

Current Issues

in North American Studies and Cultural Studies

Lecture Series – Summer Term 2017

**NORTH
AMERICAN
STUDIES
PROGRAM**

UNIVERSITÄT  **BONN**

Tuesday, **June 27, 2017**, 6:00-8:00 pm
Room A, IAAK, Regina-Pacis-Weg 5

PD Dr. Birgit Spengler (North American Studies Program)

Globalization and Its Others

Spatio-Temporal World-Making in Contemporary Popular Culture



© Peter Gross, *The Unwritten* #23 (2011)

Over the past decades, the digital revolution, economic networks, and the relative ease and affordability of worldwide travel for highly privileged citizens of the “global North” have created the impression of a globally connected world that offers unprecedented degrees of mobility to people, ideas, and goods in the face of a waning importance of national borders. However, recent humanitarian crises, ecological disasters, and calls for “walls” have violently brought the contingencies, unequal distribution, and side effects of these developments to the fore. Using Bakhtin’s concept of the chronotope and focusing on the graphic novel series *The Unwritten*, Dr. Spengler will explore the ways in which popular culture reflects upon issues of globalization, connectivity, and mobility, as well as on borders and processes of exclusion through the specific time-space arrangements that mark the fictional worlds and media ecologies depicted.

Birgit Spengler teaches American Studies at the University of Bonn. She is the author of *Vision, Gender, and Power in Nineteenth-Century American Women’s Writing, 1860-1900* (2008) and *Literary Spinoffs: Rewriting the Classics – Re-Imagining the Community* (2015). Her current research focuses on states of exception and precarious being in contemporary literature/media and on turn-of-the-century women’s photography of the U.S. West.