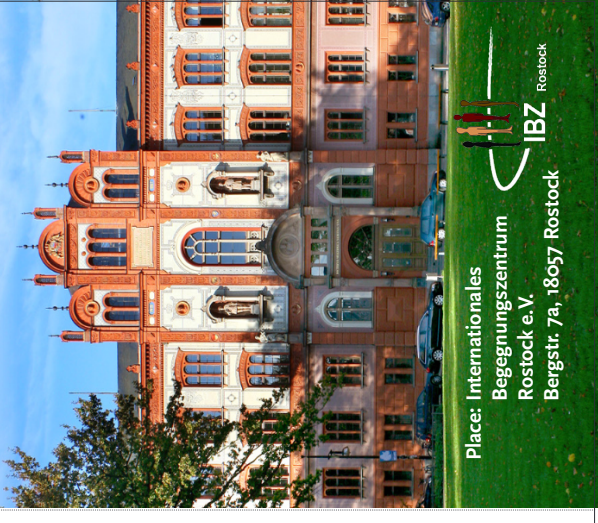



## Teach About the USA

Annual Rostock Teacher  
Seminar 2023

Friday, 14 April 2023  
9:00 – 15:30



Place: Internationales  
Begegnungszentrum  
Rostock e.V.  
Bergstr. 7a, 18057 Rostock



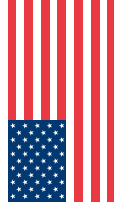
### Organizers

Nadja Borowski

Astrid Eisenhardt

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Linke (emerit.)

Dr. Katja Schmidt



U.S. Consulate General  
Hamburg



Embassy of the United States of America

Mecklenburg  
Vorpommern



*MV tut gut.*

Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung  
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern IQMV

ZLB

Landesweites Zentrum für Lehrer-  
bildung und Bildungsforschung

### WE NEED NEW NAMES by NoViolet Bulawayo

Ten-year-old Darling and her friends navigate their shantytown with the exuberance and mischievous spirit of children everywhere. But they are shadowed by memories of Before. Before their homes were destroyed by paramilitary policemen, before the schools closed, before their fathers left for dangerous jobs abroad. When Darling escapes to suburban America, she finds that—far from the comforts of her childhood community—America's abundance is hard to reach, and she reckons alone with the sacrifices and mixed rewards of assimilation.

Channeling the rhythm and vibrancy of the storytellers who raised her in Zimbabwe, Bulawayo tells a potent story of displacement and arrival, at once disarmingly playful and devastatingly candid, with a power all its own.

### Program

Dr. Martina Kohl, Berlin

### To register, please contact:

Nadja Borowski (ehem. Wieland)

Beraterin im Unterstützungssystem  
des IQMV, SSA Rostock

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or

Astrid Eisenhardt

Englisch, Fachleiterin Englisch

in der Lehreraus- und Fortbildung, Ministerium  
für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur,

Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung (IQ M-V)

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E-Mail: [a.eisenhardt@iq.bm.mv-regierung.de](mailto:a.eisenhardt@iq.bm.mv-regierung.de)

### > Abstracts

audio-visual) and how to have students interact and understand such multi-media modes of representation. On the other hand, we will explore how such expressions of self may encourage students to produce creative forms of life-writing themselves in blogs, Instagram stories, podcast, or still photography.

A core objective of this workshop is to move away from representing Black Americans as passive victims and instead to focus on their agency in presenting themselves boldly as part of the American societal fabric, especially so in times of crisis. As historical points in time, we will focus on the antebellum and postbellum period as well as the 21st century South and put special focus on traumatic “moments” (enslavement, postwar white terror, pandemic and police violence) that tend to trigger narratives of self as ways of coping with political, societal, and cultural turmoil.

### Glory by NoViolet Bulawayo

NoViolet Bulawayo's bold new novel follows the fall of the Old Horse, the long-serving leader of a fictional country, and the drama that follows for a rambunctious nation of animals on the path to true liberation. Inspired by the unexpected fall by coup in November 2017 of Robert C. Mugabe, Zimbabwe's president of nearly four decades, *Glory* shows a country's imploding, narrated by a chorus of animal voices that unveil the ruthlessness required to uphold the illusion of absolute power and the imagination and bulletproof optimism to overthrow it completely.

And at the center of this tumult is Destiny, a young goat who returns to Jidada to bear witness to revolution—and to recount the unofficial history and the potential legacy of the females who have quietly pulled the strings here. The animal kingdom—its connection to our primal responses, and its resonance in the mythology, folktales, and fairy tales that define cultures the world over—unmasks the surreality of contemporary global politics to help us understand our world more clearly, even as Bulawayo plucks us right out of it.

Although Zimbabwe is the immediate inspiration for this thrilling story, *Glory* was written in a time of global clamor, with resistance movements across the world challenging different forms of oppression. Thus it often feels like Bulawayo captures several places in one blockbuster allegory, crystallizing a turning point in history with the texture and nuance that only the greatest fiction can.

