

# Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series – Summer Term 2017

**NORTH  
AMERICAN  
STUDIES  
PROGRAM**



Tuesday, **May 16, 2017**, 6:00-8:00 pm

Room A, IAAK, Regina-Pacis-Weg 5

**Prof. Benjamin Fagan (Auburn University)**

## Speaking Out in Thunder Tones: Democracy and the Early Black Press



This talk will explore the mission and methods of the early black press. Looking closely at articles and illustrations in the *Colored American* (1837-1841), Prof. Fagan will tease out the ways in which the religious and political priorities of the newspaper shaped its coverage of powerful American institutions such as the church and the government. The editors of the *Colored American* used their newspaper to reveal certain truths about American institutions, and focused especially on the hypocrisy of those in power. The *Colored American* thus anticipated the stated priorities of a number of modern newspapers, and this lecture will share the lessons that the early black press can teach us about the relationship of the media to the government in our present moment.

Benjamin Fagan is Assistant Professor of English at Auburn University, Alabama, where he teaches courses on early African American literature and print culture. He is the author of *The Black Newspaper and the Chosen Nation* (2016) and the editor of *African American Literature in Transition, 1830-1850*, forthcoming from Cambridge University Press.