stopfer (Regensburg)**

Of Pastors and Presidents, of Providence and Patriotism – The “Christian” and the “National” in American Christian Nationalism

#### **Lesar Yurtsever (Berlin)**

The Sound of Liberalism: Music and U.S. Turkish Relations from 1927 to 1960

### **Panel 2 (Wilhelm von Humboldt-Saal)**

Chair: Jessica Gienow-Hecht (Berlin)

#### **Katharina Isaak (Münster)**

Caught between Revolution and Repression – The Russian-Language Press in the United States during the First Red Scare

#### **Lisa Gersdorf (Erfurt)**

Singing, Hiking and Politics: German Youth Movement in North America, 1920–1940

#### **Caroline Bühler (München)**

Women Making Money: Labor Unions and Feminized Professions in U.S. Economic Culture (1960–1990)

#### **Alexander Brackebusch (München)**

Morality Amendments: Interest Group Collaboration, Moral Panics and Conservative Backlash in the Second Half of the 20th Century

### **Panel 3 (Theodor Fontane-Saal)**

Chair: Manfred Berg (Heidelberg)

#### **Jana Huneke (Köln)**

High School Bully, Boss Bitch, and Angry Black Woman: Figurations of Mean Femininity in the United States, 1950–1990

#### **Iremsu Kul (Frankfurt)**

The National Black United Front and the Struggle Against Racial Violence

#### **Ylva Kreye (Mainz)**

Whose Surveillance Is It Anyway? The Role of Migrant Knowledge and Visions of Autonomy in Progressive-Era Social Reform Efforts

#### **Lea Kröner (Berlin)**

Indigenous Missionaries and Colonial Power in Nineteenth-Century British Columbia

## **Lunch break**

### **3:00–5:30 p.m. Policing Migration and Empire**

Chair: Mischa Honeck (Kassel)

#### **Grit Grigoleit-Richter (Passau)**

Racialized Law and Order: Historicizing Border Enforcement at the Texas-Mexico Border

#### **Layla Koch (Heidelberg)**

(Un-)Lawful Fathers, Infant Nation: Paternalist Narratives of Law and Order in the 1830s Cherokee Deportation Crisis

#### **Charlotte Lerg (München)**

Orange Jump Suits and Sketchy Legality. The Trials before the Guantanamo Bay Military Commission in Visual Journalism

#### **Silke Hackenesch (Köln)**

Ideal Immigrant, Precarious Citizen: International Adoption and U.S. Immigration Policy in the Late 20th Century

### **Dinner**

### **7:00–8:30 p.m. Business Meeting**

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## **Sunday**

### **9:00–11:00 a.m. Concepts and Theories of Policing**

Chair: Marlene Ritter (Berlin)

#### **Anthony Obst (Berlin)**

The Mythical Foundations of “Law and Order”: From Thomas Hobbes to John Adams

#### **Felix Krämer (Erfurt)**

Racial Capitalists’ Constitution? Whiteness as Property, the American Revolution and Beyond

#### **Vanessa Vollmann (Passau)**

Resisting the Allegation of “Wokeness” through Critical Race Theory Counter-Dialogue

### **Break**

### **11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Policing of Order**

Chair: Silvan Niedermeier (Erfurt)

#### **Nina Mackert (Hamburg)**

Risk, Race and the Policing of Disease in Early 20th Century Public Health

#### **Julian Windhöfel (Erfurt)**

“Policing Black Labor for White Property” – Planter Class and Freedmen’s Bureau during early Reconstruction in Louisiana, 1864–1868