



Nordamerikastudienprogramm
Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie



Lecture Series

"Current Issues in North American Studies and Cultural Studies"

Winter Term 2012-2013

Martin Luther King Day Lecture 2013

Prof. Dr. Jodi Melamed

Marquette University | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

"The Racial Politics of Neoliberalism: Martin Luther King's Previsions"

Tuesday • 22 January 2013 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.

HS 17 • Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie

From the racial liberalism of Martin Luther King's time to today's neoliberal multiculturalism, dominant U.S. antiracisms have limited the horizon for thinking racial equality to a set of liberal freedoms that also provide the knowledge architecture for global capitalist development. How is it that U.S. antiracisms have been so good at harnessing antiracist desires to capitalist rationalities and so bad at increasing the well-being of communities of color? Dr. King's prescient 1967 speech "Beyond Vietnam – A Time to Break Silence" provides a powerful prefiguration of how racial capitalism and its violences will evolve beyond the ideology of white supremacy. His previsions speak strongly to our neoliberal times.

Jodi Melamed is associate professor in the Department of English at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and currently serves as Fulbright Professor at Humboldt University Berlin. Holding a Ph.D. from Columbia University, her areas of expertise are American and African American literature after World War I, comparative race and ethnic studies as well as culture and globalization studies. She is the author of *Represent and Destroy: Rationalizing Violence in the New Racial Capitalism*, published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2011. Her current book project is entitled *After Diversity: The New Anti-Racist Materialism*.

The lecture and discussion will be followed by a reception.