

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON SPEAKERS

Justin Beard is the co-founder of InterACT English, he is a professional actor, theater maker and teaching-artist. Justin recently received the Commerzbank Foundation Scholarship for his MA studies focused on *Cultural Education in Schools* at Philipps University Marburg. He also holds a BFA in Acting and Original Works from Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Washington USA. Originally from the US, he has lived in Berlin since 2005.

Annamarie Bindenagel Šehović is Non-Resident Fellow at Brandenburgisches Institut für Gesellschaft und Sicherheit (BIGS). She is also Non-Resident Senior Fellow at GGI's Peace & Security Section as well as the European Center for Global Education, where she coordinates the blended learning course (with Georgetown University) on Transatlantic Approaches to Global Peace, Security and Diplomacy. She is a consultant at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), and Senior Analyst at In on Africa (IOA), based in South Africa. Dr. Šehović is an Honorary Research Fellow at PAIS, the University of Warwick, UK, and Associate Fellow at the Potsdam Center for Policy and Management (PCPM), where she served as Acting Professor, Chair of International Politics in the winter term (2017/2018).

Previously, Dr. Šehović was a postdoc lecturer in international relations at the University of Erfurt, Germany, and at the Willy-Brandt-School of Public Policy, also in Erfurt. She is the founder of Bindenagel Consulting, cc in South Africa. Her research and expertise focuses on human security and global insecurities, with particular emphases on health security, non-citizen rights, and security in Africa.

Ben Bishop is an Australian-born stage and screen actor living in Berlin, Germany. He completed his acting training at dBs Berlin in 2018. During his time at dBs Ben has appeared in over 20 student produced films, commercials and documentaries. Ben has most recently starred on stage as Richard in Rosebrook Theatre Collectives "MDMA", directed by Sarah Wilkinson.

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).

Janet Russell is an assistant researcher in English Linguistics at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She received her B.A. degree in English and German in 2016 and her M.A. degree in English in March 2019. Ms. Russell was awarded a scholarship by the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes) in support of her university education. She has been working as a freelance English tutor for universities, schools, and institutions of adult education and conducted linguistic workshops for teacher training events. She is currently researching aspects of linguistic contextual adequacy and the negotiation of meaning in communicative contexts. In her opinion, there is not always a single truth to the meaning of a word. What matters is how we use certain expressions. Her hobbies include any activity in the kitchen (especially baking), eating whatever results from these activities and making the perfect cup of tea.

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 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.

Jayson Gonzales Sae-Sae is Associate Professor of English and Director of Graduate Studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He earned his B.A. in American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles and his Ph.D. in Chicana/x and Asian American Literary Cultures at Stanford University. He has published several works on Chicana/x and Asian American literature and history, including a book on the ideological and political significance of Asia Pacific in Chicana/x cultural politics. He is now at work on a second book, which examines cross-racial desire as a form-determining force in this culture's literary imagination. Currently, he is the Fulbright Distinguished Chair at the Swedish Institute for North American Studies at Uppsala University.

Timothy E. Stroud graduated from the University of Hanover. He wrote his thesis on "Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*." He began his teaching career in Germany at the University of Hildesheim, where he was a member of the adjunct staff. In 2016, he moved to the language department at the University of Göttingen and in 2018, he began work at the University of Halle-Wittenberg as Language Practice instructor.

His research interests include postcolonial literature, especially Nigerian and South African, and exploring the relationship between science and literature. He looks forward to realizing these interests in a PhD project under guidance from PD Dr. Julia Nitz.

He has many varying hobbies, including a strong interest in astronomy, biology and gardening.

Yvonne Wasserloos studierte Musikwissenschaft, Neuere und Neueste Geschichte, Germanistik und Skandinavistik an der Westfälischen Wilhelms-Universität Münster. Mit ihrer durch mehrere DAAD-Stipendien geförderten Dissertation „Kulturgezeiten. Niels W. Gade und C.F.E. Horneman in Leipzig und Kopenhagen“ promovierte sie 2002 an der Universität Münster bei Prof. Dr. Klaus Hortschansky. Als Dozentin und Gastprofessorin für Musikwissenschaft war und ist Yvonne Wasserloos an den Universitäten und Musikhochschulen in Berlin, Düsseldorf, Kopenhagen, London, Lüneburg und Münster tätig. 2014 habilitierte sie sich an der Folkwang Universität der Künste Essen mit der Schrift „Musik und Staat. Dimensionen der Interaktion im 20. Jahrhundert“, die mit dem „Förderpreis für Musikwissenschaft“ der Düsseldorfer Jonges ausgezeichnet wurde. Von 2015 bis 2017 leitet sie das an der Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf angesiedelte Forschungsprojekt „Düsseldorfs bürgerliche Musikkultur 1818–2018“. Von April 2017 bis März 2019 hatte sie die Vertretung der Professur von Prof. Dr. Hartmut Möller am Institut für Musikwissenschaft und Musikpädagogik der hmt Rostock inne. Am 1. April 2019 wurde sie zur Professorin an der hmt Rostock ernannt. Sie ist Mitbegründerin und Mitherausgeberin der interdisziplinären Publikationsreihe „Schriften zur Politischen Musikgeschichte“ im Verlag Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Jim Willis is Professor Emeritus of Journalism and director of the Journalism Program at Azusa Pacific University, in Southern California. He is a veteran journalist and is author of 16 books on journalism and American history. Dr. Willis continues to work as a special correspondent and has covered the Oklahoma City bombing and its aftermath, the Syrian refugee crisis in Germany, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Germany, and the 10th, 20th, and 25th anniversaries of the fall of the Berlin Wall. He has been a frequent guest lecturer in Germany, Russia, Spain, and Latvia. Willis holds a Ph.D. in Journalism from the University of Missouri and is a former Faculty Scholar of the Year at his university.

Markus Ziener is Professor of Journalism at Hochschule für Medien, Kommunikation und Wirtschaft (HMKW), University of Applied Sciences, in Berlin. At HMKW, he is the head of the Department of Journalism and Corporate Communications. He is also the Global Affairs Correspondent of the newspaper *The Straits Times* in Singapore and a regular contributor to *Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ)* in Switzerland.

Between 2006 and 2012, Markus Ziener was the Washington Bureau Chief of *Handelsblatt*. Prior to that, he worked as a field reporter, covering the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. He has also served as *Handelsblatt's* correspondent in Moscow (1994–1999) and Eastern Europe (1990–1994). From 1999 to 2001, he was Foreign Editor with the *Financial Times Deutschland*. Markus Ziener holds a Ph.D. in politics from Humboldt University Berlin and a diploma in Social Science from Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen-Nuremberg. He also studied at Duke University in North Carolina, USA.

In 2018, he published his first novel *DDR, Mon Amour* with PalmArt Press, Berlin.