

# The Road to the White House

## Die USA vor den Präsidentschaftswahlen



Vortragsreihe des Nordamerikastudienprogramms in Kooperation mit dem US-Generalkonsulat Düsseldorf, der Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung und dem Center for International Security and Governance der Universität Bonn

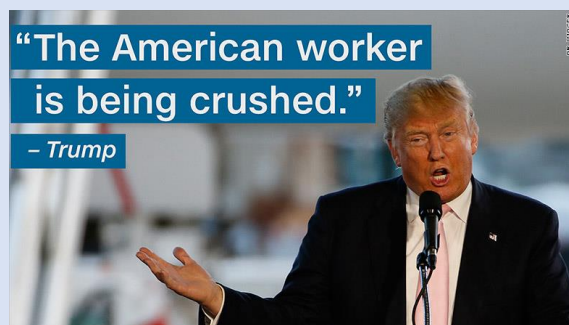
Tuesday, July 12, 2016 | 6:00 to 8:00 pm | Festsaal, Main building

Prof. Christopher Newfield

University of California, Santa Barbara

## Is the United States Post-Democratic?

### Mobilizing Economic and Racial Grievances in the 2016 Campaign



Most commentators explain the ascent of right-wing politics in the U.S. as a bargain between Republican elites and their party base: the elites give the base their social issues and the base gives the elites their neoliberal economics. The implication is that conservative white voters liked neoliberal capitalism as long as they could restrict

abortion, cut welfare programs, and bring guns to school. And yet Donald J. Trump has won the Republican nomination by appealing directly to Tea Party anger about neoliberal economic policies, while also bringing racial resentments out into the open. Reviewing this new electoral terrain, Prof. Newfield argues that the policy regression attributed to working-class whites originated in the university-educated professional class's own preferred arrangements for race, economics, and national security.

Christopher Newfield is Professor of Literature and American Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Much of his research is in Critical University Studies, which links his enduring concern with humanities teaching to the study of how higher education continues to be re-shaped by the economy. His latest book on this subject, *The Great Mistake*, is forthcoming with Johns Hopkins University Press.



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