Please register by January 15, 2016 with Volker Depkat: volker.depkat@ur.de

If you registered, but cannot take part for some reason, you should notify the Academy by February 2, 2016 (at the latest); otherwise we will have to charge 50 % of the conference fee.

Conference fee:
Including room and board: 130 EUR  
(w/o room: 80 EUR)
We ask you to pay when checking in.

Meals:
All meals are included in the conference fee. Vegetarian meals can be served if the Academy is notified in advance.

Tutzing is located about 40 km south of Munich on the shores of Lake Starnberg.

By train: You can either take the S-Bahn (S6) from Munich Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) to Tutzing (40 minutes) or you can take a train from Munich Hauptbahnhof to Tutzing (28 minutes).

By car: Take the Autobahn from Munich to Garmisch to the Starnberg exit. From there, take road B2 to Traubing and there turn left to Tutzing. The Academy is located about 400 meters after the yellow “Tutzing” sign post on your left.

From Munich airport (MUC): Take the S-Bahn (either S1 or S8) to Munich Hauptbahnhof (Central Station) and change to S6, direction Tutzing (total travel time: about 90 minutes).

At Tutzing station you will find taxi cabs to take you to the Academy (4 minutes).
Invitation

Biography and autobiography are central to the study of American history, and this not only because U.S. history was structured and shaped by a specific and yet diverse set of historical actors. Rather, a culture based on individualism, “doability”, and achievement seems to systematically create an interest in the lives of men and women acting in the contexts of their times.

The popularity and presence of biography and autobiography in American historiography stands in stark contrast to the theoretical endeavors of the field. Until recently, the biographical genre moved in the shadow of Leon Edel and his model of the “secret-self-biography.” In the 1990s, the project of a “new biography” began to unfold, which has not only expanded the range of American biographical practice in general, but also challenges some of the key premises upon which the biographical tradition rests. Historians were – and in many cases still are – reluctant to receive the theoretical debates primarily led by literary and cultural critics.

The conference brings together practitioners in the field of biography and theoreticians from the field of literary studies to discuss the opportunities and limits of the current interdisciplinary debates about life writing.

Dr. Michael MAYER  
Akademie für Politische Bildung, Tutzing  
Prof. Dr. Volker DEPKAT  
University of Regensburg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Friday, February 5, 2016</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>from</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **15.00 h** | Welcome Address | Michael MAYER (Akademie für Politische Bildung)  
Volker DEPKAT (University of Regensburg) |
| **15.15 h** | Introduction and Opening Keynote | Chair: Volker DEPKAT  
The Challenges of Biography  
Leonard CASSUTO (Fordham University) |
| **16.30 h** | Break |
| **17.00 h** | Writing American Biographies for a German Audience | Chair: Klaus SCHWABE (RWTH Aachen)  
Why Write Another Biography of Woodrow Wilson?  
Manfred BERG (Ruprecht Karls University Heidelberg)  
Malcolm X. Writing a German Biography of an African American Icon  
Britta WALDSCHMIDT-NELSON (German Historical Institute Washington) |
| **18.30 h** | Dinner |
| **20.00 h** | Evening Keynote | Life Writing between Fact and Fiction  
Julia WATSON (Ohio State University) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Saturday, February 6, 2016</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8.15 h</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9.00 h</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10.30 h</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **11.00 h** | Leadership and (Auto)Biography | Chair: Andreas ETGES (LMU Munich)  
Religious (Auto)Biographical Narratives. Christian Leaders in 19th and 20th Century America  
Stefanie COCHÉ (University of Cologne)  
Presidential Autobiographies – And Why They Are Usually Boring  
Michael DREYER (Friedrich Schiller University Jena) |
| **10.45 h** | New Forms of Life Writing | Chair: Jasper TRAUTSCH (University of Regensburg)  
The Role of Autobiographical Documentary Films in Processing a Problematic National Past. Dealing with Family History and Slavery from a White Perspective  
Tanja SEIDER (Ben Gurion University, Beersheva, Israel / TU Berlin)  
Poetry as Relational Auto/Biography of Family, Race, and Nation  
Nassim BALESTRINI (Karl Franzens University Graz) |
| **12.00 h** | Lunch & Departure |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Sunday, February 7, 2016</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8.15 h</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **9.00 h** | Female (Auto)Biographical Self-Fashioning | Chair: Anke ORTLEPP (University of Kassel)  
The Sowing of (S)Words: Southern Women’s Autobiographical Cultural Histories at the Fin-de-Siècle  
Julia NITZ (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg)  
An Exemplary Life. The Autobiographical Self-Fashioning of Margaret Mead  
Thilo NEIDHOFER (Johannes Kepler University Linz) |
| **10.30 h** | Coffee and Tea Break |
| **10.45 h** | New Forms of Life Writing | Chair: J"asper TRAUTSCH (University of Regensburg)  
The Role of Autobiographical Documentary Films in Processing a Problematic National Past. Dealing with Family History and Slavery from a White Perspective  
Tanja SEIDER (Ben Gurion University, Beersheva, Israel / TU Berlin)  
Poetry as Relational Auto/Biography of Family, Race, and Nation  
Nassim BALESTRINI (Karl Franzens University Graz) |
| **12.00 h** | Lunch |