

Workshop “Migration and Consumption”

Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz,
Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies,
CRC 1482 Studies in Human Differentiation

June 27 and 28, 2024
CRC conference room, Hegelstraße 59



Organizers:

Prof. Dr. Axel Schäfer a.schaefer@uni-mainz.de

Dr. Anja-Maria Bassimir bassimir@uni-mainz.de



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Workshop “Migration and Consumption”

This workshop will bring together leading scholars in the fields of migration, political economy, and consumerism in United States history. Immigration debates and policies are an early domain in which both state administrative capacities and consumerist categories of human differentiation were generated, formalized, and institutionalized. **Lizabeth Cohen** (Harvard University) is an expert on postwar consumerism, and **Rosanne Currarino** (Queen’s University) has investigated labor questions and economic democracy during the Gilded Age. **Katherine Benton-Cohen** (Georgetown University) studied the Dillingham Commission’s role and legacy in categorizing and “inventing the immigrant problem,” while **Joel Perlmann** (Bard College) traced processes of classifying immigrants from Ellis Island to the 2020 Census. **Jan Logemann** (Georg-August-Universität) focused on the role of European émigrés in making consumer capitalism, while **Atiba Perilla’s** (German Historical Institute) new project asks how immigrants used money in the time period from 1870 to 1930. We invite workshop participants to engage these scholars in a critical discussion on their key texts.

Registration:

To participate in the workshop, please sign up with Anja-Maria Bassimir via e-mail: bassimir@uni-mainz.de

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Collaborative Research Center (CRC) Studies in Human Differentiation, project B-06: “Migration and Welfare States in the USA: Global and National Dynamics in Bureaucratic Human Differentiation”



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Schedule for Workshop Migration and Consumption, June 27 and 28, 2024

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Thursday

- 13:45–14:15 Meet and Greet
- 14:15–15:45 **Lizabeth Cohen**, Harvard University. *A Consumers' Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (Random House, 2003).
- 15:45–16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:00–17:30 **Rosanne Currarino**, Queen's University, Kingston ON, Canada. *The Labor Question in America: Economic Democracy in the Gilded Age* (University of Illinois Press, 2011).
- 18:15 Conference Dinner

Friday

- 9:00–10:30 **Katherine Benton-Cohen**, Georgetown University. *Inventing the Immigration Problem: The Dillingham Commission and Its Legacy* (Harvard University Press, 2018).
- 10:30–10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45–12:15 **Joel Perlmann**, Bard College, New York. *America Classifies the Immigrants: Ellis Island to the 2020 Census* (Harvard University Press, 2018).
- 12:15–13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30–15:00 **Jan Logemann**, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen. *Engineered to Sell: European Émigrés and the Making of Consumer Capitalism* (Chicago University Press, 2020).
- 15:00–16:00 Response: **Atiba Pertilla**, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.
- 17:00–19:00 Exploring Mainz together
- 19:00 Dinner



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