

Final Report

Transatlantic Summer Workshop
“Globalization, Nationalism and Populism in the Transatlantic World”
CUNY Graduate Center & Ruhr University Bochum
New York
July 31– August 4, 2017

For the third time, graduate students and professors from the CUNY Graduate Center, New York, and Ruhr University Bochum (RUB), Germany, participated in an annual weeklong transatlantic summer workshop framed around the topic of “Globalization, Nationalism, and Populism in the Transatlantic World.” The workshop was chaired by Professors Constantin Goschler (RUB), Benjamin Hett (CUNY), John Torpey (CUNY) and Michael Wala (RUB), and organized by Dr. Patrizia Nobbe (CUNY). The 20 participants were graduate students from both sides of the Atlantic, all of them working in the fields of sociology, social sciences, history, literature, and media studies on projects related to the main topic of the workshop.

At the opening reception on July 31, 2017, Dr. Karen Donfried, President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, delivered the keynote address “Transatlantic Relations 70 Years after the Marshall Plan.” The reception took place at the German Consulate General New York and attracted a large audience. Peter Rosenbaum, Director of the University Alliance Ruhr Liaison Office, Ambassador Jürgen Schulz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations and John Torpey, Director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies and one of the co-hosts, delivered opening remarks. In her speech, Dr. Donfried highlighted the importance of transatlantic partnership, especially during times of challenges such as the refugee crisis, terrorism, and the rise of populism both in the US and in Europe.

The main goal of the workshop was for German and American PhD students to present their dissertation projects and receive critical feedback for their future research. In addition to a wide spectrum of research agendas, the different academic and cultural backgrounds of the participants brought together many different methodical, theoretical and disciplinary approaches. Papers focused on reasons and implications underlying migration processes and transnational exchange, the influence of war and violence on societies, social negotiation processes concerning identity,

religion and questions of affiliation, and interactions between public debates, expert knowledge, and political exchange.

As in previous years, this workshop also provided a forum to discuss the future of higher education in the United States and Germany by, for example, including a lecture by Professor Christian Martin, Max Weber Chair at the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies at NYU.

As a new feature, we introduced a series of panels addressing academic know-how. We invited experts who presented topics such as networking (Yvonne Bendinger-Rothschild, Executive Director, European-American Chamber of Commerce), fundraising (Edith Gonzalez, Executive Director, Office of Research and Programs, CUNY Graduate Center), academic careers (Jennifer Furlong, Director, Career Planning, CUNY Graduate Center, and Jens Wegener, Lecturer at Montclair State University), and publishing (Niko Pfund, President and Publisher, Oxford University Press USA).

While these lectures and discussions helped to deepen the understanding of the differing academic and educational systems in the United States and Germany, they also highlighted the different paths towards a PhD in the two countries. In addition to the workshop panels, participants also engaged in a lively discussion about the influential book *Thinking: Fast and Slow* by Noble-Prize winner Daniel Kahnemann.

To conclude, the workshop provided the participants from both universities with a unique opportunity to discuss their dissertation projects in an interdisciplinary and transatlantic setting, expand their international academic network and acquire the skills necessary to succeed in today's global market. In addition, the ties between CUNY and RUB were strengthened and new ideas for future collaborations emerged from this workshop.

We wish to thank our sponsors the Max Kade Foundation, the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, the Ruhr University Bochum Research School, the University Alliance Ruhr office, the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies and the European Union Studies Center at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, as well as the Provost's Office and the Graduate Center itself.