

# Current Issues in North American and Cultural Studies | Lecture Series of the North American Studies Program

**James Mendelsohn, PhD**

Independent scholar and writer

## An Archive of Postcards: The Intersection of Cultural and Personal Memory

Tuesday | 17 December 2024 | 6:00 c.t.-8:00 pm  
53111 Bonn | Rabinstraße 8 | Room 7



Engaging a collection of postcards from art museums, Dr. Mendelsohn discusses this mode of communication as a repository of personal and cultural memory: how do these cards as objects create and curate identities? How do they mediate cultural experience? As images representing museum objects representing a culture – the museum, a city, a country – postcards have both a literal and symbolic status, he argues. They “circulate through personal|collective consciousness,” as Lauren Berlant puts it, and thereby localize national cultures. The talk positions postcards as they relate to the United States, transnationally, and other countries.

Paris-based writer, James Mendelsohn is a former professor of English and American Studies who held appointments at MIT, Harvard and Boston University. He was a Fulbright Lecturer at the University of Tübingen and the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Freie Universität in Berlin. In recent years he has turned to writing essays and fiction, for which he was awarded a MacDowell residency.