



The Department of American Studies at the University of Innsbruck, the American Corner Innsbruck and the Center for Inter-American Studies cordially invite you to a talk by

Damien B. Schlarb, Ph.D.

Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies
Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz

**"Irregular, not Irreverent: Religion and Theology in
Moby-Dick and *The Scarlet Letter*"**

Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 5.15pm
HS 7, Humanities Building

Damien B. Schlarb works as lecturer at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany. He received his Ph.D. from Georgia State University for his dissertation project on Herman Melville's mediation of Old Testament wisdom literature. His work experience includes layout work and editing for the *South Atlantic Review*, the publication of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (2006-2009). He currently works as the managing editor for *Amerikastudien / American Studies*, the journal of the German Association for American Studies.

Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* and Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* famously explore the legacy of the New England Protestantism and its impact on the budding American national culture. Modern critical consensus often deems both romances subversive fictions that take to task the multifarious violence of the Anglo-Christian hegemony at the heart of British Colonialism and nineteenth-century U.S.-American nationalism. Both books engender particular epistemological programs—systems of reading and understanding the world—that mediate Protestant theology and Christian moral philosophy.

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gudrun Grabher
Head, Department of American Studies
Co-Director, Center for Inter-American Studies

Dr. Margaret Davidson
Director, American Corner Innsbruck