



# SPRING PROGRAM

JANUARY – MAY 2025



AMERICAN ACADEMY IN BERLIN

# SPRING PROGRAM JANUARY – MAY 2025

We are pleased to present the spring 2025 program of the American Academy in Berlin. Unless otherwise noted, all events will take place at the American Academy (Am Sandwerder 17–19, 14109 Berlin) and will also be livestreamed via our website, [americanacademy.de](http://americanacademy.de). There you will also find the most up-to-date information on event listings and registration, and on our Berlin Prize Fellows, Distinguished Visitors, and guest lecturers. We look forward to welcoming you to the Academy in Berlin this spring.

## JANUARY

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Thursday, January 30 INVITATION ONLY

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### Presentation of the Spring 2025 Class of Fellows

Welcoming remarks by **Cornelia Woll**,  
President and Professor of International  
Political Economy, Hertie School

## FEBRUARY

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Monday, February 3 6:30 p.m.

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**LOCATION:** Fritz Thyssen Stiftung,  
Apostelnkloster 13–15, 50672 Köln

FRITZ THYSSEN VISITING SPEAKER SERIES

### European Security at a Crossroads: Preparing for Emerging Risks

**Gideon Rose**, Adjunct Senior Fellow,  
Council on Foreign Relations, in con-  
versation with **Markus Kaim**, Head of  
Department Geoeconomics and  
Security Policy, Bundesministerium  
der Finanzen

In cooperation with Fritz Thyssen Stiftung  
and AmerikaHaus NRW e.V.

Registration:

[fritz-thyssen-stiftung.de/veranstaltungen](http://fritz-thyssen-stiftung.de/veranstaltungen)

Wednesday, February 5 6:15 p.m.

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**LOCATION:** Freie Universität Berlin,  
Habelschwerdter Allee 45, Room Hs 1b,  
14195 Berlin

AMERICAN ACADEMY LECTURE  
AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

### Freedom: The Troubled History of an American Ideal

**Jefferson Cowie**, James G. Stahlman  
Professor of American History,  
Vanderbilt University

In cooperation with the John F. Kennedy  
Institute for North American Studies,  
Freie Universität zu Berlin

Thursday, February 6 6:30 p.m. EST

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**LOCATION:** Society of Illustrators,  
New York City

### Mixed Feelings

**Liana Finck**, Cartoonist, *The New Yorker*,  
Visiting Professor of English, Barnard  
College, and 2023 Fellow, American  
Academy in Berlin, in conversation with  
**Liza Donnelly**, Cartoonist and Writer

Registration: [nyoffice@aaberlin.org](mailto:nyoffice@aaberlin.org)

Tuesday, February 11

7:30 p.m.

JOHN P. BIRKELUND LECTURE

**Inhabiting Error:  
From “Last Christmas” to  
“Senior’s Last Hour”**

Sianne Ngai, Andrew W. Mellon  
Professor of English and the College,  
University of Chicago

Wednesday, February 12 INVITATION ONLY

**LOCATION:** The Metropolitan Museum  
of Art, New York City

**Private Reception  
and Exhibition Viewing of  
Caspar David Friedrich:  
The Soul of Nature**

Joseph Leo Koerner, Writer, Filmmaker,  
and Professor of History of Art, Harvard  
University; Trustee, American Academy  
in Berlin

Thursday, February 20

7:30 p.m.

AXEL SPRINGER LECTURE

**The Future of European Security**

Gideon Rose, Adjunct Senior Fellow,  
Council on Foreign Relations

Tuesday, February 25

7:30 p.m.

CAROL KAHN STRAUSS  
LECTURE IN JEWISH STUDIES

**Holocaust Migration:  
The Future of Memory**

Agnes Mueller, Professor of German  
and Comparative Literature, University  
of South Carolina

## MARCH

Monday, March 3

7:30 p.m.

