



SALZBURG
GLOBAL
SEMINAR

70TH ANNIVERSARY

SALZBURG SEMINAR AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION (SSASA)

Understanding America in the 21st Century: Culture and Politics

SESSION BROCHURE

SSASA 16

DATE

September 21 to 25, 2018

LOCATION

Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg, Austria

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Marty Gecek



FOR MORE INFO

Please contact:

Marty Gecek

Program Director

✉ mgecek@salzburgglobal.org

Please visit:

✉ ssasa.SalzburgGlobal.org

✉ www.SalzburgGlobal.org

CURRENT AND RECENT SPONSORS

Since 2016, the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies Association (SSASA) has received support from the following American Embassies and Consulates:

- **American Consulate, Jerusalem**
- **Berlin, Germany**
- **Cairo, Egypt**
- **Copenhagen, Denmark**
- **Dakar, Senegal**
- **Moscow, Russian Federation**
- **Oslo, Norway**
- **Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **Tel Aviv, Israel**
- **US Consulate General, Krakow**
- **Valletta, Malta**
- **Vienna, Austria**
- **Warsaw, Poland**

Further program funding has been provided by:

- **The Arthur Miller Institute**
- **Austrian Association for American Studies**
- **American Studies Association of Norway**
- **Ron and Gwili Clifton Scholarship Fund**
- **Emory Elliott Scholarship Fund**
- **Fulbright Greece**
- **The McKnight Foundation**
- **United States Air Force Academy**
- **HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust**

Salzburg Global Seminar is grateful to all these organizations for their support of SSASA.

OVERVIEW

Ever since Salzburg Global Seminar was founded in 1947 as the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies, critical dialogue about American history, literature, cultural institutions, politics, economics and law has played a vital role in our organization's development and legacy.

The annual symposia convened by the Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association focus on topical questions and issues related to American culture and society, in order to foster understanding of how these issues are influenced by, and affect, the world as a whole.

The multi-disciplinary symposium in 2018 will explore the sensitive intersect of culture and politics in America's rapidly changing landscape, building on the conclusions of the 2017 symposium on *Life and Justice in America: Implications of the New Administration*.

Our ultimate purpose is to foster greater understanding of how the lives of individuals and communities in 21st century America are being reshaped as a result of current social, political and cultural forces as well as America's changing role in world affairs.

Participants will examine factors related to leadership, gender, race and ethnicity changes in America, transformations in media and digital communication, the decline of trust in political and cultural institutions, the direction and polarizing significance of popular culture and the arts in understanding America, and the implications of the above for the future of American Studies abroad.



MULTI-YEAR SERIES

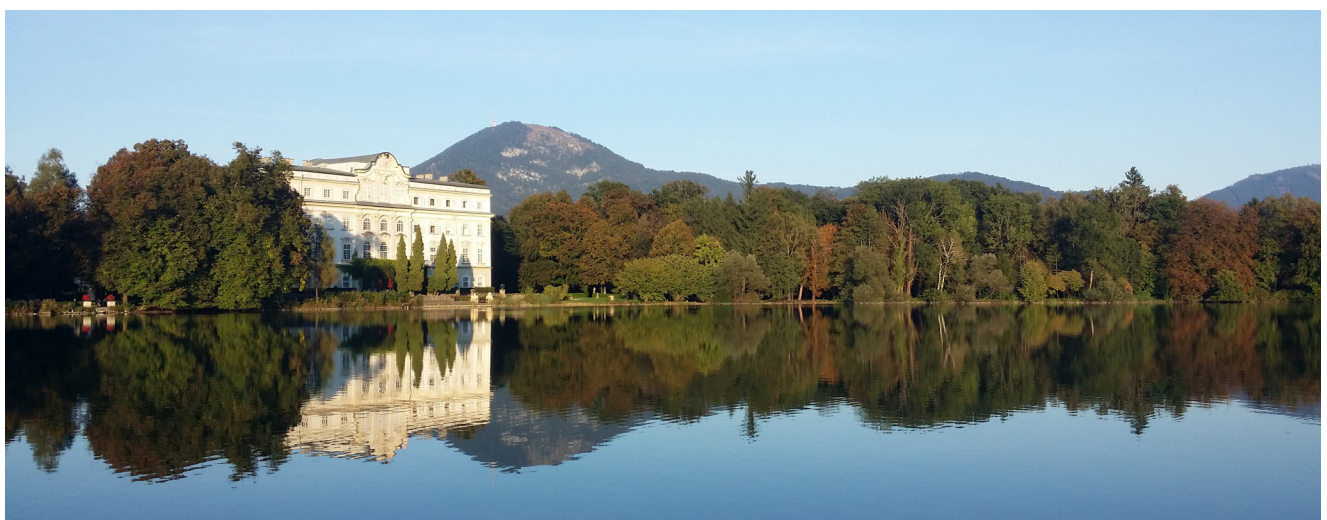
SALZBURG SEMINAR AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

The study of America has long played a vital role in the history of Salzburg Global Seminar. For decades, scores of prominent intellectuals have gathered in Salzburg to examine and debate American politics, foreign policy, economics, literature, history and culture, and America's role in the world.

