

46<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
AUSTRIAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

# MEDIATING MOUNTAINS



the plight of inconsequence #10, 2014 © Richard T. Walker

## Conference Program

Department of American Studies, University of Innsbruck

**NOVEMBER 22-24, 2019**

# MEDIATING MOUNTAINS

**Friday, November 22**

**12:30–13:30**

Board Meeting AAAS  
*Coffee Room (Geiwi)*

**13:30** – Registration Desk Opens (*Main Building*)

**14:00–15:00**

Conference Opening and Fulbright Award  
*Aula (Main Building)*

**Bernhard Fügenschuh**, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs and Teaching, University of Innsbruck  
**Sebastian Donat**, Dean of the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture, University of Innsbruck  
**Christian Quendler**, President of the AAAS  
**Silvia Schultermandl**, Vice President of the AAAS  
**Hermann Agis**, Executive Director of Fulbright Austria

**15:00–16:30**

Keynote Lecture I, *Aula (Main Building)*  
“Highroads and Skyroads: Cinematic Mountains and the U.S. National Park Service”  
**Jennifer Peterson**, Woodbury University  
Introduction: Christian Quendler, University of Innsbruck

**16:30–17:30**

Small Reception, *Aula Foyer (Main Building)*

**17:30–19:00**

General Assembly AAAS  
*Aula (Main Building)*

**19:15–20:15**

Screening of Films Produced by the National Park Service during the 1920s and 1930s,  
Accompanied Live by Pianist Gregor Blösl  
*HS 3 (Geiwi)*

**Saturday, November 23**

**08:45** – Registration Desk Opens (*Geiwi Foyer*)

**09:00–10:30**

Keynote Lecture II, *HS 3 (Geiwi)*

"Taking Tiger Mountain by Strategy: Two Landscapes of the Anthropocene 1970 and 2014"

**Sean Cubitt**, Goldsmiths, University of London

Introduction: Benjamin Robbins, University of Innsbruck

**10:30–11:00** Coffee Break

**11:00–13:00** Panel Session I

Concurrent Panels 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

*Lecture Rooms 50101, 50105, 50109, 40130, and 40134 (all Geiwi)*

**13:00–14:30** Lunch on your own

**14:30–16:00** Panel Session II

Concurrent Panels 6, 7, 8, and 9

*Lecture Rooms 50101, 50105, 50109, and 40130 (all Geiwi)*

**16:00–16:30** Coffee Break

**16:30–18:00** Panel Session III

Concurrent Panels 10, 11, 12, and 13

*Lecture Rooms 50101, 50105, 50109, and 40130 (all Geiwi)*

**18:00–18:15** Short Break

**18:15–19:45** Plenary Panel on Appalachia, *Aula (Main Building)*

"Bottling Steep Slopes: Mediating the Historical, Cultural, Regional, Recreational, and Environmental Subjectivities of Appalachian Mountain Vineyards"

**Jessie Blackburn**, Appalachian State University

"Modern Moonshine: The Revival of White Whiskey in the Twenty-First Century"

**Cameron D. Lippard**, Appalachian State University

Chair: Katherine Ledford, Appalachian State University

**19:45** Dinner Buffet, *Aula Foyer (Main Building)*

**Sunday, November 24**

**09:00–11:00** Panel Session IV

Concurrent Panels 14, 15, 16, and 17

*Lecture Rooms 50101, 50105, 50109, and 40130 (all Geiwi)*

**11:00–11:30** Coffee Break

**11:30–13:00**

Keynote Lecture III, *HS 3 (Geiwi)*

"Thereness: Video Game Mountains as Limits of Interactivity"

**Sascha Pöhlmann**, University of Konstanz

Introduction: Cornelia Klecker, University of Innsbruck

**13:00–13:30**

Conference Farewell Address, *HS 3 (Geiwi)*

**13:30–14:30**

Board Meeting AAAS (New Board), *Coffee Room (Geiwi)*

# PANELS

## Panel Session I, Saturday, November 23, 11:00-13:00

### Panel 1: Mountain Cinema (Room 50101)

Chair: Christian Quendler (University of Innsbruck)

