



Press Release

American Academy in Berlin Announces Two New Directors

Thomas Rommel, former rector and provost of Bard College Berlin, to lead the Academy's programs; Jan Techau, former director of Carnegie Europe, to lead the Richard C. Holbrooke Forum

BERLIN, (September 7, 2016)—The American Academy in Berlin is pleased to announce two new additions to its management staff. Professor Thomas Rommel started as director of programs on September 1; Jan Techau will start as director of the Academy's Richard C. Holbrooke Forum for the Study of Diplomacy and Governance on September 12. Both appointments were made by Academy president Michael P. Steinberg, who began his tenure on August 15.

"I am delighted to bring two such distinguished colleagues to the American Academy in Berlin," Steinberg said. "By working together to align more closely the Academy's three core activities—our residential fellowships, our guest lectures and special events, and the Holbrooke Forum—we will create an even more effective platform for German-American collaboration on issues of global importance in our three key areas—the humanities, arts, and public policy."

As director of programs, Thomas Rommel will guide the implementation of an integrated program in the arts, humanities, and public policy, which consists largely of public lectures and other events by Academy fellows and distinguished visitors. Rommel said, "The American Academy is a unique place for learning, scholarly collaboration, and debates that go beyond single academic projects. Here, American fellows and guests from across a broad intellectual and cultural spectrum network with colleagues from Berlin—and with a German audience. I am very much looking forward to being a part of this exciting exchange."

Steinberg added, "Having known Thomas Rommel professionally for several years, I am confident that his credentials and energy will add to the Academy's strengths."

Jan Techau will lead the Richard C. Holbrooke Forum, which was established by the American Academy in December 2013 as a remembrance of its founder's commitment to applying diplomacy and statecraft to solving some of the world's most intractable problems. Since then it has hosted a series of international workshops with policy and legal experts—among them Harold Hongju Koh, the former chief legal adviser to the US State Department and dean of Yale Law School, and Michael Ignatieff of Harvard Kennedy School—to address topics ranging from global migration, international legal norms, and resurgent authoritarianism.

Steinberg said, "Jan Techau's policy know-how and extensive network make him the ideal person to define topics and bring together the right mix of experts that can produce the sort of groundbreaking knowledge and transformative insights for which Holbrooke was known."

Techau added, "In these demanding times for diplomacy and international statecraft, the Richard C. Holbrooke Forum will add thoughtful analysis and useful advice to German, European, and

transatlantic public-policy debates. I am thankful to the American Academy for giving me the opportunity to lead this exciting project.”

Thomas Rommel Biography

Thomas Rommel is the former rector and provost of Bard College Berlin. He received his doctorate and *habilitation* in literary studies at the University of Tübingen and was professor of literature and coordinator of undergraduate and graduate programs in the humanities at Jacobs University Bremen. Rommel held visiting positions at Northern Arizona University, Columbia University in New York, and Joensuu University, Finland. He is co-editor of the online journal *Prolepsis. The Heidelberg Review of English Studies*, and for ten years he was on the board of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, ALLC.

Rommel’s research interests include eighteenth-century thought, Romanticism, and literary theory. He has written books on Lord Byron, eighteenth-century literature, and the history of ideas, and an introduction to the philosopher and economist Adam Smith. His other books deal with plagiarism, canonical literature, and the complexity of text-reader interaction. Rommel is also the author of numerous book chapters and articles and serves as co-editor of the series *Literatur – Kultur – Ökonomie / Literature – Culture – Economy*, published by Peter Lang. He has edited volumes on English studies and Anglo-Irish drama and is currently working on a monograph on the Anglo-Dutch philosopher, political economist, and satirist Bernard Mandeville.

Jan Techau Biography

From March 2011 to August 2016 Jan Techau was the director of Carnegie Europe, the European think tank of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He works on EU integration and foreign policy, transatlantic affairs, and German foreign and security policy.

Before joining Carnegie, Techau served in the NATO Defense College’s Research Division from February 2010 until February 2011. He was director of the Alfred von Oppenheim Center for European Policy Studies at the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin between 2006 and 2010, and from 2001 to 2006 he served at the German Ministry of Defense’s Press and Information Department.

Techau is an associate scholar at the Center for European Policy Analysis and an associate fellow at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies. He is a regular contributor to German and international news media.

About the American Academy in Berlin

The American Academy in Berlin was established in 1994 by Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke and other distinguished Germans and Americans to foster greater understanding and dialogue between the United States and Germany. A private, nonprofit, nonpartisan center for advanced research in a range of academic and cultural fields, the Academy awards semester-long fellowships to about two dozen emerging or established scholars, writers, and professionals each year. It also brings American thought leaders to Berlin for briefer visits for a robust exchange of views between the peoples of Germany and the United States.

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