

We are all democrats now. Yet concerns over the future viability of democracy pervade scholarly and public controversies. Today, the social sciences dominate the domain of democratic theory. In contrast, the humanities have contributed little to our understanding of democracy's fragile and contingent nature in the past and in the present. Against this background, the workshop aims to strengthen the role of the humanities in scholarly exchanges over the meaning, the fragility and the contingency of democracy as a way of life.

The focus is not on the content of content, i.e. democratic ideas in democratic polities, but on the content of form. The workshop therefore invites conversations about the democratic content of aesthetic forms, styles, and manners. It aims to revise Walter Benjamin's argument that an aestheticization of politics gives rise to fascism as well as to rethink our understanding of aesthetics and the political generally. The workshop focuses on the question if there are forms of political aesthetics, as opposed to aestheticized politics, that are democratic rather than authoritarian.

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**In cooperation with**

Canada Research Chair in German and European Studies  
Centre canadien d'études allemandes et européennes  
Université de Montréal

**FURTHER EVENTS SUMMERTERM 2014**

25.06.2014 – Workshop  
**Urban Green**



Université   
de Montréal



# **FORMS, STYLE, AND MANNERS: DEMOCRACY AS A WAY OF LIFE**

WORKSHOP 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2014



# FORMS, STYLE, AND MANNERS: DEMOCRACY AS A WAY OF LIFE

## WORKSHOP 2<sup>ND</sup>-4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>

VENUE INTERNATIONALES KOLLEG MORPHOMATA

#### OPENING NIGHT

- 18.30 DIETRICH BOSCHUNG (ARCHEOLOGY) COLOGNE  
Welcome Address
- 18.45 JOHANNES VON MOLTKE (FILM STUDIES) ANN ARBOR  
Introductory Comments “Movie-Made Democracy”
- 19.15 FILM SCREENING  
“The Searchers” Directed by John Ford / USA 1956

### THURSDAY, JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>

VENUE HAUS DER FRITZ THYSSEN STIFTUNG

- 09.30 TILL VAN RAHDEN (HISTORY) MONTREAL  
Introduction

#### MATERIALS AND MEDIA

- 10.00 Introductory Remarks  
LEORA AUSLANDER (MATERIAL STUDIES AND HISTORY) CHICAGO  
NATALIE SCHOLZ (MATERIAL STUDIES AND HISTORY) AMSTERDAM  
Comments  
SUSANNE SCHREGEL (HISTORY) COLOGNE  
JAKOB TANNER (HISTORY) ZURICH
- 13.00 Lunch break

#### VOICES AND VISTAS

- 15.00 Introductory Remarks  
JENNIFER EVANS (HISTORY AND VISUAL CULTURE) OTTAWA  
PATRICIA HAYES (VISUAL HISTORY) CAPE TOWN  
Comments  
GRACE HALE (HISTORY AND MUSICOLOGY) CHARLOTTESVILLE  
RALPH JESSEN (HISTORY) COLOGNE

### FRIDAY, JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>

VENUE HAUS DER FRITZ THYSSEN STIFTUNG

#### RITUALS AND RHYTHMS

- 10.00 Introductory Remarks  
PETRA RETHMANN (ANTHROPOLOGY) HAMILTON, ON  
NIELS WERBER (GERMAN STUDIES) SIEGEN  
Comments  
BARBARA THÉRIAULT (SOCIOLOGY) MONTREAL  
ULRIKE LINDNER (HISTORY) COLOGNE

- 13.00 Lunch break

#### HIGH AND LOW

- 15.00 Introductory Remarks  
KARIN BAUER (GERMAN STUDIES) MONTREAL  
PETER NIESEN (POLITICAL THEORY) HAMBURG  
Comments  
CHRISTIAN GEULEN (MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY)  
KOBLENZ  
KERSTIN SCHMIDT (AMERICAN STUDIES) EICHSTÄTT

#### CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

- 17.30 Introductory Remarks:  
PATRICIA HAYES (VISUAL HISTORY) CAPE TOWN  
JAKOB TANNER (MODERN HISTORY) ZURICH  
GRACE HALE (HISTORY AND MUSICOLOGY) CHARLOTTESVILLE

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formerly the Amerika Haus Köln  
Apostelnkloster 13-15  
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**Concept** Till van Rahden, Dietrich Boschung

Participants are asked to register with:  
**Contact** Larissa Förster (larissa.foerster[at]uni-koeln.de)

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