

Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series | Summer Term 2014

**NORTH
AMERICAN
STUDIES
PROGRAM**

Prof. Dr. Greta Olson

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recht als kultur

“The Centrality of the Constitution to US American Culture – Arguments from the Left and the Right”

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 | 6:00-8:00 pm

Dekanatssaal der Philosophischen Fakultät

The Constitution – note the capitalized spelling – plays a starring role in American cultural politics. Both the Tea Party and the Occupy Movement have recurred to the Constitution to justify their aims; and knowing one’s rights – a reference to the Constitution’s Bill of Rights (1791) and subsequent amendments – is a central part of American identity.

This talk traces historical reasons for the centrality of the Constitution to American life and cultural identity; it offers examples of how constitutional interpretation has been employed to pursue a variety of political and social aims. Further, it compares the visibility of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court Justices and the publicity of Supreme Court decisions to perceptions of the Federal Constitutional Court Justice of Germany, its justices, and its rulings.



Greta Olson is a Professor of English and American Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Giessen as well as the general editor of the *European Journal of English Studies* (EJES). She has published widely on issues of transnational cultural politics, narratology, and gender studies. Her most recent book publication *Criminals as Animals from Shakespeare to Lombroso* appeared in 2013 in De Gruyter’s Law & Literature series.

Prof. Olson is currently a Fellow at the *Käte Hamburger Centre for Advanced Study in the Humanities* “Law as Culture,” in cooperation with whom this event was organized; her talk will be followed by a reception.

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