Thursday, September 27, 2018

Arrival during the day
Conference venue: Haus zur Lieben Hand der Universität Freiburg, Löwenstraße 16, 79098 Freiburg
15:00 Registration starts
16:00 Greeting Remarks
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Christian Mair,
English Department University of Freiburg
Welcome by the Conference Team
Uta Schroeder, Carl-Schurz-Haus Freiburg
Tanya R. Brothen and Dr. Martina Kohl,
U.S. Embassy Berlin
Angelica Cosso, German-American Institute Nürnberg
Keynote
Digital Schools – How Technology Can Transform Education
Darrell West
18:30 Welcome Reception and Dinner

Friday, September 28, 2018

Conference venue: Novotel Freiburg,
Am Konzerthaus, Konrad-Adenauer-Platz 2
79098 Freiburg
9:00 - 10:30 Digital Divides: Who Is Affected and What Can Be Done?
Bianca Reisdorf
Coffee
11:00 - 12:30 The Future of Work
Darrell West
Lunch
13:45 - 15:15 Book and Movie Talk
Imagining the Future in (Young Adult) Fiction and Film
Amy Benfer and Martina Kohl
16:00 Guided City Tour
Evening free (no dinner served)
Saturday, September 29, 2018

Conference venue: Novotel Freiburg
9 - 10:30 Book Frenemies: How Social Media Polarizes America
Jaime Settle
11:00 - 12:30 Election Update – The Midterms 2018. A Discussion
Darrell West
Lunch
14:00 - 15:00 Discussion Groups
1. Teaching and Writing About Fiction
Holly-Jane Rahlens & Amy Benfer
2. Social Media and the Digital Divide
Bianca Reisdorf & Jaime Settle
3. Preparing Students for a Digital Society
Darrell West
Coffee
15:30 - 16:30 Repeat Discussion Groups
1. Teaching and Writing About Fiction
Holly-Jane Rahlens/Amy Benfer
2. Social Media and the Digital Divide
Bianca Reisdorf/Jaime Settle
3. Preparing Students for a Digital Society
Darrell West
17:00 Concluding Panel Discussion with all faculty
Moderator Tanya R. Brothen
18:30 Farewell Dinner
Sunday, September 30, 2018

Departure after breakfast
Amy Benfer
Journalist and Writer, New York - Berlin

Amy Benfer is a writer and editor formerly based in San Francisco and New York City, now based in Berlin where she teaches nonfiction writ-
ing with the Berlin Writers’ Work-
shop. A graduate of Wesleyan University, she began her career at
and essays have appeared in
The Believer, Mother Jones, The
Review Daily, ABC News, Bloomberg
Businessweek, Glamour, and Elr. Since moving to Berlin in 2015, she fre-
quently writes on European bands for Bandcamp Daily.

Dr. Darrell West
Vice President and Director of Governance Studies, Brookings Institution, Washington D.C.

quently writes on European bands for Bandcamp Daily.

Dr. Blanca C. Reisdorf
Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Blanca (Bibi) Reisdorf joined the University of North Carolina in the summer of 2018. Previous positions included Postdoctoral Research Fel-
low at the Quello Center, Michigan State University, Lecturer and Direc-
tor of Distance Learning in the Department of Media and Communication at the University of Leicester in the UK with a focus in digital media and research methods, and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Communication at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Reisdorf’s research interests include digital inequalities and policies, Internet use among vulnerable groups, and cross-national comparative studies that apply both qualitative and quantitative methods. She has been involved in the research project “Access Denied: A Qualitative Study of Inadequate Broadband Access in Rural Britain” (http://rural.ac.uk/) and she cur-
rently is developing a new study on the consequences of lack of Internet access in prisons for ex-convicts in their rehabilitation process. Dr. Reis-
dorf received her Ph.D. degree in Information, Communication and the Social Sciences at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, in 2012, having completed an M.A. in Sociology at the University of Bielefeld, Germany, in 2008.

Dr. Jaime Settle
Associate Professor in the Government Department, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia

Dr. Jaime Settle received her B.A. in Political Science from the University of Richmond and her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Cali-
si0 at San Diego. She is the director of the Social Networks and Political Psychology Lab and co-director of the Social Science Research Methods Center. Dr. Settle teaches courses on various aspects of American politics, focusing primarily on topics related to political behavior, psychology, and communication. Her book manuscript, Frenemies: How Social Media Polar-
izes America, was published in 2016. It explores the effect of social media communication on our polarized attitudes about the people with whom we disagree politically. In another book, she has used large-scale data-
est derived from online social networks (such as Facebook) to refine an understanding of the effects of our social network on how we think, feel and behave politically. She also strives to incorporate data and methods from the natural sciences into her research to help explain fundamental aspects of political behavior, such as the influences on the way people talk about politics. Her work has been published in Nature, the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Journal of Political Science, the Journal of Politics, Political Behavior, Political Psychology, and Political Science Research and Methods.

Holly-Jane Rahlens
Author and Journalist, Berlin

Holly-Jane Rahlens, a born New Yorker, grew up in Brooklyn and Queens and graduated from Queens College. She moved to Berlin soon after, where she has lived virtually all her adult life. While remaining an American citizen, she has flourished in the German media world, working in radio, television, and film as an actress, producer and commenta-
tor as well as creating a series of highly-praised one-woman shows. She writes fiction for readers of all ages. In 2003 her first novel for teens, Prince William, Maximilian Minsky and Me, earned the prestigious Deutscher Jugendbuchpreis as the best young adult novel published in Germany. Soon after, the novel was published in its original English by Candlewick Press. In 2006 the Association of Jewish Libraries named it a Sydney Taylor Award. Her book was translated into several other languages and was adapted in 2007 into the motion picture Max Minsky and Me (screen-
play: Holly-Jane Rahlens), which has garnered praise and awards around the world.

(Author photo by Niki Barros)