More than 30 American themed seminars have been organized under the auspices of the **Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association (SSASA)** and its precursor, the American Studies Center.

For more info please visit:

➤ ssasa.SalzburgGlobal.org





RELATED SESSIONS

Life and Justice in America: Implications of the New Administration

➤ SalzburgGlobal.org/go/ssasa15

Images of America: Reality and Stereotypes

➤ SalzburgGlobal.org/go/ssasa14

The Search for a New Global Balance: America's Changing Role in the World

➤ SalzburgGlobal.org/go/ssasa13

Defining America: New Writing, New Voices, New Directions

➤ SalzburgGlobal.org/go/ssasa12

Sustainability and the City: America and the Urban World

➤ SalzburgGlobal.org/go/ssasa11

Screening America: Film and Television in the 21st Century

➤ SalzburgGlobal.org/go/ssasa10

Resistance and Readiness: Immigration, Nativism and the Challenge of Ethnic and Religious Diversity in the US and Europe Today

➤ SalzburgGlobal.org/go/ssasa09

SESSION FORMAT

The four-day session will be highly participatory and outcome-oriented program, held at Schloss Leopoldskron, the historic home of Salzburg Global Seminar.

Daily thematic presentations by distinguished speakers will be followed by moderated plenary discussions, as well as panels and café discussion groups on topical issues to maximize cross-sector interaction with participants. Afternoon sessions will include small thematic working groups, providing multiple opportunities for all participants to share their knowledge and expertise on equal terms and to build new alliances and research projects.

Participants will analyze the likely directions of changes in America over the next decade, drawing on their observation of developments since the 2016 election as well as political trends leading up to the mid-term elections of 2018.



PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association (SSASA) symposia are intended to connect scholars and professional leaders from around the world to build collaborative networks for research and critical debate.

The 2018 meeting – the 16th SSASA symposium – will bring together approximately 40 participants from more than 25 countries. In addition to public and private sector professionals, participants will include academics teaching about the United States in universities across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Central, Eastern and Western Europe, as well as the United States.

We will actively encourage participation by Americanists, political scientists and cultural professionals interested in the future direction of American culture.



FELLOW TESTIMONIAL

“I am thrilled that I attended the SSASA 15 on ‘Life and Justice in America: Implications of the New Administration.’ It opened my eyes and thoughts in a very different way. I treasure the symposium for the thought-provoking presentations, plenary discussions, panels, and chats over coffee, great food, wine or beer. Spending an intense but enriching week by the serene Leopoldskroner Weiher with scholars from 25-plus countries is just unbeatable.”

ZHENG ZHAI

Associate Professor and
Assistant Dean
(International),
School of English for
Specific Purposes,
Beijing Foreign Studies
University, China



SESSION CHAIRS



CHRISTOPHER BIGSBY

Director,
The Arthur Miller Institute,
University of East Anglia, UK



RONALD CLIFTON

Counselor (ret.),
Senior Foreign Service of
the United States;
Associate Vice President
(ret.), Stetson University

Speakers to be announced

KEY QUESTIONS

Over the course of the five-day program, participants will address the following questions:

1. In what way are increased social, political and cultural tensions a product of demographic shifts, changes in leadership, or issues of gender, race relations, the politization of immigration, and crime and punishment and judicial fairness in the US?
2. What explains the loss of trust that America is currently experiencing and what are the implications for the future?
3. What are the most dynamic factors, specifically including the distribution of wealth and educational opportunity, that are contributing to the polarizing of society and politics?
4. To what degree does an analysis of popular culture and cultural institutions, such as political, economic, educational, and the arts foster an understanding of America?
5. Are democratic institutions and governance in America threatened or strengthened by an apparent worldwide resurgent populism?

PROGRAM GOALS

This session will seek to:

- Foster intellectual analysis and discussion between professionals and academics about the factors shaping the future of personal life and communities in America.
- Develop a better understanding of the complexity of domestic and international forces impacting and driving America in the 21st century, to enrich their teaching, research and practice.

