AUGUST – DECEMBER
2026

Fall Program

AMERICAN ACADEMY
IN BERLIN

Fall Program AUGUST – DECEMBER 2026

We are pleased to present the fall 2026 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**. Please subscribe to our newsletter and visit our website to find the most up-to-date information on event listings and registration, learn more about our Berlin Prize Fellows and Distinguished Visitors, and to support the Academy. We look forward to welcoming you to the American Academy in Berlin this fall.

August

Tuesday, August 25, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Neue Nationalgalerie, Potsdamer Straße 50, 10785 Berlin

MARINA KELLEN FRENCH LECTURE

Return to Charles Ray

Charles Ray, Artist

In cooperation with Neue Nationalgalerie

September

Sunday, September 6, 7:30 p.m.
Location: 26. internationales Literaturfestival Berlin at Haus der Berliner Festspiele, Main Stage, Schaperstr. 24, 10719 Berlin

Ben Lerner: *Transcription*

Ben Lerner, Writer

Moderated by **Thomas Demand**, Artist

Tickets available at tickets.kbb.eu

In cooperation with International Literature Festival Berlin

Tuesday, September 8

Presentation of the Fall 2026 Class of Fellows

Welcome Remarks by **Julia Franck**, Writer

Invitation only

Thursday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.

AMERICAN ACADEMY DISCUSSION

9/11 Twenty-Five Years Later: What We Have Learned, What We Still Need to Know

Daniel Benjamin, President, American Academy in Berlin, Ambassador (ret.) and former Coordinator for Counterterrorism, US State Department, and **Emily Haber**, Former Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States, and Trustee, American Academy in Berlin

Thursday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.
Location: 26. internationales Literaturfestival Berlin at Haus der Berliner Festspiele, Main Stage, Schaperstr. 24, 10719 Berlin

Christian Kracht and Katie Kitamura: The Art of Writing

Katie Kitamura, Writer and Clinical Professor of Creative Writing, New York University, in conversation with **Christian Kracht**, Writer

Tickets available at tickets.kbb.eu

In cooperation with International Literature Festival Berlin

Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 p.m.

MERCEDES-BENZ LECTURE

From Coins to Crypto: How the Evolution of Money Challenges the Evolution of Governance

Allison Stanger, Middlebury Distinguished Endowed Professor, Middlebury College

Tuesday, September 15, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Frauenkirche Dresden, Main Room, Entrance D, An der Frauenkirche, 01067 Dresden

The USA and Europe: Between Alliance and Shared Responsibility

Panel discussion with **John R. Bolton**, Former National Security Advisor of the United States, **Norbert Röttgen**, Member and Former Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the German Bundestag, **Ethan Kapstein**, Executive Director, Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, and **Majid Sattar**, North America Correspondent, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

This discussion is part of the event series Freedom and Democracy: Between Aspiration and Reality and a cooperation with Sächsische Landeszentrale für politische Bildung and Stiftung Frauenkirche Dresden

Tuesday, September 22

Location: New York City

2026 Henry A. Kissinger Prize Award Ceremony

Honoree to be announced

Invitation only

Thursday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.

CHARLES HAIMOFF LECTURE IN GERMAN STUDIES

Moveable Type and the Early Modern Imaginary

Stephanie Leitch, Professor of Art History, Florida State University

Tuesday, September 29, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Villa Elisabeth, Invalidenstr. 3, 10115 Berlin

MARCUS BIERICH LECTURE

London Falling

Patrick Radden Keefe, Staff Writer, *The New Yorker*

In cooperation with Kultur Büro Elisabeth

October

Thursday, October 1, 7:30 p.m.

INAUGURAL JOY FOUNDATION LECTURE

Fascism's Lingering: Regime Change and Moral Reckoning

Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Tuesday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.

NINA MARIA GORRISSEN LECTURE

Family, Labor, and the Global Race for Semiconductor Dominance

Ya-Wen Lei, Professor of Sociology, Harvard University

Monday, October 12, 6 p.m.

Location: Barenboim-Said Akademie, Mozart Auditorium, Französische Straße 33D, 10117 Berlin

The Architecture of Audio Documentary: Telling the Story of Mahler's Music

Aaron Cohen, Director, Broadcast Operations, New York Public Radio, in conversation with **James Helgeson**, Professor of Musicology and Composition, Barenboim-Said Akademie

Register at barenboimsaid.de/en/events/akademie-forum

In cooperation with Barenboim-Said Akademie

Tuesday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.

INAUGURAL RWE LECTURE

Powering the Future, Paying the Price: Data Centers, Democracy, and the 2026 Midterm Elections

Alice Hill, David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment, Council on Foreign Relations

Wednesday, October 14, 5 p.m.

