

Development and Funding

In 2002, an interdisciplinary group of Heidelberg professors and administrators began working toward the establishment of the HCA. The HCA opened its first office in the spring of 2003 and was officially inaugurated as a central academic institution of Heidelberg University in October 2004. Simultaneously, the first class of the M.A. in American Studies program enrolled.



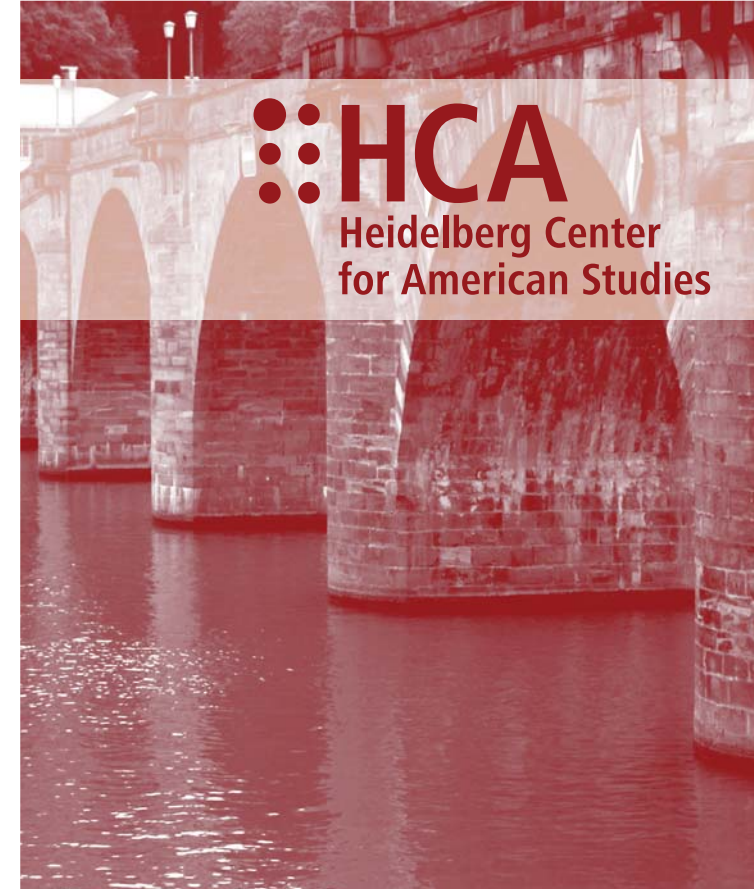
In May 2006, the HCA moved into its home, the Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais. Just steps away from the university's downtown campus, this 300 year old baroque townhouse with a modern annex offers perfect working conditions as well as a welcoming atmosphere for students, scholars, and the public.

Public as well as generous private funding was crucial in establishing the HCA and continues to be essential for the academic excellence of our programs and the quality of our public outreach. Please contact us to find out how you can support the HCA.

HCA
Heidelberg Center
for American Studies

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HCA
Heidelberg Center
for American Studies

American Studies at Heidelberg

An Interdisciplinary Center
at Germany's Oldest University



Ruprecht-Karls-Universität
Heidelberg, est. 1386



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HCA Profile

Founded in 2004, the HCA has become one of the leading centers for American Studies in Europe. A central research and teaching institution at the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg, Germany's oldest university, it serves as an institute for higher education, a center for interdisciplinary research, and a forum for public debate. The Ruperto Carola, founded 630 years ago, combines a tradition of academic excellence, high international reputation, and a strong record in the study of the United States and thus constitutes the ideal environment for the HCA.



At the HCA, the U.S. related research of six university faculties and more than half a dozen disciplines converges, offering a unique range of expertise: American literature and culture, geography, history, political science, theology, sociology, and U.S. constitutional law. Building on long-standing ties between Heidelberg and the United States, the HCA fosters interdisciplinary and intercultural exchange across the Atlantic.

An Institute for Higher Education

Academic programs at the HCA provide and impart the knowledge needed to understand the politics, culture, economy, and society of the United States of America. HCA graduates profit from their interdisciplinary and intercultural education and are well qualified to work as experts on the United States in academic institutions, the civil service, private enterprise, the media, or non-profit organizations.

In 2004, the HCA launched its Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) program, a three semester interdisciplinary English-language program that targets qualified graduate students from around the world. MAS participants benefit both from excellent teaching provided by internationally renowned scholars and from an interdisciplinary approach which meets the needs of future leaders.

In 2006, the HCA added a three year structured Ph.D. in American Studies program to its educational portfolio.

In 2010, the HCA started a B.A. program in American Studies (BAS), which admits up to 25 students annually and offers a research-oriented teaching program with an emphasis on intensive mentoring.

Between 2004 and 2015, students from 44 countries on five continents have enrolled in our programs. All classes in the MAS and Ph.D. programs are held in English as are the majority of classes in the BAS.

A Center for Interdisciplinary Research

As a center for interdisciplinary research, the HCA provides the intellectual and organizational setting for international and interdisciplinary research projects as well as for individual research. The HCA serves as a home for its resident and its visiting scholars and hosts international conferences, symposia, workshops, and seminars. Each year 20 outstanding Ph.D. students from (mostly) European and American universities present their projects at the HCA Spring Academy, a one-week conference.



A Forum for Public Debate

As a forum for public debate, the HCA facilitates communication among academia and the general public. Since 2007, the spring and fall semesters of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar bring distinguished academics, journalists, artists, and public policy makers to the state to present their current work. In addition, the HCA organizes individual lectures as well as debates, panel discussions, and exhibitions.