

The Myths That Made America: Teaching American Studies

Workshop at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

October 9-10, 2024

When *The Myths That Made America* came out ten years ago, it had a wide-ranging impact as a new and timely introduction to the field of American Studies. With its systematic analyses of core foundational myths that continue to shape US-American national identities today, Heike Paul's book has become a staple in American Studies classes in Germany and beyond. *The Myths That Made America* has proven to be a reference book for anyone interested in understanding US culture, society, and politics and has found a broad readership beyond academia, too.

The chapters cover the myths of "discovery," the "promised land," and the West, the various appropriations of Pocahontas and the Founding Fathers, as well as the powerful narrations about the melting pot and the self-made man. With examples ranging from popular and memorial culture to literature, textbooks, and everyday life, *The Myths That Made America* offers profound analyses based on state-of-the-art research and presents them in a highly accessible and engaging manner.

Ten years after its publication, we invite contributions for a workshop on *The Myths That Made America* that reflect on the book's uses in different classroom settings and assess its ongoing relevance for teaching American Studies.

Possible topics include, but are by no means limited to, the following:

- experiences with teaching *The Myths That Made America* in introductory and other seminars in American Studies and neighboring fields;
- strategies and methods of teaching specific myths covered in the book;
- critical reflections on the foundational myths of the United States and their current variations;
- the benefits of reading *The Myths That Made America* outside of academic contexts;
- assessments of the book's continuing significance within recent developments in research and teaching.

Please send proposals for 20-minute presentations (max. 500 words) and a short bio (max. 300 words) to both, Dr. Katharina Gerund (katharina.gerund@fau.de) and Dr. Isabel Kalous (isabel.kalous@fau.de), by June 1, 2024.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by July 1, 2024.

Travel costs and accommodation will be covered for all presenters.