

16:00

IMPULSE

The Law of Democracy and Racial Equity

Prof. Joshua Sellers, Mercedes-Benz Fellow, American Academy in Berlin & Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

What is the relationship between election-law doctrines, electoral structures, policies, practices, and racial equity? Achieving racial equity requires initiatives that combat the racial maldistribution of resources and opportunities. The success of such initiatives is inextricably linked to the law of democracy, yet such linkages are largely neglected by scholars. Law of democracy scholars, while attentive to race, are preoccupied with traditional rights/remedies frameworks. In contrast, historians, economists, sociologists, political scientists are deeply engaged with the nuances of racial discrimination, yet lack expertise on the law of democracy. Sellers aims to bridge these disciplinary divides in order to locate the racial consequences of the law of democracy.



Joshua Sellers is an associate professor of law at Arizona State University, where he focuses on election law, legislation and regulation, constitutional law, and civil procedure. He is currently also the Mercedes-Benz Fellow at the American Academy in Berlin.

16:45

IMPULSE

The Wrath to Come: Gone with the Wind and the Lies America Tells

Prof. Sarah Churchwell, University of London

Separating fact from fiction, Sarah Churchwell shows how histories of mythmaking have informed America's racial and gender politics, the controversies over Confederate statues, the resurgence of white nationalism, the Black Lives Matter movement, the enduring power of the American Dream, and the violence of Trumpism.

Gone with the Wind was an instant bestseller when it was published in 1936; its film version became the most successful Hollywood film of all time. The story's racism was just as controversial in the 1930s as it is now, foreshadowing today's debates over race and American fascism. Churchwell shows what happens when we do violence to history, as collective denial turns fictions into lies, and lies into a vicious reality.



Sarah Churchwell is Professor of American Literature and Public Humanities at the University of London and author of *Behold America: A History of America First and the American Dream* and *The Wrath to Come: Gone with the Wind and the Lies America Tells*.

17:30 BREAK

19:00

CLOSING PANEL

John Nichols, *The Nation*, Madison, Wisconsin

Joshua Yaffa, *The New Yorker*, Berlin

Prof. Sarah Churchwell, University of London

Mirrienne Mahn, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Frankfurt am Main

Prof. Joshua Sellers, Mercedes-Benz Fellow, American Academy in Berlin & Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

Moderation: Dr. Tobias Endler, Heidelberg

Our guests come together in this closing panel to join forces and exchange ideas about each other's inputs on the history of U.S. democracy, a transatlantic literary connection, contemporary struggles for democracy here and in the U.S., and on the war in Ukraine. What thoughts will they take with them from this day on "Democratic Vistas" and what aspects do they find most engaging and inspiring or worth challenging in this group discussion? Listen to our experts' contributions on where we are headed from here!



Dr. Tobias Endler is an American Studies scholar and has taught at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies and Yale University. Today he works as a publicist, speaker, moderator and coach. His latest book *Demokratie und Streit – Der Diskurs der Progressiven in den USA: Vorbild für Deutschland?* was recently published.

20:30 NETWORKING RECEPTION

SO, 16.10.

OPEN HOUSE / TAG DER OFFENEN TÜR

with the Carl-Schurz-Haus staff, teachers, and guests

📍 Carl-Schurz-Haus, Eisenbahnstr. 62

11:00

Our Festival Authors Present Their Writing

Marie Malcovati, Freiburg & Jonathan Garfinkel, Berlin

To make our 70th anniversary a true transatlantic and synergetic event, we are proud to welcome two authors – one from this side of the Atlantic, one from the other – to accompany our festival and discussions on "Democratic Vistas"! Marie Malcovati from Freiburg and Jonathan Garfinkel from Toronto/Berlin will take pen to paper and produce spontaneous writings inspired by our festival program. Please join us at our Sunday matinee to listen to their reading and enjoy some good conversation with both writers and other guests at our reception to kick off our Sunday Open House!



Marie Malcovati studied theater and film in the UK, after which she completed a screenwriting degree at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. Her second novel was published this year by Edition Nautilus.



Jonathan Garfinkel is an award-winning poet, novelist, journalist, and playwright. His forthcoming novel about post-Soviet Georgia and the pro-democracy Rose Revolution, *In a Land Without Dogs the Cats Learn to Bark*, will be published by House of Anansi in North America, and by Rowohlt as *Platz der Freiheit* in spring 2023.



