



Nordamerikastudienprogramm  
Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie

## Events | Veranstaltungen Wintersemester 2009-2010



Wednesday • 28 October 2009

### Columbus Day Lecture (and More)

4:15-5:30 pm • Room 2015 (IAAK)

**Meeting Prof. Gerald Jaynes**  
**Dept. of Economics, Yale University**

6:00-8:00 pm • Festsaal (Hauptgebäude)

**Columbus Day Lecture**

## Prof. Gerald Jaynes

### “Race Relations in the United States: Intergroup Dynamics during the Obama Era”

The election of African American Barack Obama to the Presidency of the United States signifies the cataclysmic change that has occurred in American race relations since Obama's birth (1962) when large proportions of African Americans were denied their right to vote. Yet, disrespectful treatment of President Obama, recent scandals in police treatment of persons of color, nativist bashing of brown skinned immigrants, and the continuing poverty of a multi-racial underclass fuel claims that signs of improvement in contemporary race relations are merely symbolic masking unaltered power relations maintaining white American dominance over *gens de colour*. Jaynes's lecture deconstructs the texture of contemporary race relations in terms of their grounding within social *class* relations deeply imbued with the influence of racial and ethnic stereotypes.

Gerald Jaynes is professor of Economics and African American Studies at Yale University. His research focuses on economic theory, labor economics, migration and agricultural labor markets, race relations, and African American History. His publications include the monograph *Branches Without Roots: Genesis of the Black Working Class In the American South*, (Oxford University Press, 1986), several edited volumes, as well as numerous articles on questions of race and economics. He is also the editor of *The Encyclopedia of African American Society* (Sage Publications, 2005).

Prior to the lecture Maria Theissen will be awarded the Gender Studies Prize 2009 of the University Bonn for her *Magisterarbeit* "From Hop Sing to Hiro': *Asians* in US-amerikanischen Fernsehserien."

The event will be followed by a (modest) reception.