This year’s recipient of the American Studies Association’s prestigious Bode-Pearson prize Prof. Dr. George Lipsitz visited Regensburg American Studies together with Prof. Dr. Barbara Tomlinson for two events in December 2016. In their talk on “American Studies as Accompaniment,” the two scholars, in a sweeping disciplinary history, outlined their conception for a future of American Studies that creates, in an integration of academic and cultural processes, ‘insubordinate spaces’ of decolonial thought. The following day, the two professors from the University of California, Santa Barbara, joined UR American Studies graduate students and PhD candidates for a roundtable discussion. During this event, the scholars not only supplied critical and individual feedback for budding and ongoing research projects, but also shared valuable secrets of the trade and encouraged the next generation of scholars to realize “the privilege we have the luxury of being embarrassed by” and put their scholarship to good and socially relevant use.

The Regensburg European American Forum (REAF) wants to thank Prof. Lipsitz and Prof. Tomlinson for sharing their seasoned and precious insights into the discipline both in the lecture halls and in the hallways and for inciting valuable academic as well as personal discussions. Their visit was made possible with the friendly support of the Bavarian American Academy (BAA).