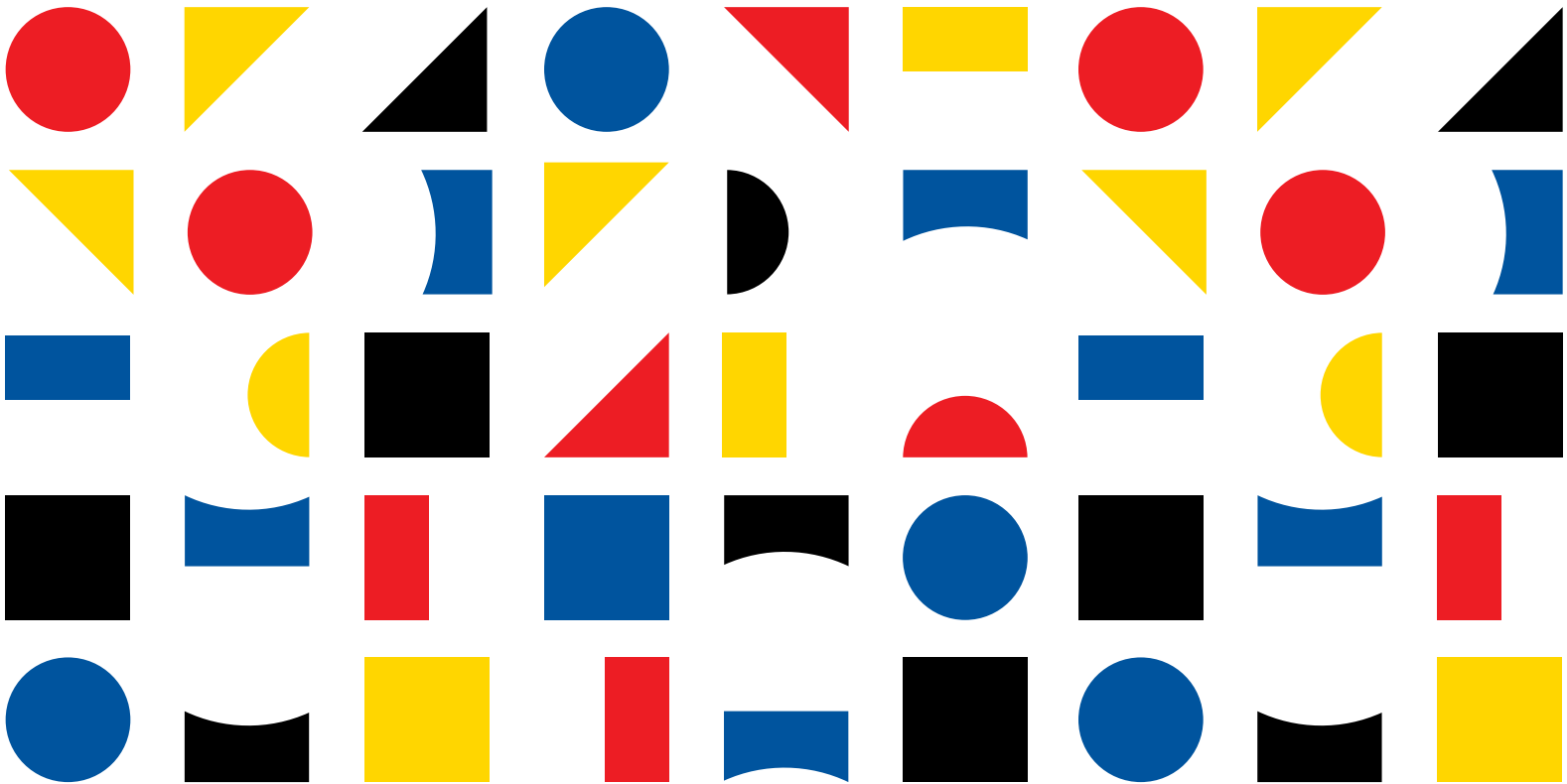
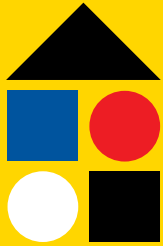


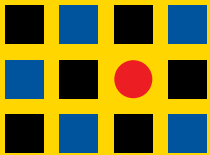
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

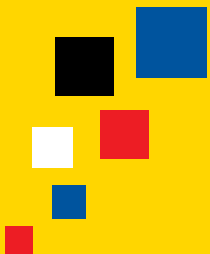




THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON GERMANY WAS INCORPORATED IN 1952 in New York as a private, nonpartisan nonprofit organization to promote reconciliation and understanding between Germans and Americans in the aftermath of World War II.



THE ACG HELD MORE THAN 140 EVENTS IN 2019, addressing topics from security policy to trade relations and from technology to urban development.



SINCE THEIR INCEPTION IN 1992, THE NUMBER OF ERIC M. WARBURG CHAPTERS HAS GROWN TO 22 IN 18 STATES. In 2019, the ACG also was active in more than 15 additional communities.



MORE THAN 100 INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN AN IMMERSIVE EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE through programs such as the American-German Young Leaders Conference, study tours, and fact-finding missions in 2019. More than 1,100 rising stars have participated in the Young Leaders program since its launch in 1973.



MORE THAN 1,100 INDIVIDUALS HAVE TRAVELED ACROSS THE ATLANTIC since 1976 to broaden their personal and professional horizons under the auspices of the American Council on Germany's fellowship programs.

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VISION

The American Council on Germany (ACG) is the leading U.S.-based forum for strengthening German-American relations. It delivers a deep and nuanced understanding of why Germany matters, because the only way to understand contemporary Europe is to understand Germany's role within Europe and around the world. And, the only way to understand contemporary Germany is to put it in a European context.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It would be naive to forget that there has always been an ebb and flow in the transatlantic relationship. The ups and downs were particularly tangible last year as Europe and the United States marked several important anniversaries.

2019 saw the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Versailles and the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Weimar Republic. It also marked the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the 70th anniversary of the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), as well as the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Federal Republic of Germany and of the German Democratic Republic.

And, of course, 2019 marked the 30th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Despite our rich historical ties, there are times when the Atlantic seems wider than ever. At those times, I remind myself that there is a lot more that connects the United States and Germany than divides us. The American Council on Germany is driven by its mission to deepen mutual understanding between Germany and the United States and to help individuals and institutions on both sides of the Atlantic adapt to an ever-changing environment.

In 1952, many Americans were wary of connections to a recent foe, yet John J. McCloy – and others who helped create the ACG – set out to build bridges between the citizens of the two nations and to support Germany in its efforts to adopt democratic principles and join the community of Western nations. Today some people might question the relevance of the transatlantic alliance. But given the volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity of today's geopolitical environment, it is more important than ever to work together to tackle common challenges.

It is also crucial for organizations like the ACG to address a wider array of issues in an increasingly global context and to reach the next generation of transatlanticists.

The ACG's small but nimble team had an incredibly active year! I could not be more proud of our achievements. Here are a few of the highlights:

- The ACG was honored to partner with the German Foreign Office, the Goethe-Institut, and the Federation of German Industries (BDI) in support of Deutschlandjahr USA 2018/2019. Using new formats and reaching new audiences, the ACG organized InsightDeutschland Community Town Halls, speaking tours, and other events throughout the year.
- The ACG organized well over 100 policy discussions in New York City and at its 22 Eric M. Warburg Chapters across the country. This programming provided members and friends access to expert speakers who shared their insights concerning developments in Germany, Europe, and around the world – and how they impact the transatlantic partnership.
- Under the heading “Strengthening Transatlantic Resilience in Uncertain Times,” the 2019 German-American Conference convened key influencers in transatlantic relations in Berlin. The conference was held in partnership with our sister organization, Atlantik-Brücke.

- The annual American-German Young Leaders Conference brought together almost 50 rising stars from government, business, journalism, academia, the military, and the nonprofit sector for a week of intense dialogue concerning domestic, bilateral, and global issues affecting both countries.
- The ACG's fellowship programs gave American and German journalists, scholars, and other mid-career professionals from a variety of fields the opportunity to travel across the Atlantic to conduct research and gain a better understanding of how common challenges are addressed there.
- The Council's in-depth study tours and leadership missions enabled practitioners and experts to meet with their professional counterparts overseas, exchange best practices, and discuss common issues on the transatlantic agenda, such as immigration and integration, the roles of cities, digitalization, sustainability and the environment, trade, and foreign and security policy.
- We supplemented these activities with other outreach initiatives, including Hot Topics Calls, podcasts, a weekly news digest, and special reports.
- We ended the year with our McCloy Awards Dinner honoring Harald Krüger of BMW and Ian C. Read of Pfizer.

