



“Between Critique and Affirmation: Political Caricature in the Early Republic”



Prof. Volker Depkat is a trained historian and Professor of American Studies at the University of Regensburg.

He has published widely on the history of North America in continental perspective, the history of European-American relations, biography and autobiography and visual culture studies in transatlantic perspective.

He received his PhD from the University of Göttingen for his book on *Amerikabilder in politischen Diskursen. Deutsche Zeitschriften 1789 – 1830* (Stuttgart 1998). In this study he reconstructs the images of America circulating in Germany between the two French revolutions, and he analyzes their communicative functions for the formation and differentiation of the political spectrum in Germany.

His second book *Lebenswenden und Zeitenwenden. Deutsche Politiker und die Erfahrungen des 20. Jahrhunderts* (München 2007), which he wrote as assistant professor of history at the University of Greifswald in Pommern, analyzes autobiographies of German politicians who were born around 1880 and experienced the whole “age of catastrophe” as grown-ups. Reading their autobiographies as sites of biographical and historical meaning-making, Volker Depkat investigates the questions of how ‘biography’ and ‘history’ were intertwined in the autobiographical narrative, how the experience of twentieth-century history shaped political identities in Germany, and what this meant for the success of the “Second German Democracy” after 1945.

Among the numerous publications which he has written since are *Geschichte Nordamerikas. Eine Einführung* (Köln: Bohlau 2008), *American History/ies in Germany. Assessments, Transformations, Perspectives.*, Spec. Issue of *Amerikastudien/American Studies* 54.3 (2009), *Visual Cultures - Transatlantic Perspectives*, eds. Volker Depkat and Meike Zwingenberger (Heidelberg: Winter 2012), *Religion and Politics. Transnational Historical Approaches*, eds. Volker Depkat and Jürgen Martschukat (Washington DC/Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP 2013).

He has just finished a one-volume history of the United States for a German publisher scheduled to be out this year.

Invitation to Lecture Series:

When I talk about American Studies, I talk about....

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Volker Depkat

University of Regensburg

June 10 | 11:45 am – 1:15 pm

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Information

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