

Current Issues

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Lecture Series | Winter Term 2014-15

**NORTH
AMERICAN
STUDIES
PROGRAM**

Prof. Dr. Eric Sandeen

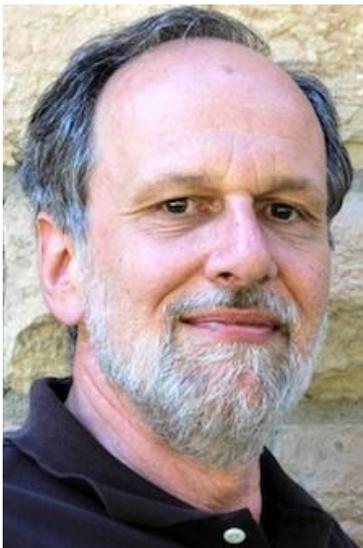
University of Wyoming | Radboud University



“Edward Steichen’s *The Family of Man* Sixty Years On: Looking Back at 1950s America”

Tuesday, October 28, 2014 | 6:00–8:00 pm | Room A, IAAK

The Family of Man was one of the most important photographic exhibitions of the 1950s. Edward Steichen was the impresario of this collection of 503 images taken in 68 countries by 273 photographers. His one-world, humanistic statement was created to respond to the narrow suspicions of the Cold War and to the possibility of a very hot – but brief and apocalyptic – nuclear confrontation with the Soviet Union. After breaking all attendance records at New York’s Museum of Modern Art, the exhibition toured the world in multiple copies over the next seven years, as a part of the cultural diplomacy apparatus of the U.S. government. It was a hit wherever it went. The exhibit now resides in Clervaux, Luxembourg, where it has been declared a Memory of the World site by UNESCO. In his talk, Prof. Sandeen will examine the exhibit as a cultural text and trace its world tour through the specific sites of Berlin, Munich, and Guatemala City.



Eric J. Sandeen is Director of the American Studies Program at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. He currently serves as a Fulbright Professor at Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. Many of his publications, such as the monograph *Picturing an Exhibition: The Family of Man and 1950s America* (University of New Mexico Press 1995, reissued in 2009), focus on photography and American culture. He also studies American cultural landscapes and works on public sector American Studies projects, the most recent of which is a survey of the contemporary landscape surrounding the Heart Mountain, Wyoming site, where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II.