

# **CALL FOR PROPOSALS: "BETWEEN GLOBAL VILLAGE AND GLOBAL DUMP: PLACING AMERICA IN A TRANSNATIONAL WORLD"**

American Studies Leipzig announces its First Annual Graduate Student Conference

Leipzig, 22-23 March 2010

No conference fee. Travel grants available.

The MA-level graduate student conference "Between Global Village and Global Dump: Placing America in a Transnational World" will explore the role of the two American continents in a global setting. Reading America in a transcontinental context rather than a strictly national one, the conference will investigate different perspectives of the world as a 'global village'--the chances that accompany a globalized world more and more intertwined through myriad connections. By the same means, the conference seeks to consider the challenges and threats of a world increasingly perceived as a 'global dump': problematic aspects of globalization such as the homogenization of cultures, the growing divide between rich and poor, and the exploitation of developing countries. This interdisciplinary conference brings together for the first time MA-level graduate students at American Studies Leipzig to discuss different approaches and develop new ideas that explore the difficulties and advantages that a transnational world entails for individuals, nation-states, and the global community. Thus we encourage contributions exploring literary and cultural representations of the Americas in a transnational world just as much as presentations interested in political, societal, and historical topics by both academic and policy-oriented graduate students.

As cooperation and conflict increasingly permeate national borders, global challenges cannot be met by individual nation-states alone. While the United States still plays a vital role in the international community, new actors such as Brazil, China, and India are emerging on the global stage, marking a conceivable shift in the economic equilibrium with implications for the political and public spheres. Globalization also reaches the decision level of individuals, who are increasingly influenced by the manifold connections offered through various new communication tools. The manifestations of globalization can also be located in literary and cultural productions, such as migrant literatures, popular cultures, and transnational cooperation in cinematography, which highlight the importance of globalization in these fields of inquiry. Similarly, historiography offers productive insights into processes of globalization, uncovering transnational connections throughout history such as the slave trade, the Jewish diaspora, and American imperialism.

"Between Global Village and Global Dump: Placing America in a Transnational World" provides a critical forum for MA-level graduate students not only to present their own research but also offers a space to develop ideas, pose questions, benefit from peer feedback, and network early on in their careers. Young scholars from all disciplines are encouraged to attend this conference that will bring together graduate students from Leipzig and other universities to discuss both scholarly and non-academic aspects of America in a global context. The interdisciplinary nature of the topic invites contributions from myriad fields of inquiry, such as literature, economics, global studies, education, sociology, law, cultural studies, political science, anthropology, history, philosophy, and film studies as well as the different area studies such as Latin American, European, African, and Asian studies.

Please note that no conference fee will be charged. Also, to encourage nation-wide participation in this multi-disciplinary conference, we will be able to award several travel and accommodation grants ranging from 100€ to 250€.

Submission: Please send your 250-word proposal with name, current level of graduate study, affiliated university, and email address to [asl-gradconference@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:asl-gradconference@uni-leipzig.de) by December 16, 2009. We will notify authors of accepted proposals by January 8, 2010. For further information, please refer to <http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/asl-gradconference2010> or email us at [asl-gradconference@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:asl-gradconference@uni-leipzig.de)