



Nordamerikastudienprogramm
Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie



Lecture Series

**"Current Issues in North American Studies and Cultural Studies"
Summer Term 2011**

Vera Grant, M.A.

**W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American
Research, Harvard University**

**"New Thoughts on an Old Occupation Zone:
The Aesthetics of Propaganda, Race, and Fraternization on
the Rhine, 1918-1923"**

Tuesday • 17 May 2011 • 6:00-8:00 p.m. • Conference Room, IAAK

The talk examines the texts and imagery of inter-racial unions in Germany and the prohibitive and disciplining publications, correspondence, and propaganda they provoke. It centers upon the interaction between racial identity, citizenship, and military culture; and specifically on how race works in occupation zones, impacts citizen-soldier dynamics, and effects popular cultural understandings of race. Most of the examples discussed provide a greater context to current historical research on race during and after World War II in Germany, and engage with research and discussions on racial dynamics as a transatlantic formation during the inter-war period in the US and the Weimar period in Germany. Using personal narratives Grant traces back a continuum of interracial unions in which these narratives function as popular spectacles, sites of state intervention, and tangled webs of historical narrative.

Vera Ingrid Grant is Executive Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University, where she directs both the Fellows Program and the Rudenstine Gallery. Her Ph.D. dissertation in Modern European History focuses on "Transnational Race in the U.S. Occupation Zone in Germany, 1918–1923." Vera Grant was the Associate Director of the Program in African and African American Studies at Stanford from 2001 to 2007, where she taught courses on Black Feminisms, Black Europe, Paris Noir, the Trajectories of Jim Crow, and Art in Bits, and designed and led faculty and student expeditions to Paris, Belize and NYC. Grant spent a year on a Fulbright Grant at the University of Hamburg. She is also a novelist, and a mixed media and graphic artist.