

Thursday, December 14, 2017, 2.15 pm

Ludwig-Wucherer Str. 2, SR 23

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# ENVIRONMENTAL RISK NARRATIVES CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE AMERICAN NOVEL



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*As part of the seminar “Literature Between Art and Activism: T.C. Boyle’s A Friend of the Earth”, Prof. Dr. Sylvia Mayer talks about one of the major global risks we are confronted with today – the risk of climate change. After decades of research into – and controversial debate about – the causes of global warming, climate science today overwhelmingly agrees that current climatic effects of global warming have anthropogenic causes, that they are predominantly human-made. The lecture will discuss the fictional contribution to the risk discourse of climate change by focusing on the U.S. American climate change novel. It will address the relationship of fact, fiction, and narrative in order to demonstrate in how far fictional risk narratives participate in this discourse in a unique and indispensable way. It will argue that fictional texts can explore the complexity, and diversity, of individual and collective experiences of the climate risk in ways that work with and at the same time transcend, and thus complement, factual, scientific representation.*

## GUEST LECTURE

INSTITUT FÜR ANGLISTIK  
UND AMERIKANISTIK

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**Prof. Dr. Sylvia Mayer**  
(University of Bayreuth)