



Nordamerikastudienprogramm
Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie



Lecture Series

"Current Issues in North American Studies and Cultural Studies"

Winter Term 2013-14

Martin Luther King Day Lecture 2014

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Martin Lütke

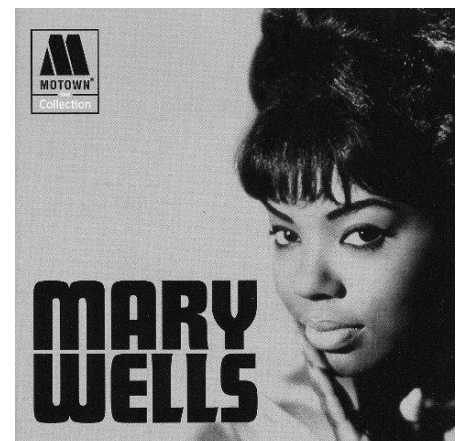
John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin

"Motown Memories: Forms and Functions of Facing the Music"

Tuesday • 21 January 2014 • 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Room A • Department of English, American, and Celtic Studies • Regina-Pacis-Weg 5

Pop music proverbially brings back (sweet) memories. Motown – and what has later been referred to as classic Motown – first became the sound of the Sixties and then remained lodged in the cultural memory of the (Black) Atlantic as a musical signifier of the decade. Rather than merely looking back at the importance of Motown music for the 1960s *zeitgeist*, the lecture establishes Motown as a powerful trope in our collective memory of the Sixties and sets out to scrutinize its function at the intersection of processes of collective identity formation, the cultural production of nostalgia, and the complex histories of race and racial(ized) bodies.



Martin Lütke is an assistant professor at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies (FU Berlin). He has received his M.A. in American Studies and Anglo-American History from the University of Bonn and his Ph.D. from the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture at the University of Giessen. He has published the monographs *"We Missed a Lot of Church, So the Music Is Our Confessional": Rap and Religion* (LIT, 2008) and *Color-Line and Crossing-Over: Motown and Performances of Blackness in 1960s American Culture* (WVT, 2011). Currently he is working on a study called *Functions of Futures: Writing Media Change in Late 19th and Early 20th Century US Culture*.