

Plenary speakers:



Marita Sturken is Professor of Media, Culture and Communication at NYU, Steinhardt. Her work focuses on the relationship of cultural memory to national identity and issues of visual culture. She is the author of *Tangled Memories: The Vietnam War, the AIDS Epidemic, and the Politics of Remembering* (California, 1997), *Thelma & Louise* (British Film Institute, 2000), *Practices of Looking: An Introduction to Visual Culture* (with Lisa Cartwright, Oxford, 2001, Second Edition, 2009), and co-editor, with Douglas Thomas and Sandra Ball-Rokeach, of *Technological Visions: The Hopes and Fears that Shape New Technology* (Temple, 2004). Her writings have been published in a number of journals, including *Representations*, *Public Culture*, *History and Theory*, and *Afterimage*. She is the former editor of *American Quarterly*, the journal of the American Studies Association. She teaches courses on cultural studies, visual culture, popular culture, advertising, and global culture. Her most recent book is *Tourists of History: Memory, Consumerism, and Kitsch in American Culture*, Duke University Press, 2007.



Dag Blanck is the Director of the Swedish Institute for North American Studies (SINAS) at Uppsala University, Sweden and Director of the Swenson Swedish Immigration Research

Center at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois. His research focuses on American immigration history and on trans-national relations between Sweden and the U.S. Dag Blanck is the author of *The Creation of an Ethnic Identity: Being Swedish American in the Augustana Synod* (2006) published by Southern Illinois University Press and he has written and edited a dozen other books including *Norwegians and Swedes in the United States: Friends and Neighbors* (2012) co-edited with P. Anderson and *Notions of America: Swedish Perspectives* (2004) co-edited with Kerstin Shands and Rolf Lundén. He has also published many articles in periodicals such as *Journal of American Ethnic History*, *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly* and *American Studies in Scandinavia*. Dag Blanck also serves as a commentator on the U.S. in Swedish media.



Birgit Spengler is Associate Professor of American Studies at Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany. Her research interests include American literature and culture from the 19th century to the present, in particular American women writers, gender studies, visual culture, and questions of ethics and aesthetics. Her doctoral thesis, *Vision, Gender, and Power in American Women's Writing, 1860-1900* (Winter, 2008) was awarded the Cornelia Goethe Prize 2007 for outstanding research in the field of women and gender studies. Her postdoctoral book project, *Literary Spinoffs: Rewriting the Classics, Re-Imagining the Community*, funded by the German Research Foundation, was published in 2015. In two current research projects, she explores Western photography by American women photographers and articulations and negotiations of “states of exception” and “bare life” in various forms of cultural expression. Her articles have been published in journals such as *Legacy*, *Contemporary Women's Writing*, and *Amerikastudien/American Studies*.