The pictorial turn in the humanities and social sciences has foregrounded the political power of images and the extent to which historical, political, social, and cultural processes and practices are being shaped visually. Political iconographies are taken to interpret norms of actions, support ideological formations, and enhance moral concepts. Visual rhetorics are understood as active players in the construction and contestation of the political realm and public space.

The international and interdisciplinary conference will explore the political function and impact of images from the perspectives of a wide scope of academic disciplines: Art History, Visual Culture Studies, History, Political Science, American Studies. Experts from Europe and the United States will in particular address the complex interplay between agent and addressee in the public space as well as issues of national identity, discourses of inclusion and exclusion, and the designation of political spaces within transnational contexts.

The conference is part of the interdisciplinary research initiative “Perceiving and Understanding: Functions, Perception Processes, Forms of Visualizations, Cultural Strategies of Pictures and Texts.”

Conference venue: Altes Finanzamt
Landshuter Straße 4, 93047 Regensburg

contact:
Prof. Dr. Christoph Wagner (Chair of Art History)
christoph.wagner@psk.uni-regensburg.de

Prof. Dr. Udo Hebel (Chair of American Studies)
udo.hebel@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de

Universität Regensburg
93040 Regensburg
http://www.zentrum-bildwissenschaft.de

23-25 April 2010

Universität Regensburg
23 April 2010 (Friday)

**VISUAL CULTURES**

9.00  **Opening and Welcome**
Prof. Dr. Thomas Strothotte  
President of the University of Regensburg  
Introduction: Christoph Wagner

Chair:  Christoph Wagner (Regensburg)

9.30  **Pablo Schneider** (Berlin)
Political Iconology and Picture Act – Methodological Observations

11.00  **Wolfgang Brückle** (Colchester)
Reality Into Art?  
A Contemporary Discourse on Shock Values

Chair:  Kerstin Schmidt (München)

14.00  **Peter Schneemann** (Bern)
The American Culture War and the Status of the Image in Contemporary Art in America

15.00  **Maren Stange** (New York)
Photography and the End of Segregation

Chair:  Ingrid Gessner (Regensburg)

16.30  **Miles D. Orvell** (Philadelphia)

17.30  **Udo Hebel** (Regensburg)
Replacing the President: Cecil Stoughton’s “Lyndon B. Johnson Taking the Oath of Office” and the Politics of Inauguration Photography

19.30  Informal get together

24 April 2010 (Saturday)

**VISUAL HISTORY**

Chair:  Ulf Brunnbauer (Regensburg)

9.00  **Klaus von Beyme** (Heidelberg)
Why There Is No Political Science of Arts?

10.00  **Ulrich Heinen** (Wuppertal)
Rubens’s Pictorial Peacekeeping Force – His „Differencs and Ensucnes Between Peace and Wars” in London

11.30  **Wolfram Pyta** (Stuttgart)
Adolf Hitler’s (Self-)Fashioning as a Genius. Remarks on the Visual Politics of National Socialism’s Cult of Genius

Chair:  Christian Wolff (Regensburg)

14.00  **Claudia Bruns** (Berlin)
Towards a Political Iconography of Europe’s Body? – Interrelations Between Geographical, Mythical, and Artistical Aspects

15.00  **Christoph Wagner** (Regensburg)
The Power of Nature: National Identity and the Aesthetics of Landscape

16.30  **Mick Gidley** (Leeds)
Native American Camera Consciousness: Reading Photographs of American Indians

Chair:  Hans Rott (Regensburg)

17.30  **Eric J. Sandeen** (Wyoming)
Memories and Consequences: The Political Landscapes of Richard Misrach’s „Bravo 20“ and Camilo Vergara’s Detroit Acropolis

18.30  **Gottfried Gabriel** (Konstanz)
The Political Iconography of Money

25 April 2010 (Sunday)

**VISUAL POLITICS**

Chair:  Klara-Stephanie Szlezák (Regensburg)

9.00  **Kerstin Schmidt** (München)
Imaging the Political in American Social Documentary Photography

10.00  **Mark Thistlethwaite** (Texas)
Nationalism and Truth in Grant Wood’s ‘Parson Weems’ Fable’

11.30  **Volker Depkat** (Regensburg)

12.30  **Concluding Discussion**
Udo Hebel

Free Admission