



Nordamerikastudienprogramm
Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie

universität**bonn**

Lecture Series

**The Road to the White House:
Die USA vor den Präsidentschaftswahlen**

Columbus Day Lecture 2012

Prof. Dr. Crister S. Garrett

Institute of American Studies, University of Leipzig

**“America Debates Itself:
Exceptionalism, Declinism, and the Electoral Season of 2012”**

Monday • 29 October 2012 • 6:00 pm c.t. – 8:00 pm
Festsaal • Hauptgebäude • Regina-Pacis-Weg 3 • 53113 Bonn

American anxieties about the nation's future have provided the unmistakable backdrop for the electoral season of 2012. The debate focuses on the ability of Americans to still attain the so-called American dream, the opportunity for citizens to achieve the socio-economic mobility they seek. Extending from and interrelated with the national debate is the fear that America's exceptional role in the twentieth century slowly is giving way to withering influence and abilities to exert power. The presidential election 2012 will determine basic elements of the country's course and its contributions to global affairs. Eight days before the election Crister S. Garrett takes a close look at how America has been debating itself and at where the nation may be heading.

Crister S. Garrett is Professor for American Culture and History at the University of Leipzig. He earned his PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and has taught at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His work focuses on contemporary American politics and society as well as contemporary trends in political, economic, and social reform in a transatlantic context. He is also regularly researching American foreign policy and the relationship between the country's history, political culture, and international politics.

The event will be followed by a reception.