

## [Bavarian American Academy Annual Conference 2022, July 7-9 Representations and Uses of the American Revolution in Past and Present Call for Papers](#)

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Bavarian American Academy

Annual Conference 2022, July 7-9

### **Representations and Uses of the American Revolution in Past and Present** Call for Papers

The American Revolution is, obviously, the founding moment of the United States of America that continues to be present in the U.S. and beyond. From the late eighteenth-century on, it has been and continues to be an inspiration for social movements and both, state- and nation-building in multiple contexts. One could think of struggles for civil rights, constitutions, institutions such as parliaments or courts of justice. The American Revolution functioned as a usable past justifying political change, the organization of resistance, and revolutionary action. The independence movements in Haiti and Spanish America, the Italian Risorgimento, decolonization in Africa in the mid-20th century, and sovereignty claims of the Haudenosaunee who hold that the US constitution is based on their, the Iroquois nations', centuries old confederation, is what comes to mind.

With this call, we invite papers from all disciplines that explore the actors, media, representations, and uses of the American Revolution for different historical contexts and against the background of concepts such as cultural transfer, transculturation, the transnational national, travelling concepts, or fractured continuities. Our aim is not only to show the multitude of interpretations of the American Revolution and its very diverse effects, how interpretations change *mutatis mutandis* across time and space. We will also discuss how much a "past event" such as the American Revolution

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continues to be present, and how it is subject to change. Which narratives relating to the American Revolution were utilized, forgotten and (re-)discovered when, where, by whom and for which reasons. Where are the limits of these diverse perspectives? When, where, and why do these narratives serve as a means to gloss over / overwrite / hide deeply rooted historical, political, and cultural contradictions. When do they become counterfactual? And who decides on the factual?

Please send your proposal by 31 October 2021 to [volker.depkat@ur.de](mailto:volker.depkat@ur.de), [karsten.fitz@uni-passau.de](mailto:karsten.fitz@uni-passau.de), and [susanne.lachenicht@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:susanne.lachenicht@uni-bayreuth.de).

Contact Email:

[susanne.lachenicht@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:susanne.lachenicht@uni-bayreuth.de)