

Teacher Training Seminar coordinated by Humboldt University and the U.S. Embassy Berlin in cooperation with LISUM Berlin-Brandenburg

New Ways of Teaching American Literature

Date: Monday, March 11, 2013

Time: 15:00 – 17:30

Venue: Humboldt University, Dorotheenstr. 24, room 1.101

Pl. register by March 6, 2013 at <https://tisonline.brandenburg.de/> (event no. **12L222701**), or

IRCBerlin@state.gov or directly with christine.junghanns@lisum.berlin-brandenburg.de

Program

Welcome by **Reinhard Isensee** and U.S. Embassy representative

Lecture by **Patricia Bloem**, "The Emancipated Imagination: Democratic Education through American Literature for Children and Young Adults"

As teachers chose texts and frame literature lessons, they wittingly or unwittingly prepare students for the world they will enter as adults and citizens. What is new in American literature for children and for young adults; specifically, what is new that is well suited for the classroom? The speaker, Dr. Patricia Bloem, argues that new texts, especially multicultural texts, serve an emancipatory function, address democratic ideals, and foster classroom discussions on democratic values. She will conclude with a question and answer session and will provide an annotated bibliography.

Short break

Lecture by **Tony Magagna**, "Mash-Ups, Remixes, and Hybrids: The New American Literature"

I hope to highlight the trend among contemporary American writers to bend, break, or simply ignore many traditional literary "boundaries." I will discuss how, amid the pervasive social, cultural, and technological diversity of the global era, American writers have increasingly blurred the edges of genre, form, and canon to craft a new American literature that challenges what we define as both "literature" and "American."

Discussion with both speakers moderated by **Reinhard Isensee**

Faculty



Dr. Reinhard Isensee, Professor of American Studies at Humboldt University Berlin

Dr. Isensee's numerous publications include *The Other Reader: Erzählkonstruktionen im Jugendroman in den USA seit den 1960er Jahren* (Frankfurt/Main: Lang, 2003); *Die Romane von Frank Norris. Eine wirkungsästhetische Untersuchung als Beitrag zur Bestimmung des Naturalismus in den USA* (PhD-Thesis, Berlin 1983) and articles ranging from young adult fiction, youth culture, new media and multiculturalism. He repeatedly taught courses on narratives of the Civil War. Currently, Dr. Isensee's major research interests are related to recent developments in the New Media, theories of digital culture, the implications of electronic media such as the Internet for processes of (transcultural) identity formation at the end of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century and the impact of electronic communication on the production, distribution and reception of knowledge in American culture in general and literature in particular, including adolescent literature.



Dr. Patricia L. Bloem is Professor of English at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan. She has published many articles on teaching and is co-author of *The Writer's Community* and co-editor of *Ideas without Boundaries: International education reform through reading and writing for critical thinking*. Her current research focuses on international children's and young adult literature and how our students and teachers learn from the experience of reading these texts.



Dr. Tony R. Magagna is currently the Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies at the Universität Potsdam. In the United States, he serves as Assistant Professor of English at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. He grew up in Southwest Wyoming and earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Wyoming. In 2008, he completed his Ph.D. in English at the University of California-Davis, where he focused his research on modern and contemporary American literature, specializing in the literature and culture of the American West and in issues of space, place, and region in American literature. He has published several articles in the field and is currently at work on a book manuscript based on his dissertation, entitled *Placing the West: Landscape, Literature, and Identity in the American West*. While in Germany, Dr. Magagna is teaching a variety of courses, including courses on the contemporary literatures of California and the American West, Native American literature, modern American drama, and contemporary American regionalism.

Organizers

Prof. Dr. Reinhard Isensee, Humboldt University
Christine Junghanns, LISUM Berlin-Brandenburg
Dr. Martina Kohl, U.S. Embassy Berlin

