



The Department of American Studies cordially invites you to the talk

## **Reassessing Early American Poetry**

by **Univ.-Prof. Dr. Oliver Scheiding**  
Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany

**Tuesday, 7 May 2013, 5.15 p.m., HS 7, Humanities Tower**

The lecture discusses important forms and themes in colonial American poetry. Colonial poetry will be read in the context of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Atlantic world emphasizing the uses of poetry. The lecture seeks to overcome existing misperceptions about the imitative and backward character of colonial verse. By presenting compelling short interpretations of poems belonging to such different genres as occasional poetry, poems on public events, and newspaper verse, the lecture intends to recover the variety of poetic expression in colonial North America. The selection of poems offers fresh insights in specific aesthetic and formal developments, and it also aims at uncovering the legacy of colonial poetry as a widely practiced popular means of private and public communication, long before the nineteenth-century has turned out to be the age of poetry.

**Oliver Scheiding** is Full Professor and Chair of American Literature at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany (since 2004) with a special focus on early American and colonial literatures. He is director of the Center of the Early American Studies at Mainz and general editor of the journal *Amerikastudien – American Studies*, which he publishes on behalf of the German Association of American Studies (DGfA).

Looking forward to welcoming you to this event!

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gudrun Grabher  
Head, Department of American Studies