

### The Transatlantic Students Symposia Series

The Transatlantic Students Symposia series provides a student-based and largely student-run space for the discussion of topics of contemporary relevance, introducing students of the humanities (not necessarily of Political Science) to political and historical topics with a strong relation to present-day issues and practical applications. Thus we provide them with an outlook into a possible post-university profession.

To achieve this, the student-based symposia are accompanied by faculty-led workshops and courses. The symposia themselves form the concluding event of a week of related activities, visits, talks and workshops. In that regard, the Symposia stand between traditional seminars and conferences.

The participants of the Symposia are students from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Georgetown University, Washington D.C., and other universities, thus creating a truly international atmosphere.

### Introduction to the 2009 Symposium

The division of the world into East and West appears as old as history. Even though the protagonists in occident and orient have changed frequently, the terms still exist, and are supposed to carry meaning. What is meant, however, is often a West that is seen as identical with the „Free World“ (Ash 2004) and an East that is simply a drastic case of alterity. Yet, especially India and to a lesser extent China have been working towards „provincializing Europe“ (Chakrabarty 2000). The much-hyped „clash of civilizations“ (Huntington 1996) is becoming a conflict that happens much more inside of nation states rather than between them (Huntington 2004). Consequently, the question of national identity is increasingly becoming more complex, especially when new immigration poses questions regarding the „rights of others“ (Benhabib 2004).

Regarding the „End of History“ (Fukuyama 1992), i.e. the teleology of History as a guiding force in a Hegelian and Marxian sense, liberal democracies in the world are increasingly challenged in their normativity. It is not just the confrontation with radical Islamism, but also with radical and ruthless capitalism - especially in China - that poses challenges for the social welfare state that is prevalent (to varying degrees) in the West. A crumbling economy oftentimes goes hand-in-hand with a heightened threat to social peace. Moreover, one of the major on-going challenges is continued immigration from the „Global South“ and the „East“ into the „West,“ and the ensuing battles over identity, participation, distribution of riches and traditional value systems. In addition to the „trouble with diversity“ (Michaels 2006), a rising disparity between the rich and the poor within the „West“ itself questions the promise of everlasting

prosperity, especially in the light of the current financial crisis in both America and Europe.

The symposium will delve into questions of inclusion and exclusion, of defining and re-defining cultures, and at how these issues are negotiated at a political and economic as well as on a cultural level. From the backdrop of recent debates about the politics and practice of integrating immigrants and minorities in the United States and Europe, we will address key dimensions of contemporary social and cultural contexts on both sides of the Atlantic that challenge present concepts of (national) integration. Besides discussing relevant theories of integration and their critiques, we will also provide insights into practical aspects of current integration policies in the US and Europe.

The symposium will bring together a group of selected German students with American students for a joint field trip in Cyprus, and an academic symposium at Humboldt University in March 2009.

**This conference has been made possible through the support of and collaboration with:**

Humboldt-Universität:  
International Office  
American Studies Program  
Georgetown University:  
BMW Center for German and European Studies  
Department of Government  
Max Kade Foundation  
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Holiday Land Richter Reisen

### Organizers

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin:  
PD Dr. Reinhard Isensee, Philipp Kneis,  
Elmar Narayan, Sebastian Schöbel, Anja Swidsinski  
Georgetown University, Washington D.C.:  
Prof. Eric Langenbacher, Marie Gschwindt de Gyor

The organizers would like to express their gratitude to all sponsors, guest speakers and participants for their dedication and support.

