



Public Transport: Underground lines U11 (for: Messe West/Süd/Gruga), 101 or 107 (for: Bredene) to **Rütten-scheider Stern** stop — exit **Museum Folkwang**. From Rütten-scheider Straße (upstairs), please follow the signs for **Museum Folkwang**. Pass the museum centre and turn immediately left into **Goethestraße 31 (KWI)** (ca. 10 minutes).

On Foot: You can reach the KWI from the Essen main railway station in about 15 minutes along the “**culture path**” (Kulturpfad). From the south entrance of the central station, follow the signs and the **blue, illu-minated glass tiles** on the ground along **Huysenallee/** then **Rütten-scheider Straße** until you reach a small park on your right. Cross the grey **Folkwang bridge** to reach **Goethestraße 31 (KWI)**.

Address of Hotel:

Mercure Hotel Plaza

Bismarckstr. 48-50, 45128 Essen
 phone: (+49) 201 878 58-0
 fax: (+49) 201 878 58-700
 email: H4990@accor.com
 online: www.mercure.com/de/hotel-4990-mercure-hotel-plaza-essen/index.shtml

Address of Restaurant:

Restaurant Aldegheri

Rütten-scheider Str. 14, 45128 Essen
 phone: (+49) 201 439 999-98
 online: www.aldegheri.de

Supported by:

Fritz Thyssen Stiftung
 für Wissenschaftsförderung

Concept and Organization:

Bernd Sommer (bernd.sommer@kwi-nrw.de)

Concept of „Climate and Cultures“ and Co-Organization:

Carmen Meinert (carmen.meinert@kwi-nrw.de)

Place of Conference:

Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI)
 Goethestr. 31 (Gartensaal)
 45128 Essen
 phone: (+49) 201 7204-206
 fax: (+49) 201 7204-111
 online: www.kulturwissenschaften.de



KULTURWISSENSCHAFTLICHES
 INSTITUT ESSEN

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED
 STUDY IN THE HUMANITIES

Cultural Dimensions
 of Climate Change
 and the Environment
 in North America

Program
 28-29 June 2012



Cultural Dimensions of Climate Change and the Environment in North America

Climate change is an inherently global problem. However, climate change impacts as well as mitigation efforts are always perceived and dealt with locally and in a culture-specific way.

Global warming interacts in multiple ways with North American ecological and social systems. On the one hand, the U.S. and Canada belong to the world's largest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases. On the other hand, the Arctic north of the continent as well as the Deep South is already heavily affected by a changing climate. Despite the U.S.'s and recently also Canada's rejection of international binding climate targets, on the local and regional level, some of the world's most ambitious climate initiatives can be found in North America.

Striking about the symbolic representation of climate change in the USA is a relatively huge variety. While in Europe climate change deniers are largely marginalized and without influence on mainstream politics, American views on climate change and the environment become increasingly polarized according to political beliefs. And whereas the U.S. hosts some of the world's leading climate science institutions, religious explanations of why global warming is or is not happening, repeatedly have found supporters in media and politics, too.

How can these contradictions be explained? The participants will deal with these questions in the course of the conference that focuses on the human dimensions and cultural representations of climate change and the environment in North America.

Thursday, 28 June 2012

1:00 pm **Arrival and Registration**

1:30 pm **Welcome**

Claus Leggewie, Carmen Meinert and Bernd Sommer (Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, KWI)

2:00 pm **Panel I: Ideas**

Moderator: Carmen Meinert (KWI)

The 'American Way of Life' and Views on Climate Change and the Environment

Roland Benedikter (Stanford University)

'The Weather Has Always Been Crazy Here' - Dealing and not Dealing with Climate Change in Canada's Subarctic

Claudia Grill (Bielefeld School in History and Sociology)

The Role of Norms for U.S. Foreign Climate Policy

Frederic Hanusch (KWI)

4:30 pm **Coffee Break**

5:00 pm **Panel II: Past**

Moderator: Franz Mauelshagen (KWI)

Environmental Historiography of Climate Change in North America

Richard Tucker (University of Michigan)

A 'Frightening Phenomenon': New Orleans's First Hurricane Experience

Eleonora Rohland (KWI)

From Conservationists to Environmentalists: The American Environmental Movement in the 20th Century

Angela Mertig (Middle Tennessee State University)

7:30 pm **End of Day 1**

8:00 pm **Conference Dinner**

Friday, 29 June 2012

10:00 am **Panel III: Present and Future—Climate Change Attitudes, Social Practices and the Media**

Moderator: Bernd Sommer (KWI)

Climate Change Attitudes and the Role of Social Practices

Karin Schürmann (KWI)

Who Speaks for the Climate? Making Sense of Media Reporting on Climate Change (in the Context of the U.S. Presidential Election)

Maxwell T. Boykoff (Cooperative Institute for Research in the Environmental Science, CIRES)

12:00 pm **Lunch Buffet**

1:00 pm **Panel IV: Present and Future—Climate Politics**

Moderator: Bernd Sommer (KWI)

All of the Above – How Clean Energies, Fracking, and Tar Sands Impact U.S. climate and energy politics in an Election Year

Arne Jungjohann (Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America)

The U.S. and International Climate Politics

Jonas Meckling (Harvard University)

3:00 pm **Conclusion and Good-Bye**

Bernd Sommer and Carmen Meinert (KWI)

3:15 pm **End of Conference**