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES



SSASA has representatives at universities and other institutions all over the world who help in the recruitment of SSASA Fellows and dissemination of learnings from the annual symposia.

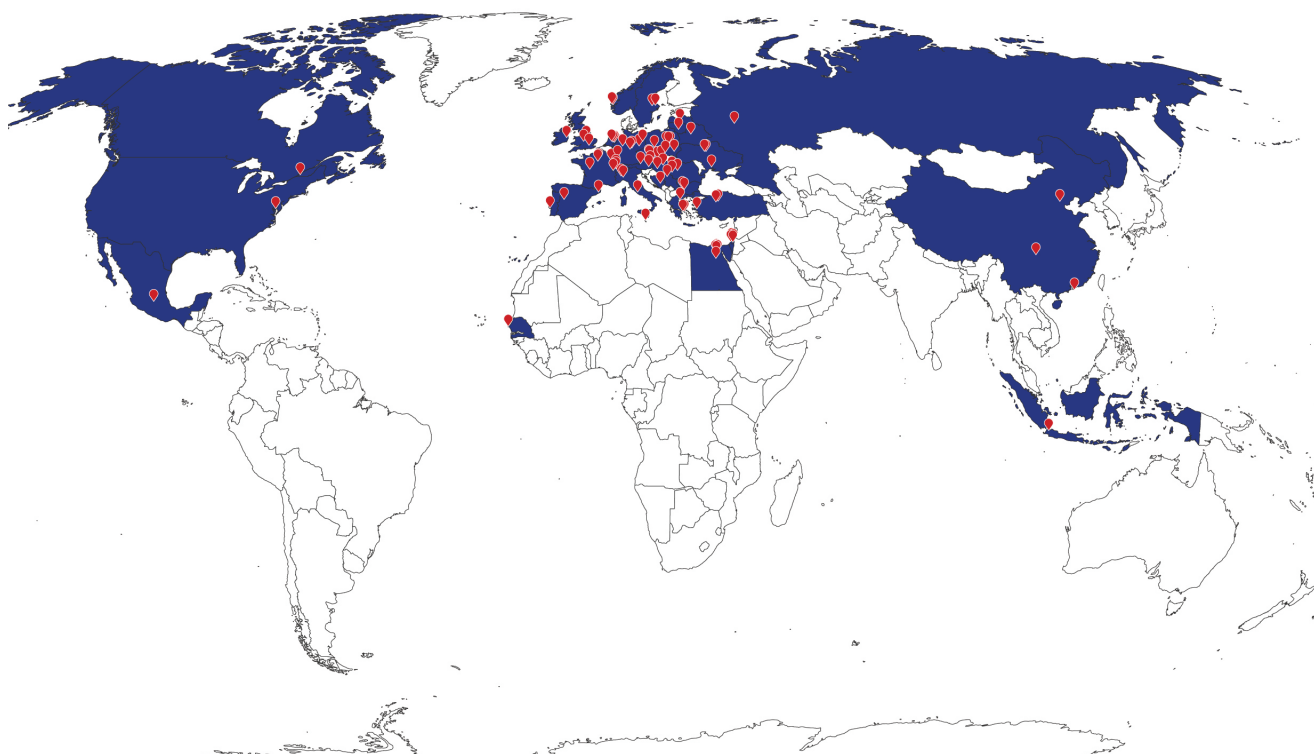
For more information, please contact Marty Gecek, Chair of the Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association:

✉ mgecek@salzburgglobal.org

SESSION REPORTS

Reports from our SSASA sessions are all available to read, download and share:

✉ SalzburgGlobal.org/go/reports





ABOUT SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR

Salzburg Global Seminar is an independent non-profit organization founded in 1947 to challenge present and future leaders to solve issues of global concern. Our multi-year programs aim to bridge divides, transform systems and expand collaboration.

We convene outstanding talent across generations, cultures and sectors, and have brought over 30,000 people from 170 countries together through our work. Salzburg Global inspires new thinking and action on critical issues, connecting local innovators and global resources. We foster lasting networks and partnerships for creative, just and sustainable change.

Our secluded home at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria – built in 1736 by the Archbishop of Salzburg, restored by the Salzburg Festival's co-founder Max Reinhardt, used by Hollywood for sets in *The Sound of Music*, and now an award-winning hotel – allows us to welcome all participants in conditions of trust and openness.

SESSION INFO

Please contact:

Marty Gecek

Program Director

✉ mgecek@SalzburgGlobal.org

SERIES INFO

Please visit:

✉ ssasa.SalzburgGlobal.org

GENERAL INFO

Please visit:

✉ www.SalzburgGlobal.org

SALZBURG
GLOBAL
SEMINAR