Location: Technische Universität Berlin, Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung (ZfA), Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 104–106, 10553 Berlin

Eugenische Phantasmen: Die lange Vor- und Nachgeschichte der NS-"Euthanasie"-Morde

Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

This lecture will be held in German.

In cooperation with Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung, Technische Universität Berlin

Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Berlin-Mitte

AMERICAN ACADEMY DISCUSSION

Getting Deterrence Right: Constructing a Twenty-First Century Strategy for Europe

Panel Discussion with **Michael Kimmage**, Director, Kennan Institute, and Fall 2024 Fellow, American Academy in Berlin, and other speakers.

This discussion is part of the workshop "Getting Deterrence Right: Constructing a Twenty-First Century Strategy for Europe."

Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.

MARY ELLEN VON DER HEYDEN LECTURE

Holy Shiver: Dreaming, Pleasure, and Power

Carmen Maria Machado, Writer and Assistant Professor, Iowa Writers' Workshop, University of Iowa

Tuesday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.

CHARLES HAIMOFF LECTURE IN GERMAN STUDIES

Hannah Arendt, Walter Benjamin, My Parents, and Me

Andrea Bernstein, Journalist, Writer, Visiting Ferris Professor of Journalism, Princeton University

November

Monday, November 2, 6:15 p.m.
Location: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Hörsaal 3035 (Weierstraßsaal), Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin

AMERICAN ACADEMY LECTURE AT HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN

The Trials of Donald Trump

Andrea Bernstein, Journalist, Writer, Visiting Ferris Professor of Journalism, Princeton University

Register at tinyurl.com/txuc8u28

In cooperation with the Integrative Research Institute Law & Society, Faculty of Law, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Wednesday, November 4, 6 p.m.
Location: Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), Room A 300, Reichpietschufer 50, 10785 Berlin

The US Midterms in Perspective: What Comes Next for the United States and Europe

Panel discussion with **Daniel Benjamin**, President, American Academy in Berlin, **Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln**, President, WZB, and **Daniel Ziblatt**, Eaton-Professor for the Science of Government, Harvard University, Transatlantic Bridge Professor, WZB, and Fall 2019 Fellow, American Academy in Berlin

Register at events.wzb.eu/midterms

In cooperation with Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB)

Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.

BERTHOLD BEITZ LECTURE

Why the Global Economy is Breaking (and How to Fix It)

William Burke-White, Professor of Law, Carey Law School, University of Pennsylvania

This event is part of Berlin Science Week.

The fellowship is made possible through philanthropic support from the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation.

Wednesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Senatssaal, Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin

DISTINGUISHED W.E.B. DU BOIS LECTURE

Carmen Maria Machado— a Reading and Conversation

Carmen Maria Machado, Writer and Assistant Professor, Iowa Writers' Workshop, University of Iowa, in conversation with **Evangelia Kindinger**, Professor of American Literature and Culture, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

In cooperation with the Department of English and American Studies, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Monday, November 16, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Neue Nationalgalerie, Potsdamer Straße 50, 10785 Berlin

MARINA KELLEN FRENCH LECTURE

The Work We Do and How We Think About It

Annabelle Selldorf, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and Principal, Selldorf Architects

In cooperation with Neue Nationalgalerie

Monday, November 16, 7 p.m.

Location: Einstein Forum, Auditorium, Am Neuen Markt 7, 14467 Potsdam

Between "Never Forget" and the Bending of History

Andrea Bernstein, Journalist, Writer, Visiting Ferris Professor of Journalism, Princeton University

This lecture is part of the event series America at 250: What's to Celebrate? and a cooperation with the Einstein Forum

Tuesday, November 17, 7:30 p.m.

CHARLES HAIMOFF LECTURE IN GERMAN STUDIES

Gustav Mahler— A Change of Style

Aaron Cohen, Director, Broadcast Operations, New York Public Radio

Wednesday, November 18, 8 p.m.

Location: Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Roter Salon, Linienstraße 227, 10178 Berlin

Reading List Berlin with Katie Kitamura

Katie Kitamura, Writer and Clinical Professor of Creative Writing, New York University, in conversation with writers **Theresia Enzensberger** and **Patrik Gräb**

Tickets available at volksbuehne-berlin.de

In cooperation with Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz and Reading List Berlin

Thursday, November 19, 6:15 p.m.

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

Family, Labor, and the Global Race for Semiconductor Dominance

Ya-Wen Lei, Professor of Sociology, Harvard University

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

Tuesday, November 24, 7:30 p.m.

ANNA-MARIA KELLEN LECTURE

The *Automaton* and How Images Shape our World

Sara Cwynar, Artist

December

Tuesday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.

CHARLES HAIMOFF LECTURE IN GERMAN STUDIES

Dix and *Dämonie:* The *Metropolis* and the Weimar Mind

James van Dyke, Associate Professor of Art History, School of Visual Studies, University of Missouri

Wednesday, December 2, 4:15 p.m.

