

KAS Meeting Feb 5, 2015

1. Specific Research

- Person responsible for publication: Magdalena Firtova
- Person responsible for administrative issues: Jaroslav Zukerstein
- TOPIC: Obama's Presidency: Transformational or Not?
- Authors who confirmed contribution: Stephen Christensen, Jan Becka, Jan Hornat, Vit Fojtek, Jana Sehnalkova, Helena Schulzova, Krystof Kozak
- We are missing coverage of domestic politics: ObamaCare, fiscal policies (fiscal cliff)
- Funds for translation are available
- The publication will be written in Czech, as it aims at Czech audiences

2. Real Freedom Festival – May 2015

- organized by the Department, most likely between April 29 – May 10
- supported by funds from Fond mobility, U.S. Embassy in Prague
- within the Festival, Ralph Young will teach an intense course at the end of April
- planned event on Ginsberg's visit to Prague together with Vaclav Havel Library
- good opportunity to promote the Department as well as different aspects of transatlantic ties
- link to the tentative program and contacts for organizers: https://docs.google.com/document/d/15eb4v8SuJeU2YzwSOcH_BWSYlySr2xeJOXSnZ6Aflk/edit?usp=sharing

3. Ph.D. Conference organized by G. Toth in June

- Deadline extended for out-of-the-country participants

4. Interns selected for this semester:

Interns:

- Ádám Hushegyi, kontakt: adam.hushegyi@gmail.com
- Tomáš Vítek, kontakt: perkelt.vitek@seznam.cz

Research assistant: Vladimira Dostalová, kontakt: vladimira.dostalova@gmail.com

5. KAS WEBSITE:

Everyone is asked to check their information on the website!

If anyone comes across something dysfunctional/silly on the website, please, report it to vladimira.dostalova@gmail.com

The interns will take a look at the website and will propose possible modifications.

6. Promotion of department

- necessary, as demographics is not favorable. We are entering a period of weak student numbers.

7. Upcoming visitors:

Paul Von Blum – March 20-March 22 - maybe available for lunch/dinner - **if interested, contact Jana Sehnalkova**

BIO : Paul Von Blum is Senior Lecturer in African American Studies and Communication Studies at UCLA. He has taught at the University of California since 1968, serving 11 years at UC Berkeley before arriving at UCLA in 1980. He is the author of six books and numerous articles on art, culture, education, and politics. His most recent book is "A Life at the Margins: Keeping the Political Vision," his 2011 memoir that chronicles almost 50 years of political activism, starting with his civil rights work in the South and elsewhere in the early 1960s. He is the author of three books on art and society as well as numerous articles on art, politics, culture, education and law including "Resistance Art in Los Angeles," Unmasking L.A.: Third Worlds and the City. "Decades of Dignity: The Art of William Pajaud," The Sights and Sounds of My New Orleans, in conjunction with an art exhibition of the same name at the California African American Museum, Los Angeles, curated by Samella Lewis, "Not as Strange as it Seems: Bioethics and Art," Bioethics: Thresholds of Corporeal Completeness, in conjunction with an art exhibit of the same name at Side Street Projects, Santa Monica, California, Side Street Press. His book "Resistance, Dignity and Pride: African American art in Los Angeles" was published by the UCLA Center for African American Studies. His recent publications include a book on Paul Robeson.

Jim Deutsch – March 9-March 13 - **if interested, contact Jana Sehnalkova**

Jim Deutsch works as a curator at Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. His background is in American Civilization. More on his bio here: <http://home.gwu.edu/~deutsch/>

He can talk about Cold War Cinema, Civil Rights Movement (has a great lecture on To Kill a Mockingbird)...

Norma's guest fom Nottingham

8. Mexico

Michaela Bernkopfová teaches a course on Mexico. It is a BA level course, but MA students are encouraged to sign up.

9. SIS

Everyone is encouraged to check their schedule, as semester starts Monday Feb 16. In case of any clashes, contact Ms. Fučíková who can solve schedule conflicts.

10. Doc. Calda encourages Ph. D. students to help with class on American Society. Especially help with grading papers will be appreciated. Ph.D. students can receive a small cash award for such assistance.

11. 2015 Salzburg Seminar

Those who are interested in foreign policy may consider application for 2015 Salzburg Seminar

2015 American Studies symposium that will be held at the Salzburg Global Seminar, entitled "The Search for a New Global Balance: America's Changing Role in the World" – September 24-29, 2015. I

would like very much to welcome an excellent Czech individual as a participant. We are looking for academics or others who are working on American foreign policy issues. I will attach for your information the program description that also lists the confirmed and invited speakers. We will welcome ca. 50 experts from around the world, plus the distinguished speakers, to discuss this extremely timely topic. The cost of attendance is 900 Euro, which includes all expenses in Salzburg – a private room with bath in the newly renovated Meierhof (adjacent to the Leopoldskron palace), all meals, receptions, a barbeque, a castle concert, all drinks in the Bierstube, a gala dinner, and more.

If you are interested for more information, please, contact Jana Sehnalkova.