

RINGVORLESUNG WS 2012/13

WORLD AT RISK:

RISK SCENARIOS AND/IN CULTURAL STUDIES



“We live in the age of unintended consequences.” This is how sociologist Ulrich Beck defines the emergence of the “world risk society,” a type of society characterized by processes of modernization and globalization that have produced risks – technological, environmental, financial risks, for instance – that are no longer fully calculable and have therefore changed societies worldwide. The lecture series “World at Risk: Risk Scenarios and/in Cultural Studies” starts out from this insight but shifts its focus on the meaning of risk for various cultural practices.

The lectures acknowledge that risk scenarios communicated in language, in literary texts (both fictional and non-fictional), in music, body art performance, in film, and in the martial arts play a central role in various risk discourses. Due to their often wide distribution and easy accessibility they have a much stronger impact than, for instance, scientific texts in terms of making risks concrete, suggesting solutions how to deal with them, but also in terms of addressing the spectacle, shock, and threat linked to them. Approaching risk from various disciplines in the field of cultural studies, the single lectures investigate various risk scenarios to show how cultures shape risks and are in turn shaped by them.

Organisation: Professuren Amerikanische Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft (Prof. Cortiel, Prof. Mayer), Fachgruppe MusikTheater (Prof. Ernst, Prof. Mungen), Bayreuth Institute for American Studies (BIFAS)

November 7

Sylvia Mayer (Amerikanistik)

From Narratives of Catastrophe to Narratives of Risk: The Emergence of the Climate Change Novel

November 14

Jeanne Cortiel (Amerikanistik)

Technological Risk and American Popular Culture: Dystopian Visions in Film and Graphic Narrative

November 21

Phil McNaghten (Geographie, Durham University, UK)

Living the Global Social Experiment: An Analysis of Public Discourse on Geoengineering

November 28

entfällt

December 5

Martin J. Meyer (Sportwissenschaften)

Transcultural Development of Risky Behaviour in K1 and UFC Martial Arts Events

December 12

Gabriele Sommer (Afrikanistik, Linguistik)

Languages at Risk? Insights into Language Diversity and Language Shift in Africa

December 19

Wolf Ernst (Theaterwissenschaft)

Global Risk Embodied - Joseph Beuys' Performance of Ecocriticism

January 9

Anno Mungen (Musiktheater)

Voices at Risk!?

January 16

Susanne Lachenicht (Geschichte, Frühe Neuzeit)

Risk and Risk Assessment in the Early Modern Atlantic World

January 23

Jürgen E. Müller (Medienwissenschaften)

The 'Euro Crisis' and the Media: Risks, Networks, Remediations, and Social Functions

January 30

Kyung-Ho Cha (Germanistik)

The Poetics of Risk