



Transnational Relations: Past Present and Future

Call for Papers

31st Annual Conference for the Postgraduate Forum (PGF) of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA)

The PGF has held an annual conference by and for emerging scholars since its inception in 1989. This year's conference, on the theme of **Transnational Relations**, will be organized by PGF Team members from the **University of Stuttgart** and the **German Historical Institute** in Washington DC, and will take place from **Thursday, December 2, 2021 – Friday, December 3, 2021**.

Theme

The statue of liberty, sitting as it does on Ellis Island, where immigrants first landed to become residents of the United States between 1892 and 1954, remains a striking image for representing the transnational aspect of the United States and its various peoples, as well as the diasporic nature of the United States as a country and as a people in general. Indeed, it is safe to say that the United States, as an offspring of British colonies that was midwived by the labor of African slaves and immigrants from all over the world, is by its very nature, a transnational country; and despite efforts at times and by certain ideologues to clamor for an American isolationism, there can be no United States without this transnational dimension.

Thus, while American Studies as an area of critical study began as a primarily American endeavor, recent trends in American studies have expanded into questions as to how American Studies can be understood and enriched from international perspectives, and especially from a broadly transnational perspective.

In the 2020 Postgraduate Forum (PGF) Conference of the DGfA (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Amerikanstudien), we are interested in papers from graduate students exploring this transnational aspect of American Studies. Papers dealing with any aspect of the transnational in American Studies, past, present or future are welcome, as we attempt to re-evaluate American values, history,

literature, culture, religion and people from a multi-faceted perspective. To that end, we are looking for a diverse group of projects, from those that work as chapters from dissertations, to papers that are works-in-progress of larger or ongoing projects, as well as papers that can stand alone as completed research projects.

Possible topics can include, but are not limited to: looking at the United States through the lens of European society; the United States' history of transnational slave transport; recent historical developments in transnational relations such as NATO, European/American relations and European/Middle Eastern relations; American isolationism from a transnational perspective; transnational immigration to and from the United States; transnational media studies; and how the Digital Humanities has and will continue to affect the way we understand Transnational American Studies.

With this topic, "Transnational Relations: Past Present and Future" we hope to open a stimulating discussion of the way American Studies has expanded in recent years to include European, Middle Eastern, Hispanic, Asian and African voices and beyond, and look not just to the past, but also to the future of this ever-expanding and exciting field of study.

We are happy to accept **abstracts of up to 300 words** for both poster presentations and paper presentations. **Paper presentations should run no longer than fifteen minutes.** Because the conference is being planned as a hybrid online/in-person event, poster presentations will be conducted using [Gather.town](https://gather.town). Please get abstracts to us at pqf@dgfa.de by **October 15, 2021**.