

*International conference on*

# Deprovincializing German Racism

*Exploring and Teaching Latin American &  
Global Entanglements, 1500-Present*

**25. - 27. February 2026**

**ORGANIZED BY:**  
**PROJEKT GLOVIB**  
**UNIVERSITÄT TRIER**



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**LATEINAMERIKA-INSTITUT  
DER FREIEN UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN**

**LAI** Lateinamerika - Institut  
Freie Universität Berlin



IBERO-AMERIKANISCHES INSTITUT  
POTSDAMER STR. 37, BERLIN



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**Organized by Project GloVib:  
Global Entanglements of Racial Categorizations: The Iberian Roots of  
German Racial Thought [16th to 20th centuries], Trier University**

**February 25-27, 2026  
Hosted by the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut,  
Potsdamer Str. 37 10785 (Berlin Tiergarten)**

The global turn has been challenging conventional nation-bound histories for several decades. Many older accounts traced the histories of specific national attitudes towards other human beings, often in the form of 'race thinking.' Now, just as global approaches are helping us rethink the nation as a historical construct, scholars are rethinking these national narratives as constructs in their own right, and uncovering how ideas of race and difference have actually emerged across borders.

Little research exists on the circulation of racialized ideas between Germany and Latin America. Indeed, Latin America often appears in national stories on one extreme - as a melting pot - with Germany on the other, a nation defined by concerns of purity. Scholars and activists have heavily questioned the ideology of Latin American 'mixing' (mestizaje) as exclusionary and misleading, just as new global perspectives call into question the region's unique claims to mestizo identity. European nations' engagements with colonial projects and immigration patterns have also revealed considerable cultural, intellectual, and demographic exchange with the wider world.

Germany's history has been no exception, as scholars identify Indigenous, Asian, and Black German pasts, among others, along with a long history of colonial engagements. This conference thus brings together scholars from around the world who are exploring the consequences of shared and co-created ideas of 'race' and human difference between two regions often studied in isolation.

The goals of this conference are both to share new research on these topics and to discuss how to best communicate these findings with the wider public and within the German educational system. Its focus will thus be divided between research and pedagogical questions.

**Wednesday, 25.02.2026**

10:00-10:05

**Introduction by Dr. Peter Birle (Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut, DE)**

10:05-10:15

**Introduction by Project GloVib (Trier University, DE)**

10:15-11:10

**Invited Speaker: Prof. Dr. Stefan Rinke (Freie Universität Berlin, DE)**

**"Colonial Shadows: The Making and Remaking of Race between Germany and Latin America"**

11:10-11:20: **Discussion**

11:20-11:40: **Coffee Break**

11:40-12:30

**Panel 1: German Racial Thinking in Global & Historical Perspectives**

**Presentation 1.1:** Prof. Dr. Giovanna Montenegro (Binghamton University, US)

**"From the Welsers to the Moravians: Racialized Capitalism and Spirituality  
in Latin America and the Caribbean"**

**Presentation 1.2:** Harshada Anand Kavade, M.A. (Jawaharlal Nehru University, IN)

**"From Humboldt to Haeckel: German Scientific Racism & Its Latin American Reverberations"**

12:30-14:10: **Lunch Break**

14:10-15:20

**Panel 2: Race and Beauty from the 1500s to the 1800s**

**Presentation 2.1:** Dr. Adrian Masters (Trier University, DE)

**"Beauty & Human Difference in the Scholastic and Enlightenment Traditions"**

**Presentation 2.2:** Josefa Cassimo, M.A. (Leiden University, NL)

**"Racial Language and Black Identity in Early Modern Germany"**

**Presentation 2.3:** Prof. Dr. Carlos Abreu Mendoza (Texas State University, US)

**"German Aesthetics, Latin American Nation-Building,  
& the Global Entanglements of Racial Thought"**

15:20-15:35: **Coffee Break**

15:35-16:25

**Invited Speaker: Prof. Dr. Silke Hensel (Universität zu Köln, DE)**

**"Coping with Practices of Racialization in Latin America, 18th-19th Centuries"**

16:25-16:30

**Closing Remarks**

**Thursday, 26.02.2026**

10:00-10:55

**Invited Speaker: Prof. Dr. Robert Bernasconi (Penn State University, US)**

"Herder's and Hegel's Americans"

10:55-11:10: **Coffee Break**

11:10-12:20

**Panel 3: Empires Overlaid: German & Latin American Entanglements in the 1800s**

**Presentation 3.1:** Lars Grimm, M.A. (Trier University, DE)

"'Ethnic Anarchy' or 'Final Link of the Development of Humanity'? Mexico in 19th-Century German Discourse on 'Menschenrassen,' Nation Building, and Civilization"

**Presentation 3.2:** Andreas Markus Schurr, M.A. (European University Institute, IT)

"Towards a Transatlantic Understanding of 19th-Century Racial Thought: Immigration Efforts, Public Debate, & Racialized Visions of Mexican Nation-Building after 1848"

**Presentation 3.3:** Christian Lemuel Magaling, M.A. (University of Bonn, DE)

"From Reducción to Redención: Geo-ideologies of land alienation and racial politics"

12:20-13:40: **Lunch Break**

13:40-14:50

**Panel 4: Germany and the Iberian World in the Era of Scientific Racism**

**Presentation 4.1:** Dr. Isabelle Rispler (Université Paris Cité, FR)

"'The German Element': Race and Racialization in the German-speaking South Atlantic after 1820"

