

# Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series | Winter Term 2014-15

**NORTH  
AMERICAN  
STUDIES  
PROGRAM**

**Columbus Day Lecture 2014**

universität  **bonn**

**Prof. James D. Bindenagel**

Center for International Security and Governance (CISG)

## **“Building the Transatlantic Relationship: From Naming America to Unifying Germany and Beyond”**

Monday, November 24, 2014 | 6:00–8:00 pm | Festsaal

When the Berlin wall came down 25 years ago and the chants in the streets started changing from “Wir sind *das* Volk” (we are *the* people) to “Wir sind *ein* Volk” (we are *one* people), the United States put their full support behind the process of German unification.



Of course the U.S.-German relationship has never been free of misunderstandings, of which the fallout over the 2003 Gulf War and the 2013 NSA affair are but the most recent examples. And yet, today their partnership is needed once again, and perhaps more than ever, as we confront new challenges that neither side can tackle by itself: Russia’s challenge to the European order in Ukraine, the brutality of ISIS’ terrorism, and

the task of finding a common global role through TTIP. While mutual misunderstandings will almost certainly be inevitable in tackling these and other issues, the challenge before us is to remain each other’s best partner.

James D. Bindenagel is a former U.S. ambassador to Germany (1996–97) and a leading expert on transatlantic relations. As diplomat he was deeply involved in the end of the Cold War and German reunification. In 2014, he was elected as first director of the University of Bonn’s Center for International Security and Governance ([cisg.uni-bonn.de](http://cisg.uni-bonn.de)).



The talk and discussion will be followed by a reception.