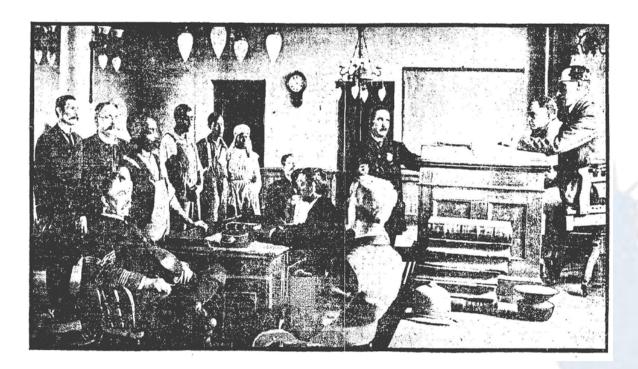
## CURRENT ISSUES IN NORTH AMERICAN AND CULTURAL STUDIES

The People's Court:
Law and Performance from Slavery
to the Civil Rights Movement

**Prof. Dr. Bryan Wagner**University of California, Berkeley



This lecture examines a period-bound, demotic tradition in African American music, folklore, and vaudeville comedy based on the setting and process of the minor judiciary. It discovers in this tradition an alternative philosophy of law attuned to roles rather than rights, asymmetry rather than notional equality, and improvisation rather than reasoned restraint.

Tuesday, 12 December 2023 6:15 – 7:45 pm (CET)

Rabinstr. 8, SR 6

Bryan Wagner is Professor in the English Department at the University of California, Berkeley. His books include Disturbing the Peace: Black Culture and the Police Power after Slavery (Harvard UP, 2009), The Tar Baby: A Global History (Princeton UP, 2017), The Wild **Tchoupitoulas** (Bloomsbury 2019), and The Life and Legend of Bras-Coupé: The Fugitive Slave Who Fought the Law, Ruled the Swamp, Danced at Congo Square, Invented Jazz, and Died for Love (Louisiana State UP, 2019).