

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON SPEAKERS

David Goldfield is the Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. A native of Memphis, he grew up in Brooklyn and attended the University of Maryland. He is the author or editor of sixteen books including two, *Cotton Fields and Skyscrapers* (1982) and *Black, White, and Southern* (1991), nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in history. His most recently published book is *America Aflame: How the Civil War Created a Nation* (2011). His newest book, *The Gifted Generation*, about life and the transformation of American politics after the Second World War (2017) was described by NPR as one of the “great books to hunker down with in 2018.” Goldfield is the Editor of the *Journal of Urban History*, and serves as Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians and as an expert witness in voting rights cases. He is Past President of the Southern Historical Association (2012–2013). His hobbies include reading southern novels, watching baseball, and listening to the music of Gustav Mahler and Buddy Holly.

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).

Judith Yaross Lee is Distinguished Professor of Communication Studies and Charles E. Zumkehr Professor of Rhetoric in the School of Communication Studies at Ohio University in Athens, OH. A specialist in American humor with interests in many media and eras, she has published five books and some 60 articles, most recently *Twain's Brand: Humor in Contemporary American Culture* (2012) and "The Sociable Sam Clemens: Mark Twain Among Friends" (2018). She developed an appetite for meeting with European students, teachers, and scholars during her stint as 2016 Fulbright Senior Professor of American Studies at Leiden University.

Therese-M. Meyer is a lecturer in English Literature at Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg in Germany. She is the author of *Where Fiction Ends* (2006), an analysis of the textual construction of fictional author identities in Canadian and Australian literary scandals, and the editor of a German translation of Flinder's journal of the circumnavigation of Australia. She chaired the German Association of Australian Studies in 2013/14. Her research interests include (post)colonial literatures in English, especially from the Caribbean, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Her current project is a genre study of the Australian convict novel.

Rebecca Rukeyser is a fiction writer, co-founder of the Berlin Writers' Workshop, and the recipient of a 2018 "Arbeitsstipendium nichtdeutschsprachige Literatur"- Grant for Non-German Literature, awarded by the Berlin Senatsverwaltung für Kultur und Europa. Her work has appeared in such publications as *Best American Non-Required Reading*, *The Massachusetts Review*, and *ZYZZYVA*. She holds an MFA in Fiction from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and teaches creative writing at Heinrich Heine Universität Düsseldorf.

Marie Schönherr studied English and History at Leipzig University and at ITT Dublin. She received her first degree in 2009 and qualified as a teacher in 2011. Afterwards she worked at several public schools in Saxony and taught courses on British and Irish culture, history and society at the English Institute at Leipzig University.

Between 2003 and 2011, she was art director of the English Drama Group Leipzig. In 2013, she joined the English Institute at Martin Luther University Halle and works in the field of didactics. Here she teaches seminars, conducts student teaching at schools in and around Halle and gives talks and workshops at teacher trainings. Her interests in EFL-teaching and -research include language games, drama activities, language varieties, short fictional texts and comedy TV-series.

Joseph W. Slade is Emeritus Professor of Media Arts and Studies and Emeritus Director of the Central Region Humanities Center at Ohio University. A cultural historian of technology, he explores the ways that messages move through back channels of communication such as gossip, espionage, and outlaw forms of discourse, and studies the displacement of thermodynamic metaphors by organic ones as keys to understanding how cultures stabilize themselves. He has taught or held fellowships at numerous universities. The former editor of *The Markham Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal of American Literature and Culture* (1968-1990), he has also written dozens of articles and book chapters. His books include *Thomas Pynchon* (1974 and 1990), *Pornography and Sexual Representation: A Reference Guide* (3 vols., 2001), *Pornography in America: A Reference Handbook* (2000), *Beyond the Two Cultures: Essays on Science, Technology, and Literature* (co-editor, 1990), and *The Midwest* (Encyclopedia of American Regional Cultures, co-editor, 2004).