



Europa-Universität
Flensburg

911

Twenty Years On

**An ONLINE CONFERENCE at
Europa-Universität Flensburg**

September 10, 2021

13:00-19:00

9/11: 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?



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

Registration

Organization:
Prof. Dr. Birgit Däwes

www.uni-flensburg.de/?30992

Please register via e-mail:
nineelevn@uni-flensburg.de
to receive the conference link.



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Flensburg