

# Humboldt-Kolleg at Yale University

FRIDAY (Day 1)

9:00am - 9:30am *Coffee and Breakfast*

**WELCOME and INTRODUCTION:** Jennifer Allen, Tilman Venzl, Kirk Wetters  
9:30am - 10:00am

## PANEL 1 – DEMOCRATIC LITERATURE BEFORE DEMOCRACY

10:00am - 12:15pm Moderation: Sophie Schweiger

**Patrick Fortmann** (University of Illinois Chicago):  
Tribunals of Sovereignty: Democratizing Drama in the German Enlightenment

**Vanessa Gubbins** (Cornell University):  
Hölderlin's Democratic Proposal: A People Only in a Poem

**Martin Schneider** (Hamburg University):  
Against or With Each Other: Liberal Aesthetics in Popular German Drama, 1789–1848

12:15pm - 1:30pm *Lunch Break*

## PANEL 2 – LITERATURE AND THE FIRST WAVE OF DEMOCRACY

1:30pm - 3:45pm Moderation: Kirk Wetters

**Hedwig Richter** (University of the Bundeswehr Munich):  
Solidarity and Democratization: The Scandalization of Poverty in German Literature and the Press in the Mid-19th Century

**Tilman Venzl** (LMU Munich):  
The “Democratic Worldview” in Theodor Fontane's *The Stechlin*

**Margarete Tiessen** (TU Chemnitz):  
Staging 'German Freedom': Wilhelmine Democrats and the Theatres of Berlin, 1894–1912

3:45pm - 4:15pm *Coffee Break*

## PANEL 3 – LITERATURE AND THE FIRST WAVE OF DEMOCRACY, BEYOND GERMANY

4:15pm - 6:30pm Moderation: Carlos Spoerhase

**Leander Møller Gøttcke** (University of Southern Denmark Odense):  
Henrik Pontoppidan and the Democratization of Denmark

**Joseph Haydt** (University of Chicago):  
The Democratic Personality: Origins, Ideals, and Virtues in Mark Twain's *Connecticut Yankee*

**Joel A. Johnson** (Augustana University Sioux Falls):  
Polishing Imperial Floors with Republican Feet: William Dean Howells's Fictional Travelogue of Wilhelmine Germany

7:30pm *Dinner for Conference Participants*

March 31 & April 1 2023, HQ 136 | 320 York Street

Writing Democracy

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**SATURDAY (Day 2)**

9:00am - 9:30am *Coffee and Breakfast*

**Tilman Venzl and Kirk Wetters:**

Presentation of funding opportunities of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

## **PANEL 4 – UNSETTLED DEMOCRACY IN LITERATURE**

9:30am - 11:45am Moderation: Tilman Venzl

**Carlos Spoerhase** (LMU Munich):

Heinrich Heine's Politics of Suspicious Reading

**Matthias Löwe** (Leipzig University):

Plural Self: Thomas Mann's Democratic Writing Before and After First World War

**Benedikt Wintgens** (Commission for the History of Parliamentarism and Political Parties Berlin):

Somber Reflections: Wolfgang Koeppen's *Treibhaus* Novel and West German Democracy

11:45am - 1:00pm *Lunch Break*

## **PANEL 5 – DEMOCRACY ON THE MARCH OR IN CRISIS?**

1:00pm - 3:15pm Moderation: Jennifer Allen

**Heinz Drügh** (Goethe University Frankfurt):

The Systematic Intersection of Aesthetics and the Democratic 'Lebensform'

**Kirk Wetters** (Yale University):

The Chariot of Plutus: Power and Plutocracy in Sokurov's *Faust*

**Oluwole Coker** (Potsdam University):

"The Owners of Nigeria": Portraits of Post-Military Democrats in Recent Nigerian Fiction

3:15pm - 3:45pm *Coffee Break*

## **PANEL 6 – ACTIVISM AND DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE**

3:45pm - 6:00 pm Moderation: Rüdiger Campe

**Cecilia Sebastian** (Yale University):

On Democracy's Dialectic: Dissident Legacies of the Frankfurt School

**Jürgen Brokoff** (FU Berlin):

Conversation, Dialogue, Dispute: Christa Wolf's Concept of the Democratic Public Sphere

**Jennifer Allen** (Yale University):

A Politics of Small Steps: The Art of Grassroots Democracy in Late Twentieth-Century Germany

6:00pm *End of the Humboldt-Kolleg*