### Information

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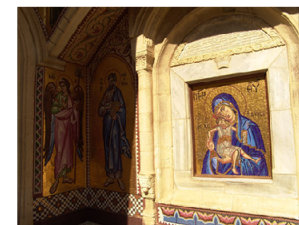
For possible changes to the program and further information, please consult our web site at

[www2.hu-berlin.de/transatlantic/eastwest](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/transatlantic/eastwest)

# THE END OF THE WEST AND THE EAST?

## CHALLENGES FOR INTEGRATION IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

### 7<sup>TH</sup> TRANSATLANTIC STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM



## MARCH 13-14, 2009 STUDENT SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM



BMW Center for  
German and European Studies



American Studies

## PROGRAM

### SYMPOSIUM WEEK, MARCH 7-14

The joint German-American Student group will visit places and institutions relating to the topic of the symposium in Cyprus and Berlin. At the end of the week, a student-based conference open to a general audience will reflect on specific issues and allow for a debate.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 13

#### Seminargebäude am Hegelplatz, 1.601

##### 14:00-14:15 Introduction

Reinhard Isensee, Eric Langenbacher, Philipp Kneis

##### 14:15-16:00 Session I: Policy

Sebastian Schöbel, Elmar Narayan, HU Berlin

*Obameria - The End of Whiteness? The End of the American Empire?  
New American Global Leadership in the U.S. Under the Obama Administration*

Emine Atalar, Saliha Atalar, HU Berlin

*Immigrant Policies in Germany and the US*

##### 16:15-18:00 Session II: Economy

Reneta Kenolova, Georgetown

*The Balkans - The West Meets the East: The Double Life of the Carnegie Report*

Margaret Smith, Georgetown

*Threat to the European Welfare Model: Attacks from the East, the West and Within*

Ryan Kaiser, Georgetown

*The Global War on Terror: Europe's Struggle with Globalization*

##### 18:15-20:00 Session III: Extremism

Anja Köhn, HU Berlin

*"God Bless America": Christian Religion and Religious Fundamentalism in America*

Anneke Boese, HU Berlin

*Osama Bin Laden's Ideological Matrix*

Benjamin Kreider, Georgetown

*Political Movement, Social Movement, or Protest Movement?*

*The Evolution of Right Wing Extremism in Saxony and Eastern Germany, 2004-2008*

20:30 Joint Dinner

### SATURDAY, MARCH 14

#### Seminargebäude am Hegelplatz, 1.601

##### 10:00-12:00 Session IV: Identity

Anja Swidsinski, HU Berlin

*A New Orientation? On the Significance of NATO for Small Central European Nations (Austria and the Czech Republic)*

Isabel Scholz, HU Berlin

*A Vision of Europe? EU, EBU, and the Eurovision Song Contest*

Andrea Richter, Georgetown

*Generation Europe: A Comparison of European Union and Council of Europe Youth Sector Project Funding and Their Role in Identity Shaping.*

##### 12:00-13:30 individual lunch

##### 13:30-15:00 Session V: Territory

Siri Margrete Nafz, HU Berlin

*The Scramble for the Arctic*

Emily Green, Georgetown

*The Limits of the East and West in the Space Race and the "Extra"-territorialization of Global Development*

##### 15:00-15:30 Wrap-Up

all times s.t.

#### Previous Symposia:

*Media and Collective Identity in the United States and Europe*

6th Transatlantic Students Symposium · Georgetown/Humboldt  
Georgetown University, March 1-9, 2008

*Unity in Diversity? Minority Rights in the United States and the European Union*

5th Transatlantic Students Symposium · Georgetown/Humboldt/Oregon State  
Berlin/Split/Mostar/Cottbus, March 3-11, 2007

*Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor? Immigration and Citizenship in the United States and the European Union*

4th Transatlantic Students Symposium · Georgetown/Humboldt  
Georgetown University, March 4-12, 2006

*The European Dream. The Continuing Process of European Unification*

3rd Transatlantic Students Symposium · Georgetown/Humboldt/Viadrina  
Prague/Berlin/Viadrina, March 5-13, 2005

*From the National to the Global and Back? The Role of the United Nations as a Supranational Institution*

2nd Transatlantic Students Symposium · Bard/Humboldt  
Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, March 5-14, 2004

*Reactions to Terrorism. Amidst Political Answers and Cultural Questions*

1st Transatlantic Students Symposium · Bard/Humboldt  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, April 4-5, 2003