AUTHORITY AND TRUST IN AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Annual Conference of the Political Science Section of the German Association for American Studies (GAAS/DGfA)

June 6-8, 2024
DAY 1 – THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024
06:00 pm, Welcome and Opening Keynote Address
On the Democratic Duty to Trust the People
Robert Frega, French National Scientific
Research Center (CNRS)
in cooperation with the Graduiertenkolleg “Authority and Trust”
(GKAT). Followed by a reception at the HCA.

DAY 2 – FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024
08:45 – 09:00 am, Welcome
09:00 – 10:30 am, Panel 1
Authority and Trust in American Media and
the Digital Sphere
Chair: Sarah Wagner

Mike Cowburn (Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)) –
Blasting the Elephant: Reconceptualizing Right-Wing “Alternative
News” as Republican “Digital Surrogates”

Matt Sheedy (University of Bonn) – Remixed Spirituallties and
the Gurus who Shape Them: On the Authority of Popular Digital
Influencers

Caroline Leicht (University of Southampton) – #WomenWin –
How Gendered Representations of Candidates in Political Satire
Affect Public Discourse during US Presidential Elections

Christoph Rosa (Free University Berlin) – Partisanship and news
media consumption as moderators of the COVID 19 pandemic’s
impact on mental health in America

10:30 – 11:00 am, Coffee Break
11:00 am – 12:30 pm, Panel 2
Authority and Trust in the Supreme Court,
Justice System, and the Role of Polarization
Chair: Michael Dreyer

Sebastian Dregger (University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt) – The
US Supreme Court as Guardian of the Constitution – Losing
“Authority” (as understood by Hannah Arendt)?

Sofie Sabbioni (University of Basel) – “Fuck the government
and the corrupt justice system”: Distrust and Rejection of State
Authority in U.S. American Far-Right Fiction

Manfred Berg (Heidelberg University) – Gun Rights and
Polarization

01:30 – 03:00 pm, Panel 3
American Authority in the World
Chair: David Sirakov

Marcus Dietrich (Heidelberg University) – In the Dollar we
(must) trust? A socialist perspective on the emergence of
international finance

Jan Hornat (Charles University Prague) – State responsibilization
and the reproduction of the liberal international order: the US
and the appeals of status recognition

Eva Rieger (University of Passau) – Bigotry, bombs, and burkas –
Contestations of feminism in US foreign policy

Richard Lange (Heidelberg University) – How Distrust in Europe
Changed American Global Authority - Anti-Europeanism and EU-
criticism in United States Foreign Policy after the Cold War

03:00 – 03:30 pm, Coffee Break

03:30 – 05:00 pm, Panel 4
Domestic Division, Foreign Policy Volatility, and
International Trust of U.S. Global Authority
Chairs: Florian Böller, Gordon Friedrichs

Julia Simon (University of Bremen) – The transatlantic transfer
of domestic divisions: Anti-Wokeness as right-wing civilizational
populism

Hubert Zimmermann (University of Marburg) – Ending the
Forever Wars: Discourse Coalitions in U.S. Debates on Military
Intervention Abroad

Jakob Wiedekind (Leibniz Universität Hannover) – Shifting
Tides: Patterns of Lawmaking in US Foreign Policy

Gordon Friedrichs (MPIL Heidelberg), Florian Böller (RPTU
Kaiserslautern-Landau) – Does Anybody Care? Grasping the
Effect of Domestic Polarization on U.S. International Relations

05:00 – 05:30 pm, Coffee Break

05:30 – 07:00 pm, Keynote II
Authority and Trust in the Age of Social Media and AI:
What to Expect in the Super-Election Year of 2024
Ulrike Klinger, Europa Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)/
Slubice

8.00 pm, Conference dinner for conference participants
at Urban Kitchen

DAY 3 – SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024
09:00 – 9:45 am, Business Meeting

10:00 am – 11:30 am, Panel 5
Authority and Trust in the GOP, Conservatism, and
Radicalization
Chair: Martin Thunert

Philipp Adorf (University of Bonn) – The Party of the Working
Class or the Party of White Nationalism? The Composition of the
GOP in the Trump Era

Zoe Krueger Weisel (Euarc Research, Bozen) – Conservatives
and science: Understanding U.S. conservatives’ growing distrust
in science

Grit Grigoleit-Richter (University of Passau) – The Racial Trust
Gap

11:30 – 11:45 am, Coffee Break

11:45 am – 01:15 pm, Panel 6
Democracy and the Question of Scale
Chair: Christian Lammert

Dirk Jörke (TU Darmstadt) – The Federalism of the Anti-
Federalists

Ewa Atanassow (Bard College, Berlin) – Tocqueville’s dilemmas,
and ours

Laura Kettel (Aarhus University) – State Level Incentives in
Housing Policy

Boris Vormann (Bard College, Berlin), Christian Lammert (Free
University Berlin) – Authority, Legitimacy, and Scale

01:15 pm, Concluding Remarks

01:30 pm, Light Lunch and End of Conference