

Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series | Winter Term 2014-15

**NORTH
AMERICAN
STUDIES
PROGRAM**

Martin Luther King Day Lecture 2015



Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg

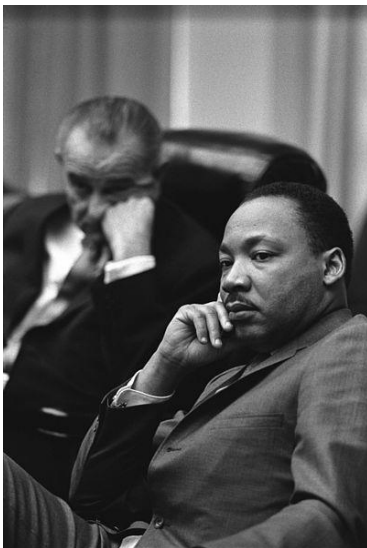
Department of History, University of Heidelberg

The Dream Revisited:

Racial Integration and Black Advancement since the Civil Rights Era

Monday, January 19, 2015 | 6:00–8:00 pm

Festsaal, Main Building, Am Hof 1, 53113 Bonn



When Martin Luther King, Jr., in his famous “I have a dream” speech of August 1963, voiced his vision of a future America without racism, the African-American civil rights movement had taken on irresistible momentum. In 1964–65, the U.S. Congress passed landmark civil rights reforms banning racial segregation and discrimination in public life. However, half a century later the legacy and impact of these laws remain contested. In his talk, Professor Berg will assess black advancement since the civil rights era focusing on four key areas: desegregation, economic progress, criminal justice, and politics. Looking back at King’s “dream” from the vantage point of more than fifty years, the balance sheet is necessarily

mixed. Furthermore, in today’s multi-racial America race is no longer defined by the colors black and white while the challenge of racial justice persists.

Manfred Berg is Curt Engelhorn Professor of American History at the University of Heidelberg and one of the foremost German experts on the civil rights movement. He is the author, among many other books, of *The Ticket to Freedom: The NAACP and the Struggle for Black Political Integration* (2005) and *Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America* (2011).



The talk and discussion will be followed by a reception.