Every year, I am astonished by what we accomplish – the sheer number of events and their geographic reach; the timeliness and quality of the discussions and the clear contribution to deepening the mutual understanding between Europe and the United States; and also the insights – and commitment – of our speakers, program participants, fellows, and alumni.

2019 was a year full of gratifying milestones and new initiatives. We are lucky to have incredible partners in carrying out the mission of the American Council on Germany. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen the transatlantic partnership in 2020.

DR. STEVEN E. SOKOL
ACG President

March 2020



2019 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY

2.7. | Discussion and luncheon with **Dr. Katarina Barley**, German Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection, on “**Democracy and Digitalization: A Real Challenge to Politics in the 21st Century**”

2.13. | Discussion and reception with **Burkhard Balz**, member of the Executive Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank and former member of the European Parliament (EPP), on “**The Future of Europe: A Central Banker’s Perspective**,” hosted by AllianceBernstein

2.16. | Official side event at the Munich Security Conference, held in partnership with the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS) and in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke, on “**Friends with Benefits? Global Trade and Investment Policy and the Future of the Transatlantic Alliance**,” featuring Co-Chair of the Green Party **Annalena Baerbock**, German Bundestag member and Coordinator for Transatlantic Cooperation **Peter Beyer** (CDU), former Colorado Governor **John Hickenlooper**, German Federal Finance Minister **Olaf Scholz**, and Senator **Jeanne Shaheen**

MARCH

3.1. | Breakfast Briefing with **Armin Laschet**, Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia, on “**National Politics, Regional Issues, and the Future of Europe: A View from North Rhine-Westphalia**”

3.4. | Panel discussion in Washington, DC, hosted by the Pew Research Center and the Körber Foundation in partnership with the ACG, featuring **Dr. Emily Haber**, German Ambassador to the United States; **Dr. Andrea Kendall-Taylor**, Senior Fellow and Director at the Center for a New American Security; and **Dr. Amanda Sloat**, Robert Bosch Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, on “**Mutual (Dis)Affection? How Germans and Americans See One Another and Their Relationship**”

3.7. | Discussion and luncheon with **Moneim Eltohami**, Deputy Head of the Division USA, Canada, and Mexico at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, on “**U.S.-German Economic Relations: The Way Forward**,” hosted by Dentons US LLP

3.13. | Political Salon with **Caren Marks**, Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women, and Youth, on “**Setting Priorities in the Grand Coalition: Advancing Gender Politics in Germany**,” held in partnership with Cultural Vistas

3.20. | Annual Meeting of the Members, with a discussion and reception with **Ambassador Philip D. Murphy**, Governor of New Jersey and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany

APRIL

4.1. | Conversation with **Heiko Maas**, German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, on “**Germany, Europe, and the United States: A Strategic Partnership Facing New Challenges?**” hosted at 1014 Inc.

4.5. | Breakfast Briefing with **Klaus Welle**, Secretary-General of the European Parliament, on “**Europe Goes to the Polls: What to Expect from the European Parliamentary Election**,” held in partnership with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

4.11. | Breakfast Briefing with **Dr. Jörg Kukies**, State Secretary for Financial Market Policy and European Policy at the German Federal Ministry of Finance, on “**Current Trends in European Economic and Monetary Policy**,” hosted by Alston & Bird LLP

4.13. | Breakfast Briefing with **Dr. Norbert Röttgen**, member of the German Bundestag (CDU) and former Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, on “**Germany, the United States, and the Future of Transatlantic Relations**,” hosted by Sidley Austin LLP

4.15. | Discussion and reception with **Niels Annen**, Minister of State for North America and the Middle East at the German Federal Foreign Office and member of the German Bundestag (SPD), on “**The Future of Europe**,” held in partnership with the CUNY Graduate Center and its European Union Studies Center

4.23. | Discussion and reception in Washington, DC, with **Philipp Steinberg**, Director General for Economic Policy at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, on “**The Future of U.S.-European (Economic) Relations**,” hosted by Volkswagen Group of America

4.30. | Discussion and luncheon with **Dr. Angela Stent** (1982 Young Leader), Director of the Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies and Professor of Government and Foreign Service at Georgetown University, on “**Russia and the West: What’s Next?**” hosted by Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

MAY

5.2. | Discussion and luncheon with **Christian Lindner**, member of the German Bundestag and Chairman of the Free Democratic Party (FDP), on “**Visions, Divisions, and Decisions: Germany, Europe, and the Parliamentary Elections**,” supported by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation

5.14. | Discussion and luncheon with **Susan B. Glasser**, Chief International Affairs Columnist at Politico and columnist at *The New Yorker*, on “**Trump and the World: Does ‘America First’ Mean America Alone?**” hosted by NORD/LB

JUNE

6.7. | Breakfast Briefing with **Jan Neutze**, Senior Director of Digital Diplomacy at Microsoft, on “**The Geopolitics of Cyber: Are We Moving Toward a Tech Cold War?**” hosted by Deutsche Bank Innovation Labs

6.11.-12. | **German-American Conference** in Berlin, held in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke, on “**Strengthening Transatlantic Resilience in Uncertain Times**,” with generous support from DZ BANK and Pfizer Inc

6.13. | Discussion and meeting of the Freunde des American Council on Germany in Berlin on “**Cybersecurity: A Challenge for Germany and the United States**,” featuring **Dr. Matthias Schulze**, a researcher with the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (German Institute for International and Security Affairs), and **Kim Zetter**, a journalist specializing in cybersecurity and national security and author of *Countdown to Zero Day: Stuxnet and the Launch of the World’s First Digital Weapon*, hosted by Microsoft Berlin

6.18. | Discussion and luncheon with **Karl Matthias Klause**, Minister and Head of the Economic Department at the German Embassy in Washington, DC, on “**Economic Volatility and the U.S.-German Relationship**,” held in cooperation with the Wirtschaftsrunde and hosted by Bertelsmann



ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol and Dr. Katarina Barley, German Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection
(All photo captions are left to right unless otherwise indicated.)

JULY

7.2. | Breakfast Briefing with **Kate Cassavell**, Vice President and Market Strategy Analyst at Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, and **Joseph Quinlan**, Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies, on “**Don’t Be Misled! U.S.-EU Trade and Investments Are Number One**,” held in cooperation with the American Business Forum on Europe and hosted by Alston & Bird LLP

7.11. | Breakfast Briefing with **Dr. Johann Wadepful**, member of the German Bundestag (CDU), on “**Current Dynamics in German Domestic Politics and Their Implications for German Foreign Affairs**,” hosted by Ernst & Young LLP

7.17. | Breakfast Briefing with **Ullrich Sierau**, Lord Mayor of the City of Dortmund, on “**Structural Change and Rising Populism: How Cities Manage These Trends**,” hosted by Becker, Glynn, Muffy, Chassin & Hosinski LLP

7.21.-26. | **American-German Young Leaders Conference** in Berlin on “**Is 70 the New 40? Assessing Transatlantic Relations 30 Years After the Fall of the Wall**”

SEPTEMBER

9.6. | Breakfast Briefing with **Dr. Claudia Kemfert**, Head of the Department of Energy, Transportation, and Environment at the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin (DIW Berlin), on “**Economics, Energy, and the Environment: A German Perspective**,” hosted by NORD/LB

9.10. | Breakfast Briefing with **Wolfram von Heynitz**, Head of the Cyber Coordination Staff for the German Federal Foreign Office, on “**Creating Stability in Cyberspace: Germany’s Rules-Based Approach**,” hosted by Alston & Bird LLP

9.18. | Political Salon with **Michael Kellner**, Secretary General of Alliance 90/The Greens, on “**Tectonic Shift? The Green Party and the Changing Political Landscape**,” held in partnership with 1014 Inc.

