

LectureSeries

LOSS IN THE LAND OF PLENTY

Understanding American Crisis, Decline, and Paths to Renewal

Organized by Lora Anne Viola (Political Science) and Stefanie Müller (Literature)

Tobias Becker
University of Heidelberg

*The Politics of Nostalgia and
the Poverty of Theory*



Tobias Becker is a German historian specializing in European and transatlantic history of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with research interests in cultural, media, and urban history, public history, and historical theory. Since 2023, he has been a guest professor of modern history at Freie Universität Berlin. Since the winter semester 2025/26, he holds a teaching appointment for the professorship of Applied History – Public History at the University of Heidelberg. Becker completed his Phd in modern history at Freie Universität Berlin in 2022. His research focuses on the public uses of the past, nostalgia, popular culture, and media phenomena in modern Europe.

His most recent book, Yesterday: A New History of Nostalgia (2023), traces how the concept of nostalgia has changed over time and how it has been used in political, cultural, and public debates. The book challenges simplified critiques of nostalgia by showing the diverse and historically specific ways in which people engage with the past.

Wednesday, January 7,
4 - 6 pm in Gr. Hörsaal Room B.001

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