

Seventh Berlin Program Summer Workshop

June 27 – 29, 2018

Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies

Freie Universität Berlin

Call for Papers (due February 15, 2018)

## Strange Bedfellows / Unexpected Allies

Keynote Speaker:

Mary Lindemann

German Studies Association President 2017-2018

Professor and Chair, Department of History, University of Miami

From de Gaulle to Khrushchev, from the Christian Democrats to displaced refugees, from Putin to Trump, from the drag queen Olivia Jones to right-wing politician Frauke Petry, politics can make for “surprising partnerships.” It was William Shakespeare who wrote in *The Tempest* that “Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows.” Both in Germany and beyond, the recent past has been experienced as a disorienting period by many. Debates about post-truth, post-liberalism, and post-humanism reflect seismic cultural shifts and pose the question whether we have entered a new political era. Thus, the phrase “politics makes strange bedfellows” captures our own *Zeitgeist* in most succinct fashion.

These are perplexing times to be certain. But peculiar alliances or combinations are common in a variety of historical and political contexts as well as in a diverse array of cultural and artistic engagements. The Berlin Program Summer Workshop 2018 invites contributions from scholars, artists, representatives of cultural institutions, and engaged others on the topic of “strange bedfellows” as well as “unexpected allies.”

This workshop seeks to advance critical reflection on these phenomena, their usefulness and potential limits as narrative devices in a broad array of disciplines that intersect with German Studies, including Anthropology, Art History, Film Studies, Gender Studies, History, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology. Possible topics include, but are by no means limited to:

- Studies of individuals, collectives or networks engaged in alliance building in contemporary or historical context
- Unexpected coalitions in political, economic, or social contexts
- Histories of political realignment
- Cultural expressions of unexpected solidarity
- Analyses of unexpected social integration of diverse groups
- Anthropological studies of subcultural group interactions
- Studies in linguistic transformations informed by unusual circumstances
- Aesthetic objects bridging unanticipated terrain
- Technical developments or emerging media forms bridging divides
- Theoretical approaches to collaborations among political, social, cultural “odd couples”

**FORMAT:** The event serves as a forum for Berlin Program fellows and alumni, but invites participation of all other scholars. During the workshop, scholars will present for ten minutes on papers that participants will have read prior to the workshop. A substantial period of time will be reserved at the end of the panels for discussion of the papers.

**APPLICATION & DEADLINE:** Please submit **one PDF file containing a 250-word abstract and a two-page CV** by **February 15, 2018** to [bprogram@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:bprogram@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

**REQUIREMENTS:** Presenters are required to submit a 25-page paper or an existing publication of similar length and a one-page bio for circulation to workshop participants by **May 31, 2018**. All workshop participants are asked to read these submissions prior to the workshop. A selection of two or three optional background readings may also be circulated.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR BACKGROUND READINGS:** Presenters will be invited to suggest one text (max. 25 pages) for the optional background reading list.

### **WORKSHOP TIMELINE**

- Feb 15:** Deadline abstract (250 words) and two-page CV (in one pdf file)
- March 15:** Notification of acceptance or rejection emailed
- April 15:** Circulation of our preliminary program
- May 31:** Deadline for full-length essays (max. 25 pages) and bio (one page max)
- Early June:** Essays distributed to workshop participants

**WORKSHOP VENUE** is the Freie Universität Berlin, Ehrenbergstr. 26/28, 14195 Berlin.

**WORKSHOP LANGUAGE** is English

**TECH SUPPORT:** The workshop is equipped with a beamer and computer. Technical assistance will be present.

**FEES:** Participation in the workshop is free of charge.

**COFFEE BREAKS & LUNCH** will be provided and served at the venue.

**TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION:** Participants are responsible for organizing and paying for their travel and accommodation. We encourage participants to seek funding from their home institutions or alternative sources to cover these costs. Detailed information on logistical matters (hotels, public transport, etc.) will be provided to the participants with the draft program.

### **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

- Dr. Deborah Barton | Université de Montréal
- Dr. Jeremy DeWaal | Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
- Karin Goihl | Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin Program
- Dr. Thomas Haakenson | California College of the Arts
- Dr. Carol Hager | Bryn Mawr College

The Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies promotes North American scholars in the humanities and the social sciences working on dissertation or postdoctoral research projects on Germany and/or Europe. In close cooperation with our North American partner, the German Studies Association, our Summer Workshop and other events offer opportunities to engage with timely topics and strengthen ties between the program and scholars working in these fields.

[www.fu-berlin.de/bprogram](http://www.fu-berlin.de/bprogram)