9.20. | Breakfast Briefing with **Thomas Oppermann**, Vice President of the German Bundestag, on “**The Evolving Political Landscape in Germany and the Transatlantic Relationship**”

9.23. | Discussion and luncheon with **Ali Aslan** (2010 Young Leader), TV host and journalist, on “**German Identity and the Rise of Populism**,” hosted by Dentons US LLP

9.26. | Breakfast Briefing in Washington, DC, for Young Leader alumni with journalist **Ali Aslan** (2010 YL) on “**German Identity and the Rise of Populism: A Threat to Democracy?**” hosted by Volkswagen Group of America

9.30. | Discussion and luncheon with **Matthew Karnitschnig**, Chief Europe Correspondent for Politico, on “**End of the German-American Affair?**” hosted by AllianceBernstein



Heiko Maas, German Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

OCTOBER

10.1. | Breakfast Briefing with **Metin Hakverdi**, member of the German Bundestag (SPD), on “**The U.S.-China Trade War’s Impact on Germany**”

10.3. | Discussion and luncheon with **Jürgen Hardt**, member of the German Bundestag (CDU), on “**After UNGA: Germany’s Foreign Policy Priorities**,” hosted by Sidley Austin LLP

10.16. | Discussion and luncheon with **Jens Weidmann** (2004 Young Leader), President of the Deutsche Bundesbank, moderated by ACG Board member **Dr. John Lipsky**, Peter G. Peterson Distinguished Scholar at the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, on “**The Global Effects of Transatlantic Trade Tensions, the Role of Central Banks in Europe, and the Challenges Facing the Deutsche Bundesbank**,” held in partnership with the Council on Foreign Relations

10.17. | Panel discussion on “**A World Beyond the Wall**,” with speakers including **Belinda Cooper**, Professor at Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights; **David Gill** (1992 Young Leader), Consul General of Germany in New York; **Stefan Roloff**, a German-American artist; and **Harf Zimmermann**, a German photographer, held in partnership with 1014 Inc. and the Consulate General of Germany in New York

10.21. | Discussion and luncheon with **Stefan Schlüter**, Program Director at the Diplomatic Academy of the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, on “**Populism and Nationalism on the Rise: A German Perspective**,” held in partnership with the Wirtschaftsrunde and hosted by Bayerische Landesbank

10.29. | Discussion and luncheon with **Michelle Müntefering**, Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office, on “**Inclusive Foreign Policy: The Role of Culture in Transatlantic Affairs**,” held in partnership with the Consulate General of Germany in New York

NOVEMBER

11.5. | Discussion and luncheon with **Ralf Fücks**, Managing Director of the Center for Liberal Modernity and author of *Defending Freedom: How We Can Win the Fight for an Open Society*, on “**Defending Freedom: How to Make Liberal Democracy Great Again**,” held in partnership with the Heinrich Böll Foundation and hosted by Alston & Bird LLP

11.14. | Discussion and luncheon with **Ambassador John Kornblum**, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, on “**The Fall of the Wall 30 Years On: Lessons from One of History’s Most Unexpected Inevitable Events**,” sponsored by Noerr LLP

11.15. | Discussion and luncheon with **Ambassador Peter Wittig**, German Ambassador to the United Kingdom, on “**European (Dis)Integration: Brexit and the Future of the EU**,” hosted by AllianceBernstein

DECEMBER

12.3. | Discussion and reception with **Markus Blume**, Secretary General of the Christian Social Union (CSU) and member of the Bavarian State Parliament, and **Stephan Mayer**, Secretary of State at the German Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building, and Community, on “**The Future of German Politics and Transatlantic Relations: Views from Bavaria**,” held in partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation and hosted by Bayerische Landesbank

12.9. | Discussion and luncheon with **Markus Meckel**, former Foreign Minister of the GDR and former member of the German Bundestag (SPD), on “**From the Peaceful Revolution to German Unification: Reflecting on 30 Years Since the Fall of the Berlin Wall**,” held in partnership with the Consulate General of Germany in New York and hosted by Alston & Bird LLP

12.13. | Breakfast Briefing with **Professor Dr. Christoph Meinel**, CEO of the Hasso Plattner Institute and Dean of the Digital Engineering Faculty at Potsdam University, on “**Beyond Passwords – NextGen Authentication**,” hosted by Morgan Stanley



ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol; ACG Board member Tammy S. Murphy, First Lady of New Jersey; Ambassador Philip D. Murphy, Governor of New Jersey and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany; ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson, Vice Chairman of Capital Group International, Inc.; and German Ambassador to the United Nations Dr. Christoph Heusgen

GERMAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

“STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC RESILIENCE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES”

The American Council on Germany and Atlantik-Brücke hold a German-American Conference each year to delve into the top issues on the transatlantic agenda and to look for policy solutions to address the challenges both countries face.

The 2019 German-American Conference – “Strengthening Transatlantic Resilience in Uncertain Times” – explored the very durability of the transatlantic partnership and looked at how the United States and the European Union can strengthen resilience in a variety of areas, including democratic and multilateral institutions, economic cooperation, cybersecurity, and collaboration amid an economic and technological race with China. The conference, which took place on June 11 and 12 in Berlin, was supported by DZ BANK and Pfizer Inc. More than 300 participants were in attendance.

At a small opening dinner, ACG Chairman **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, and then-Atlantik-Brücke Chairman **Friedrich Merz** discussed the importance of strengthening the transatlantic relationship with **Tina Hassel**, Director and Chief Television Editor of the ARD Studio in Berlin. The evening concluded with a fireside chat with EU Commissioner **Günther Oettinger**, who provided insights on current issues within the European Union.

Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, Chairwoman of the CDU, gave an opening keynote address the following day, saying that the United States and Europe must remain strong partners if “our values are to continue to shape the world.” Ms. Kramp-Karrenbauer, who was named German Federal Defense Minister in the weeks following the conference, also made a strong commitment to Germany’s compliance with NATO’s target spending of 2 percent of GDP, underscoring the importance of fair transatlantic burden-sharing. Former German Federal Foreign Minister **Sigmar Gabriel** talked about what the transatlantic partnership will look like in 2020. He remarked that the global order is experiencing a tectonic geopolitical shift in which “the Atlantic is no longer the center; it has shifted to the Pacific.” He called for Germany to strengthen European unity without neglecting transatlantic relations. **Justin Muzinich**, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department, stated that “this partnership is crucial for the prosperity of our countries” and suggested areas for improvement envisioned by the Trump administration.

Other speakers, panelists, and moderators included WDR Director General **Tom Buhrow**; **Julie Fisher**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; **Susan Glasser**, Staff Writer at *The New Yorker*; **Kate Kalutkiewicz**, Senior Trade Representative of the U.S. Mission to the European

