

Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series | Summer Term 2015

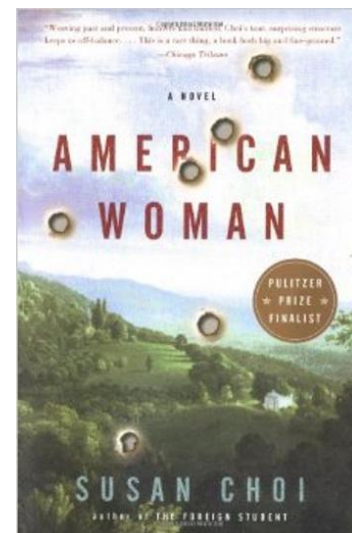
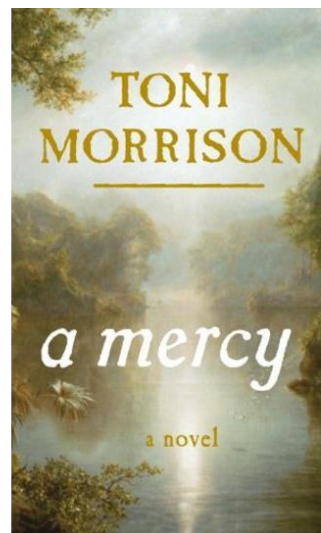
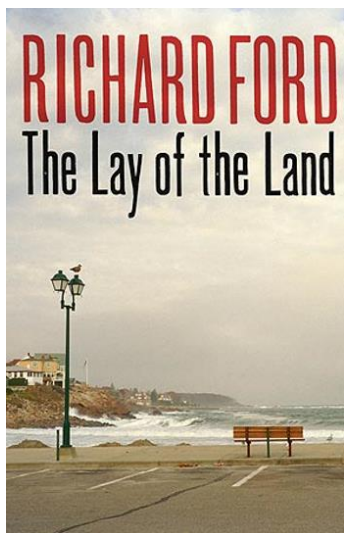
**NORTH
AMERICAN
STUDIES
PROGRAM**

Dr. Philipp Löffler
University of Heidelberg

universität  **bonn**

“After Literary History: 21st Century American Literature and the Idea of the Contemporary”

Tuesday, July 7, 2015 | 6:00–8:00 pm
Room A, IAAK, Regina-Pacis-Weg 5



In his lecture, Dr. Löffler looks at a variety of recent literary texts – among them Richard Ford’s *Lay of the Land*, Toni Morrison’s *A Mercy*, and Susan Choi’s *American Woman* – in order to historicize the ‘contemporary’ as a distinct period/moment in (American) literary history. Arguing against the grain of conventional literary historiography with its implied narratives of progress, his talk seeks to outline an alternative mode of literary historical storytelling, in which the production and the reception of literary texts are seen as semi-autonomous cultural practices that exist next or in opposition to the tidal shifts in traditional political, social, or aesthetic history.

Philipp Löffler is an assistant professor of American literature at the University of Heidelberg. He has published on Thoreau, Ginsberg, Roth, and Powers, among others, and is currently editing a volume on literary canonicity and periodization. His book, *Pluralist Desires: Historical Fiction and the End of the Cold War*, will appear with Camden House this year.