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## **Democracy and its Limits**

### **The United States in Perspective**

Annual Conference of  
The Political Science Section of the German Association for American Studies

Date: November 5-6, 2020

Location: Online - Webex-based;

Links will be shared after registration and shortly before the respective event

Please register for free [here](#) until noon (CET) November 1, 2020

Co-hosted by  
Bard College Berlin  
John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin

With the friendly support of  
Atlantische Akademie  
Philipp Schwartz Initiative

Organizers: Aysuda Kölemen, Christian Lammert, David Sirakov & Boris Vormann

Questions? Please contact [politics@jfki.fu-berlin.de](mailto:politics@jfki.fu-berlin.de)

#Limits2Democracy

#GAASPolSci20

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**Thursday, November 5**

**15:00-16:30**

**Opening Remarks & Panel 1: Trump in Power: Illiberalism and Democracy**

Chair: Betsy Leimbigler (Freie Universität Berlin)

**Michael Weinman** (Bard College Berlin): A Passing Storm? American Illiberalism and the 2020 Elections

**Jörg Hebenstreit** (Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena): Independence under Threat – Attempts of Expanding Presidential Supervisory Authority over Independent Agencies under the Trump Administration

**Michael Dreyer** (Friedrich-Schiller Universität Jena): Packing the Courts? Donald Trump, Checks and Balances, and the “Least Dangerous Branch”

**Elena Broda** (Universität Passau): Perfect Phone Call or Abuse of Power? How Ideological Media Framed Trump’s Impeachment

**17:00-18:30**

**Panel 2: Fake News, Social Media, and Political Communication**

Chair: Gülçin Balamir Coşkun (Humboldt Universität Berlin)

**Maren Schäfer** (Heidelberg Center for American Studies): “Totally Compromised Kangaroo Courts” and the “Fake News Media” – Donald Trump’s Anti-Democratic Right-Wing Populist Rhetoric

**Curd Knüpfer** (Freie Universität Berlin) and **Michael Oswald** (Universität Passau): Tapping the Sphere of Deviance: Right-wing News Sites as a Peripheral Network to the Trump-Fox News Information Nexus

**Mike Cowburn** (Freie Universität Berlin): Republican Legislator Adoption of the Fake News Label on Twitter

**Martin Thunert** (Heidelberg Center for American Studies): (Dis)Trust of Experts and Contemporary Populism: The Case of the United States in Perspective

**19:30-21:00**

**Assessing the Elections**

Panel Chair: David Sirakov (Atlantische Akademie)

**Sean Theriault** (University of Texas): Congressional Elections: What Happened and Why?

**Rachel Bitecofer** (Niskanen Center): Negative Partisanship in the 2020 American Election

**Friday, November 6**

**10:00-11:30**

**Business Meeting of the Politics Section**

**13:30 -14:45**

**Panel 3: The New Normal? International Relations under Trump**

Panel Chair: Florian Böller (TU Kaiserslautern)

**Cornelia-Adriana Baciu** (Johns Hopkins University): Paradoxes of American Exceptionalism and Restraint. A Neo-Classical Realism Perspective

**M.J. Packo** (Humboldt Universität Berlin): The International Implications of Anti-abortion Rights Narratives under the Trump Administration

**Ana-Constantina Frost** (Freie Universität Berlin): Whose Foreign Policy Is It Anyway? Studying Diaspora Politics in a Time of International Upheaval

**Jakob Wiedekind** (Leibniz Universität Hannover): The New De Facto Veto? Tracing the Impact of SAPs as a New Measure of Presidential Power in Foreign Policy

**15:00-16:15**

**Panel 4: Persisting Problems: Inequalities and Social Rights**

Chair: Aysuda Kölemen (Bard College Berlin)

**Guido Rohman** (Freie Universität Berlin): 'Left behind' - A Term We Should Leave Behind?

**Betsy Leimbigler** (Freie Universität Berlin): Interactions between Illiberalism and Institutions: Economic and Social Rights in the U.S.

**Laura Kettel** (Freie Universität Berlin): Contested Governance: The Federal Response to Homelessness in the United States

**16:30-17:45**

**Panel 5: Race and Public Policy**

Chair: Christian Lammert (FU Berlin)

**Rachel Wetts** (Brown University): Activating and Harnessing White Racial Prejudice in the 2020 US Election

**Aysuda Kölemen** (Bard College Berlin): Race as a Category in Evaluations of Deservingness and Undeservingness of Government Assistance

**Candis Smith** (Penn State University): Who Stands a Chance? Disparate Worldviews on the Social Constructions of Vulnerable Populations

**19:00-20:30**

**What Is to Be Done?**

**Keynote Lecture by Ruth Wilson Gilmore (CUNY Graduate Center)**

Introduction: Boris Vormann (Bard College Berlin)

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