

**November 30, 2023**  
11.00 - 13.00  
Fakultätssaal 01-185  
Philosophicum

**Prof. Dr. Claudia Landwehr**  
"Conceptions of Democracy  
in Germany and the United  
States"

**Obama Dissertation Prize &  
Hans Galinsky Memorial Prize**  
Award Ceremonies



Obama Institute  
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz  
Jakob-Welder-Weg 20  
55128 Mainz  
Germany

[www.obama-institute.com/news](http://www.obama-institute.com/news)



[www.obama-institute.com/news](http://www.obama-institute.com/news)



## “Conceptions of Democracy in Germany and the United States”

Any assessment of the vulnerability and resilience of liberal democracy needs to be informed about what citizens mean by and expect from democracy. The talk presents findings from a project that seeks to identify and understand competing normative conceptions of democracy in Germany and the United States. While democracy constitutes an almost universally approved ideal, discursive struggles over what ‘democracy’ exactly denotes and how it is to be realized take place on different levels: in academic discourses, within political elites, but also in the broader public and amongst ordinary citizens. Providing evidence from citizen and elite surveys of citizens and political elites, the talk will provide a comparative overview of the variety and prevalence of normative conceptions of democracy in both countries and argue that where elite conceptions of democracy diverge significantly from those held by ordinary citizens and where discourses on democracy are increasingly led in separate and secluded forums, the procedural consensus upon which democracy is based may become frail.



Prof. Dr. Claudia Landwehr is professor of Political Theory and Public Policy at JGU Mainz. She works on democratic theory as well as citizens' understandings of democracy.

## Obama Lecture Program 2023

### Welcome Address

Alfred Hornung,  
Speaker of the Obama Institute

### Obama Lecture (in memoriam Karl Dietz)

Introduction: Mita Banerjee

### Obama Dissertation Prize & Acceptance Speech

Introduction: Axel R. Schäfer

### Galinsky Prizes

Introduction: Oliver Scheiding

## Obama Dissertation Prize

The Obama Dissertation Prize is awarded annually for outstanding Ph.D. work in Transnational American Studies.

### Lara Track

RUPRECHT-KARLS-UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG

“Zwischen Frieden und Frauenrechten: Women Strike for Peace und die amerikanische Frauenrechtsbewegung im Spiegel transnationaler Kooperationen, 1961-1990”

## Hans Galinsky Memorial Prize

The Hans Galinsky Memorial Prize is awarded annually to the best student theses and research papers in Early American Studies at the Obama Institute's Mainz campus.

### Hannah Westley

“The Meddling Sea. The Sea in Melville's Environmental Imagination”  
Term Paper (Graduate Seminar 512 – Herman Melville: New Approaches and Readings, Summer Term 2023)

### Philipp Lörke

“Marxist Ideas in Walden”  
Term Paper (Seminar 313 – American Nature Writing, Summer Term 2023)