## Program

### 9:00: Welcome and Introductions

Jason Chue,  
U.S. Consul General, and  
Steven Montero,

Information Specialist, U.S. Consulate General Hamburg

### The Organizational Team in Rostock:

Nadja Borowski, Astrid Eisenhardt,  
Prof. Dr. Gabriele Linke (emerit.), Dr. Katja Schmidt

#### LECTURE

### 9:15 -10:45

Teaching U.S. Immigration

through Stories of Meaning:

The Shanghai Refugee Experience as a Case Study

Kevin Ostoyich

Valparaiso University

### Coffee Break

#### WORKSHOP

### 13:45 - 15:15

Black Voices Matter:

Multi-Modal Approaches to

Teaching Black Lives and Black Trauma

Julia Nitz

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

### Lunch

#### READING & DISCUSSION

### 13:45 -15:15

NoViolet Bulawayo

will read from her novels

*We Need New Names* and *Glory*

### 15:15 Concluding Discussion and Farewell

### 15:30 End of Seminar

## Faculty



### NoViolet Bulawayo

is the author of the novels *Glory* and *We Need New Names*, which was recognized with the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, the PEN/Hemingway Award, the LA Times Book Prize/Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction, the Etsalatz Prize for Literature, the Fred Brown Literary Award, the Betty Trask Award, the Barnes and Noble Discover Award (second place), and the National Book Foundation "5 Under 35" Fiction Selection. *We Need New Names* was also shortlisted for the International Literature Award, the Man Booker Prize, and the Guardian First Book Award. NoViolet earned her MFA at Cornell University where she was a recipient of the Truman Capote Fellowship. She has taught fiction writing at Cornell and Stanford Universities. She grew up in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and is currently writing full-time from the wherever.

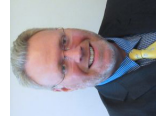
The most translated author in modern Zimbabwean history, she is the first Black African woman to be selected for the Booker List twice, and is one of only two African writers, the other being Chigozie Obichina, to be listed for both her debut and follow-up novel. <https://novioletbulawayo.com/>



### Julia Nitz

is associate professor of Anglo-American Cultural Studies at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She has served as Executive Director at the Center for American Studies and is co-founder of the Intercontinental Crosscurrents Network for the study of transatlantic women's networks in the long nineteenth century ([crosscurrents.uni-halle.de](http://crosscurrents.uni-halle.de)). Her research focuses on the American Civil War, women's life writing, intertextual cultural studies, historiographic and museum narratology as well as Anthropocene (Caribbean) film and adaptation studies. Her publications include *Towards a Historiographic Narratology* (2021), *Intercontinental Crosscurrents: Women's Networks across Europe and the*

*Americas* (2016) and *Women and US Politics* (2020). Her most recent monograph *Belles and Poes: Intertextuality in the Civil War Diaries of White Southern Women* (LSUP, 2020) establishes the extent to which literature offered a means of exploring ideas and convictions about class, gender, and racial hierarchies in the Civil War-era South.



### Kevin Ostoyich

is professor of history and former chair of the Department of History (2015 to 2019) at Valparaiso University, Indiana. He is currently a fellow at the Kate Hamburger Kolleg (global disconnect) at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. Dr. Ostoyich has directed Valparaiso University's Study Abroad Center in Hangzhou, China and its Study Abroad Center in Reutlingen, Germany. He holds his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and his A.M. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. He has served as a research associate at the Harvard Business School and an Erasmus Institute fellow at the University of Notre Dame. He is currently a board member of CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center, a board member of the Sino-Judaic Institute, an advisory board member of the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum, a non-resident fellow of the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies of The Johns Hopkins University (AICGS), and an associate of the Center for East Asian Studies of the University of Chicago. He has served as a visiting professor for Shanghai University. He is recipient of the Valparaiso University Excellence in Teaching Award for 2017-2018. Ostoyich is the co-editor of *The History of the Shanghai Jews: New Pathways of Research* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) and author of *The German Society of Pennsylvania: A Guide to Its Book and Manuscript Collections* (German Historical Institute, 2006). He has created three historical theater plays about Shanghai Jewish refugees with students.

## Abstracts

### Teaching U.S. Immigration through Stories of Meaning: The Shanghai Refugee Experience as a Case Study by Kevin Ostoyich

The United States is often described as a country of immigrants. Nevertheless, it has not always been easy for certain immigrants and refugees to enter its borders. The history of the Shanghai refugees during the Second World War, for example, consists of people who sought refuge in the United States but had to find it elsewhere due to restrictive U.S. immigration policy and bureaucratic antisemitism. As such, the history of the Shanghai refugees pertains as much to the history of U.S. immigration as it does to the Holocaust. Moreover, after the Second World War, the United States became the preferred destination of most of the refugees. Not all were permitted entry to the United States, and those who were often had to wait years in Shanghai for their visas. For many years, Prof. Ostoyich has been interviewing former Shanghai refugees not only about their time in Shanghai but about their experiences in the United States. In the interviews, the former refugees convey not only the narrative details of their immigrant experiences, but also what they believe it means to be an American. They often also discuss the parallels they see between their individual experiences and current issues pertaining to immigrants and refugees in the United States. Student engagement with the stories of Shanghai refugees not only provides historical knowledge but also adds perspective on present issues of U.S. immigration. In his presentation, Prof. Ostoyich will provide examples of how he uses primary documents and oral testimonies to promote "learning by doing" in the expanded classroom (e.g., the creation of physical exhibits, online exhibits, and theatrical plays). For an example of his use of theater with students, see *The Singer of Shanghai: Historical Theatre, Shanghai Jewish Refugees: The Singer of Shanghai - YouTube*.

### Black Voices Matter: Multi-Modal Approaches to Teaching Black Lives and Black Trauma by Julia Nitz

This workshop explores different forms of life-writing by Southern Blacks residing in the USA in historical perspective. It broaches the issue of self-representation and introduces a range of case studies from nineteenth-century autobiographical texts (slave narratives, diaries, autobiographies and photographs) to modern day blogs and Instagram posts by Black Southern women entrepreneurs. The aim of this session is twofold. On the one hand, it is geared at examining different modes of self-representation (written, oral, visual,