

ABSTRACTS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

The Role of the Media in the U.S. Presidential Elections 2016

Prof. William James (Jim) Willis (Azusa Pacific University)

The 2016 presidential election has been different from any other election in U.S. history and the news media have had to face some vexing questions in how to cover the candidates and issues. The ways in which journalists responded to these questions and carried out their roles had significant influence on who the next president of the United States would be. In this talk, a veteran journalist and author examines the questions and the challenges posed by the candidates, and how the news media responded to both. It also examines the populism in America that produced one of these two candidates, possibly the most unique presidential hopeful in American history.

Lecture: “Black Femininities: From Slave Narratives to Popular Culture”

Dr. Stefanie Schäfer (Jena University)

This lecture discusses the problem of representation related to black women in the U.S. The first part draws on black feminist views to show how the female black body has been misconstrued and stereotyped in literary and cultural products and how this has informed the works of black female authors and artists. The second part offers a peek at case studies from literature and popular culture that might be applicable in the EFL classroom, including the slave narrative *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861) by Harriet Ann Jacobs, the play *Da Kink in My Hair* (2005) by Canadian writer Trey Anthony, and the discourse that established First Lady Michelle Obama as a fashion icon.

Lecture: “Queens of Their Race: African-American Feminist Transnational Activism”

Noaquia Callahan (University of Iowa, U.S. Fulbright Fellow, Free University of Berlin)

The emergence of transatlantic feminist organizing at the end of the nineteenth century provided leading feminists of the North Atlantic an opportunity to establish a more permanent transnational dialogue. For them, forging an international sisterhood was one strategy to overcoming the challenges that confronted their sex. But practicing international sisterhood proved to be difficult, particularly when it came to matters involving race. African American women's participation in the early transnational women's movement often challenged white leaders to live up to the great principles the organizations claimed to uphold. Yet African American feminists are nearly invisible in scholarship on first-wave international feminist organizing. My lecture, “Queens of Their Race: African American Feminist Transnational Activism, 1880s – 1920s,” opens up the little-known world of African American internationalist feminists during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The lecture will explore the career and networks of Mary Church Terrell, an African American feminist prominent on the international stage, as a window into the international activism of African American women. My presentation will also include a discussion on the black women's club movement in U.S. that shaped Terrell's and other black feminist internationalists' work.

Workshop I: “We Don’t Bow Down’: Race Relations and Civil Rights in post-Katrina New Orleans”

Dr. Andreas Hübner (Kassel University)

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Southeast Louisiana and was soon to hit the city of New Orleans. While the events were first described as a natural disaster, the days, months, and years to come revealed the relation between the impact of Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans’ troublesome history of social inequalities. Consequently, many lessons are to be learned from the times of post-Katrina New Orleans, both about the city per se and the United States as such. Focusing on issues of race relations and civil rights, the workshop will hence offer examples of teaching the events of Hurricane Katrina in the EFL-Classroom.

Workshop II: “The Science and Emotion of the German-American Cross-cultural Relationship”

Dr. Kathleen Hooper (Wuppertal)

In this lecture Ms. Hooper explores the cross-cultural differences between America and Germany supported by the research of anthropologists Hall & Hall, social psychologist Geert Hofstede as well as several case studies. With over 25 years’ experience in EFL Adult Education and teacher training, her lecture will give special emphasis on how these differences can aid in the EFL class room environment.

Lecture: “Year of the Woman or More of the Same? The Status of Women in American Politics after Election 2016”

Dr. Kelly Dittmar (Rutgers University, Camden)

For the first time in U.S. history, women ran for both major party nominations for president in 2016, and a woman may well break the highest, hardest glass ceiling in American politics. But electing a woman president is only one indicator, albeit significant, of women’s status in American politics. How did women fare in the 2016 U.S. elections, from the presidential level down? What explains these results and what do they tell us about gender parity in electoral politics? Finally, what do the gender dynamics of the 2016 campaigns – including candidate strategies, voter behavior, and media coverage – illuminate about women’s progress toward and/or hurdles to greater political power and inclusion in the United States? Dr. Dittmar will discuss these questions in evaluating the status of women in American politics and the ways in which gender influences candidate strategy and candidate evaluation at various levels of electoral office. Included in this discussion will be reflection on how the U.S. fares globally in terms of women’s political power, including comparisons to Germany.

Workshop III: “The Amazing Stories that Happened to a Friend of a Friend – Urban Legends in the EFL Classroom”

Marie Schönherr (MLU Halle-Wittenberg)

Urban legends are short narratives that usually circulate among relatively young, urban, modern, and educated people. They include an element of humor, horror, or coincidence and aim at teaching a lesson or moral. Most importantly, urban legends are presented by the tellers as if they had actually happened to a distant acquaintance or FOAF (friend of a friend) and therefore claim to be factual, even though they are obviously not true.

Scientific research into the field of contemporary legends started in the United States during the 1960s at Indiana University Bloomington, and was intensified from the 1980s onwards by Jan Harold Brunvand at the University of Utah. Brunvand published a series of urban legend collections including *The Vanishing Hitchhiker* (1981), *The Truth Never Stands in the Way of a Good Story* (2000), or *Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid: The Book of Scary Urban Legends* (2004). His works have reached both popularity and scholarly recognition.

For no particular reason, urban legends have barely found their way into EFL-courses and classrooms. Therefore, this workshop aims at

- giving an overview of the genre and its features
- presenting a selection of urban legends that are suitable for different topics and EFL learners
- developing ideas for production-oriented pre-, while- and post-reading activities.

Workshop IV: “Hip Hop Culture” (It Takes a Village)

“Sir” Reginald Anthony (Freiburg)

There is an old African proverb that says, "it takes a village to raise a child." This workshop is about that "village" outside of school. Our aim is to experiment with social roles and share practical advice for self-development, and hopefully, you can pass on these lessons or "techniques" to students who could profit from Hip Hop education. Your first task for this workshop is to create a recreational facility for teens and young adults. Dream big! You are the designer and builder. You can design your facility anyway you choose. (This "homework assignment" should take no more than ten minutes.) Please draw up your plans and bring your sketches to our little forum where you shall receive an automatic "1" as your grade. That's what Hip Hop aspires to do. It encourages people to redesign and reinvent themselves into something that brings them pride and respect. The art and music are just a bonus...and we'll do that, too! Let's go!