**Presentation 4.2:** David Labastida, M.A. (University of Toronto, CA)

"Plasmoquine, German Pharmacology, and the Transnational Racialization of Anti-Malarial Therapies in the Interwar Period"

**Presentation 4.3:** Dr. Moritz Herrmann (Trier University, DE)

"Of Bastards and Bastard Nations: The Global Entanglements of the Discourses on Human Hybridity, Nationalism and Empire (ca. 1850-1950)"

14:50-15:00: **Closing Remarks**

~16:30-17:15

**Tour (optional but recommended)**

**Erinnerungsort Ihnenstraße (KWI-A)**

with Dr. Manuela Bauche (Freie Universität Berlin, DE)

(see back for arrival instructions)

**Friday, 27.02.2026**

10:00-10:55

**Invited Speaker: Prof. Dr. Max-Sebastián Hering Torres**  
**(Universidad Nacional de Colombia, CO)**

"Race in connection:  
A methodological reflection for the long term"

10:55-11:10: **Coffee Break**

**Panel 5: Teaching Global Histories of Race in Contemporary Germany and Beyond**

**Presentation 5.1:** Stephanie Wegener (Trier University, DE)

"Ongoing Racism in German History Textbooks:  
Representations of New World Indigenous People from 1970 to the Present"

**Presentation 5.2:** Prof. Dr. Amilcar Araujo Pereira (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, BR)

"Unified Black Movement: A History of Transnational Anti-Racism in Brazil,  
with the Support of the Brazil-Germany Cultural Institute"

**Presentation 5.3:** Dr. Adolfo Polo y La Borda (University of Nottingham, UK)

"Who is a global citizen? The teaching of the history of cosmopolitanism in Germany,  
Colombia, and the United Kingdom"

**Presentation 5.4:** Judit Ramb, M.Ed. (University of Bielefeld, DE)

"Racism and the Critique of Racism for German historical thinking"

12:45-14:00: **Lunch Break**

14:00-14:55

**Invited Speaker: Prof. Dr. Felix Hinz (Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg, DE)**

"Anti-racist history teaching in Germany:  
Current developments and perspectives"

14:55-15:10: **Coffee Break**

15:10-16:10

**Round Table Discussion**

Reflections on the Future of  
Anti-Racist Education in Germany and Beyond

16:10-16:20: **Closing Remarks**



Projekt GloVib:  
Dr. Adrian Masters, Dr. Moritz Hermann, Lars Grimm, M.A.,  
Stephanie Wegener, Astrid Theerens, M.A.

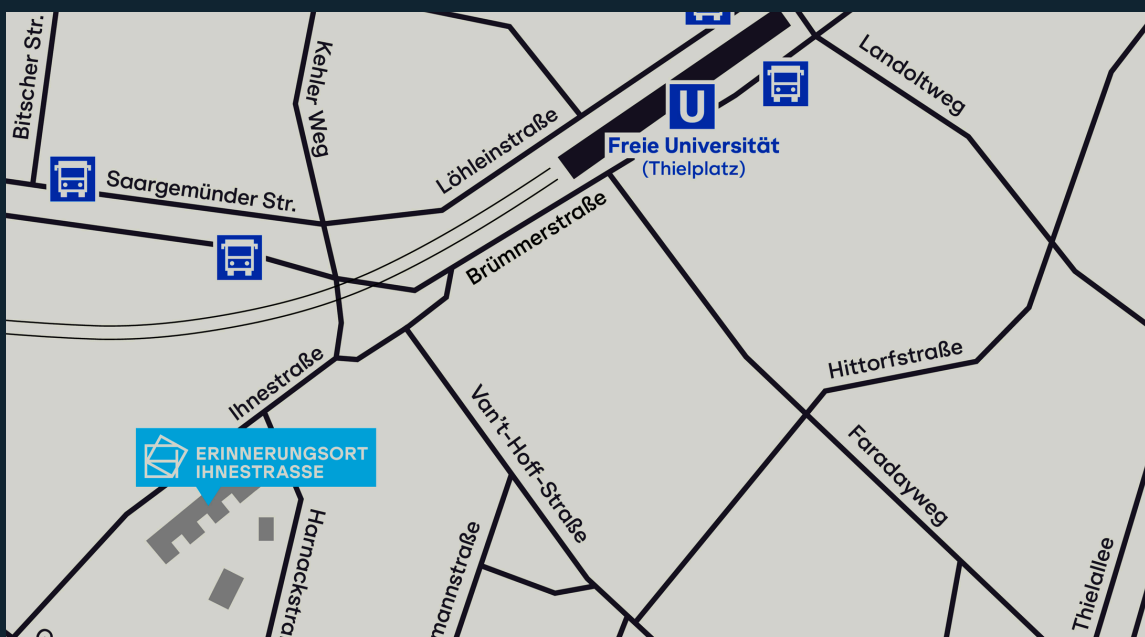
## Directions: Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut

Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut  
Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz  
Potsdamer Straße 37,  
10785 Berlin (Tiergarten)

Trams & trains: "Potsdamer Platz"  
Metro "Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Park"  
Bus M48/M85, stop: "Kulturforum"  
Bus M29, stop: "Potsdamer Brücke"



## Directions: Erinnerungsort Ihnestr  e



Ihnestr  e 22  
14195 Berlin  
Institut f  r Politik-Wissenschaft

U-Bahn: Station Freie Univ. (Thielplatz)  
Busses, stop: Freie Univ. (Thielplatz)