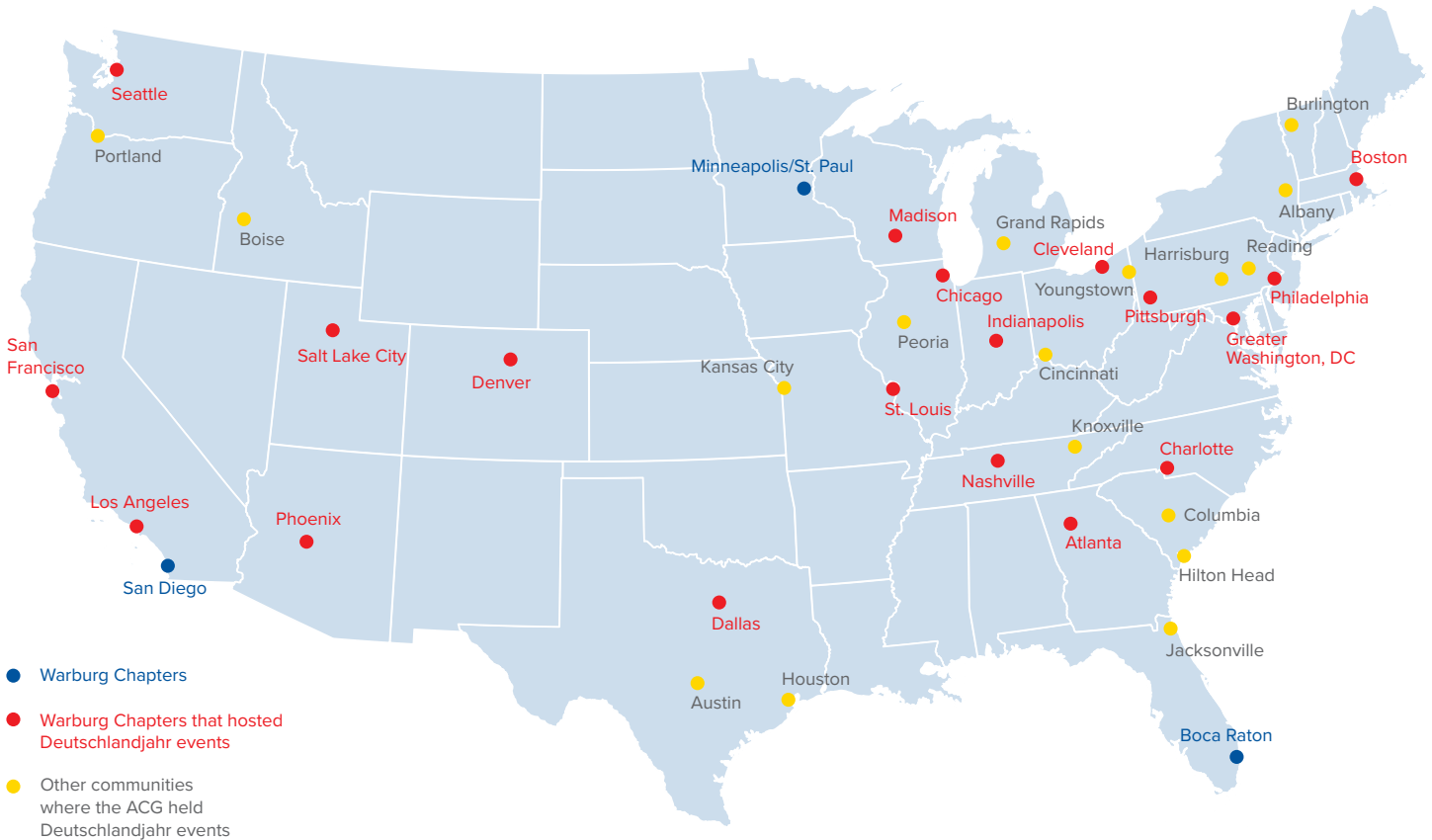
Union; **Richard Nikolaus Kühnel**, Representative of the European Commission in Germany; **Lieutenant General Ludwig Leinhos**, First Chief of the German Cyber and Information Domain Service; **Meg Lundsager**, Public Policy Fellow at the Wilson Center and former U.S. Executive Director on the International Monetary Fund’s Executive Board; **Matthias Nass**, International Correspondent at *DIE ZEIT*; **Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl**, a member of the European Parliament and Spokeswoman in the Committee on International Trade for the European People’s Party (EPP); **Norbert Röttgen**, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag (CDU); and **Ambassador Michael Schaefer**, former German Ambassador to China and Chairman of the Executive Board of the BMW Herbert Quandt Foundation.

After an intense day discussing the transatlantic partnership – and pinpointing areas where Europe and the United States can work together to address common challenges – more than 100 Young Leader alumni gathered at Bloomberg for a networking reception. In brief remarks, Ambassador Emerson underscored the indispensable nature of the German-American alliance.



Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, Chairwoman of the CDU, delivering the opening keynote

ERIC M. WARBURG CHAPTERS



2019 WARBURG CHAPTER LEADERS

The ACG is grateful to the Warburg Chapter Directors for volunteering their time and energy to bring quality programming to audiences across the country:

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
Martina Stelmaszek

BOCA RATON, FLORIDA
Aimee Kanner Arias
(Tripartite Young Leader)

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Cathryn Cluever Ashbrook
Roger Entner

CHARLOTTE,
NORTH CAROLINA
Albert E. Guarnieri

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Elke Rehbock
(2017 Young Leader)

CLEVELAND, OHIO
Martin C. Schulz

DALLAS, TEXAS
Bryan Mark Rigg
Jakob Schroeter

DENVER, COLORADO
William M. Bass
Bernhard Juergen Bleise

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
Sven Schumacher

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
Johannes Masserer

MADISON, WISCONSIN
Elizabeth E. Covington

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL,
MINNESOTA
Christa Tiefenbacher-Hudson

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
Doug Berry
(1992 Young Leader)
Paul Gallagher

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
Harry Carl Schaub

PHOENIX, ARIZONA
Bernard Otremba-Blanc

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
Jonathan Hill
Rachel Mauer
(Young Leaders Study Group
on the Future of Europe)

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
Ulrike K. Schiafly
(Former ACG Board member)

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
Eberhard H. Röhm

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
Thomas Gump

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
Petra Heussner-Walker

GREATER WASHINGTON, DC
Dale Medearis
(1995 McCloy Fellow
in Environmental Policy)

In 1992, the American Council on Germany launched its Eric M. Warburg Chapters to promote a greater understanding of German and European affairs beyond the business community in New York City and the policy community in Washington, DC. The Chapters were named after ACG founding member and longtime Treasurer Eric M. Warburg. Since then, the Chapter network has grown to include 22 cities across the United States. The Warburg Chapters have created a forum for open dialogue on German politics, policies, and practices on a range of issues, including immigration and integration, workforce preparedness, technological change, and entrepreneurship. Each Chapter fosters a local exchange of ideas and the sharing of best practices in light of common challenges on the transatlantic agenda.

In 2019, the Chapters hosted more than 80 events collectively, exposing a broad audience across sectors and generations to deep and nuanced insights about developments in Germany, Europe, and around the world – and how they impact the transatlantic partnership and communities across the United States. The ACG established its newest Chapter in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 2019.

Speakers included **Niels Annen**, Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office; **Riprand Count Arco**, Founder and Chairman of American Asset Corporation; **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, Chairman of the American Council on Germany and Vice Chairman of Capital Group International, Inc.; **Sigmar Gabriel**, former Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister, in his new role as Chairman of Atlantik-Brücke; **David Gill** (1992 Young Leader), Consul General of Germany in New York; **Anja Goerz**, journalist, radio host, and author; **Metin Hakverdi**, member of the German Bundestag (SPD); **Ambassador John Kornblum**, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany and a former ACG Board member; **Martin Klingst**, Senior Political Correspondent at *DIE ZEIT*; **Alexander Kulitz**, member of the German Bundestag (FDP); **Dr. Norbert Lammert**, President of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and former President of the Bundestag; **Juliane Schäuble**, U.S. Correspondent for *Der Tagesspiegel*; and **Annette Schavan**, former German Federal Minister of Education and Research.

Through the Warburg Chapters, the ACG not only engages those already interested in Germany but also strives to expand the community of individuals who have an awareness and understanding of German-American relations. The Chapters work in cooperation with local partner organizations, including German Consulates and Honorary Consuls, German American Chambers of Commerce, Goethe-Instituts, World Affairs Councils, and other community institutions to ensure programming is tailored to local interests.



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1. Ambassador John Kornblum (third from left), former U.S. Ambassador to Germany and a former ACG Board member, meeting with members of the Charlotte Warburg Chapter

2. Dr. David Deißner, Executive Director of Atlantik-Brücke; Los Angeles Warburg Chapter Director Johannes Masserer, Membership Director of the Jonathan Club; Atlantik-Brücke Chairman Sigmar Gabriel, former Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister; ACG Chairman and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany John B. Emerson; and Stefan Schneider, Consul General of Germany in Los Angeles

3. Charlotte Warburg Chapter Director Albert E. Guarnieri, Partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP; Maria Beatrice Countess Arco; Riprand Count Arco, Founder and Chairman of American Asset Corporation; and Ann Marie Williams, Executive Director at J.P. Morgan

DEUTSCHLANDJAHR USA 2018/2019

THE YEAR OF GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

From October 2018 through November 2019, the American Council on Germany took an active role in Deutschlandjahr USA 2018/2019 – the Year of German-American Friendship – an initiative funded through the German Federal Foreign Office that showcased how closely Germany and the United States are linked through deep historical ties, shared values, and bold visions for the future. The campaign explored partnerships in all areas of society, ranging from business and industry to politics, education, culture, science, civil society, and sports and lifestyle.

