

Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series | Summer Term 2015

**NORTH
AMERICAN
STUDIES
PROGRAM**

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Barbara Lüthi
University of Cologne

universität**bonn**

“Fighting Jim Crow: The Freedom Riders of 1961 and the Dilemma of Mobility”

Tuesday, June 16, 2015 | 6:00–8:00 pm
Room A, IAAK, Regina-Pacis-Weg 5



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This talk offers an exploration of what it meant to move under “cramped conditions” for Black Americans and their compatriots during the 1950s and 60s, a violent era of racial discrimination and segregation in the United States. As the example of the Freedom Rides shows, these conditions included both moments of closure and entrapment determined by the rule of law and “mob rule” as well as acts of resistance resulting from a century-long legacy of mobilization. Professor Lüthi provides a corrective to the overemphasis on metaphors of fluidity, speed and openness with respect to a moment of presumably unbounded mobility in 20th century US history.

Barbara Lüthi teaches North American History at the University of Cologne. Her research focuses on US social and cultural history, migration history, security studies, and postcolonial studies. Publications include *„Invading Bodies“: Medizin und Immigration in den USA, 1880–1920* (Campus, 2009) and *Postkoloniale Schweiz: Formen und Folgen eines Kolonialismus ohne Kolonien* (co-ed., Transcript, 2nd ed. 2013).