AMERICAN ACADEMY LECTURE

**The Future of Democracy  
in America: A Conversation  
with *The Atlantic***

Anne Applebaum, Staff Writer,  
*The Atlantic* and 2006 & 2008 Fellow,  
American Academy in Berlin;  
George Packer, Staff Writer, *The Atlantic*,  
and 2009 & 2014 Fellow, American  
Academy in Berlin; and Jeffrey Goldberg,  
Editor in Chief of *The Atlantic*, Trustee and  
2015 Fellow, American Academy in Berlin  
Moderated by Daniel Benjamin,  
President, American Academy in Berlin

Tuesday, March 4

8:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Deutsches Theater,  
Schumannstraße 13A, 10117 Berlin

KURT VIERMETZ LECTURE

**Art, AI, and the Stories We Tell:  
A Conversation with Ayad  
Akhtar and Daniel Kehlmann,  
Moderated by Jeffrey Goldberg**

Ayad Akhtar, Novelist and Playwright;  
Daniel Kehlmann, Writer; and  
Jeffrey Goldberg, Editor in Chief of  
*The Atlantic*, Trustee and 2015 Fellow,  
American Academy in Berlin

Please check [deutschestheater.de](http://deutschestheater.de)  
for tickets.

In cooperation with Deutsches Theater



Sign up for the American Academy in Berlin's monthly newsletter to stay up to date on upcoming events, recent lecture videos, *Berlin Journal* articles, press coverage, podcasts, and news from the Hans Arnhold Center.

Thursday, March 6

7:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Haus der Berliner Festspiele (Main Stage), Schaperstraße 24, 10719 Berlin

REFLEXES & REFLECTIONS:  
ON THE FUTURE OF DEBATE CULTURE

### **Panel: Donald Trump, a Polarized Public and the End of Democracy?**

**Jeffrey Goldberg**, Editor in Chief of *The Atlantic*, Trustee and 2015 Fellow, American Academy in Berlin; and **Alice Hasters**, Independent Author and Journalist; in dialogue with **Saba-Nur Cheema**, Political Scholar and Publicist; and **Meron Mendel**, Historian and Director, Anne Frank Educational Center (Frankfurt/Main)

Please check [berlinerfestspiele.de](http://berlinerfestspiele.de) for tickets.

In cooperation with Berliner Festspiele

Thursday, March 13

7:30 p.m.

MERCEDES-BENZ LECTURE

### **Why Graphic Narratives (Comics) Are No Joke**

**Ken Krimstein**, Biographer and Graphic Novelist

Tuesday, March 18

7:30 p.m.

AXEL SPRINGER LECTURE

### **Populist Rage and American Illiberalism**

**Jefferson Cowie**, James G. Stahlman Professor of American History, Vanderbilt University

Thursday, March 20

7:30 p.m.

BAYER LECTURE IN HEALTH & BIOTECH

### **Leadership Lessons from a Career in Public Health**

**Rochelle Walensky**, Infectious Disease Physician Scientist; Former Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Fellow, Harvard University Business School, Kennedy School, T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Thursday, March 20

8:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** DAI Heidelberg, Sofienstrasse 12, 69115 Heidelberg

EXHIBITION OPENING  
AND CONVERSATION

### **Einstein in Kafkaland: How Einstein and Kafka Created a New World**

**Ken Krimstein**, Biographer and Graphic Novelist

In cooperation with Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut (DAI) Heidelberg

Friday, March 21

4:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** DAI Heidelberg, Sofienstrasse 12, 69115 Heidelberg

WORKSHOP

### **From Research to Graphic Novel**

**Ken Krimstein**, Biographer and Graphic Novelist

Registration: [events@dai-heidelberg.de](mailto:events@dai-heidelberg.de)

In cooperation with Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut (DAI) Heidelberg

Monday, March 24

7:30 p.m.

