



International Symposium

American Intersections / CETAPS

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities,
Nova University of Lisbon, 20-21 October 2023

American Dreams, American Crises

Sixty years after Martin Luther King articulated, in his “I have a Dream” Speech, during the March on Washington, a vision of basic civic equality that, in his words, was “deeply rooted in the American Dream”, this symposium proposes to interrogate both this omnipresent construct, frequently taken for granted and assumed to be the basis of a sense of

national exceptionalism, and the many ways in which contemporary social, political and cultural fractures and divisions are creating the perception of a contemporary distinctive crisis, vividly symbolized by the suspension of acquired rights in the Supreme Court reversal of *Roe v Wade*, and by the January 6 attack on the Capitol and support for election denialism, undermining what Tocqueville described, in *Democracy in America*, as “the charm of anticipated success” that has framed many American collective discourses.

The Symposium is particularly interested in scrutinizing the complex implications of that sense of interruption of a collective project, analyzing how contemporary creative and analytical voices have been reflecting on the fragility and fault lines of the concept of the American Dream and mapping the widening gaps between apparently irreconcilable Americas.

We welcome therefore contributions coming from a plurality of angles, namely literary studies, cultural studies, drama, film, media, music and visual culture studies, history, sociology and political science. Possible topics include (but are not limited) to

- American mythologies of national exceptionalism
- The many Americas (social and economic widening gaps)
- Racial and gender inequalities
- Contemporary civil rights movements
- Challenges to critical thought and school banning of books
- Closing of borders (immigration, migration and senses on non-belonging)
- Environmental threats and environmental justice movements
- Populism and radical extreme movements

- Deepfakes and new media landscapes
- American demographic maps (intergenerational and urban/ rural dissonances)
- Visions of American Futures

Keynote speakers

- Amaia Ibarraran Bigalondo - Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea /University of the Basque Country
- Gaetano Di Tommaso - Roosevelt Institute for American Studies, Middelberg.

The Symposium will accept on-line presentations which will be assembled in specific on-line panels.

Please submit an abstract for a 20-minute paper (up to 300 words), and a short bio (up to 150 words) by **July 15, 2023**, to these two emails :

tdbs@fcs.unl.pt and imom@fcs.unl.pt

If you intend to participate on line, include that indication in your submission

Notification of acceptance will be sent by **July 31st**.

Registration (from September 10th)

Standard Rate: 50 euros

Student Rate: 25 euros

Online presentation 25 euros

For further updated information consult the Symposium site

<https://americandreams503.wordpress.com/>

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