**"Of Mountains and Men. Anthony Mann's Approach to Landscapes and the *Conditio Masculina*"**

Ines Bayer (Deutsches Filminstitut und Filmmuseum, Frankfurt am Main)

**"'Soviet' and 'Kyrgyz' Landscapes in *Nebo našego detstva*"**

Anna Ladinig (University of Innsbruck)

**"Early Swedish Mountain Films from an Eco-Critical Perspective"**

Anna Rossholm (University of Stockholm)

**"Sisyphos Doing the Mountains"**

Susanne Rieser (University of Graz)

### Panel 2: Appalachia: Sacred Space and Spiritual Ecology (Room 50105)

Chair: Diane Martinez (Western Carolina University)

**"Mountains as Sacred Spaces in Appalachian Literature"**

Mae Miller Claxton (Western Carolina University)

**"Where I Belong: Mountain Homeplace in Appalachia"**

Pamela Duncan (Western Carolina University)

**"Exploring Spiritual Ecology in Appalachia through an Historical Analysis of Agency"**

Diane Martinez (Western Carolina University)

**"Taking a Spiritual Turn: Environmental Advocacy in Appalachia"**

Laura Vernon (Radford University)

### Panel 3: The Photographic Construction of Mountains (Room 50109)

Chair: Ingrid Gessner (Pädagogische Hochschule Vorarlberg)

**"Revisiting *Brokeback Mountain*, or: How Mountains Matter"**

Sabine Sielke (University of Bonn)

**"The Power of Collective Vision: Landscape, Visual Media, and the Production of American Mountains"**

Danielle Raad (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

**"Aerial Alps: Balloon Photography and Mountain Modeling in the 19th Century"**

Hannah Zindel (Leuphana University Lüneburg)

**"'Down the Rugged Canyon Route': Barry Goldwater's Landscape Photography of Arizona"**

Susann Köhler (University of Göttingen)



#### **Panel 4: Alpine Playgrounds: Games, Apps, and Technologies (Room 40130)**

Chair: Sascha Pöhlmann (University of Konstanz)

##### **“A Short *Technikgeschichte* of Climbing Mountains in Video Games”**

Dejan Lukovic (University of Innsbruck)

##### **“Summiting The Ludic Heartland – On Spatial Appropriations of Mountains, Alpine Vistas and Ecocritical Values in Rural Open World Games”**

Marc Bonner (University of Cologne)

##### **“Hiking, Flying, Sharing: Space, Media, and Self-Tracking in the Digital Age”**

Karina Kirsten (University of Marburg)

##### **“The Affordances of Place: Mediating Mountains through AR Applications”**

Marc Nunes (Appalachian State University)

#### **Panel 5: Exoticizing Mountains (Room 40134)**

Chair: Joshua Parker (University of Salzburg)

##### **“Mountains of Nature and ‘No-Mind’: A Transcultural Approach to Moments of Heightened Awareness and Non-Substantialist Ontology in Thoreau, Kerouac, and Snyder”**

Birgit Capelle (University of Düsseldorf)

##### **“Mountain Drug Economies and the Limits of Orientalist Fantasy in Paul Bowles’s *Let It Come Down* (1952)”**

Benjamin Robbins (University of Innsbruck)

##### **“Alpine Orientalism: A Postcolonial Reading of Mountain Travel Literature”**

Eva-Maria Müller (University of Gießen, University of Innsbruck)

##### **“Buddhist Mountain Cure? Leonard Cohen’s Time at Mt. Baldy Zen Center in California from 1994 to 1999”**

Ulrich Eschborn (University of Graz)

#### **Panel Session II, Saturday, November 23, 14:30-16:00**

#### **Panel 6: Building Mountains: Visual Landmarks and Narrative Functions (Room 50101)**

Chair: Robert Winkler (University of Gießen)

##### **“Taking Bauhaus to the Mountains: Capitalism, Modernism, and the Aspen Jet Set”**

Julia Lange (University of Hamburg)

##### **“From the Rocky Mountains to the Hollywood Hills: How the Architecture of the Denver Art Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art Positions the Institutions in the ‘American West’”**

Wiebke Kartheus (University of Göttingen)

##### **“Remediating Mountains in Disney’s Theme Parks”**

Sabrina Mittermeier (University of Augsburg)