DEUTSCHE BANK LECTURE

## Crossing Disciplines

Pamela Z, Composer, Performer,  
and Media Artist

Wednesday, March 26

9 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Haus der Berliner Festspiele  
(Side Stage), Schaperstraße 24,  
10719 Berlin

DEUTSCHE BANK CONCERT

## Other Rooms

Pamela Z, Composer, Performer,  
and Media Artist

Tickets available beginning on February  
20 at [berlinerfestspiele.de/maerzmusik](http://berlinerfestspiele.de/maerzmusik).

This concert is a part of MaerzMusik 2025,  
in cooperation with Berliner Festspiele

Friday, March 28

INVITATION ONLY

**LOCATION:** Berlin-Mitte

## Henry A. Kissinger Prize Ceremony

Honoring Kaja Kallas, High Representative  
of the European Union for Foreign  
Affairs and Security Policy; Former  
Prime Minister, Republic of Estonia;  
Evika Siliņa, Prime Minister, Republic of  
Latvia; and Ingrida Šimonytė, Former  
Prime Minister, Republic of Lithuania

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Bayer AG, Bloomberg Philanthropies,  
Fresenius SE & Co. KGaA, Google  
Deutschland GmbH, Lazard, Mastercard,  
Microsoft, Quantum-Systems GmbH,  
Robert Bosch GmbH, Rohde & Schwarz  
and Sequoia Capital

# APRIL

Tuesday, April 1

7:30 p.m.

MARY ELLEN VON DER HEYDEN  
READING

## Handbook for a Future Revolution: A Novel in Progress

Brian Evenson, Writer; Professor  
of Critical Studies, California Institute  
of the Arts

Thursday, April 3

7:30 p.m.

ANNA-MARIA KELLEN LECTURE

## This Rumbling Age: Locomotion in Early Modern Europe

Daniel Jütte, Professor of History,  
New York University

Tuesday, April 29

7:30 p.m.

NINA MARIA GORRISSEN  
LECTURE IN HISTORY

## The Intellectual Bureaucrat: Imperial Collapse in Pre-Modern India

Abhishek Kaicker, Associate Professor  
of History, University of California,  
Berkeley

# MAY

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Monday, May 5 7:30 p.m.

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LLOYD CUTLER LECTURE

## American Democracy and the Rule of Law in Peril

The Honorable Judge **J. Michael Luttig**, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1991–2006)

Tuesday, May 6 7:30 p.m.

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HOLTZBRINCK LECTURE

## In Search of Truth: A Journalist's Journey

**Mona El-Naggar**, International Journalist and Filmmaker

Monday, May 12 6:30 p.m.

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LOCATION: Berlin-Mitte

RICHARD VON WEIZSÄCKER LECTURE

## History and Geopolitics of Global Inequality: The Past Thirty Years

**Branko Milanović**, Research Professor, Graduate Center, City University of New York

Tuesday, May 13 7:30 p.m.

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DIRK IPPEN LECTURE

## Tracing the Black Sonic Avant-Garde

**Adam Shatz**, US Editor, *London Review of Books*

Thursday, May 15

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6:15 p.m.

LOCATION: Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA), Hauptstraße 120, 69117 Heidelberg

## Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power

**Jefferson Cowie**, James G. Stahlman Professor of American History, Vanderbilt University

In cooperation with the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

Monday, May 19

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7:30 p.m.

MARINA KELLEN FRENCH LECTURE

## Art in a State of Siege: Berlin, Kurinskij, Nuremberg, 1942–1947

**Joseph Leo Koerner**, Writer, Filmmaker, and Professor of History of Art, Harvard University, and Trustee, American Academy in Berlin

Tuesday, May 27

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8:00 p.m.

LOCATION: DAI Heidelberg, Sofienstrasse 12, 69115 Heidelberg

## Holocaust Migration: The Future of Memory

**Agnes Mueller**, Professor of German and Comparative Literature, University of South Carolina

In cooperation with Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut (DAI) Heidelberg and the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg

The event will be held in German.

