
Abstracts

FAMILY MATTERS – Of Life in Two Worlds

Martina J. Kohl

FAMILY MATTERS follows the traces of a German family that, over generations, continues to cross the Atlantic in both directions. Like Elizabeth and Little Henry who, at the beginning of the 20th century, are forced to leave their beloved New York to return to the old country; the violinist Clara who can only live her passion for music in the America of the suffragettes; the war bride Toni, who courageously follows a G.I. to Nebraska after World War II; and, finally, the student Iris who is trying to find her place in both worlds in the 1980s. Looking back, they all ask the same question: „What if?“

What if they had not gone to America, or back to the old country? If they had not fallen in love? What if they had taken that other road and pursued their dreams a bit more forcefully? FAMILY MATTERS takes ordinary, yet memorable characters out of the yellowed pictures in the photo albums, gives them a voice and places them in their own time. Martina J. Kohl revives the past. She shows that today cannot be understood without the yesterday. And that migration, uprooting and the search for belonging are universal themes.

To register, please contact:

Nadja Borowski

Beraterin im Unterstützungssystem

des IQ M-V, SSA Rostock

Schwerpunkt Englisch Sek. 1

Telefon: 038231/77 85 57

Mobil: 0152/28754058

E-Mail: n.wieland@iq.bm.mv-regierung.de

Organizers

Dr. Martina Kohl, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Prof. (em.) Dr. Gabriele Linke, Universität Rostock

Dr. Katja Schmidt, Universität Rostock

Nadja Borowski, IQ M-V, SSA Rostock

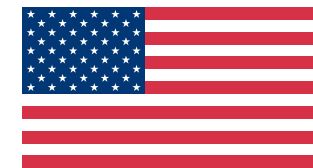
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U.S. Consulate General
Hamburg



Embassy of the United States of America



Institut für Qualitätsentwicklung
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (IQ M-V)

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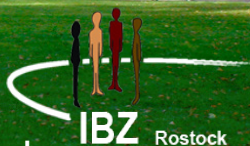
Teach About the USA

Annual Rostock Teacher Seminar 2024

Friday, 12 April 2024
9:00 – 15:30



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



Program

9:00: Welcome and Introductions

by the organizational team and a representative of the U.S. Consulate General Hamburg

WORKSHOP

9:15 -10:45

Teaching Native American History and Contemporary Resistance against Environmental Injustice

Laura-Isabella Heitz

Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg

Coffee Break

LECTURE & DISCUSSION

11:15 - 12:45

The U.S. Elections 2024

Philip Habel

University of South Alabama

Lunch

READING & TEACHING TIPS

13:45 -15:15

FAMILY MATTERS – Of Life in Two Worlds

Martina J. Kohl

15:15 Concluding Discussion and Farewell

15:30 End of Seminar

Faculty



Laura-Isabella Heitz

is a PhD candidate and research associate at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg where she received her M. Sc. degree in International Area Studies in 2019, having written a thesis on environmental activism in the United

States. In 2020 she started working on her dissertation project on Indigenous environmentalism. In April 2020, she was awarded a postgraduate scholarship (Graduiertenförderung des Landes Sachsen-Anhalt) to write her thesis on *Form and Function of Native American Environmentalism in the 20th and 21st Century*. Her research interests include Native American resistance and protest cultures, environmentalism, as well as women studies in the United States.



Dr. Philip Habel

is Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science & Criminal Justice, at the University of South Alabama. He is currently a Fulbright Scholar at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland.

His work in political communication and political behavior examines the dynamics of influence and information flows among politicians, media, and the public. Dr. Habel's teaching is informed by both U.S. Politics and Comparative Politics, including course offerings in public opinion; mass media, digital media, and social media; political communication; and U.S. politics. His publications include *Citizens, Elites, and Social Media: Methodological Challenges and Opportunities in the*

Study of Persuasion and Mobilization, The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Persuasion (2019) (available online) and *News and Information Leadership in the Digital Age*, Information, Communication and Society 22 (2018). He received his PhD from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



Martina J. Kohl

is a lecturer, writer and Public Diplomacy specialist. She is author of the fictional memoir "FAMILY MATTERS - Of Life in Two Worlds"

(English & German ed., PalmArtPress Berlin 2023). For three decades she worked in the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy, first in Bonn, then Berlin. She coordinated the Embassy's Germany-wide expert speaker program, was responsible for teacher outreach and curriculum development and established the U.S. Embassy Literature Series. She has been teaching regularly in the American Studies program at Humboldt Universität Berlin for 25 years. As former long-time editor of the American Studies Journal (ASJ), now NASJ), she also taught in the Journalism program at HMKW Berlin, at the Obama Institute at Johannes-Gutenberg Universität Mainz and at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. Martina J. Kohl received a Dr. Phil. in American Studies from Johannes-Gutenberg Universität in Mainz. Info: martinajkohl.com.

Abstracts

Teaching Native American History and Contemporary Resistance against Environmental Injustice

Laura-Isabella Heitz

At a time when questions about human-environment relations, climate policy, social justice and the equal distribution of environmental risks are becoming increasingly urgent, Indigenous (environmental) activists are at the forefront of the debate. This workshop will explore different aspects and examples of Indigenous environmental activism in the 21st century and will provide insights into the ways of integrating issues and struggles for Indigenous self-determination in the EFL-classroom.

The U.S. Elections 2024

Philip Habel

On November 5 of this year, U.S. citizens will go to the polls to elect a President and their members of Congress, and to choose candidates for state and local offices. Many believe that 2024 will be one of our most consequential elections. The national campaigns are likely to center on issues such as the economy, immigration, the overturning of Roe v. Wade and abortion access, foreign affairs including the war in Ukraine and the conflict in Gaza, climate, diversity in the U.S including LGBTQ policies, healthcare and Social Security, issues affecting Generation Z---not to forget former President Trump's legal woes or President Biden's age. This talk will provide insight into the campaigns, public opinion polling, party platforms, and the prospects for governance. The talk will also provide attendees with the tools to understand not only the 2024 elections, but future elections, as well as the dynamics of U.S. politics more generally.
