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.

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