

# Multiple Cultures – Multiple Perspectives

Questions of Identity and Urbanity in a Transnational Context. 3rd Annual Students Conference, May 15-17, 2003

## Purpose and Format of the Students Conference

Why a students conference? If you take seriously what you are doing at the university, you will easily recognize that you are working. Yes, it's work indeed. But what do you get from it? One person probably reads it, you get a Schein, and that's it.

Writing a seminar paper isn't just that, it's actual academic work. You have analyzed and discussed a topic, you have gained insights and you have inscribed yourself into the academic discourse. But academic work neither stops nor starts with the writing. Arguments need to be shared, developed and discussed within a larger frame.

The students conference provides this frame without the usual hierarchies and pressures of university life. We offer you the opportunity to present your work to an interested audience of fellow students and discuss the issues you've been pondering. Former seminar papers are welcome, as are original contributions to the conference topic.

The conference is structured into different sessions of two hours, in which two or three papers will be discussed via a 20 minute presentation and ensuing discussion. The coffee and lunch breaks will allow for a continued discussion on a more personal level.

This is the third conference of its kind at the American Studies Program. It is our hope that this conference will be continued in the years to come, both as an extension of the study curriculum, as well as a relief from the more fixed forms of university life.

If you're interested in presenting a paper at the conference, the steps are the following:

1. Please tell us about your intended participation and the topic as soon as possible, best by the end of February 2003.
2. We'll then need an abstract of your paper (a short summary and outline of about half a page) and a short biography (half a page) e-mailed to us by March 2003. We'll put the information on the conference web site.
3. The finished version of the paper is due when you hold your presentation, not earlier.

Presentation of a paper is not obligatory, you may also just come by and listen to the papers and participate in the discussions. Please feel free to contact the organizers if you have any further questions regarding the conference, and also, please pass this on to your colleagues.

Hoping to see you in May,

Simon, Claudia and Philipp

Previous Students Conferences:

Haunted Dreams. Nightmares in American Culture (2002)  
[www2.hu-berlin.de/amerika/projects/haunteddreams](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/amerika/projects/haunteddreams)

Licence to Thrill. Reading James Bond as a Cultural Phenomenon (2001)  
[www2.hu-berlin.de/amerika/projects/bond](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/amerika/projects/bond)