



American Corner Innsbruck
Herzog Friedrich Straße 3, 1. Stock
6020 Innsbruck
Tel: +43 512 507-7064
Fax: +43 512 507-2879
E-mail: americancorner@uibk.ac.at
<http://www.uibk.ac.at/americancorner>

The American Corner Innsbruck cordially invites you to the talk

U.S. Hate Crimes and Lynch Law

by Mag. Karin Walpurga Köll
Universität Innsbruck

Wednesday, 21 January 2009, 7.00 p.m.
Room 50109 (Bruno-Sander-Haus, 1st floor)

Abstract

The histories of lynching and hate crimes reveal that both violent crimes are perpetrated by people who regard their deeds as just (for the sake of maintaining traditional social hierarchies). The lack of serious legal consequences of lynchings reinforced the ruthless attitude that facilitated a continuing rule of lynch law. Cultural remnants of a biased lynch law have persisted and founded the societal basis, that is, a widespread mindset, for hate crimes. The aim of the presentation is to show how hate crime legislation has counteracted this mentality of racial, economic and gender discrimination that had led to a misguided perception of justice and the formation of a widely accepted biased popular "justice."

Karin Walpurga Köll is a Ph.D. student at the Department of American Studies at the University of Innsbruck. She wrote her M.A. thesis about "Death in Postmodern American Fiction" and is currently working on her dissertation "Killing Justice: Race, Gender, Class, and Violent Death in American Culture and Law."



Looking forward to welcoming you to this ACI event,

Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Gudrun M. Grabher
Director, American Corner Innsbruck