Location: Freie Universität Berlin, Henry-Ford-Bau, Hörsaal A, Garystraße 35, 14195 Berlin

AMERICAN ACADEMY LECTURE AT FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

The Question of Unworthy Life: Disability in Germany before and after the Holocaust

Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

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

Thursday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.

INAUGURAL ANDREW CARNEGIE LECTURE

The Future of European Security

Ethan Kapstein, Executive Director, Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

Monday, December 7, 6 p.m.

Location: Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW), Einstein-Saal, Jägerstraße 22/23, 10117 Berlin

Fascism: A Distraction from or a Useful Guide to Understanding the Present?

Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, in discussion with **Michael Zürn**, Director, Research Department Global Governance, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB), and Member of the BBAW

Moderated by **Mitchell G. Ash**, Professor Emeritus of Modern History, Universität Wien, and Member of the BBAW

In cooperation with the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW)

Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.

MARY ELLEN VON DER HEYDEN LECTURE

Permission

Katie Kitamura, Writer and Clinical Professor of Creative Writing, New York University

Wednesday, December 9, 6 p.m.

Location: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin

Eugenische Phantasmen: Zur Geschichte und Aktualität eugenischen Denkens in den helfenden Berufen

Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

This lecture will be held in German.

In cooperation with Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and Berliner Netzwerk Disability Studies

Thursday, December 10, 7 p.m.

Location: Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Heidelberg, Sofienstraße 12, 69115 Heidelberg

The Lives We Imagine: A Conversation with Katie Kitamura

Katie Kitamura, Writer and Clinical Professor of Creative Writing, New York University

Tickets available at dai-heidelberg.de/en/events/

In cooperation with Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Heidelberg

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.

Berlin Prize Fellows and Distinguished Visitors* AUGUST – DECEMBER 2026

INAUGURAL ANDREW CARNEGIE FELLOW

Ethan Kapstein, Executive Director, Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University

ANNA-MARIA KELLEN FELLOW

Sara Cwynar, Artist

BERTHOLD BEITZ FELLOW

William Burke-White, Professor of Law, Carey Law School, University of Pennsylvania

CHARLES HAIMOFF FELLOWS IN GERMAN STUDIES

Andrea Bernstein, Journalist, Writer, Visiting Ferris Professor of Journalism, Princeton University

Aaron Cohen, Director, Broadcast Operations, New York Public Radio

Stephanie Leitch, Professor of Art History, Florida State University

James van Dyke, Associate Professor of Art History, School of Visual Studies, University of Missouri

INAUGURAL JOY FOUNDATION FELLOW

Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

MARY ELLEN VON DER HEYDEN FELLOWS IN LETTERS

Katie Kitamura, Writer and Clinical Professor of Creative Writing, New York University

Carmen Maria Machado, Writer and Assistant Professor, Iowa Writers' Workshop, University of Iowa

MERCEDES-BENZ FELLOW

Allison Stanger, Middlebury Distinguished Endowed Professor, Middlebury College

NINA MARIA GORRISSEN FELLOW

Ya-Wen Lei, Professor of Sociology, Harvard University

INAUGURAL RWE FELLOW

Alice Hill, David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment, Council on Foreign Relations

AMERICAN ACADEMY DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

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Ben Lerner, Writer

MARCUS BIERICH DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

Patrick Radden Keefe, Staff Writer, *The New Yorker*

MARINA KELLEN FRENCH DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Charles Ray, Artist

Annabelle Selldorf, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and Principal, Selldorf Architects

* As of August 21, 2026

The American Academy in Berlin deepens transatlantic ties and advances democratic values because the free world thrives on understanding, exchange, and shared ideals. The Academy brings together some of the brightest minds from the United States and Germany to confront today's most urgent challenges, generate transformative ideas, and build enduring connections. Our residential fellowships in Berlin and events across the United States and Germany convene leading voices from scholarship, the arts, business, and policy to spark fresh thinking and rigorous dialogue that shapes the public discourse and inspires optimism.

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 support from individuals, foundations, and corporate partners on both side of the Atlantic.

Please visit americanacademy.de/support to learn more about support opportunities, or contact:

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The American Academy in Berlin's latest financial report may be obtained by writing to the

American Academy in Berlin
14 East 60th Street · Suite 1104
New York · NY 10022

or by contacting the

New York State
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.

A description of the programs and activities for which the American Academy in Berlin makes use of its contributions is available at americanacademy.de.

Protecting your personal data is important to us. Our data-processing information may be found at americanacademy.de/data-processing-information.

Cover Image: Sarah Cwynar, *Flower Pictures*, 2017, chromogenic print mounted on Dibond, Courtesy of the artist
Layout: Carolyn Steinbeck

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