Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Florian Sedlmeier
Modul:	Cultural Difference, Race, and Literary Realism [ENG-7, ENG-7a, ENG-13, AA7, AA11, LAA10, LAA13, AA-MA3, AA-MA4, AA-WB]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-562
Zeit:	2st. Mo 12-14
Raum:	Ü35-01047
Beginn:	15.10.2018

The seminar re-examines a fairly established thesis, according to which the moment of U.S. literary realism, roughly the last two decades of the nineteenth century, prefigures the writing of contemporary literary historiographies under the premises multiculturalism (e.g. Michael Elliott, Susan Mizruchi, Henry Wonham). Against the backdrop of social anxieties produced by major transformations including immigration, racial segregation, urbanization, and imperialism, we read literary prose by writers such as Charles W. Chesnutt, Frances Harper, William Dean Howells, and Mark Twain. While it seems clear that realist literature can be understood as an aesthetic response to these transformations, the seminar pays careful attention to formal concerns and specific narrative strategies—aspects that scholarship on realism still tends to overlook. In this vein, we also explore the various genres of literary criticism from the period, including (review) essays, prefaces, and interviews. Treating these paratexts (cf. Genette) as texts and genre conventions in their own right, we aim to read them as attempts of positioning in an emerging literary field, structured by various social differences including race.

A reader with the course material and a list with the assigned novels are provided in the first week. Students are expected to attend and participate regularly. Requirements for a Schein/grade include the submission of short written assignments over the course and a term paper at the end of the semester.

Sprechstunden im Semester:	Dienstag, 16 – 17 Uhr (nicht am 06.11.2018)
Sprechstunden in der vorlesungsfreien Zeit:	s. Sprechstundenliste