### **Panel 7: Mountains as Figures of Identity (Room 50105)**

Chair: Benjamin Robbins (University of Innsbruck)

#### **“The Mountain of Whiteness: Race and Racial Passing in Jessie Fauset’s *Plum Bun*”**

Marijana Mikić (University of Klagenfurt)

#### **“‘[T]o help break up the landscape’: American Topographical Imagination, Hats, and Wearable Mountains”**

Stefan Rabitsch (University of Graz)

#### **“‘What can I do / to make this mountain taller’: Mountains as Transgressive Metaphors in Selected Asian American/Canadian Poems”**

Marilyn Sook Yuen Lim (University of Graz)

### **Panel 8: Mountains and Music (Room 50109)**

Chair: Camila Torres Carrillo (University of Innsbruck)

#### **“Gustav Mahler’s Mountain Soundscapes”**

Milijana Pavlović (University of Innsbruck)

#### **“Music of the People, by the People, for the People: Mountain Minstrels from the Alps to the Blue Ridge”**

Ryan Hellenbrand (University of Wisconsin, Madison)

#### **“Mountains and Musicals: Representations of Mountains in the American Film Musical”**

Nitya Koch (Free University of Berlin)

### **Panel 9: The Great Divide (Room 40130)**

Chair: Juliann Knaus (University of Graz)

#### **“‘August Spectacles’: The Corps of Discovery at the Great Divide”**

Heinz Tschachler (University of Klagenfurt)

#### **“‘Planting the Germ of an American Population on the Shores of the Pacific’: In the Wake of Lewis and Clark through the South Pass”**

Louis J. Kern (Hofstra University, New York)

#### **“The Rocky Roads of Empire: The Rocky Mountains as Hemispheric Nexus and Barrier to Manifest Destiny in Nineteenth-Century American Literature”**

Steffen Adrian Wöll (Leipzig University)

### **Panel Session III, Saturday, November 23, 16:30-18:00**

### **Panel 10: Mining (Room 50101)**

Chair: Kamaal Haque (Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania)

#### **“Places of Treasure and Superstition: The Mountains of Spanish America, c. 1550-1800”**

Martin Gabriel (University of Klagenfurt)

#### **“Mediating Moving Mountains: Cinematic Representation of Mining in the 1950s”**

Isis Luxenburger (IRTG Diversity – Saarland University, University of Trier, University of Montreal)

#### **“Changing Topographies, Changing Lives: Impacts of Coal Mining on the Mountains and the People of Appalachia”**

Erden El (Independent Scholar)

### **Panel 11: Mountains and Masculinities (Room 50105)**

Chair: Sandra Tausel (University of Innsbruck)

#### **“Aigner’s ‘Tower’ or Someone Else’s? The Mountain as Sexual Emblem in Arthur Schnitzler’s *Das weite Land*”**

Michael Berger (University of Vienna)

#### **“Manhood, Murder, Mountains: On Hemingway’s Alps and Ecocritical Discomfort”**

Matthias Klestil (University of Klagenfurt)

#### **“Heroic Mountain Men and Their Female Partners”**

Klaus Rieser (University of Graz)

### **Panel 12: Writing America vis-à-vis Mountain Faces (Room 50109)**

Chair: Michaela Hoenicke-Moore (University of Iowa)

#### **“Appalachia, Sierra Nevada, the Rockies: Toward an American Mountain Literature”**

Katherine Ledford (Appalachian State University)

#### **“Peter Matthiessen’s Himalayas”**

Arno Heller (University of Innsbruck)

#### **“When a Mountain Takes on Face: The Divinity of the Face in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s ‘The Great Stone Face’”**

Gudrun Grabher (University of Innsbruck)

### **Panel 13: Ecological Narratives (Room 40130)**

Chair: Eva-Maria Müller (University of Gießen, University of Innsbruck)

#### **“The Snowies from Down Under: Rethinking Humans’ Relationship with the Australian Alps through the Works of Banjo Paterson”**

Loren Leong (University of Vienna)

#### **“Mountains and Hills as Spaces of Freedom and Epiphany in Kim Stanley Robinson’s Three Californias”**

Mario Grill (University of Klagenfurt)

#### **“Endurance, Extremes and Enjoyment: Narratives of Transformation in Trail- and Mountain-Running”**

Laura Kost (TU Dortmund University)

