

Cultural Performance in Transnational American Studies – DFG Network

Network Members:

Prof. Dr. Nassim Balestrini (Karl Franzens University Graz)

Dr. Birgit M. Bauridl (University of Regensburg), Network
Coordinator

Dr. Juliane Braun (University of Wuerzburg)

Nanne Buurmann, M.A. (Free University of Berlin/University of
Leipzig)

Dr. Julia Faisst (Catholic University of Eichstaett-Ingolstadt)

Dr. Nicole Hodges Persley (University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS)

Katrin Horn, M.A. (Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-
Nuremberg)

Leopold Lippert, M.A. (Paris Lodron University Salzburg)

Frederike Offizier, M.A. (University of Potsdam)

Dr. Leonard Schmieding (Georgetown University, Washington, DC)

Dr. Pia Wiegink (Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz),
Network Coordinator

Dr. Andrea Zittlau (University of Rostock)

Network E-Mail: culturalperformancenetwork@gmail.com

Network Website: www.performance.ur.de

Conference and Research Network Info

The conference opens the DFG research network "Cultural Performance in Transnational American Studies," which explores the potentials of an integration of Performance Studies approaches into the field of (transnational) American Studies. The network investigates how, which, and with what outcome issues that, in the wake of the transnational turn, have become central to the American Studies agenda can be addressed more adequately by the study of 'cultural performances.' Based on the idea of culture as a corporeal, communal, and dynamic event rather than a stable textual product, the individual projects arranged in three culturally and spatially specific clusters—the city, the nation, the globe—position the local particularities of cultural performance vis-à-vis the dynamics of global mobility.

Firstly, they examine the role and impact of 'cultural performances' as particular acts of cultural expression (like daily rituals, festive occasions, or theatrical events) in transnational contact zones—sites in which cultures meet, grapple with each other, and inevitably negotiate questions of socio-political agency, representation, and power. Secondly, they develop and evaluate 'cultural performance' as a methodological approach for the study of transnational processes. In sum, the network scrutinizes the benefits and limitations of a deeper and more reflective integration of a Performance Studies approach into American Studies. By bringing together scholars of Performance and American Studies from the US, Europe, and Asia, it constitutes an exemplary site of transnational collaboration and establishes a dialogue across disciplinary boundaries.

The opening conference aims at establishing a framework for a Performance Studies approach in (transnational) American Studies via both theoretical/conceptual/methodological reflections and the discussion of specific case studies.

International Conference Interdisciplinary Crossroads: Performance Studies in Transnational American Studies

Conference Organizers:

Dr. Birgit M. Bauridl

American Studies

Department of English and American Studies

University of Regensburg, 93040 Regensburg

E-Mail: birgit.bauridl@ur.de

Dr. Pia Wiegink

Department of English and Linguistics, Institute for

Transnational American Studies (ITAS)

Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz

Colonel-Kleinmann-Weg 2 (room 04-455), 55128 Mainz

E-Mail: wiegink@uni-mainz.de

Conference Assistants:

Julia Bienek, Tina Flemmerer, Nicola Lang

Conference Location:

University of Regensburg Campus

Building Philosophie/Theologie – PT

Conference Room PT 3.0.79 (Sitzungssaal)

Design/Layout:

Tina Flemmerer, BFA


Conference Website:

www.performance.ur.de/activities

Opening Conference

DFG Research Network (DFG # BA 3567/4-1)

"Cultural Performance in
Transnational American Studies"



Interdisciplinary Crossroads: Performance Studies in Transnational American Studies

Regensburg, 23-25 July 2015

DFG



JG|U
JOHANNES GUTENBERG
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ

Thursday, 23 July 2015

14.00-15.30 Graduate Student Roundtable

with **John Carlos Rowe** (in cooperation with Regensburg European American Forum REAF)

16:30-17:00 Conference Registration

17:00-18:30 Conference Opening

Welcome

Birgit M. Bauridl, Pia Wiegink, DFG Network Chairs

Udo Hebel, President, University of Regensburg

Jochen Mecke, Dean, Fakultät für Sprach-, Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaften, University of Regensburg

Opening Keynote Lecture

Chair: **Birgit M. Bauridl** (University of Regensburg)

John Carlos Rowe (University of Southern California): "Decolonial Performer: Craig Santos Perez as Poet, Activist, Scholar, Teacher, and Blogger"

Reception

Friday, 24 July 2015

9:30-10:30 Keynote Lecture

Chair: **Pia Wiegink** (JGU Mainz)

Michael Bachmann (University of Glasgow): "Playing Indian, Acting American: Transnationalism and the Melodramatic Imagination"

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-13:00 Panel 1

Chair: **Katrin Horn** (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

Ilka Saal (University of Erfurt): "Slavery and Theatricality: Kara Walker's *Marvelous Sugar Baby*"

Leonard Schmieding (Georgetown University): "Ethnic Performances in San Francisco German Restaurants, 1906-1936"

Frederike Offizier (University of Potsdam): "Playing (with the) Future: Biology and Preemptive Performativity"

Martina Koegeler-Abdi (University of Copenhagen): "Miss Little Egypt Goes to America—Auto-Orientalism, Harem Stereotypes and Cultural Performance around 1900"

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30–15:30 Talkshop

Panelists:

Ursula Regener (University of Regensburg)

Thomas Spitzer, Artist, Performer, Author (Regensburg)

Florian Weinzierl (University of Regensburg)

Pia Wiegink, **Birgit Bauridl**, **Nanne Buurman** (DFG-Network)

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-18:30 Panel 2

Chair: **Susanne Leikam** (University of Regensburg)

Leopold Lippert (University of Salzburg): "The Crossroads of Transnationalism: Surrogation, Haunting, and the Modes of Efficient Field Performance"

Katharina Vester (American University): "Epic (and not-so Epic) Meal Times: YouTube Cooking Shows as Performances of Gender Resistance"

Katrin Horn (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg): "Global Stars' Local Performances—The Pop Concert as Commodity, Community and Contact Zone"

Christof Decker (LMU Munich): "Transnational Laughter: Film Comedy and the Comparative Study of Screen Performances"

Xiuming He (JGU Mainz): "Performing Chinese-ness in America: Food, Language, Wedding, Rituals, and Chinese New Year in Jade Snow Wong and Pardee Lowe's Autobiographies"

Saturday, 25 July 2015

9:30-10:30 Keynote Lecture

Chair: **Ingrid Gessner** (University of Regensburg)

Ben Chappell (University of Kansas): "The Borders that Cross Us: Transnational American Studies on the Ground"

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00–13:00 Panel 3

Chair: **Leonard Schmieding** (Georgetown University)

Florian Freitag (JGU Mainz): "Performing New Orleans, Performing Katrina: Local and Global Performance Traditions in *Wading Home: An Opera of New Orleans*"

Juliane Braun (University of Wuerzburg): "Victor Séjour and the Performance of Transnational Abolitionism"

Sabine Kim (JGU Mainz): "Performing Abolitionist Discourse in the 19th-Century Black Atlantic"

Doria E. Charlson (Brown University): "Shake That Thing: Black Performativity in Claude McKay's *Banjo*"