

Alle Veranstaltungen
19:00 Uhr im Kino achteinhalb
Nauwieserstraße 19 | Saarbrücken
Tel. 0681 3 90 88 80 | kinoachteinhalb.de

Gefördert durch das Auswärtige Amt

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EINTRITT FREI

NamLitCult North American Literary & Cultural Studies
KINO 8 1/2

gefördert durch:
Auswärtiges Amt

AMERIKANISCHE SERIEN ALS GESELLSCHAFTSDRAMEN

ERFOLG IN SERIE

STAFFEL XIV

10. November 2026
Heated Rivalry
2025– | Creators: Jacob Tierney
Brendan Brady
Referentin: Aleksandra Musiał-Pudełko





24. November 2026
Queer as Folk
2000–2005 | Creators: Ron Cowen
Daniel Lipman | Russell T. Davies
Referent: Markus Lenz

1. Dezember 2026
Pasta Queen
2024 | Creators: Nadia Caterina Munno
Thaddeus Bullard | Massimo Bottur
Referentin: Isis Luxenburger





15. Dezember 2026
Dark Winds
2022– | Creator: Graham Roland
ReferentInnen: Astrid Fellner
Svitlana Kot | Tobias Schank

Alle Veranstaltungen: 19 Uhr | Kino achteinhalb | Nauwieserstr. 19 | Saarbrücken

November 10, 2026

Heated Rivalry (2025-)

Creators: Jacob Tierney | Brendan Brady
Referentin: Aleksandra Musiał-Pudełko



Adapted from Rachel Reid's bestselling novel, *Heated Rivalry* has quickly become one of the most talked-about romance adaptations of recent years. This talk focuses on the series as a text of popular romance. It asks how the show uses genre conventions, and what those conventions do with a queer love story, specifically. Moreover, the talk situates the series within the ongoing expansion of permissible queer representation in popular culture and within its limits; to answer these questions, the talk considers the text alongside its reception: e.g. fan enthusiasm and media discourse. Finally, the talk traces the series' significance in the history of popular romance, including male/male romance traditions, and recent developments in publishing industry and fandom.

Bio

Aleksandra Musiał-Pudełko is an American studies scholar and an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Literary Studies, University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, where she teaches courses on American popular culture, U.S. history, and American society. She has published on the topics of American culture and history, cultural memory, and popular culture. Her research interests include the intersections of popular culture with U.S. history and society, ideology, and social justice issues. In recent years, her research and teaching has focused particularly on popular genres including horror, romance, and true crime.

November 24, 2026

Queer as Folk (2000-2005)

Creators: Ron Cowen | Daniel Lipman | Russell T. Davies
Referent: Markus Lenz



Few television dramas captured the emergence of a more outspoken queer identity as vividly as *Queer as Folk*. The British original (1999–2000), and its American adaptation (2000–2005), placed gay desire, friendship and everyday life at the centre of the screen. Both versions are cultural time capsules of their time, reflecting growing queer visibility and self-confidence amid homophobia, HIV/AIDS and struggles for equality. Today, the series' portrayals of sexuality, gender and belonging make the assumptions and tensions of the recent past tangible to a present that considers itself more sensitive and inclusive. Revisiting *Queer as Folk* reveals change as an uneven movement between progress and regression—and invites us to question both the limitations of earlier liberation narratives and the certainties of our own moment.

Bio

Markus Alexander Lenz (Saarland University) studied in Passau and Milan. After his dissertation on anthropological discourses in 19th century Italian philology, he worked at the University of Potsdam. Since April 2024, he represents the Chair of Romance and General Literature and Civilization at Saarland U. His publications and research focus on the history of Italian and French philology, French-speaking Vietnamese literature and contemporary French literature as well as Alexander von Humboldt's work and his American travel diaries. His most recent monograph (2022) is devoted to narratives of violence in contemporary French literature from 2010 to 2020.

December 1, 2026

The Pasta Queen (2024)

Creators: Nadia Caterina Munno | Thaddeus Bullard
Massimo Bottur | **Referentin:** Isis Luxenburger



What happens when culture becomes a brand? Prime Video's *The Pasta Queen* (2024) offers more than a celebration of Italian food. Through the charismatic personality of its host Nadia Caterina Munno, the series presents migration as a success story in which cultural heritage becomes a source of authenticity, visibility, and economic opportunity. Nadia's exaggerated Italian persona, expressive gestures, emotional storytelling, and glamorous femininity stand out in a television landscape where female food hosts often appear relatable, domestic, and carefully restrained. By contrast, The Pasta Queen turns cultural difference into spectacle and celebrates a visible form of femininity that is both empowering and commercially attractive, while revealing how empowerment can remain entangled with objectification when femininity is performed through hypervisibility, exaggeration, and cultural stereotypes. This talk explores how *The Pasta Queen* reflects contemporary American ideas about identity, diversity, and belonging.

Bio

Isis Luxenburger is a doctoral candidate at the chair of North American Literary and Cultural Studies at Saarland University, where she also teaches classes on media studies and industrial film. Her research interests include the cultural studies of (industrial) films and, in general, investigating research subjects rooted in other disciplines – especially Film Studies, Game Studies, Border Studies, and Translation Studies – from a Cultural Studies perspective. She is a certified beer sommelier and a hobby brewer interested in food, drinks and travel.

December 15, 2026

Dark Winds (2022-)

Creator: Graham Roland
ReferentInnen: Astrid Fellner | Svitlana Kot | Tobias Schank



Dark Winds (AMC, based on Tony Hillerman's novels) is a gripping crime thriller set in the Navajo Nation of the 1970s. At its center are two Navajo police officers, who investigate crimes while navigating the cultural, spiritual, and political realities of Indigenous life in the American Southwest. This presentation explores the series as more than a detective story: *Dark Winds* offers a powerful portrayal of New Mexico's Indigenous landscapes and histories, foregrounding Native perspectives. By examining questions of representation, sovereignty, and cultural memory, we will discuss how the series challenges long-standing stereotypes and contributes to new forms of Indigenous storytelling in contemporary television.

Bio

Astrid M. Fellner is Chair of North American Literary and Cultural Studies at Saarland U. She is Head of the UniGR-Center for Border Studies at Saarland U and the co-editor of a trilingual Border Glossary, a handbook of key terms in Border Studies. She is also Executive Director of the DAI Saarland. Her research focuses on Border Studies, North American Studies, Popular Culture, and Gender Studies.

Svitlana Kot is a visiting scholar at Saarland U and also a senior lecturer at Petro Mohyla Black Sea National U (Ukraine). She holds a PhD in American Literature. Her current research interests are Border Studies, (Native) American Literature, and Digital Cultural Studies. She has been a recipient of several international fellowships. Her current projects explore border reconfigurations, refugee writing, and digital war documentation in Ukraine.

Tobias Schank is a postdoctoral researcher in North American Literary and Cultural Studies at Saarland U. He is a member of the UniGR-Center for Border Studies and the Head of Office of the Kulturwissenschaftliche Gesellschaft. His current research focuses on seascape epistemologies, alternative forms of knowledge production, and the American Imaginary. His research interests include Gender & Queer Studies, Film Studies, and Heavy Metal Studies.