



US-Generalkonsulat  
Düsseldorf



North American Studies Program  
Department of English, American, and Celtic Studies



**Prof. Dr. Sabine Sielke**

North American Studies Program, University of Bonn

## “Why Race (Still) Matters in US-American Culture – and How It Does in the 2012 Presidential Race“

Tuesday • 3 July 2012 • 6:00-8:00 pm

Festsaal • University of Bonn • Regina-Pacis-Weg 3 • 53113 Bonn

There are two frequently voiced misconceptions about race matters in the United States: the first holds that the racial division, informing American culture from colonial times to this very day, can somehow be ‘overcome’ and that Barack Obama inaugurated a “post-racial society.” The second claim, frequent in German assessments of race relations in the United States, assumes their current state to be as dismal as they were in the segregated 1950s South and the achievements of the Civil Right Movement as more or less negligible. By exploring the impact of race on the 2012 election campaigns, Prof. Sielke shows how race matters continue to matter – even as they can no longer be painted in black and white.

**SABINE SIELKE** is Chair of North American Literature and Culture and Director of the North American Studies Program and the German-Canadian Centre at the University of Bonn. Her publications include *Reading Rape* (2002) and *Fashioning the Female Subject* (1997), the series *Transcription*, the (co-)editions *Verschleierungstaktiken* (2011), *Orient and Orientalisms in US-American Poetry and Poetics* (2009), *The Body as Interface* (2007), *Der 11. September 2001* (2002), and *Engendering Manhood* (1998) as well as essays on poetry and poetics, (post-)modern literature and culture, literary and cultural theory, gender and African American studies, popular culture, and the interfaces of cultural studies and the sciences.