

Lynching, that is extralegal punishment perpetrated by mobs claiming to represent the will of the larger community, has often been called "America's national crime." However, although the term originated in the United States, lynching and communal punishment outside of the law have occurred in societies all over the world. This conference, which brings together scholars from nine countries and various academic fields, including history, anthropology, sociology, political science, and criminology, is the first attempt to study the phenomenon of lynching from a comparative and transcultural perspective. The event is jointly organized and sponsored by the Hamburg Institute for Social Research, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, and the Transcultural Studies Program of Heidelberg University.

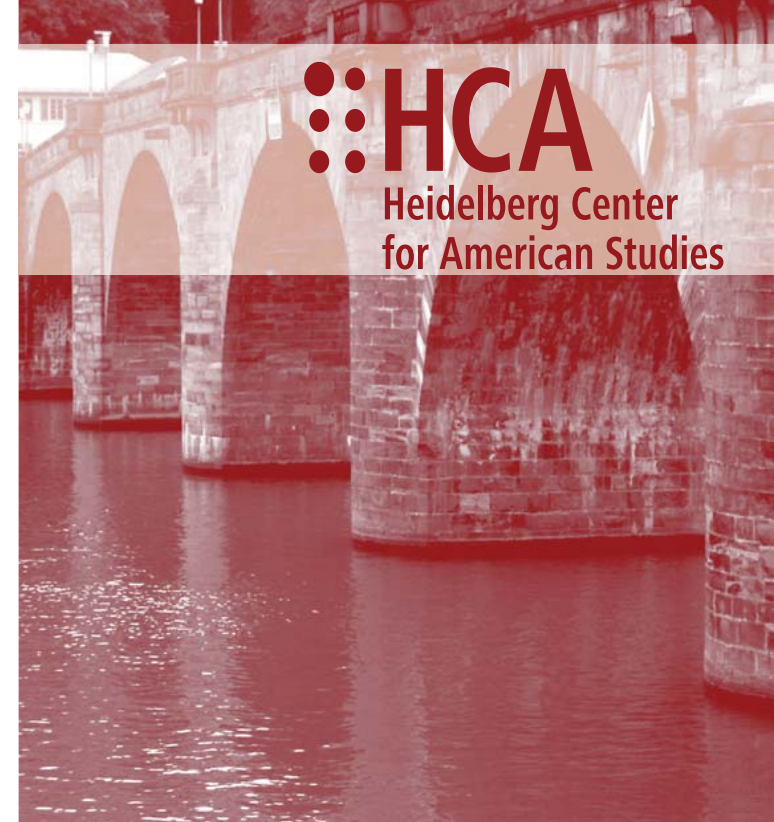


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#### Conveners:

Manfred Berg, Heidelberg Center for American Studies



Bernd Greiner, Hamburg Institute for Social Research



Simon Wendt, Transcultural Studies Program, Heidelberg University



## Toward an International History of Lynching

International Conference  
at the Heidelberg Center  
for American Studies

June 4-6, 2010



Ruprecht-Karls-Universität  
Heidelberg, est. 1386

# Program

## Friday, June 4

### 9:30: Welcome

#### Session 1, 10:00-12:00: Frameworks

Chair: Bernd Greiner

Manfred Berg (Heidelberg University):  
"Toward an International History of Lynching"

Robert Thurston (Miami University, Oxford, Ohio):  
"Political Instability and the Rise of Lynching:  
A Comparison across the American South and  
Indonesia, South Africa, and Guatemala"

Christopher Waldrep  
(San Francisco State University):  
"Lynching 'Exceptionalism': Why Lynching is American"

### 12:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

#### Session 2, 14:00-15:30: The American Case in Transnational and Transcultural Perspective

Chair: Simon Wendt

Michael Pfeifer (City University of New York):  
"The Bitter Seed of Albion and Eire: Extralegal Violence  
and Law in the Early Modern British Isles and the Origins  
of American Lynching"

Brittney Cooper (University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa):  
"To Make the Protest Loud and Long: Ida B. Wells' Interna-  
tional Anti-Lynching Campaign, 1893-1894"

### 15:30-16:00: Coffee Break

#### Session 3, 16.00-17:30: Lynching and International Relations: The Mexican-American Conflict

Chair: Lee Ann Fujii

William Carrigan  
(Rowan University, Glasboro, New Jersey): "Mexican  
Perspectives on Mob Violence in the United States"

Clive Webb (University of Sussex):  
"Diplomatic Protests and the Decline of Anti-Mexican  
Mob Violence in the United States"

### 19:00: Dinner

## Saturday, June 5

### Session 4, 9:00- 10:30: The Individual Case Study

Chair: Christopher Waldrep

Lee Ann Fujii  
(George Washington University, Washington, D.C.):  
"Popular Participation in Spectacle Lynchings:  
The Case of George Armwood"

Ebru Aykut (Boğaziçi University/Mimar Sinan Fine Arts  
University, Turkey):  
"Lynching Tailor Ohannes: Ethnic Conflicts, Armenian Mas-  
sacres and Mob Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire"

### 10:30-11:00: Coffee Break

#### Session 5, 11:00-12:30: Lynching and Indigenous Populations

Chair: Robert Thurston

Thomas Brown/Leah Sims (Alamo Colleges, Northeast  
Lakeview College, Universal City, Texas):  
"Legal Imperialism and Lynching among American  
Indian Nations"

Victoria Grieves (University of Sydney):  
"Haunted by Slavery: Jim Crow in Australia?"

### 12.30-14:00: Lunch Break

#### Session 6, 14:00-15:30: Lynching and Class Conflict

Chair: Rachel Monaghan

Joël Michel (French National Assembly, Paris):  
"Popular Justice, Class Conflict, and Lynching Spirit in  
France"

Hinnerk Onken (University of Cologne):  
"Lynching in Peru in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twen-  
tieth Centuries: An Ethical History"

### 15:30-16:00: Coffee Break

#### Session 7, 16:00-18:00: Lynching and Political Terror

Chair: Clive Webb

Michael Fellman (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver):  
"Lynching as Political Terrorism in Reconstruction  
Mississippi"

Rachel Monaghan (University of Ulster):  
"Not Quite Lynching: Informal Justice in Northern  
Ireland"

Christopher Saunders (University of Cape Town):  
"Lynching in southern Africa: What can be said?"

### 19:30: Dinner

## Sunday, June 6

### Session 8, 9:00-11:00: Lynching and Communal Self-defense

Chair: Victoria Grieves

Joseph Oduro-Frimpong (Southern Illinois University,  
Carbondale, IL):

"Instant Justice, Rough and Ready:  
On Popular Lynching in Contemporary Ghana"

Apex A. Apeh (University of Nigeria, Nsukka):

"Justice on Recess: Trader's and Armed Robbers in  
Onitsha, Southeastern Nigeria, 1978-2002"

Timothy Clark  
(Strategic Studies Section, U.S. Department of Defense):

"Lynching in Another America: Race, Class, and Gender in  
Brazil, 1980-2003"

### 11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

#### Session 9, 11.15-12:45: Lynching, Vigilantism, and Legitimacy

Chair: Manfred Berg

Tilo Grätz (University of Halle-Wittenberg/University of  
Hamburg):

"Vigilantism in Africa: Case Studies from Mali and Benin"

Christy Schuetze (University of Pennsylvania)/ Carolin Ja-  
cobs (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle):

"Witchcraft, Poverty, and the State: Lynching Outbreaks  
in Mozambique in Historical Perspective"

### Farewell