

**Beyond Karl May**

**Teaching Native Cultures in Europe**

International Workshop for Research & Teacher Development

May 23-24, 2016 at HG 247

Keynote Speaker:

Prof. Dr. Gerald Vizenor (UC Berkeley)

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## Introduction

Native American and First Nations literatures are the oldest and arguably among the most fascinating forms of North American cultural expression. In Europe, however, most people associate “Indians” with nineteenth-century stereotypes promoted by Karl May and Hollywood, featuring teepees, feathered headdresses, *Pocahontas*, and *Dances with Wolves*. In these performances of what Hartmut Lutz calls “Indianthusiasm,” actual Indigenous people are relegated to the background or rendered entirely invisible.

Targeting especially high-school teachers of English and students training to be teachers, this workshop serves as a forum for information and exchange on the intercultural challenges of teaching Native cultures in North America and Europe. Twelve international experts will provide both overviews and in-depth case studies combined with specific concepts and materials for teaching. In addition to the Native American and First Nations cultures of the U.S. and Canada, discussions will include Sámi and Inuit cultures in Norway, Finland, and Greenland.



**Artwork by Steven Paul Judd (Kiowa/Choctaw)**

Steven Paul Judd is a Native American artist, script writer, and filmmaker. His latest short film, *Ronnie BoDean*, was released in 2015.

## Registration

There is no conference fee, but electronic registration is required. Please register by sending an e-mail (including your name, school affiliation, address and e-mail address) to [nativecultures@uni-flensburg.de](mailto:nativecultures@uni-flensburg.de).

**The deadline for registration is May 1, 2016.**

## Program

May 23, 2016

15:00

### Welcome & Introduction

**Werner Reinhart**, President of the EUF  
**Birgit Däwes**, American Studies, EUF

15:30 - 16:30

### Keynote Address

**Gerald Vizenor**, "Luther Standing Bear and Karl May: Native Survivance and Simulations in the Progressive Era"

16:30

### Coffee Break

17:00 - 18:00

### PANEL I – Beyond "Indianthusiasm": Native American and First Nations Literatures

**Hartmut Lutz**, "Beyond 'Indianthusiasm': Emma Lee Warrior's 'Compatriots' and other short texts by Native North American Authors in the EFL Classroom"

**Maria Moss**, "Native American Literature from Creation Story to Pulitzer Prize"

18:30

### Reception (at EB 309/310)

EULE: Einrichtung der Universität Flensburg und des IQSH für Unterrichtsentwicklung, Lernkultur und Evaluation

May 24, 2016

9:00 - 10:00

### PANEL II – Teaching Indigenous American Literatures

**Renaë Watchman**, "Teaching and Contextualizing Indigenous Literatures: A Focus on Young Adult Lit"

**Karsten Fitz**, "Coming of Age and Cultural Identity in Sherman Alexie's Young Adult Fiction"

10:00

### Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:15

### PANEL III – Transnational Indigenous Studies: Perspectives on/from Europe

**Ellen Marie Jensen**, "Sámi Culture in European and Global Perspective"

**Rauna Rahko-Ravanti**, "Sámi Pedagogy, Culture, and Language in Finnish Schools"

**Kennet Pedersen**, "Precolonial Culture in Greenland and its Transformation into Touristic Branding, for Foreigners, and Cultural Heritage, for Natives"

12:15

### Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:00

### Film Screening & Discussion – *Indianer* (2007)

**John Blackbird**, "A Filmic Exploration of the German Interest in the First Nations of North America"

15:00

### Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:30

### PANEL IV – Intercultural Encounters & Indigenous Film and Media

**Sabine N. Meyer**, "Beware of Positive Images! A Critical Assessment of Non-Native 'Revisionist' Film Practice"

**Kerstin Knopf**, "Four Sheets to the Wind: Teaching Indigenous Film in the EFL-Classroom"

15:30 - 16:30

### First Nations Humor

**Drew Hayden Taylor**, "White Water Rafting Down the River of Aboriginal Humor"

18:30

### End of Conference

**Networking Dinner** (by invitation only)

## Presenters

### John Blackbird

is a member of the Waterhen Lake First Nations located in Northwestern Saskatchewan (*where the prairie meets the pine*) and is a descendant of the original Blackbird, who traveled up with Sitting Bull after the Battle of Little Big Horn. He has produced two films, *Pow Wow* (2005) and *Indianer* (2007), and is the author of *A Trilogy of the Midnight Band of Indians*, a collection of three short stories published in 2016.

### Birgit Däwes

is Professor of American Studies at the Europa-University Flensburg. She has published extensively in the field of Native North American and Transnational Indigenous Studies, including *Native North American Theater in a Global Age* (Winter 2007), *Indigenous North American Drama: A Multivocal History* (ed., SUNY Press 2013), and *Twenty-First Century Perspectives on Indigenous Studies* (ed. with Karsten Fitz & Sabine Meyer, Routledge 2015). She also co-edits the Routledge Book Series on Transnational Indigenous Perspectives.

### Karsten Fitz

is Professor of American Studies/Culture and Media Studies at the University of Passau, Germany. His publications include *Negotiating History and Culture: Transculturation in Contemporary Native American Fiction* (2001), *Visual Representations of Native Americans: Transnational Contexts and Perspectives* (ed., 2012) and (ed. with Bärbel Harju) *Cultures of Privacy: Paradigms, Transformations, Contestations* (2015). Together with Birgit Däwes and Sabine Meyer he co-edits the book series Routledge Research in Transnational Indigenous Perspectives.