SHARING IDEAS FOR A TRANSATLANTIC FUTURE

15. Oktober 2022, 11.00-20.30 Uhr
📍 Aula, KG I der Universität Freiburg

#DemocraticVistasCSH

11:00

OPENING TALK & GESPRÄCH

The Plural Self: Thomas Mann, Walt Whitman, and Democracy

Prof. Dr. Kai Sina, Universität Münster
Moderation: Derk Janßen, Freiburg

In 1922, Thomas Mann delivered his speech “On the German Republic,” in which he – for the first time – publicly declared his support for democracy. It is a plea for the Weimar Republic that is as sober as it is forceful, which surprisingly, derives its inspiration from the American national poet, Walt Whitman. But what exactly attracted Mann to the *Democratic Vistas* and the *Leaves of Grass*? From Whitman, Mann learned that democracy is more than just a form of government. At stake is nothing less than the conditions of modern human existence.



Kai Sina is Professor of Modern German Literature and Comparative Literature with a focus on Transatlantic Literary History at the University of Münster, Germany. His publications include a work on “Susan Sontag und Thomas Mann”.



Derk Janßen is a literary publisher based in Freiburg. He publishes, among other things, the magazine *Sukzession*. Janßen is the winner of the Baden-Württemberg state prize for ambitious small literary publishers and lives and works in Freiburg.

12:15

IMPULSE

What Carl Schurz and Walt Whitman Teach Us About Today’s Struggle for Democracy

John Nichols, *The Nation*, Madison, WI

Democracy in Walt Whitman’s eyes was a glorious pageant. He saw elections as times of joy and celebration, writing of Election Day as a moment when the “final ballot-shower from East to West” was like “countless snow-flakes falling.” And he felt that joy as a still young American democracy experienced President Abraham Lincoln. But another associate of Lincoln, the German immigrant Carl Schurz, was far more worried about the threats to democracy that were posed by ambitious politicians, crude populists and authoritarians. Schurz was far less romantic. His was a practical vision of democracy, rooted in his experience as a German 48er. John Nichols, who has written extensively about both Whitman and Schurz, as well as the influence of the German, 48ers on American politics, will argue that we need both Whitman and Schurz to understand American democracy.



John Nichols is Washington correspondent for *The Nation*, political blogger, and author of several books, such as *The Fight for the Soul of the Democratic Party & Horsemen of the Trumpocalypse*. He is based in Freiburg’s sister city Madison, Wisconsin.

14:00

IMPULSE

Representation, Democracy, and Women

Mirrienne Mahn, Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, Frankfurt am Main

In the USA, a ruling by the Supreme Court has overturned the previously nationwide right to abortion. This does not make abortions illegal. From now on, however, individual U.S. states are free to permit, restrict or completely ban abortions. Shortly thereafter, in Germany, the so-called ban on advertising abortions was lifted with the abolishment of Section 219a in the Criminal Code, which was passed in the Bundestag.

The current legal situation with its requirements to be fulfilled entails many pitfalls in practice. It applies without there being a nationwide availability of counseling; nor are there enough doctors in all regions of Germany who perform abortions. What does the right to abortion have to do with democracy and what does that have to do with you?



Mirrienne Mahn is a political activist, city councilwoman of Frankfurt am Main and chairwoman of the Committee for Culture Science and Sport. She works as a diversity consultant and is committed to fighting against all forms of discrimination and for more diversity in all areas of life.

14:45

IMPULSE

A Continent at War: Russia, Ukraine, and the West

Joshua Yaffa, *The New Yorker*, Berlin

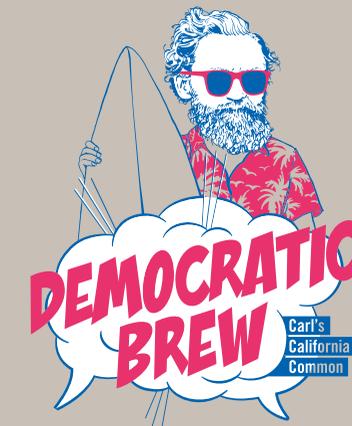
Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine last February, long-held assumptions about geopolitics and matters of war and peace in Europe have been upended. But the war has not gone as Vladimir Putin hoped, either. What does the conflict look like for the people of Ukraine, from civilians trapped under bombardment to newly enlisted soldiers? And what is the role for Western equipment and arms? Is victory for either side really possible? Joshua Yaffa, correspondent for *The New Yorker*, will address these questions based on his on-the-ground experience and impressions from Ukraine.



Joshua Yaffa is a journalist and foreign correspondent for *The New Yorker* and author of *Between Two Fires: Truth, Ambition and Compromise in Putin’s Russia*. He is based in Berlin, Germany.

13:00 LUNCH BREAK (no catering)

15:30 COFFEE BREAK (with catering)



Mit freundlicher Unterstützung von:



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