

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, June 14, 2016 | 6:00 to 8:00 pm | Lecture hall IV, Main building

Prof. Dr. Sabine Sielke

North American Studies Program, Universität Bonn

Engendering the Race: How Gender Matters in the US Presidential Election



Gender does not begin to matter when Hillary Clinton enters the stage, or when her Republican opponent turns trumping misogynist lines into an effective campaign strategy. The political arena has always been a highly gendered space distributed according to complex and multifaceted, yet also shifting and adaptive mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion. This talk

explores how gender matters impact on the 2016 presidential election by interrogating its multidimensional framework, ranging from the very institution of the presidency and conceptions of leadership to presidential rhetoric and media coverage of electoral processes. Why has the US presidency remained a male domain even as women have consistently been elected into high political offices during the last forty years? Political and media cultures alike, Sabine Sielke argues, have had their share in obstructing as much as driving democratic political participation.

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. She published *Fashioning the Female Subject* (1997) and *Reading Rape* (2002), 17 (co-)edited volumes, and 120 essays and book chapters, and currently works on nostalgia, ecologies of knowledge, and projects at the crossroads of cultural studies and the sciences. Her contribution to the 2012 lecture series “The Road to the White House” appeared as “The Blackening of Barack Obama and the Browning of America, or: How Race and Ethnicity Mattered in the 2012 Presidential Race” in *Electoral Cultures: American Democracy and Choice* (2015, ed. Banita and Pöhlmann).



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