

## **(Re-)Shaping the Public Sphere: Cultural Productions as/and Interventions**

### **Call for Papers**

34th Annual Conference of the Postgraduate Forum (PGF) of the German Association for American Studies (GAAS/DGfA)

The organizers of the 2024 Postgraduate Forum are pleased to announce the annual call for submissions for this year's conference to be hosted at the Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nuremberg from November 21-23, 2024. Since its inception in 1989, the PGF has been a platform for early career researchers in the broader field of American studies, offering them the opportunity to present and discuss their ongoing projects and to engage in critical conversations with scholars working in similar as well as different disciplines.

#### **Conference Theme and Format**

In recent years, discussions about censoring cultural productions have become prominent in the US American public sphere. Conservative states such as Texas or Florida have cut parts of school syllabi that aim for a democratic representation of marginalized communities. Laws like the "Parental Rights in Education" (the so-called "Don't Say Gay Bill"), ban classroom discussions on gender identity and sexual orientation in Florida state and encroach upon the US American democracy. In light of this increasingly polarizing political climate, cultural productions play an important role in (re)shaping discourses on e.g. race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality. Cultural productions have the power to intervene in dominant public discourses, to express alternate ways of knowing, and to assert a right to difference.

The conference aims to examine the intersections of aesthetics, changing cultural contexts of the production, distribution, and (public) reception of US-American literature and other forms of cultural productions such as movies, comics and visual art since 1945 in an increasingly fragmented public sphere.

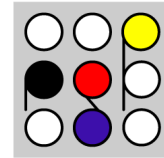
Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- socio-cultural, political, and economic interdependencies of cultural productions and practices
- cultural productions, and their ability to shape and interact with the public sphere
- public sphere as the arena of opinions and specific infrastructures that enable and condition cultural production, distribution, and reception
- praxeological concepts of cultural productions, which include socio-cultural contexts, political and institutional frameworks
- strategies utilized by cultural productions to activate attention
- public contexts of literature and other forms of cultural productions
- knowledge production through forms of cultural productions
- ethics and politics of cultural productions

Alongside submissions dedicated to the conference topic, we also invite and encourage contributions from the broader field of American studies, including, among other disciplines, media studies, history, political science, sociology, and economics. We welcome participants to present work in progress, provide an overview of their project for discussion, workshop case studies with the group, present essays, or focus on methodological and theoretical questions. We especially encourage young scholars with little to no conference experience to participate in the conference.



Deutsche Gesellschaft  
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Postgraduierten-  
forum der DGfA

In addition to panels, a keynote lecture, and the annual PGF meeting, we are also planning a cultural workshop in Nuremberg. During this workshop, you can present your own cultural productions, such as creative writing, music, and visual arts to discuss them, have a test audience, or just share them with your peers.

### **Application**

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted along with a 50-word biography to **pgf@dgfa.de** by **September 07, 2024**. If you want to contribute to the workshop with a cultural production of your own, please send in a separate 250-word proposal for each contribution. Presentations should not be longer than 15 minutes.

### **Accessibility**

As organizers of the 2024 PGF Conference, we are committed to ensuring all events and contents are accessible to all. We plan to host the PGF Conference 2024 as a hybrid event. The form for registration is now open and accessible on our website. In the registration form you may let us know if you need reimbursement of travel expenses, or about other special needs that you may have. In case institutional funding for the travel expenses to Erlangen is unavailable to you, we will do our best to support you financially to the degree that our budget permits.

The deadline for registration is October 26, 2024.

Do not hesitate to approach us at any time if you have any questions or concerns (pgf@dgfa.de).

For further information, please visit our conference website:

<https://www.literaturundoeffentlichkeit.phil.fau.de/en/veranstaltungen-und-publikationen/events/re-shaping-the-public-sphere/>.

Please check back regularly as the website will be updated progressively as we move closer to the conference date.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Erlangen this November.

Your PGF-Team 2024

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