

4th Annual Austria's Young Americanists Graduate Student Workshop
“American Studies in Europe Post-9/11: Is it All Different Now?”
October 8–10, 2010 in Vienna, Austria

Already on the day after the collapse of the Twin Towers, two major German newspapers (*FAZ* and *Bild*) claimed on their respective title pages: “Nothing will ever be the same.” This phrase has since reverberated everywhere, yet it is hardly ever further elaborated. While the events of 9/11 and their aftermath have definitely become the locus of creative output in the arts and media, we might still investigate what has actually changed since the televised images of that Tuesday morning became what Jean Baudrillard has referred to as ‘the mother of all events.’ “What if, precisely, nothing epochal happened on September 11?” wonders Slavoj Žižek, and Dutch cultural critic Wim Peeters even goes one step further by suggesting that 9/11 has had no influence on our everyday life at all.

By reflecting on research currently conducted by young academics, this workshop seeks to look at current trends in academic discourse, the arts and media, politics, and everyday life. We encourage PhD students, advanced M.A. students, and other young academics (max. 3 years since defense) to submit proposals on the practice of American Studies post-9/11.

Proposals may be submitted either in the usual format (max. 500 words plus a selected bibliography) or in some multimedial format, e.g. PowerPoint (max. 10 slides), a poster, etc. When submitting a multimedial ‘abstract’, we must, however, still insist on the inclusion of a selected bibliography. Please attach a short academic bio note (50–100 words) to your proposals. Furthermore, please suggest a secondary text that introduces a key concept or a ‘textbook example’ primary text for your paper in your proposal – all participants are expected to read/watch these. Proposals should be e-mailed to proposals@ayaonline.net by **September 12, 2010**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out in the week after the deadline. If you have any questions prior to your submission, please direct them to Michael Fuchs at m.fuchs@uni-graz.at.

Martha H. Patterson, Associate Professor of English at McKendree University, who is currently Fulbright Professor at University of Agder in Norway, is this year’s invited Fulbright Scholar. She is the author of *Beyond the Gibson Girl: Reimagining the American New Woman, 1895 – 1915* (Illinois UP, 2005) and the editor of *The American New Woman Revisited* (Rutgers UP, 2008). Martha has contributed to journals such as *Studies in American Fiction*, *African American Review*, *MELUS*, and *American Quarterly*.

We will organize rooms for the two nights. Thanks to our sponsors, in particular the US Embassy Vienna, lodging expenses are covered. Depending on the final budget, we may be able to partly cover traveling expenses.

Organizers: Georg Drennig (Vienna), Petra Eckhard (Graz), Michael Fuchs (Graz), and Leopold Lippert (Vienna)