

Liquid Trajectories: Flight, Mobility, and Migration

UdS American Studies Graduate Forum

Saarland University, Saarbrücken, 29- 30 November 2019

Venue: Campus Building C 9 3

Call for Papers

Deadline: September 1, 2019

In cooperation with the *German-American Institute Saarland*, the Chair of North American Literary and Cultural Studies at Saarland University (UdS) will hold a 2-day American Studies Graduate Forum that invites advanced Master students, doctoral candidates, as well as junior and senior scholars to present their current work-in-progress in a workshop-style setting. The forum will offer participants a chance to discuss their research with peers as well as with more advanced scholars. This year, we invite submissions dealing with issues of mobility, migration, and the sea.

Historically, oceans have been spaces of movement, peopled by fishers, pirates, seafarers, tourists, offshore workers, scientific investigators, coast guards, castaways, and refugees. Under the pressure of current developments and global movements, oceans and the oceanic have received renewed attention. In an era marked by increased migration, oceans have become the site of intense media scrutiny and scholarly debate. The UdS American Studies Graduate Forum 2019 offers a setting in which a decidedly humanities-driven, cultural studies and literature studies approach to issues of flight, mobility and migration in relation to oceanic spaces will be discussed. Focusing on stories of flight, mobility, and migration, this workshop seeks to highlight the imaginaries of the seas and oceans in cultural representations.

Topics can include but are not limited to:

- Entangled histories of oceans with regard to the Black, Red and White Atlantic and Pacific
- Fugitive writings and refugee stories

- Oceans as sites of resistance
- Diverse forms of mobility across oceans
- Oceans as boundaries or as transcending boundaries
- Oceans as relational ecospace
- Oceanic myth-making

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

Lynn Itagaki (U of Missouri), Massimiliano Demata (University of Turin), and Nicole Poppenhagen (U of Flensburg)

Presentations should be approximately 20 minutes in length and will be followed by a discussion and feedback round with all participants and experts. Saarland U will seek to offer assistance in travel funding to selected presenters; recipients of the funding will be selected based on their proposals.

In order to submit a proposal, please send an email, including a title, a 250-word abstract and a short biographical note to

amerikanistik@mx.uni-saarland.de by September 1, 2019.