### Ellen Marie Jensen

A dual Norwegian/US citizen and coastal Sámi, she is currently a PhD Research Fellow in Sámi and Indigenous Research at UiT, the Arctic University of Norway. She holds a Master in Indigenous Studies from UiT and has also studied Indigenous and Sámi literatures and Sámi language. Her publications include *"We Stopped Forgetting": Stories from Sámi Americans* (2012) and *"What We Believe In": Sámi Religious Experience and Beliefs from 1593 to the Present* (2015).

### Kerstin Knopf

is Professor of Postcolonial Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Bremen. She published *Decolonizing the Lens of Power: Indigenous Films in North America* (Rodopi 2008), edited *North America in the 21st Century: Tribal, Local, and Global* (WVT 2011), *Aboriginal Canada Revisited* (U of Ottawa P 2008), and other books, and is currently preparing a monograph study on nineteenth-century American and Canadian female gothic literature for publication.

### Hartmut Lutz

is Professor and Chair emeritus of American and Canadian Studies at the University of Greifswald. His many books include *"Indianer" und "Native Americans": Zur sozial- und literaturhistorischen Vermittlung eines Stereotyps* (Olms 1985), *Contemporary Challenges* (Fifth House Publisher 1991), *Approaches* (Wissner 2002), *The Diary of Abraham Ulrikab* (U of Ottawa P 2005), *Heute sind wir hier/We Are Here Today* (von der Linden 2009), *Despite Harper* (Dr. Kovac 2014), and *Johan Adrian Jacobsen's Voyage With the Labrador Eskimos 1880-1881* (Polar Horizons 2014). Lutz founded the OBEMA-series, which published bilingual editions of works by minority authors (1989-1998).

### Sabine N. Meyer

is Assistant Professor of American Studies at the Institute of English and American Studies at the University of Osnabrück and the Coordinator of the Osnabrück Summer Institute on the

Cultural Study of the Law. Her publications include articles on Native American literature and the law. She is co-editor of the monograph series Routledge Research in Transnational Indigenous Perspectives and is currently working on her second book, "Visions of Peoplehood and Indigenous Futurity in Native American Removal Literature."

### Maria Moss

has been teaching North American Studies at Leuphana University Lüneburg since 2007. In addition to numerous publications on Native issues – most recently a book she co-edited with Maryann Henck and Sabrina Völz, *White Indian Relations: Moving into the 21st Century*, and an article on Makah whaling rights in *Twenty-First Century Perspectives on Indigenous Studies: Native North America in (Trans)Motion* (Routledge 2015) – her current research focuses on animal ethics and Critical Animal Studies.

### Kennet Pedersen

is senior lecturer at the Department of Cultural and Social History, Ilisimatusarfik/University of Greenland. Educated as an anthropologist and linguist, he has for many years done research in the history of the traditional conceptions of the world among Lowland, South American Indians and Arctic Inuit, especially the ethno-history of shamans on the Greenlandic East Coast and in the actuality of modern consumption of urban youth in Nuuk.

### Rauna Rahko-Ravantti

is currently working on her doctoral thesis at the University of Lapland. Born and raised in Rovaniemi, Lapland, she is of Sámi descent and graduated from Sámi University College, Kautokeino, as a qualified Sámi language teacher. Her current research interests include Indigenous education and pedagogy with a special focus on Sámi education.

### Drew Hayden Taylor

is an award winning playwright, novelist, columnist and humorist. Born, raised and living on the Curve Lake First Nations, Drew has done practically everything from performing stand-up comedy at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC to serving as the Artistic Director of Canada's premiere Native theatre company, Native Earth Performing Arts. This fall he will celebrate the publication of his 29th book, a collection of Native themed science fiction short stories.

### Gerald Vizenor

is Professor Emeritus of American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He is a citizen of the White Earth Nation, and has published more than thirty books, including *Native Liberty: Natural Reason and Cultural Survivance*, *Native Storytellers*, *Father Meme*, *Fugitive Poses*, *Shrouds of White Earth*, and *The White Earth Nation: Ratification of a Native Democratic Constitution*. His most recent publication is *Blue Ravens*, a historical novel about Native Americans who served in the First World War in France. *Treaty Shirts: October 2034, A Familiar Treatise on the White Earth Nation*, a novel about the pursuit of liberty, will be published in May 2016. Vizenor received two American Book Awards, the Western Literature Association Distinguished Achievement Award, and two Lifetime Achievement Awards.

### Renaë Watchman

is Diné from Shiprock, New Mexico, of the Tódich'ii'nii (Bitter Water People) and born for the Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House People). She is Associate Professor at Mount Royal University in Calgary (Alberta, Canada) where she teaches North American Indigenous literatures and visual media. Her dissertation is entitled *Fictionalizing the Indigenous in German Travel Literature* (2007). She is currently a research fellow at the University of Leipzig in Germany.

## **North American Studies**

### **at the University of Flensburg**

The American Studies team at the University of Flensburg works at the intersection of research and education. Our research – focuses on contemporary American literatures, cultures, and media, particularly on transnational Indigenous studies, ethnic studies, visual culture, film, and television. Specific current projects include representations of Indigenous futurity, Chinese American and transpacific life writing, contemporary American literature and film, transgressive television, world and society structures in post-disaster fiction, depictions of religion and science in the American novel, images of planet earth in American children's books, and the culture of surveillance.

We are committed to establishing dialogues between academia, high-school education, and the general public. We also regularly organize teacher trainings, workshops, international conferences, and lectures. If you would like to receive invitations to our events, please contact us via e-mail at [nativecultures@uni-flensburg.de](mailto:nativecultures@uni-flensburg.de).

#### **Organization:**

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