



Europa-Universität  
Flensburg

911

**Twenty Years On**

**An ONLINE CONFERENCE at  
Europa-Universität Flensburg  
September 10, 2021  
13:00-19:00**

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## *9/II: Twenty Years On*

### **An International Conference at Europa-Universität Flensburg (online via Webex)**

When the second of four hijacked passenger airliners flew into the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001, shocked onlookers around the globe realized that what they were watching on television was unlikely to be an accident. The terrorists behind the attacks had orchestrated the event so that news stations would have positioned their cameras to broadcast live as the towers and Pentagon—symbols of Western capitalism and military power—burned and collapsed. Twenty years after the event, these images remain horrifying, but the memory of “the day time stopped” (Marianne Hirsch) has also shifted and evolved. While early reactions of trauma, solidarity, and grief were politically translated into renewed nationalism and a “war on terror,” the past two decades have diversified the evaluation of what 9/11 means for American culture. “Sober ceremonies,” John Bodnar stated in the *Washington Post* in May 2021, “should not mislead us into thinking the public remembrance of this horrific event is a settled matter.”

At this workshop, we will reflect on the long-term consequences and reconfigurations of the terrorist attacks in politics, visual culture, literature, and public memory. How have our narratives and images of September 11, 2001, changed over the course of the past two decades? From the uncanny aesthetics of the visual dimension in what Miles Orvell has termed the “destructive sublime” to the political “reconfiguration of the homeland,” as Donald Pease has put it, what are the dominant frameworks that enclose and shape the cultural memory of 9/11 two decades later?



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# *Program*

**Friday, September 10, 2021**

**13:00**

## **Welcome and Introduction**

ULRICH GLASSMANN

(Europa-Universität Flensburg, Vice President)

BIRGIT DÄWES

(Europa-Universität Flensburg, American Studies)

**13:30-14:45**

## **Section 1: Reverberations of the State of Exception in Politics and Conspiracism**

MICHAEL DREYER (Jena)

9/11 – A Turning Point in American Politics

MICHAEL BUTTER (Tübingen)

From Event to Superconspiracy Scenarios:

9/11 in the Conspiracist Imagination

**15:00-16:15**

## **Section 2: Visual and Commemorative Frames: The Aesthetics of Cultural Memory**

ASTRID BÖGER (Hamburg)

The Remains of a Day:

The Visual Fallout of September 11, 2001

INGRID GESSNER (Feldkirch)

9/11 and/as Public Art: The State of Commemoration

**16:45-18:30**

## **Section 3: Narrative Understandings and the Imaginary of Disaster**

TIM GAUTHIER (Las Vegas)

A Quieter “9/11” Novel?:

Passivity and Solipsism in Recent Fiction

BIRGIT DÄWES (Flensburg)

Old Wine in New Bottles?

The Diversification of Ground Zero Fiction

JENNIFER WALLACE (Cambridge)

9/11: Trauma to Tragedy

**18:30-19:00**

## **Concluding roundtable**

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## *Registration*

Organization:  
Prof. Dr. Birgit Däwes

[www.uni-flensburg.de/?30992](http://www.uni-flensburg.de/?30992)

Please register via e-mail:  
[nineelevan@uni-flensburg.de](mailto:nineelevan@uni-flensburg.de)  
to receive the conference link.



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Flensburg