

December 10, 2021

2.15-6 p.m. (CET)

Online on [zoom](#)

Meeting Code: 874368

Everyone welcome!



The Status of American Democracy

The Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies organizes a lecture series by internationally renowned fellows of the Obama Institute and eminent critics of current crises and challenges of democracy as visible in the United States of America and elsewhere. For long, American democracy has served as an exemplary model for the introduction and practice of democratic principles which have inspired and determined transnationally the growth of nations. Germany is certainly one of the prime examples.

In his publications, Barack Obama has repeatedly addressed issues of democracy in crisis and questioned for whom democracy works at home and abroad. „And so the world watches America ... to see if our experiment in democracy can work“ and he continues to believe „in the possibility of America— not just for the sake of future generations of Americans but for all of humankind“ (A Promised Land). We will begin with the following lectures:

Further Information

Abstracts and bio blurbs for the lectures can be found in the news section of our website. Please see footer for link or [click here](#).

Please contact the Speaker of the Obama Institute, Professor Alfred Hornung, if you have further questions:
hornung@uni-mainz.de

2.15 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Alfred Hornung

Speaker, Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies

2.20 p.m. – Introduction: Jutta Ernst

“That’s the thing about the Americans. They’ll believe anything but the truth.”: What reading Guantánamo Bay Literature Can Tell Us About the Future of American Democracy

Moustafa Bayoumi

Brooklyn College, City University of New York

3.15 p.m. – Introduction: Mita Banerjee

The Populist Moment: Populism and Polarization in the US

David Sirakov

Atlantic Academy Rheinland-Pfalz

4.15 p.m. – Introduction: Alfred Hornung

American Politics and the Midterm Elections 2022

Sean M. Theriault

The University of Texas at Austin

5.15 p.m. – Introduction: Axel R. Schäfer

The System Will Not Be Labeled: Industrial Food and American Democracy

Chad E. Seales

The University of Texas at Austin