INSIGHTDEUTSCHLAND COMMUNITY TOWN HALLS

The ACG organized InsightDeutschland Community Town Halls in Boise, Idaho; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Phoenix, Arizona, to engage younger and mid-career professionals, as well as undergraduate and graduate students, in a genuine exchange of ideas, highlighting the deep political, economic, and social ties and shared issues that impact the citizens of Germany and the United States. Each Town Hall consisted of interactive sessions over the course of a day and a half. Topics ranged from domestic politics to foreign policy and transatlantic trade and investment. Speakers included **Dave Bieter**, Mayor of Boise; **Congressman Rob Bishop** (R-Utah); German diplomat **Ricklef Beutin**, who now serves as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the German Embassy in Washington, DC; **James Burton**, German Honorary Consul; German Bundestag members **Metin Hakverdi** (SPD) and **Alexander Kulitz** (FDP); Berlin “Candy Bomber” **Colonel Gail Halvorsen**; **Matthew Karnitschnig**, Chief Europe Correspondent for Politico; **Stormy Mildner** from the Federation of German Industries (BDI); **Ines Pohl**, Editor-in-Chief of Deutsche Welle; U.S. **Senator Jim Risch** (R-Idaho); **Jenny Wilson**, Salt Lake County Mayor; and **Kristian Wolf**, President and CEO of the German-American Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco, among others.

ENGAGE AMERICA

The ACG partnered with the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) to hold a series of public policy discussions with German decision-makers, opinion leaders, and policy experts in 23 communities across the United States. Together, both organizations leveraged their respective networks to arrange forums for dialogue and engagement outside of the policy community in Washington and the business community in New York. The Engage America initiative was launched at WACA’s 2018 National Conference in Washington, DC, and events took place across the country throughout 2019. Speakers included **Ambassador Peter Ammon**, former German Ambassador to the United States; Bundestag members **Peter Beyer** (CDU) and **Metin Hakverdi** (SPD); German diplomat **Ricklef Beutin**; ACG Chairman **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany; **David Gill** (1992 Young Leader), German Consul General in New York; **Dr. Emily Haber**, German Ambassador to the United States; **Dr. Claudia Kemfert**, Head of the Energy, Transportation, and Environment Department at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin); **Ambassador John Kornblum**, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany and a former ACG Board member; **Juliane Schäuble**, U.S. Correspondent for *Der Tagesspiegel*; and former German diplomat **Stefan Schlüter**.





SOCIAL DISRUPTION: HOW TO CONFRONT THE FRAYING SOCIAL FABRIC AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN GERMANY AND THE U.S.?

The ACG collaborated with the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius to facilitate an exchange between German and American opinion leaders, social entrepreneurs, and foundation representatives through discussions in several U.S. cities exploring political polarization, fragmentation of society, and growing social inequity on both sides of the Atlantic.

Discussions took place at college campuses in Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas, Nashville, and Pittsburgh. Speakers included German journalist **Ali Aslan** (2010 Young Leader); Dallas-based journalist **Lee Cullum**, a former ACG Board member; **Karl Dean**, former Mayor of Nashville; **Dr. Deborah Fallows** and **James Fallows** (1977 YL), coauthors of *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*; **Martin Klingst**, author of *Trumps Amerika: Reise in ein Weisses Land* and Senior Political Correspondent for *DIE ZEIT*; and **Dr. Christian Martin**, Professor of European and Mediterranean Studies and Max Weber Visiting Chair in German and European Studies at New York University.

MARKING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and the fall of the Berlin Wall, the ACG partnered with the German Embassy and the Goethe-Institut in Washington, DC, to organize a series of events in October and November 2019 on the historic events of 1989 and their legacy. From October 8 to November 18, the ACG held some 20 events and discussions. **Dr. Marcus Böick**, Professor of Contemporary History at Ruhr University Bochum, spoke about the enduring legacy of the Treuhandanstalt, the government agency formed to privatize companies in the former German Democratic Republic. **Tobias David** (2016 Leadership Mission on Urban Affairs and Sustainability), Chief of Staff to the Lord Mayor of Leipzig, reflected on his life growing up in Leipzig and his involvement in the Peaceful Revolution. **David Gill** (1992 YL), German Consul General in New York, shared his experiences living behind the Wall and during the period immediately following the fall of the Wall. Journalist, radio host, and author **Anja Goerz** discussed her book *Der Osten Ist ein Gefühl*, in which she reports on conversations she had with people from the former GDR. **Dr. Norbert Lammert**, Chairman of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and former President of the German Bundestag, reflected on his nearly 40 years as a member of the Bundestag and how the political landscape has changed since 1989.

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[Deutschlandjahr USA](#) was a comprehensive and collaborative initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, implemented by the Goethe-Institut, and with support from the Federation of German Industries (BDI).



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1. Matthew Karnitschnig, Chief Europe Correspondent for Politico; German Bundestag member Alexander Kulitz (FDP); Stormy Mildner from the Federation of German Industries (BDI); and Bundestag member Metin Hakverdi (SPD)

2. Robin Cammarota, ACG Program Director and Digital Strategist; ACG Board member Dr. Nina Smidt, President of American Friends of Bucerius and Director of International Strategic Planning and Business Development at the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius; Miguel Esteban Solis (2017 Young Leader), Deputy Director of the Coalition for a New Dallas; ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol; and Dr. Christian Martin, Professor of European and Mediterranean Studies and Max Weber Visiting Chair in German and European Studies at New York University

AMERICAN-GERMAN YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM

“IS 70 THE NEW 40? ASSESSING TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS 30 YEARS AFTER THE FALL OF THE WALL”

Each year, the American Council on Germany's American-German Young Leaders program convenes up to 50 rising stars from government, business, journalism, academia, the military, and the nonprofit sector for a week of intensive dialogue on domestic, bilateral, and global issues affecting both countries with the goal of building mutual understanding. In addition to informing participants about the current international agenda, the annual conferences deepen cooperation among the next generation of thought leaders and decision-makers from the United States and Germany. The Young Leaders tackle thorny issues together and devise policy prescriptions for challenging times. The program was launched by the ACG in 1973.

The 41st American-German Young Leaders Conference brought together almost 50 German and American rising stars from a cross-section of fields from July 21 to 26, 2019, in Berlin to look at “Is 70 the New 40? Assessing Transatlantic Relations 30 Years After the Fall of the Wall.” The Young Leaders represented the private sector, nongovernmental organizations, the media, as well as government – including the German Chancellery, the Federal Ministry of Defense, the Federal Foreign Office, and the U.S. Senate. The group exchanged ideas and perspectives, met with numerous officials and analysts to hear their behind-the-scenes insights, discussed and prioritized items on the transatlantic agenda, brainstormed policy solutions, and, importantly, forged lasting bonds in what some describe as a life-changing exchange.

The Young Leaders had discussions with high-level officials including **Professor Dr. Helge Braun**, Head of the Chancellery and German Federal Minister for Special Tasks; **Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble**, President of the German Bundestag and former Federal Minister of Finance; and Young Leader alumni **Hubertus Heil** (2003), Federal Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, and **Julia Klöckner** (2007), Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture. They also met with TV host and journalist **Ali Aslan** (2010 Young Leader); **Björn Böhning**, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs; **Claudia Dörr-Voss**, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy; *New York Times* correspondent **Melissa Eddy**; **Steffen Kampeter**, CEO of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA); **Evyenia Sidereas**, Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin; and **Melanie Vogelbach**, Managing Director of International Economic Policy and Foreign Trade

Law at the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK).

The group had meetings in various locations in Berlin, including at the offices of the German Bundestag and the Federal Chancellery. The closing dinner, held at the legendary Hotel Adlon at the Brandenburg Gate, featured a moderated discussion between State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of the Interior **Markus Kerber**, FDP Deputy Chairman **Alexander Graf Lambsdorff** (1997 YL), and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany **John Kornblum**, a former ACG Board member.

The weeklong conference is only the beginning; Young Leaders continue to meet over time to exchange ideas and reinforce the bonds forged during the conference. In 2019, German Consul General in New York **David Gill** (1992 YL) hosted an evening for Young Leader alumni at his home, and journalist **Ali Aslan** (2010 YL) and **Philipp Steinberg**, Director General for Economic Policy at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, shared their insights at discussions hosted by Volkswagen Group of America in Washington, DC. Young Leader alumni also met in Berlin for a reception held in cooperation with Atlantik-Brücke and hosted by Bloomberg. In addition, alumni from the four-plus decades of the program met on their own around the United States and Europe throughout the year to continue the transatlantic dialogue begun at the Young Leaders Conference.

