

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

## Panel Discussion

### „We Will Never be the 51st State“: Canadian Elections Amidst Growing US Hostility

Prof. Dr. Christoph Vatter | Friedrich Schiller  
University Jena | Dr. Matt Sheedy & Apl. Prof. Dr.  
Jasper Trautsch | North American Studies Program

Tuesday | 22 April 2025 | 6:00 c.t.-8:00 pm  
53111 Bonn | Rabinstraße 8 | Room 7



This panel takes a close look at the political and cultural framework of the upcoming Canadian federal election. Our guest Prof. Dr. Christoph Vatter will draw particular attention to Québec and its unique history and discuss how the federal Bloc Québécois Party is navigating its place amidst these unusual times. As an entry into our debate, Prof. Dr. Trautsch engages in a short 101 on Canada's electoral system. He then lays out how the race between Liberals and Conservatives has been radically altered by the resignation of Trudeau, Trump's vision of Canada as "51<sup>st</sup> US state," and Prime Minister Mark Carney's announcement that the Canadian election will be held on 28 April 2025. Dr. Sheedy addresses cultural politics in Canada, including the changing identities of different political parties and social media branding of party leaders.

**Christoph Vatter** is Professor of Intercultural Business Communication at the University Jena. Focusing his research on cultural theory and communication, he (co-) authored and co-edited publications on e. g. intercultural competence, film and memory cultures, and migration. He serves as co-editor for the *Interculture Journal* and as President of the Gesellschaft für Kanada-Studien e.V.