

The First American Studies Journal for European Graduate Students Will Launch in Leipzig

With “aspeers,” the Institute for American Studies at the University of Leipzig is offering Europe's young Americanists a professional platform.

April 24th marks the official release of “aspeers: emerging voices in american studies,” the first European American Studies journal by and for students at the graduate level. While offering students a unique opportunity to have their works published, the inaugural issue of “aspeers” has aimed to include contributions from across Europe. The journal's six-man team of founding editors, under the coordination of assistant lecturer, Sebastian M. Herrmann, is comprised of both American and German graduate students. Because “aspeers” is part of American Studies Leipzig's new MA program, the project was designed to give not only its contributors, but also its student-editors, valuable exposure to the world of academic publishing and to the routines, decisions, and operations involved. The journal is peer-reviewed and all decisions regarding editing, content, and branding were made by the student editorial team. Thus, as the Chair of American Studies Leipzig, Professor Anne Koenen, stated, “the project is really forging a new path—giving students the opportunity to gain practical skills within a humanities degree program. The students will profit from these skills in any career they choose. We are stepping onto uncharted territory here, and of this, and of the first issue of ‘aspeers,’ I am proud.”

Beginning in April, American Studies Leipzig will be publishing the journal annually. With contributions from Germany, England, and Denmark, the goal for the first edition of “aspeers” was to capture a snapshot of the graduate work occurring inside Europe. Alongside the scholarly texts appearing in the issue is a collection of creative works submitted from across the globe. Including photography, poems, and collages, the creative submissions have all been gathered under the theme “Transatlantic Encounters.”

“aspeers: emerging voices in american studies” is a project by American Studies Leipzig

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