

2021 GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY LECTURE

The Department of World Languages and Literatures presents the German-American Day Lecture Series 2021. The annual series commemorates Oct. 6, 1683, when the first 13 German settler families from Krefeld, Germany, arrived in Philadelphia and founded Germantown.

"From Criminal Code into the Constitution: The Emancipation of LGBTQ in Germany"

By Axel M. Hochrein

October 6, 2021 // 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Mathematics, Education & Psychology Center 120 // Zoom

The LGBTQ community in Germany suffered for more than 120 years from state persecution and social exclusion. Gay men were sent to jail and their social existence was destroyed. The peak of the persecution was during the Nazi regime, when gay men were sent to concentration camps and killed there. The democratic Federal Republic of Germany did not end this violation of human rights during the first 20 years of its existence. Beginning around 1970, the German community fought for legal and social equality, supported by straight allies, liberal politicians and the constitutional court. It was a long and hard way up to 1994, when criminal prosecution ended and the emancipation process showed first successes. Until 2017, when marriage equality was achieved, it was a difficult course with lots of setbacks.

This lecture will give an overview of this development and compare the German situation with other European countries. And it will discuss, how to deal with the return of rising homophobia and transphobia in times of strength gaining right-wing extremism.

Free and open to the public!

ZOOM LINK: [nku.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlvCu2sqj4sGd3_HsNhSlbbbSqaWg9PmmKA](https://nku.zoom.us/j/94409440944)



Axel M. Hochrein was born 1963 in Würzburg, Bavaria, and was the deputy national chairman of the Lesbian and Gay Union (LSU) from 2001 until 2009. He has been a member of the national board of the Lesbian and Gay Federation of Germany (LSVD), where he has been responsible for diverse national-wide campaigns by the federation since 2003. In 2007, he was one of the original donors to the Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation—a foundation for the Human Rights of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgender People—and has been a member of the foundation's board since then. Since 2012, he has represented the LSVD in the board of trustees of the National Magnus Hirschfeld Foundation (established in 2011 by the Federal Republic of Germany). In 2020, he was appointed to the board of the Elisabeth-Selbert-Initiative, a protection program for human rights defenders. A holder of a degree in business administration and entrepreneur, he lives now with his husband Andreas near Würzburg.

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