### **Panel Session IV, Sunday, November 24, 09:00-11:00**

### **Panel 14: Heimatfilm: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Formats (Room 50101)**

Chair: Christian Quendler (University of Innsbruck)

#### **“‘Auch das Gebirge lebt, nicht nur die Wüste’: Austrian *Heimatfilm* and Hollywood”**

Ralph J. Poole (University of Salzburg)

#### **“The Glacier Is Gone: The Alps and Horrors of the Anthropocene”**

Michael Fuchs (University of Graz)

#### **“Pseudo-Anthropology: Civilizing and De-civilizing in Mountain Film”**

Maximilian Büttner (University of Innsbruck)

#### **“You Can Go Home Again: The Mountain Home in Luis Trenker’s *Der verlorene Sohn* (*The Prodigal Son*)”**

Kamaal Haque (Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania)

**Panel 15: Displaced Mountains (Room 50105)**

Chair: Cornelia Klecker (University of Innsbruck)

***"The Magic Mountain and the American Plains: German-Speaking Émigrés during Two Great Debates, 1938-41 and 1945-49"***

Michaela Hoenicke-Moore (University of Iowa)

***"Enchantment and Disenchantment in the Mountains"***

Michael Edward Moore (University of Iowa)

***"Underwater Mountains"***

Nadja Gernalzick (University of Vienna, University of Mainz)

***"Lunar Fantasies of Imperialist Mountaineering"***

Johannes Vith (Ohio State University)

**Panel 16: Commodifying Verticality: Symbols, Systems, and Snow (Room 50109)**

Chair: Carolin Roeder (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)

***"How Hard Is Hard? Climbing Grades and the Classification of Verticality in the Twentieth Century"***

Carolin Roeder (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin)

***"Logos on Everest: Commercial Sponsorship of American Expeditions, 1953-1990"***

Rachel Gross (University of Montana)

***"Making Snow and Designing the X-Games: Technological Innovation and the Production of a New Ski Culture"***

Jesse Ritner (University of Texas at Austin)

**Panel 17: Reframing Appalachia (Room 40130)**

Chair: Katherine Ledford (Appalachian State University)

***"'Looking at Appalachia': Online Intermediality and Mountain Multiplicity"***

Katharina Fackler (University of Graz)

***"Confederate Appalachia: Contested Space, Contested Memory"***

Robert Tinkler (California State University, Chico)

***"Saying the Mountains with a Poem: Ron Rash's Appalachia"***

Frédérique Spill (University of Picardy Jules Verne, Amiens, France)

***"'[T]he best way to fight them is refuse to leave': Mountain Removal and Vulnerability in Ann Pancake's Strange as This Weather Has Been"***

Evangelia Kindinger (Humboldt University, Berlin)

**Screening of Films Produced by the US National Park Service during the 1920s and 1930s,  
Accompanied Live by Pianist Gregor Blösl**

**Friday, November 22, 19:15–20:15 (HS 3, Geiwi)**

As discussed in the keynote address "Highroads and Skyroads: Cinematic Mountains and the US National Park Service" by Jennifer Peterson:

*Around the West by Forest Roads* (1926), 11 min.  
US Department of Agriculture Extension Service.

*Roads in Our National Parks* (1927), 9 min. 41 sec.  
US Department of Agriculture Extension Service.  
Produced in co-operation with the US Department of the Interior.

*Land of the Lofty Mountains* (1936), 10 min. 13 sec.  
US Department of the Interior. Division of Motion Pictures.

