

**ERP Workshop**  
**Think Tanks and Foundations in the Transatlantic World – Past, Present and Future**  
(Updated: November 28, 2010)

Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA), December 3-4, 2010

**REGISTRATION:** Matthias Kutsch, [mkutsch@hca.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:mkutsch@hca.uni-heidelberg.de)

Think tanks and foundations can be important non-state players in global and national politics. Next to governments, parliaments and representatives of corporate interests, non-governmental study and discussion groups, think tanks and foundations have become important players in the transatlantic world. Think tanks and foundations organize transatlantic dialogues and try to contribute to the preparation of the decision-making process of national governments as well as of trans- and supranational bodies in the Atlantic world. Our workshop will scan these actors and their activities on both sides of the Atlantic as well as in different policy areas, analyze their role in transatlantic relations and evaluate some of their more recent contributions to transatlantic dialogue.

The conference has three objectives: Our first objective is to provide a thorough analysis of the role of think tanks and foundations on both sides of the Atlantic. Second, we would like to examine the role of think tanks, foundations and related non-state actors in transatlantic relations past, present and future. Third, we will discuss and evaluate actual contributions selected think tanks and foundations on transatlantic, European and American issues. In addition, the conference will include a lecture with discussion by Steven Hill based on his recent book *“Europe’s Promise: Why the European Way is the Best Hope in an Insecure Age.”*

**Friday, December 3, 2010**

**9:00 – 10:00 Registration and Coffee**

**10:00 Opening Remarks**

**10:30 – 12:00**

*Session I: Divergence or Convergence? The Role of Think Tanks and Foundations on both Sides of the Atlantic*

R. Kent Weaver (Georgetown University and Brookings Institution)  
“The Brookings Institution and Think Tanks in the United States”

Josef Braml (German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin)  
“Denkfabriken/Think Tanks in Germany”

**12:00 – 13:30**

*Lunch break*

Active workshop participants are invited for lunch at the Old Heidelberg restaurant Goldener Hecht (Golden Pike) <http://www.goldener-hecht-heidelberg.eu/>

**13:30 – 15:00**

***Session II: How Think Tanks and Foundations Matter or Do not Matter on both Sides of the Atlantic***

Donald Abelson (University of Western Ontario, London, Ont.)  
“Think Tanks and American Foreign Policy”

Monika Sus (University of Wroclaw)  
The Role of (Foreign Policy / EU) Think Tanks in Central and Eastern Europe

**15:00 – 15:30**

*Coffee Break*

**15:30 – 17:00**

***Session III: Speaking Truth to Power or Experiencing the Truth of Power? The Role of Non-State Actors such as Think Tanks, Foundations and Academic Institutions in Transatlantic Relations***

Nicole Renvert (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik)  
“The Role of Corporate and Political Foundations in the Transatlantic World / in Transatlantic Relations”

Anneke von Raggamby (Ecologic Institute, Berlin and Washington DC.)  
“Environmental Think Tanks in Europe (Brussels) and Germany”

**17:00 – 18:00**

*Recreation Break*

**18:00 – 19:30**

**Public Evening Lecture**

Steven Hill, (San Francisco), Author and Consultant on his Book  
***“Europe’s Promise: Why the European Way is the Best Hope in an Insecure Age”***  
University of California Press 2010.

*Discussion with the Author*

**19:30**

*Reception*

**Saturday, December 4, 2010**

**9.30 – 12.00**

*Session IV: More Perspectives on Think Tanks and Foundations in the Transatlantic World*

Stephan Scheuer (German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin)

The Professionalization of Chinese International Relations Think Tank and Their View of the Transatlantic West

Steven Hill (Former Director, Political Reform Program, New America Foundation)

Centrist and Progressive Think Tanks in the United States

Wolfgang Tönnemann (Atlantic Academy, Rhineland-Palatinate, Kaiserslautern)

Between Public Education and Initiating Expert Dialogue: the Role of the Atlantic Academy

**12:00 – 13:30**

*Lunch Break*

**13:30 – 15:00**

*Session V: Open Discussion and Conclusion*

Invited/Expected Participants:

Most conference speakers, HCA staff and other experts

**15:00 End of Workshop**