1. Young Leaders with Julia Klöckner (2007 Young Leader), German Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture
2. 2019 Young Leaders Christopher Ehlinger, Management Consultant at Wilson Perumal & Company; Thomas Seidel, Deputy Head of Division 20 at the Office of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany; Magdalene Böbel, Marketing Manager, Human Machine Interface, at Infineon Technologies AG; Steven Robert Goocey, Organic Farm Owner and Operator; Maike Thier, Policy Officer at the German Federal Chancellery; and Benjamin Nägele, Director of EU Affairs at B'nai B'rith International
3. 2019 Young Leaders Kiara Boone, Deputy Director of Community Education at the Equal Justice Initiative; Matthias Hilble, Vice President in the Office of the Chairman of the Supervisory Board at Deutsche Bank AG; and Sonja Gillert, Editor on the Foreign Desk of *Die Welt* and *Welt am Sonntag*
4. Young Leaders tackling issues together and devising policy prescriptions

“The conference was very inspiring to me. Especially in times in which we hear a lot about the differences and challenges in our transatlantic relations, it was eye-opening and motivating to see Americans and Germans discussing relevant issues for both countries in such a constructive, open, and respectful manner. I met people who gave me a new and refreshing view on certain issues, and I am confident that we will keep the discussion going. To understand each other’s position is much more than a first step to better relations; it is the foundation.”

SONJA GILLERT
 (2019 Young Leader and Kellen Fellow)
 Editor, Foreign Desk
Die Welt and *Welt am Sonntag*



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“The 41st ACG American-German Young Leaders Conference was one of the most rewarding and insightful weeks of my career. The open discussion format allowed for robust exchanges between the American and German delegates on a wide variety of timely topics, including energy, trade, and security. The high energy and intellectual drive of the delegation stemmed from the mutual desire to contribute and advance the discussion as much as possible. Over the course of the week, the personal anecdotes and increasingly frank remarks enriched the discussions even more. The shared meals and commute time provided plenty of opportunity for more personal one-on-one conversations, and it was remarkable how quickly we all bonded.”

JULIE YANG
 (2019 YL)
 Policy Director
 National Center for APEC



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AMERICAN YOUNG LEADERS

Amanda Critchfield Blum
Communications Director
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking,
Housing, and Urban Affairs

Kiara Boone
Deputy Director of
Community Education
Equal Justice Initiative

Kyle Jillian Burgess
Technology Specialist
Deloitte

Autumn Carulli
Channel Partner Manager
SEEGRID

Lawrence A. Darby IV
LNG Trader, Gazprom
Marketing & Trading
Gazprom

Christopher Ehlinger
Management Consultant
Wilson Perumal & Company

Abbas Elegba
Director
Deutsche Bank

Steven Robert Goocey
Organic Farm Owner and Operator

Robert Taylor Hall
Senior Director of Public Affairs
State Collaborative on Reforming
Education (SCORE)

Skiffington Holderness
Special Projects Director
U.S. Senate Foreign
Relations Committee

Mariam Khan
Congressional Reporter and Producer
ABC News

Robert M. Kimmitt, Jr.
Counsel
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Ryan Edward Mackenzie
Member and Deputy Majority Whip
Pennsylvania House
of Representatives

Danique Masingill
Founder and President
Leashes of Valor

John M. Montgomery II
Head of Marketing Excellence,
Nutrition & Health
BASF Corporation

Bimal Patel
Deputy Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury

Andrew Eaton Phillips
Advocacy and Government
Team Member
LinkedIn

Kathleen Rudis
Staff Director & Tax
and Economic Counsel
U.S. Senate

Christina Thomas
Counsel to SEC Commissioner
Elad L. Roisman
U.S. Securities and Exchange
Commission

Elizabeth C. Urstadt
Co-Founder, Business Development
PartnerVine LLC

Julie Yang
Policy Director
National Center for APEC

GERMAN YOUNG LEADERS

Moritz von Bar
Policy Officer
German Federal Chancellery

Magdalene Böbel
Marketing Manager,
Human Machine Interface
Infineon Technologies AG

Jens Brandenburg
Bundestag Member
Deutscher Bundestag

Tanja Dzukowski
Manager – Operations Office
Manpower

Raphael Eisenmann
Associate Director
Hering Schuppener Consulting

Askold Falkenberg
Executive Assistant to the
Head of Military Aircraft
Airbus Defense and Space

Sonja Gillert
Editor, Foreign Desk
Die Welt and *Welt am Sonntag*

Sören Heitkamp
Policy Officer for EU Coordination
German Federal Foreign Office

Christian-Hendrik Heusermann
Advisor, Parliamentary
and Cabinet Affairs
German Federal Foreign Office

Matthias Hible
Vice President, Office of the Chairman
of the Supervisory Board
Deutsche Bank AG

Steven Höfner
Desk Officer, European
Affairs/North America
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

Moritz Holzgraefe
Head of Governmental Affairs
Axel Springer SE

Raphaël Métais
Policy Officer
German Federal Chancellery

Benjamin Nägele
Director of EU Affairs
B'nai B'rith International

Patrick Nepper
Product Manager
Google

Josefina Nungesser
Director, Trend
and Innovation Scouting
Germany Trade & Invest

Tobias Radon
Fighter Squadron
Company Commander
German Air Force, Ministry of Defense

Oke Röhe
Senior Economist
Deutsche Bundesbank

Sabrina Schärf
Desk Officer, Policy Planning Staff
German Federal Foreign Office

Mitja Schulz
Policy Advisor
German Association of the
Automotive Industry (VDA)

Thomas Seidel
Deputy Head of Division 20
Office of the President of the
Federal Republic of Germany

Eva Siegrist
Senior Brand Manager,
Global RCC/IO Portfolio
Pfizer Inc

Maïke Thier
Policy Officer
German Federal Chancellery

Laurenz Tholen
Associated Partner
Noerr LLP

Marie-Therese Vohrer
Senior Expert, Organizational
Development and
Process Management
The BMW Group

Maria Wienker
Personal Advisor and Spokesperson
to Dorothee Bär, Minister of State
for Digital Affairs
German Federal Chancellery

Sonja Winter
Project Manager, Global Projects
BASF Services Europe GmbH

IN GRATITUDE

SPONSORS

The ACG would like to extend great thanks to the following sponsors for their support of the 2019 American-German Young Leaders Conference:

Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation

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Hering Schuppener Consulting GmbH

Noerr LLP

Pfizer Deutschland GmbH

Steelhead Partners, LLC

Uber

STEERING COMMITTEE

In addition, the ACG is deeply grateful for the time and effort the members of the Steering Committee devote to the conference:

Ronald J. Granieri
(2000 Young Leader)
Associate Professor of History
U.S. Army War College

Sarmad Hussain (2005 YL)
Senior Expert, Public Affairs
Deekeling Arndt Advisors
in Communications GmbH

Edward S. McFadden (2002 YL)
(ACG Board member)
Senior Advisor
Patomak Global Partners

FELLOWSHIPS

Each year, the American Council on Germany awards fellowships to journalists, scholars, and other young professionals from a variety of fields to travel across the Atlantic to conduct research on key topics shaping the German-American partnership. Fellowships play a critical role in ACG programming – and have been offered for more than 40 years. The ACG currently has more than 1,100 fellowship alumni. Fellows spend from several weeks to several months meeting with their professional counterparts, delving into archives, and investigating stories while exchanging best practices and building new networks. In 2019, 13 fellowships were awarded.

MCCLOY FELLOWSHIPS ON GLOBAL TRENDS

Named after the ACG's founding Chairman, John J. McCloy, the McCloy Fellowships on Global Trends provide young professionals with the opportunity to explore common political, economic, and social challenges. Fellows seek to address tomorrow's challenges today by conducting research in the areas of urbanization, climate change and sustainability, technological breakthroughs, and demographic and social change. The 2019 fellows are **Varoon Bashyakarla**, Data Scientist for Tactical Technology Collective, who researched the future of cybersecurity; **Michael Laha**, Program Officer at the Asia Society's Center on U.S.-China Relations, who explored technology development and China's role in transatlantic relations; **Chuck McShane**, Vice President of Research for the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance, who examined population changes and their economic effects on rural communities; **Sarah Sieloff**, Executive Director of the Center for Creative Land Recycling, who researched brownfield redevelopment and land reuse in former industrial communities; and **Elena Souris**, Research Associate at New America, who explored civic engagement in growing cities.

