



BAYERISCHE
bavarian
AMERIKA-
american
AKADEMIE
academy



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Amerikastudien

Bayerisches Staatsministerium für
Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst



**Friedrich-Alexander-Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg**

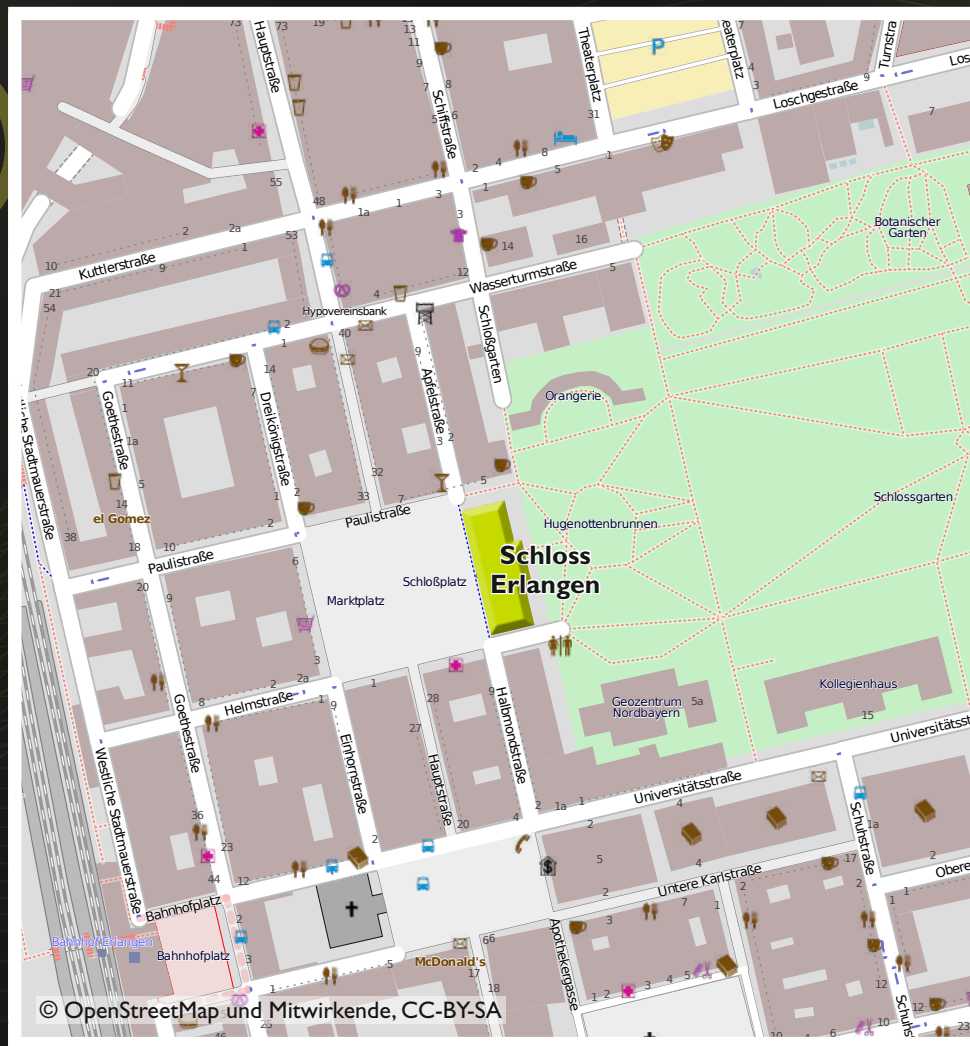
American Studies



Organization

Prof. Dr. Antje Kley
(University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

Dr. des. Jan Kucharzewski
(University of Hamburg)



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

IDEAS OF ORDER

Narrative Patterns in the Novels of
Richard Powers

UNIVERSITY OF ERLANGEN-NÜRNBERG

NOVEMBER 26–28, 2010

SENATSSAAL IM SCHLOSS

SCHLOSSPLATZ 4

91054 ERLANGEN

www.IDEASOFORDER.DE

Friday, November 26th

13:30 **Welcome at the Conference Office**

Schloss, Foyer of the Senatssaal,
Schlossplatz 4, 91054 Erlangen

14:30 **Conference Opening**

Jürgen Kähler (Dean of the Humanities at the
University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)
Jan D. Kucharzewski (University of Hamburg)
Antje Kley (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

15:00 **Keynote I**

16:00 Heinz Ickstadt (Freie Universität Berlin):
“‘A-synchronous messaging’: The Multiple Functions
of Richard Powers’ Fictions”

Coffee Break

16:30 **Panel I: Excess and Postmodern Poetics**

18:30 (Chair: Carmen Dextl)

Emilie Janton (Université d’Orleans, France):
“The Use of Excess in Richard Powers’ Novels”

Heike Schäfer (University of Mannheim):
“Toward a Literature of Enhancement: Richard
Powers’ Reworking of Postmodern Poetics in His
‘Postgenomic’ Novel *Generosity*”

19:00 **Reception**

Universitätsbibliothek, Lesesaal Handschriften-
abteilung, UB Altbau, Universitätsstr. 4, 91054 Erlangen

Saturday, November 27th

9:30 **Keynote II**

10:30 Sabine Sielke (University of Bonn):
“The Subject of Literature, or: (Re-) Cognition in
Richard Powers’ (Science) Fiction”

Coffee Break

11:00 **Panel II: Identity and Storytelling**

13:00 (Chair: Sebastian Honert)

Ridvan Askin (University of Basel): “Difference and
Identity in Richard Powers’ *The Echo Maker*”

Laura Bieger (Freie Universität Berlin):
“‘The Self is the Ultimate Reified Story’ – Identity
Narratives between Continuity and Disorder in
Richard Powers’ *The Echo Maker*”

Lunch (Catering)

14:00 **Panel III: Imagination and Representation**

16:00 (Chair: Sabina M. Ciechowski)

Philipp Löffler (University of Heidelberg): “‘The
Ability to Make Worlds’: Lukácsian Aesthetics, Self-
Imagination and Richard Powers’ *Plowing the Dark*”

Benny Pock (University of Dresden): “The Fabulous
Persian Machine: Narrative Trajectories in Recent
American Fiction and in Richard Powers’ *Plowing the
Dark*”

Coffee Break

16:30 **Panel IV: Symmetries and Harmonies**

18:30 (Chair: Johannes Barthel)

Yuliya Kozyrakis (Freie Universität Berlin):
“Sightless Sound: Music and Racial Self-fashioning
in Richard Powers’ *The Time of Our Singing*”

Barry Lewis (University of Sunderland): “Vertical
Perfection, Horizontal Inevitability: *The Gold Bug
Variations* by Richard Powers”

19:00 **Conference Dinner**

Altmann’s Stube, Theaterplatz 9, 91054 Erlangen

Sunday, November 28th

9:30 **Panel V: Mimesis and Materiality**

11:30 (Chair: Karin Höpker)

Johanna Heil (Universität Marburg): “Narrative
Strands, Lacanian Orders, and the Borromean
Knot: Reading Richard Powers’ *Plowing the Dark*”

Julia Breitbach (University of Konstanz):
“Disturbance in the Field: Reading Photography
through the Lens of Thing Theory in Richard
Powers’ *Three Farmers on Their Way to a Dance*”

Coffee Break

12:00 **Keynote III**

13:00 Trey Strecker (Ball State University, Muncie, IN):
“Powers’ Disease: Narrative and ‘The Killing
Responsibility of Care’”