

American Studies Research Colloquium

Guest Lectures Winter 2021/22

RUSS CASTRONOVO

(Wisconsin-Madison)

2. November 2021, 6pm c.t., Zoom

»American Insecurity and the Origins of Vulnerability: Some Propositions and Axioms«

“American Insecurity and the Origins of Vulnerability” explores the concept of security and investigates the structures of state as well as the structures of feeling that flow from what philosophers posit as the impetus to form a political community in the first place. The question is not whether people need security since risk, as Ulrich Beck contends, represents a defining feature of modernity. Rather, the goal is to examine how security provides an organizing principle for collective life in ways that both enhance freedom and limit it. In the contexts of early America, the violence of settler colonialism and ever-present fears of mass slave rebellion made white vulnerability a constitutive feature, not simply of political life, but of existence itself. Across a multiracial society organized around the frontier and the plantation, the demands for constant readiness, surveillance, and other security measures spawned feelings of unease, fear, terror, in a word, insecurity.



Institut für England- und Amerikastudien, Abteilung Amerikanistik
Veranstaltungen finden auf Zoom statt, sind öffentlich und beginnen um 18 Uhr c.t.
Zoom-Link: <https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/2140964225?pwd=OGkrRm1vZVhGTE11RFU4cEpsWINYdz09>
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