

Cultural Borderlands: Literatures, Film, and Aesthetic Practices

UdS American Studies Graduate Forum

Saarland University, Saarbrücken, 7 - 8 December 2018

Venue: Campus Buildings C 7 4 on Friday and C 9 3 on Saturday

Call for Papers

Extended Deadline: September 30, 2018

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 students, as well as advanced scholars to present their current projects-in-progress in a workshop-style setting. The forum will offer participants a chance to discuss their research with peers as well as with experienced scholars. This year, we invite submissions dealing with aesthetic border practices.

This year's UdS American Studies Graduate Forum will be organized together with our DAAD Eastpartnership group "The Bio-Politics of Borders in Times of Crisis," bringing experts in the field of Cultural Border Studies from Petro-Mohyla-Black Sea National U, Mykolaiv (Ukraine) to Saarbrücken.

In the context of the continually evolving field of Border Studies, the UdS American Studies Graduate Forum 2018 offers a setting in which a decidedly humanities-driven, cultural approach to borders will be discussed. Focusing on aesthetic practices, this workshop seeks to investigate various cultural borderlands in North America and Europe. In particular, it aims at carving out a politics of borderlands aesthetics. Following Jacques Rancière, politics is aesthetics when it constitutes a challenge to dominant social perception. Aesthetics, in turn, is also political. It is precisely this dynamic relation that aesthetic practices engage in which will be of interest for us in our explorations of cultural borderlands.

Topics can include but are not limited to:

- representations of borders in literature, films, TV series, performance art
- border performances
- theoretical interventions in the field of Cultural Border Studies
- border epistemologies and ontologies

Confirmed Keynote Speaker:

Johan Schimanski (University of Oslo)

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 30, 2018**.