# Berlin Prize Fellows and Distinguished Visitors\*

JANUARY – MAY 2025

## AXEL SPRINGER FELLOW

**Jefferson Cowie**, James G. Stahlman  
Professor of American History,  
Vanderbilt University

## HOLTZBRINCK FELLOW

**Mona El-Naggar**, International Journalist  
and Filmmaker

## MARY ELLEN VON DER HEYDEN FELLOW IN LETTERS

**Brian Evenson**, Writer; Professor of Critical  
Studies, California Institute of the Arts

## ANNA-MARIA KELLEN FELLOW

**Daniel Jütte**, Professor of History,  
New York University

## NINA MARIA GORRISEN FELLOW IN HISTORY

**Abhishek Kaicker**, Associate Professor of  
History, University of California, Berkeley

## MERCEDES-BENZ FELLOW

**Ken Krimstein**, Biographer and  
Graphic Novelist

## CAROL KAHN STRAUSS FELLOW IN JEWISH STUDIES

**Agnes Mueller**, Professor of German  
and Comparative Literature, University  
of South Carolina

## JOHN P. BIRKELUND FELLOW IN HUMANITIES

**Sianne Ngai**, Andrew W. Mellon Professor  
of English and the College, University  
of Chicago

## AXEL SPRINGER FELLOW

**Gideon Rose**, Adjunct Senior Fellow,  
Council on Foreign Relations

## DIRK IPPEN FELLOW

**Adam Shatz**, US Editor,  
*London Review of Books*

## BAYER FELLOW IN HEALTH & BIOTECH

**Rochelle Walensky**, Infectious Disease  
Physician Scientist; Former Director,  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;  
Fellow, Harvard University Business School,  
Kennedy School, T.H. Chan School of  
Public Health

## DEUTSCHE BANK FELLOW IN MUSIC COMPOSITION

**Pamela Z**, Composer, Performer,  
and Media Artist

## KURT VIERMETZ DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

**Ayad Akhtar**, Novelist and Playwright

## AMERICAN ACADEMY DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

**Jeffrey Goldberg**, Editor in Chief of  
*The Atlantic*, Trustee and 2015 Fellow,  
American Academy in Berlin

## MARINA KELLEN FRENCH DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

**Joseph Leo Koerner**, Writer, Filmmaker,  
and Professor of History of Art, Harvard  
University, and Trustee, American  
Academy in Berlin

## LLOYD CUTLER DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

The Honorable Judge **J. Michael Luttig**,  
United States Court of Appeals for the  
Fourth Circuit (1991–2006)

## RICHARD VON WEIZSÄCKER DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

**Branko Milanović**, Research Professor,  
Graduate Center, City University of  
New York

The American Academy in Berlin is an institution of advanced scholarship and practice in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and public policy. Its flagship program is the Berlin Prize Fellowship, a semester-long residency awarded to scholars, artists, writers, composers, and journalists from the United States. Fellows are joined each semester by a number of Distinguished Visitors and guest lecturers, all of whom participate in the Academy's dynamic public programming and engage with their German and European counterparts.

Dedicated to sustaining and enhancing the long-term intellectual, cultural, and political ties between the United States and Germany, the Academy is funded entirely through tax-deductible donations from individuals, foundations, and corporate partners on both sides of the Atlantic.

To obtain the American Academy in Berlin's latest financial report, please write to:

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New York · NY 10022  
phone: +1 · 212 · 588 · 1755

or contact:

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Charities Bureau  
128 Liberty Street · 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10005  
phone: +1 · 212 · 416 · 8686

The latest financial report can also be obtained from the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau website: [charitiesnys.com](http://charitiesnys.com).

A description of the programs and activities for which the American Academy in Berlin makes use of its contributions is available at [americanacademy.de/about/mission](http://americanacademy.de/about/mission).

Please visit [americanacademy.de/donate](http://americanacademy.de/donate) to learn more about support opportunities, or contact:

**Emily Carey**, Vice President of Development,  
[ec@americanacademy.de](mailto:ec@americanacademy.de)

**Ana Ramic**, Vice President and Chief of Staff,  
[ara@americanacademy.de](mailto:ara@americanacademy.de)

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