HUNT FELLOWSHIPS

Awarded to bright young American academics, the Dr. Richard M. Hunt Fellowships for the Study of German Politics, Society, and Culture allow individuals to conduct research necessary for the completion of their dissertation and/or book projects. The 2019-2020 Hunt Fellowships were awarded to two modern-European historians. **Ana Isabel Keilson**, Lecturer on Social Studies at Harvard University, completed research for a book on liberalism, art, and industry in modern Germany, and **James McSpadden**, Assistant Professor of History at the University of Nevada, Reno, conducted research for a book on backroom politics during interwar Europe. The Hunt Fellowships were established in 2003 as a tribute to ACG Vice Chairman **Dr. Richard M. Hunt**, a Harvard University historian who has been devoted to mentoring younger scholars and who served as ACG President for 15 years.

KELLEN FELLOWSHIPS

Under the auspices of the Anna-Maria and Stephen M. Kellen Fellowships, Berlin-based German journalists explore a variety of topics that are relevant to German-American relations. In 2019, Kellen Fellowships were awarded to three up-and-coming journalists. **Sonja Gillert** (2019 Young Leader), Editor on the

Foreign Desk of *Die Welt*, researched the growing divide between political parties in the United States; **Manka Heise**, Producer and Editor for ZDF, examined how political journalism has changed in the last decade; and **Julian Wettengel**, correspondent for Clean Energy Wire, explored how natural gas can affect the nature of the transatlantic relationship. The Kellen Fellowships were launched in 1997 thanks to the generous support of the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation.

DZ BANK FELLOWSHIPS

The DZ BANK Fellowships on Transatlantic Business and Finance provide individuals with the opportunity to spend up to three months researching current trends in the economy and business. In 2019, the ACG named two DZ BANK Fellows: **Martin-Sebastian Abel**, Specialist for Public Affairs and Representative of Berlin for NRW.BANK, who researched the impact of fossil-fuel divestment, and **Nikolas Noetzel**, a consultant for Bain & Company, who examined the funding gaps between German startups and American venture capitalists. The fellowships are generously funded by DZ BANK.

CARL DUISBERG FELLOWSHIP FOR FUTURE GERMAN TRANSATLANTICISTS

Launched in 2019, the Carl Duisberg Fellowship for Future German Transatlanticists offers young German professionals the opportunity to spend two months working with the ACG in New York City, while learning about the importance of the transatlantic relationship. The fellow contributes to the Council's regular program activities and conducts research on topics related to the mission of the ACG and the German-American partnership. The overarching goal is to help ensure the relationship endures for future generations. The ACG's inaugural Carl Duisberg Fellow was **Elia Panskus**, Press Spokesperson for German Bundestag member Ekin Deligöz (The Greens). He spent two months during the summer of 2019 researching the role of social media in American politics. Funding for this fellowship is provided by the Carl-Duisberg-Stiftung für internationale Bildung und Zusammenarbeit.

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“The Carl Duisberg Fellowship was an amazing experience for me. I had an incredibly productive time. I never could have done my research without the great network the ACG provided with the fellowship. Above all, this opportunity has contributed significantly to sharpening my view of the transatlantic relationship.”

ELIA PANSKUS
(2019 Carl Duisberg Fellow)
Press Spokesperson for Bundestag member
Ekin Deligöz (The Greens)

STUDY TOURS

MCCLOY LEADERSHIP MISSIONS

For nearly 40 years, the McCloy Leadership Mission on Agriculture, Food Security, and Resource Scarcity – formerly under the umbrella of the McCloy Fellowships in Agriculture – has brought together farmers, ranchers, and agricultural policy experts to look at pressing issues in their industry. Working with the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Deutscher Bauernverband (German Farmers' Association), the ACG organized a two-week fact-finding mission from October 26 to November 7, 2019. Six German agricultural professionals traveled to the United States and met with policymakers, had site visits, and exchanged best practices with their American counterparts in Washington, DC, and surrounding areas; Madison, Wisconsin; and Orlando, Florida.

SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT STUDY TOUR

As part of the Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour, from December 8 to 14, 2019, eight urban affairs experts from the United States and seven from Germany explored how cities are addressing common challenges in Düsseldorf, Heidelberg, and Mannheim. This initiative builds on a similar exchange conducted in 2018 and is designed to focus on sustainable development on both sides of the Atlantic. Through a range of meetings and site visits, the cohort engaged in conversations at the city and state levels. Throughout the week, the members of the delegation reflected on how their cities are facing similar concerns such as affordable housing, accessibility to transportation, and social cohesion. The group came away with a deeper understanding of how cities can learn from one another. In 2020, the group will convene again in the United States to see how cities are addressing similar challenges on the other side of the Atlantic.

TRANSATLANTIC SOUNDING BOARD

The ACG and the Policy Planning Staff at the German Federal Foreign Office launched the Transatlantic Sounding Board to provide representatives from various ministries and German Bundestag staffers with a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the political climate in the United States ahead of the 2020 elections. From November 18 to 22, 2019, the ACG organized a fact-finding mission to Pittsburgh and Washington, DC, to look at structural change, social cohesion, and the overall political atmosphere. In Pittsburgh, the German delegation met with **Mayor Bill Peduto**; **Rich Fitzgerald**, County Executive of Allegheny County; and representatives from the United Steel Workers as well as local economic development agencies. The participants also explored two distressed neighborhoods undergoing change and talked with local activists. In addition, they visited the Energy Innovation Center, the Bosch Research and Technology Center, and Covestro. In Washington, the group had a briefing with the Deputy Chief of Mission at the German Embassy, **Ricklef Beutin**, and meetings at the State Department, the Carnegie Endowment (on political polarization and how U.S. foreign policy is perceived in states like Ohio and Colorado), and the Bipartisan Policy Center (on immigration policy). The

group also met with author and journalist **James Fallows** (1977 Young Leader), who talked about his observations after four years of reporting from small-town America. The program ended with a briefing with representatives from the German political foundations represented in the United States.

TRANSATLANTIC CITIES OF TOMORROW: DIGITALIZATION AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

In 2019, the American Council on Germany launched Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow: Digitalization and the Future of Work, a three-year reciprocal exchange initiative for thought leaders in small and medium-sized cities in Germany and the United States to develop solutions to common challenges resulting from digitalization and to identify innovative approaches to turning these challenges into opportunities for their local workforce and economies.

The goal of this project is to create a sustainable network of decision-makers and practitioners in the participating cities that can learn and support one another in addressing the challenges in an era of digitalization, including rethinking education and workforce training needs, fostering entrepreneurship and startup cultures, and investing in digital and physical infrastructure. Engaging with citizens and community stakeholders and examining social equity in a rapidly changing environment are also crucial issues.

This project consists of four rounds of reciprocal exchanges visiting each country, and will conclude with a two-day conference bringing together the participants from the entire project and external audiences in order to share the lessons learned and to highlight actions that have been or will be implemented in the participants' cities.

Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow: Digitalization and the Future of Work is organized and administered by the ACG with generous support from the Transatlantic Program of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through funds of the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. An Advisory Council representing six key institutions helping states and local communities on these issues supports the initiative.

1. Participants in the first round of Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow visiting the Brandenburg Gate and Pariser Platz in Berlin

2. Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour participants visiting the Landtag of North-Rhine Westphalia, where they had a roundtable discussion with members of the Landtag and U.S. Consul General Fiona Evans

3. Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow participants Maximilian Metz, Donald Michael, and Ingmar Reichert inspect a 3D-printed car at Local Motors in Knoxville, Tennessee

“My trip to Germany and the visits to Magdeburg, Halle, and Leipzig raised all sorts of new ideas about what Knoxville can do to engage on the issue of digitalization and the future of work. The connections with my German counterparts are so valuable in this regard, and we will be friends for life.”