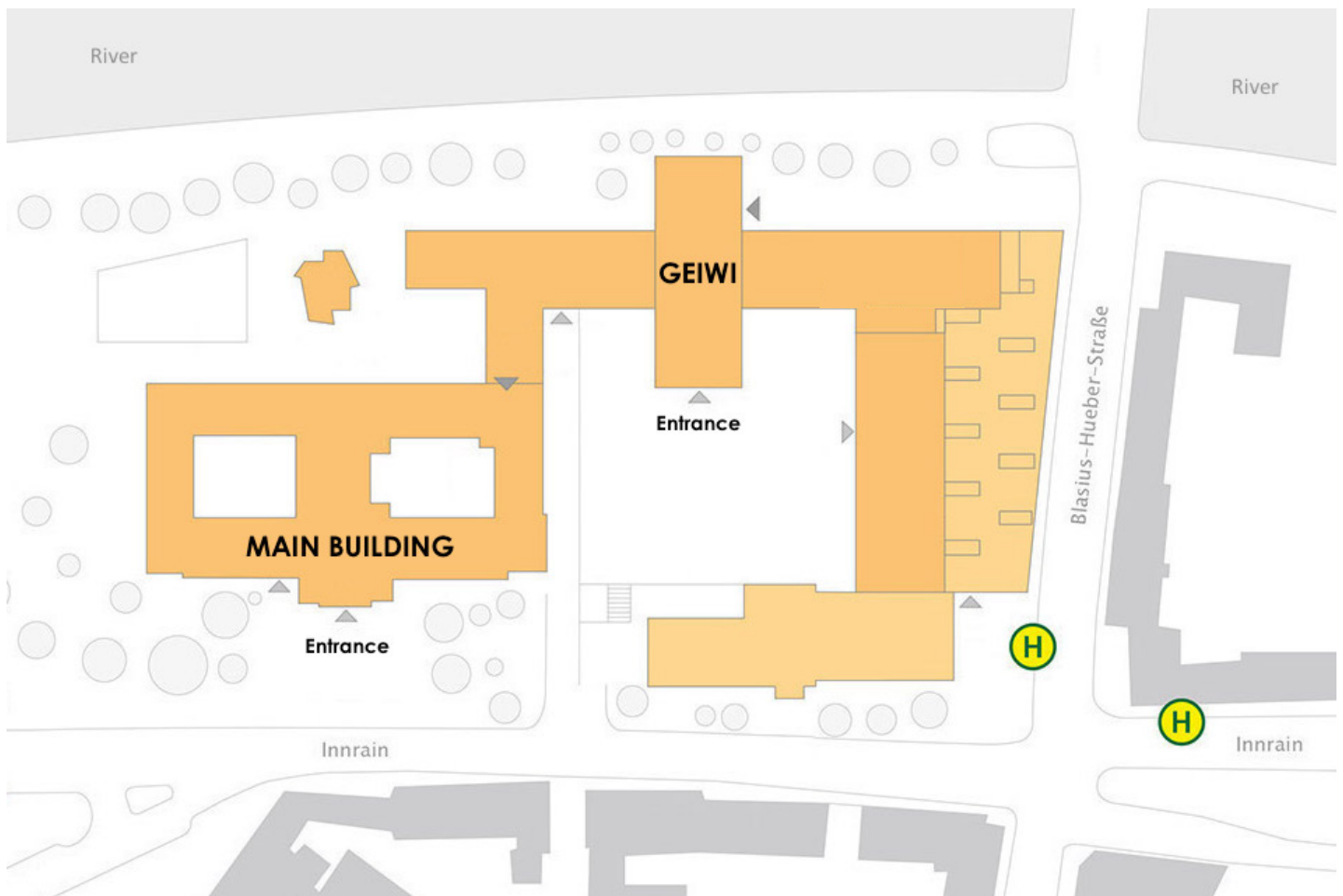
*The Olympus Country* (1936), 22 min.  
US Department of the Interior. Division of Motion Pictures.

All films from the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, MD.

Thanks to the NEST Studio for the Arts at the University of Colorado, Boulder, who provided funding for digitizing these prints.



## CONFERENCE VENUES – CAMPUS INNRAIN



### Main Building

Innrain 52

Registration desk on Friday: first floor.

Aula: First Floor.

### Geiwi

Innrain 52d

Registration desk on Saturday: ground floor.

HS 3: ground floor.

All lecture rooms are on the first floor.

Coffee Room: third floor.

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## Organization

The conference is organized by the Austrian Association for American Studies represented by Christian Quendler and Cornelia Klecker, University of Innsbruck, in cooperation with Appalachian State University, North Carolina.

## Conference Advisory Committee

Gudrun Grabher, Roberta Hofer, Katherine Ledford, Maria Meth, Eva-Maria Müller, Mark Nunes, Hilde Wolfmeyer, Benjamin Robbins, and Christian Stenico

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