

A GERMAN-AMERICAN DIALOGUE OF THE NEXT GENERATION

SOCIETY, CULTURE & POLITICS
2018/2019



American Institute
for Contemporary
German Studies



Germany
and the U.S.

SOCIETY, CULTURE & POLITICS

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reinforcing Relations
 - 1) **Danielle Piatkiewicz**, The German Marshall Fund of the United States
 - 2) **Justin Leahey**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 - 3) **Jacob Eder**, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena
- Refocusing on Joint Values
 - 4) **Annika Elena Poppe**, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt
 - 5) **Philip Ayoub**, Occidental College & **Anne Jenichen**, Aston University
- Reconsidering Global Responsibility
 - 6) **Paige Kirby**, Development Gateway
 - 7) **Romain Faure**, Freie Universität Berlin



REINFORCING RELATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1

Danielle Piatkiewicz

Problem: While remaining strong allies and partners, bilateral relations between the United States and Germany have been strained. Exacerbated by growing tensions between both leaders which undermines the common values and global objectives that the two countries have shared. The lack of a clear narrative on global issues, has in turn, created deep divides at the political and public level on the future of the US-Germany relationship.

Goal: Find alternative and more effective means of communicating the importance of the US – German relationship.

Recommendation: Create a clear communication strategy that emphasizes the short- and long-term goals of the bilateral relationship and use civil-society as an effective tool for communicating and establishing a new narrative.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Reinforcing Relations

Justin Leahey

Problem: The number of German university students going to the United States for study abroad is declining, reducing the number of future cultural ambassadors.

Goal: Foster contact between German high school students and American university students in Germany, to develop new interest for future university study abroad.

Recommendation: The German Goethe Institute (GI) has a formal program that connects German university students in the United States with American middle school and high school students, called “German for Hire.” Based on this model, American civil society actors involved in American study abroad in Germany, such as NAFSA and IEE, should collaborate with German counterparts such as GI or PAD to develop a network and program (“The American Friend?”) to send American university students in Germany to German high schools.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Reinforcing Relations

Jacob Eder

Problem: In transatlantic relations, the voices and concerns, but also the potential contributions of the growing minority and immigrant populations in both countries—which will only gain in political significance in the future—have so far been neglected.

Goal: Initiate and intensive transatlantic dialogue between representatives of immigrant organizations and organizations representing the interests of minority groups.

Recommendation: To provide funding to create a framework within which representatives of organizations of minorities and immigrants in the US and Germany can meet and discuss issues of shared concern.



REFOCUSING ON JOINT VALUES

RECOMMENDATION 4

Annika Elena Poppe

Problem: Democracy and human rights promotion is in trouble, in part because of increasing shrinking civic spaces globally.

Goal: Joint recommitment to this endeavor with the benefit of
(1) strengthening democratic societies around the world and;
(2) deepening core foundation of transatlantic partnership

Recommendations:

- Promote key ingredients of democratic rule
- Create institutionalized spaces for exchange and coordination
- Engage in normative debate

RECOMMENDATION 5

Philip Ayoub & Anne Jenichen

Problem: Civil society is not monolithic. Emerging tensions exist between gender, sexuality and religion.

Goal: (1) wider recognition of these tensions in American and German foreign affairs; (2) promotion of women's and LGBTI rights as well as religious freedom without infringing on the rights of either group

Recommendations:

- Recognize LGBTI rights as being as equally important as the right to religious freedom;
- Develop a foreign policy strategy of how to deal with potential normative conflicts at the intersection of gender/sexuality and religion;
- Engage with feminist and LGBTI activists and scholars within religious communities.



RECONSIDERING GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY

RECOMMENDATION 6

Paige Kirby

Problem: In international development cooperation, donor countries are increasingly focused on financial accountability – at the expense of achieving human development outcomes.

Goal: Collaboration between US and German civil society can lead to more transparent, effective, and efficient international assistance.

Recommendation:

- Civil society should jointly exchange good practices in research, advocacy, and public engagement techniques
- Civil society should jointly advocate government to focus on development outcomes, and make aid information publicly accessible

RECOMMENDATION 7

Romain Faure

Problem: The US-German relationship has played a central role in international art restitution since the Washington Conference on Nazi-Confiscated Art. It needs to be redefined as the question now extends to colonial art looting.

Goal: (i) Support post-colonial art restitution by sharing lessons learned from Nazi-confiscated art restitution and (ii) advocate for a more balanced global museum landscape.

Recommendation: Together with other countries, US and German stakeholders should strive for adapting the Washington Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art to colonial looting. They should share their practices and open their networks to actors engaged in post-colonial restitution (e.g. German-American Provenance Research Exchange Program PREP).



THANK YOU!



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