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The American Corner Innsbruck cordially invites you to the talk

## Rich Americans Who Never Lived

Mag. Dr. Claudia Schwarz  
Universität Innsbruck

Wednesday, 25 March 2009, 6.30 p.m.  
Room 50101/1 (Bruno-Sander-Haus, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)

### Abstract

Money counts, not only in the real world but also in the world of fiction. To show how the fascination with the super-rich transgresses the boundaries of fact and fiction, *Forbes* magazine has issued special reports listing the world's 15 richest fictional characters. Their annual ranking includes names of well-known characters like Scrooge McDuck, Bruce Wayne, J.R. Ewing, Charles Foster Kane, Lara Croft, Jay Gatsby, and many more. After a survey of *Forbes'* choice of fictional millionaires and billionaires, the analysis of several examples will show how rich Americans who never lived have shaped value systems of American culture.

**Claudia Schwarz** is assistant professor at the Department of American Studies at the University of Innsbruck. She teaches courses in American literature, culture, and media. Her current fields of research include trans-disciplinary narratives and the interplay of fiction and creative non-fiction.



Looking forward to welcoming you to this ACI event,

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