

# Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series | Summer Term 2015

**NORTH  
AMERICAN  
STUDIES  
PROGRAM**

**Prof. Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis**  
Saint Martin's University (Lacey, WA)

  
universität**bonn**

## “The Rhetoric of Invisible Victimage: Obama’s 21st Century Wars”

Tuesday, June 30, 2015 | 6:00–8:00 pm  
Room A, IAAK, Regina-Pacis-Weg 5



Since he took office in 2009, President Obama has succeeded in escalating a borderless, covert global war previously implemented by the Bush administration. Just how the president is able to create a 21st century space for war that is high-tech intensive, politically correct and largely removed from the public eye, is a rhetorical phenomenon worthy of serious study. Today’s American wars abroad are substantively changing the nature of how people perceive and experience war and the victimage of others, invisible in the civic sphere. What then, do we make of Obama’s rhetoric of 21st century wars, and what are its implications for the future?

Nathalie Kuroiwa-Lewis is an Associate Professor of English and Director of the Writing Center at Saint Martin’s University in Lacey, Washington. Her research interests include political, economic, and media rhetoric, classical rhetoric, rhetorical theory, and the work of Kenneth Burke. Among her latest publications is an article on “The War Syllogism in American Presidential Rhetoric” for *CounterPunch*. In addition to her academic pursuits, she has a strong interest in poetry and is currently writing a book of poetry on war and related issues of social justice.