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**Gastvortrag | Guest Lecture**

# The Historical Roots of America's Gun Culture

Professor Joseph W. Slade, Ph.D. (Ohio University, USA)

**Thursday, 15 November 2018, 8:15 – 9:45 am**

Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik  
Steintor Campus | Adam-Kuckhoff-Str. 35, SR 2 (1. OG)

In this lecture, Professor Joseph Slade (Ohio University Athens, USA) will talk about the historical tributaries of gun culture in the United States, early gunmaking as a trigger for American industrial growth, America's early role as an arms merchant to the world, and the gun's identification as the iconic tool that turned wilderness into garden. Professor Slade will also comment on the ethos of gun ownership and on the aesthetic appeal of weapons.

All interested are welcome!

**Joseph W. Slade**, Ph.D., is Emeritus Professor of Media Arts and Studies and Emeritus Director of the Central Region Humanities Center at Ohio University. A cultural historian of technology, he explores the ways that messages move through back channels of communication such as gossip, espionage, and outlaw forms of discourse, and also studies the displacement of thermodynamic metaphors by organic ones as keys to understanding how cultures stabilize themselves. He has taught or held fellowships at numerous universities. The former editor of *The Markham Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal of American Literature and Culture* (1968-1990), he has also written dozens of articles and book chapters. His books include *Thomas Pynchon* (1974 and 1990), *Pornography and Sexual Representation: A Reference Guide* (3 vols., 2001), *Pornography in America: A Reference Handbook* (2000), *Beyond the Two Cultures: Essays on Science, Technology, and Literature* (co-editor, 1990), and *The Midwest* (Encyclopedia of American Regional Cultures, co-editor, 2004).