STEPHANIE WELCH
 (2019 Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow)
 Deputy to the Mayor and Chief of Economic
 and Community Development
 Knoxville, Tennessee



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“Globalization is universalizing many of the urban issues that are occurring in cities all over the world. While local context obviously matters, this begs the question of how urban planning professionals can collaborate to begin to address these complex, shared issues. These prevalent, global trends highlight why these types of transatlantic programs that promote the cross-fertilization of best practices are so important. Programs like the urban development tour present an excellent opportunity to begin starting the dialogue for issues that are increasingly affecting us all.”

RACHEL DIE
 (2019 Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour)
 Senior Transit Planner
 Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas



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“What made these seven days a very unique experience was the mutual feeling that the members of this group are willing and able to spend their energies ‘doing the right thing’ and that they – each one of them in her or his own individual style – encourage each other in an unspoken way to do so in the future. It was impressive how personal bonds – through dedication and commitment for both an urban and global topic – are able to bridge the gap of all differences in political structures and circumstances between (also our two) countries. This is something very special and far away from the daily routine. It shrinks the Atlantic between us to a creek.”

PROFESSOR DR. STEPHAN TOMERIUS
 (2019 Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour
 and 2000 McCloy Fellow in Environmental Affairs)
 Professor of Administrative, Municipal, and Public Procurement Law
 Berlin School for Economics and Law
 (Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Recht)



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JOHN J. MCCLOY AWARDS DINNER

2019 GALA HONORS BMW AND PFIZER
WHILE MARKING SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

The American Council on Germany's John J. McCloy Awards Dinner honors business leaders of an American firm or a German firm each year to pay tribute to their work to build strong economic ties across the Atlantic. The award is named after John J. McCloy, the first civilian U.S. High Commissioner for Germany following World War II and the founding Chairman of the ACG. Funds raised by the dinner are used to support and expand the programs and activities of the American Council on Germany.

On December 4, 2019, the ACG was joined by about 300 members and friends as **Harald Krüger**, former Chairman of the Board of Management of BMW AG, and **Ian C. Read**, Executive Chairman of the Board of Pfizer Inc, received McCloy Awards. The evening marked special milestones for both companies as well as for Germany.

ACG Chairman and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany **John B. Emerson** presented the award to Mr. Krüger and the BMW Group. Mr. Krüger had worked on the original team handling the construction of the BMW Group's largest plant in the world, in Spartanburg, South Carolina, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2019. BMW was also honored as an ardent supporter of education and training, serving as a model of how the educational and manufacturing sectors can collaborate to provide employment and better opportunities for the next generation.

Andreas Fibig, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of International Flavors & Fragrances Inc., presented the award to Mr. Read. In 2019, Pfizer also celebrated a special anniversary: its 60th anniversary of operations in Germany. Founded 170 years ago in New York City by cousins Charles Pfizer and Charles Erhart, two German immigrants, Pfizer has grown from a small chemicals company in Brooklyn to a multinational pharmaceutical company with a global portfolio of lifesaving medicines and vaccines.

German Ambassador to the United States **Dr. Emily Haber** shared a letter from Chancellor Angela Merkel expressing Germany's gratitude to the United States for its supporting roles in the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany 70 years ago as well as leading up to and following the fall of the Berlin Wall 30 years ago.

Kimberly A. Reed (2002 Young Leader), President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, shared a letter from President Donald Trump heralding the fall of the Wall as "one of the 20th century's defining moments for individual liberty." He added that "we remain united in our shared goal of building a stronger, more prosperous Europe and global community." Ms. Reed noted the positive impact of the ACG's Young Leaders program, citing the many alumni, including herself, who are serving in significant roles in government.

ACG President **Dr. Steven E. Sokol** summed up the message of the evening by saying that "Today some people might question the relevance of the transatlantic alliance, but those of us gathered here this evening should recognize that this is a critical juncture for Europe and for the transatlantic relationship. We have to build mutual understanding about issues where we may have differences."

The ACG expresses its gratitude to the supporters whose steadfast commitment enables the organization's successful fulfillment of its mission of promoting transatlantic cooperation.

1. Kimberly A. Reed (2002 Young Leader), President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States

2. ACG Chairman and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany John B. Emerson and McCloy Award recipient Harald Krüger, former Chairman of the Board of Management of BMW AG

3. ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol; German Ambassador to the United States Dr. Emily Haber; ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson; attorney and civic leader Kimberly Marteau Emerson; and David Gill (1992 Young Leader), Consul General of Germany in New York

4. German Ambassador to the United States Dr. Emily Haber addressing those present

5. McCloy Award recipient Ian C. Read, Executive Chairman of the Board of Pfizer Inc, and Andreas Fibig, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of International Flavors & Fragrances Inc.

Photos by Karsten Staiger



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PARTNERS

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

The American Council on Germany is committed to working closely with the American and German business community to advance the understanding of key economic and political issues on the transatlantic agenda. The corporate membership program provides business leaders with opportunities to network with other professionals and to meet with German and other European officials to gain a more thorough understanding of the nuances – and implications – of current events.

Corporate members receive invitations to Council events and Hot Topics conference calls with experts, ACG publications, informational offerings such as the weekly news digest, and more. Top corporate members also receive executive summaries of discussions in New York City, along with special updates from the ACG President.

2019 was very active for ACG corporate members, with the calendar including events with three German Federal Ministers – Justice Minister **Dr. Katarina Barley**, Foreign Minister **Heiko Maas**, and Finance Minister **Olaf Scholz** – and lively discussions with **Armin Laschet**, Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia; **Christian Lindner**, Head of the FDP; former U.S. Ambassador to Germany **Philip D. Murphy**, Governor of New Jersey; and **Klaus Welle**, Secretary-General of the European Parliament, among others.

Corporate members also provide key support to the ACG's programs that bring together up-and-coming professionals from both sides of the Atlantic to build mutual understanding, including the Young Leaders program, fellowships, and study tours.

The Council is deeply grateful for the involvement and generosity of all of the corporate members and other supporters listed here.

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THE ACG AND ITS MISSION

The American Council on Germany is an independent, nonpartisan nonprofit organization that was founded in 1952 to strengthen German-American relations. Today, the ACG works across generations to provide a deeper, more nuanced understanding about Germany, Europe, and the importance of the transatlantic partnership. Through a range of programs and activities, the ACG addresses the most pressing economic, political, and social challenges of the day to ensure better mutual understanding.

The ACG's programs and activities are designed to reach a broad range of individuals to strengthen German-American relations and deepen the U.S.-European partnership. This is achieved through a combination of outreach and events designed to reach different audiences on both sides of the Atlantic to ensure they are better informed about transatlantic issues.

FORGING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON TOMORROW'S CHALLENGES

The ACG equips opinion leaders and decision-makers in a variety of fields with ideas and perspectives on important political, economic, and social developments on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world. The Council's policy discussions, conferences, and other programs engage multipliers from nongovernmental organizations, government, business, academia, the military, and media on both sides of the Atlantic. On issues such as environmental sustainability, trade relations, security policy, and urban development, the ACG provides a forum to examine challenges facing our societies and to propose possible strategies and collaborative solutions for the future.

SHAPING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

The ACG invests in the future of the transatlantic relationship by helping the next generation of leaders in Germany and the United States learn about this indispensable partnership, exchange best practices, and build networks across the Atlantic. The American-German Young Leaders program, fellowships, and leadership missions bring together the next generation of German and American academics, journalists, and other professionals from diverse fields to deepen their understanding about transatlantic issues while forging lasting bonds with one another.

ADDRESSING GLOBAL ISSUES NATIONWIDE

The ACG recognizes the importance of presenting global issues not only to policymakers in Washington, DC, and business leaders in New York City but also to decision-makers and practitioners at the local level in communities across the United States. Through its 22 Eric M. Warburg Chapters, the ACG provides its members and the general public with opportunities to engage with their counterparts in Germany to address the most pressing economic, political, and social issues on the transatlantic agenda and affecting their communities.

INFORMING MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE

The ACG keeps its members and friends informed through a range of programs, activities, and updates, including its weekly news digest, Hot Topics Calls, and podcasts. In addition, the Council reaches across generations, sectors, and regional boundaries to inform the community at large about important issues influencing the transatlantic partnership.

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