

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON SPEAKERS

Monica Cure is an assistant professor of Comparative Literature in the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University in Los Angeles and currently a Fulbright Scholar in Iași, Romania. She specializes in late 19th/early 20th century American and British literature and travel narratives, and visual and material culture. Her first book, *Picturing the Postcard: The Invention of the Postcard Through the Lens of Turn-of-the-Century Literature, and the Fantasy of New Media* is forthcoming with the University of Minnesota Press. Her current research project continues at the intersection of literature and culture, investigating the spirituality of travel through the concept of pilgrimage, mysticism and travel writing.

Charlott Falkenhagen is an assistant researcher (wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin) and lecturer at the TEFL Chair in the English Department of the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena. She studied English and Music in Weimar, Jena and Leeds and received her state teacher's degrees as a grammar school teacher from the University of Jena in 2006 (STEX 1) and the Federal Government of Thuringia in 2008 (STEX 2). After working at Thuringia International School (Weimar), she completed her PhD thesis (Jena) on Content and Language Integrated Learning in music education in 2013. She substituted as a professor for EFL Teaching at Erfurt University from 2016-17. Upon her return to Jena, she began her research on topics like teaching English through music, teacher professionalism and early language learning. Furthermore, Charlott Falkenhagen works as a freelance teacher trainer. Among others, she has contributed to school books and has published various teaching units, especially on CLIL Music. Forthcoming publications include two books on "Musik im Fremdsprachenunterricht" (Narr-Verlag) and "Musik bilingual unterrichten" (Helbling-Verlag).

Martina Kohl is a Cultural Affairs Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, Germany, where she coordinates a Germany-wide speaker and curriculum development program in American Studies. She holds an M.A. and a Dr. Phil. in American Studies, English Studies and History from Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz. Dr. Kohl studied at Florida Southern College (1980-81) and taught and conducted research at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor (1985-90). In 2013, she received the [Hans Eberhard Piepho Prize](#) for the U.S. Embassy School Election Project and the "Ausgezeichnete Orte – Land der Ideen" Award for the Going Green – Education for

Sustainability Project in 2015. Dr. Kohl is Deputy Executive Editor of the [American Studies Journal](#) (ASJ). She frequently teaches in the American Studies program at Humboldt University Berlin and serves on the advisory board of the Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association (SSASA).

Michael Lederer is an American novelist, poet, short story writer, essayist, and screenwriter living in Berlin. His novel *Cadaqués* was featured in the U.S. Embassy's American Literature Series 2014. His other books include a collection of short stories, *The Great Game*; a novella, *Nothing Lasts Forever Anymore*; and *In the Widdle Wat of Time*, a collection of "poems and very short stories." He has contributed a number of essays to the *American Studies Journal* blog. He is concurrently at work on both a novel and screenplay titled *Donkey Hotey Saving America*.

Jeremy Mayer is an Associate Professor in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. From 2001-2003 Professor Mayer served as a visiting assistant professor at Georgetown University, from which he received his Ph.D. in 1996. He taught previously at Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he won a campus-wide teaching award. Professor Mayer is a recipient of the Rowman & Littlefield Award in Innovative Teaching for the American Political Science Association, the only national teaching award in political science. He also has studied politics at Oxford, Michigan, and Brown.

Professor Mayer speaks regularly to State Department groups from all over the world, and has spoken on behalf of the State Department in Moldova, Germany and Mexico. From 2002 to 2013, he trained diplomats for the Foreign Service Institute, in a course he co-taught and co-designed. He has offered political commentary to major networks, including the World News Tonight, BBC, PBS's Newshour, NPR, CNBC, and local affiliates, as well as many national newspapers. Professor Mayer has been a keynote speaker and conference participant at gatherings in Lisbon, Tokyo, Athens, and other world cities.

Layna Mosley is Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (USA). During the Fall 2017 term, she is a Fulbright Fellow and visiting researcher at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. Mosley's research and teaching focus on the politics of the global economy, as well as international relations more generally. Her current projects examine the ways in which governments strategically manage their debt and borrowing; on the conditions under which

multinational production can improve working conditions in developing countries; and on the effects of U.S. trade policy on worker rights abroad.

Mosley is author of *Global Capital and National Governments* (Cambridge University Press, 2003) and *Labor Rights and Multinational Production* (Cambridge, 2011); and editor of *Interview Research in Political Science* (2013). Her academic articles have appeared in journals including the *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly* and *Review of International Political Economy*. Mosley received her Ph.D. from Duke University and previously taught at the University of Notre Dame.

Nele Rodiek is currently working as a research associate in the American Studies department of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She is pursuing a PhD in American Literature with a study on identity negotiation in contemporary bi-lingual Latin@ literature under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Erik Redling. Her final state exam thesis examined the narrative strategy, magic realist tradition, and diasporic identity portrayal in Junot Díaz's novel *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. She holds a first state exam in higher education, English, and Spanish from the MLU Halle-Wittenberg. Having grown up bilingually herself in a German family residing in Houston, Texas, she additionally received the opportunity of studying abroad at a Uruguayan high school for a year. This semester, she is teaching a course on American Immigration Fiction from the 19th to 21st century.

Christina A. Ziegler-McPherson is an American historian of migration, specializing in immigrant communities and assimilation theory. She held a Fulbright Scholar fellowship to Germany in 2014-2015, and is currently a visiting research scientist at the German Maritime Museum in Bremerhaven.