



THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY IN BERLIN
HANS ARNHOLD CENTER

Press Announcement

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN BERLIN ESTABLISHES GERHARD CASPER FELLOWSHIP

BERLIN—February 09, 2020—The American Academy in Berlin is pleased to announce the establishment of the Gerhard Casper Fellowship. The fellowship honors the former Stanford University president and longtime American Academy trustee for his lifelong commitment to academic excellence and scholarly research. “For the American Academy, Gerhard Casper has been the indispensable man,” said Academy president Daniel Benjamin. “We have benefitted so much from Gerhard’s wisdom and leadership over the years. I am really delighted that there will be a fellowship in his name.”

Born in Hamburg in 1937, Gerhard Casper studied law at the Universities of Hamburg and Freiburg and at Yale Law School. He immigrated to the United States in 1964 to take up an appointment at the University of California, Berkeley. From there, he went to the University of Chicago, where he spent 26 years as a faculty member, dean of the Chicago Law School, and the university’s provost. He then served as the ninth president of Stanford University, from 1992-2000. A trustee of the American Academy in Berlin from 2000-09, Casper then served as its president from July 2015 to July 2016, and from August 2019 to January 2020 as trustee-in-residence. “I am deeply grateful for Gerhard’s long service to the American Academy, both on the board and in the president’s office at the Hans Arnhold Center,” said Academy board chairman Sandra Peterson. “I know I speak for the entire board when I say the Academy of today would not have been possible without him.”

The Gerhard Casper Fellowship has been made possible by a generous grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York, which will fund its first two years. Beginning in the spring 2021 semester, one Gerhard Casper Berlin Prize will be awarded each academic year to a scholar from the humanities or social sciences. The Gerhard Casper Fellow will join the semester’s class of scholars, writers, and artists from the United States and reside at the Academy for one semester.

Gerhard Casper Fellow 2020/21: Allison Blakely (spring 2021)

The inaugural fellowship has been awarded to Allison Blakely, Professor Emeritus of European and Comparative History at Boston University. Blakely will continue his research into the status of people of Black African descent in European societies as well as the prevalent attitudes toward them held by white Europeans. Blakely’s academic work has explored racial attitudes in France and the UK, in addition to the Netherlands and Russia. In Berlin, he will expand his research on Germany, home to the fifth largest black population in Europe.

The American Academy in Berlin was established in 1994 by Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke and other distinguished Americans and Germans 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 emerging or established scholars, writers, and professionals each year.

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