



Nordamerikastudienprogramm  
Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie

**Events | Veranstaltungen**  
**Wintersemester 2009-2010**



**Prof. Dr. Heinz Ickstadt**  
**John F. Kennedy-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin**

## **“Envisioning Metropolis – New York as Seen, Imaged, and Imagined”**

**Tuesday • 12 January 2010 • 6:00-8:00 pm**  
**Lecture Hall 17, Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Keltologie**

The lecture sketches the geography of literary New York from the Bowery and the Lower East Side to Harlem, then fills out the geographic space with chapters of New York's literary and artistic history from modernism and its myth of metropolis to the collapse of this vision of an urban sublime during the Great Depression. It subsequently discusses more playful versions of the urban in Pop Art and literary texts of the 1970s and 1980s, before it turns to contemporary fiction where the modernist tradition of an urban sublime is deconstructed and metropolitan space reconceived as part of a larger transnational system of information, global money flows and migratory movements. Here, the city is seen as a space of abstract interconnectedness as well as of social and economic alienation at its margins - but also as a culturally conflicted space in which it is possible to negotiate an existence in-between.

Heinz Ickstadt is Professor emeritus for American Literature at the John F. Kennedy-Institut at the Freie Universität Berlin. He is the author of *Der amerikanische Roman im 20. Jahrhundert: Transformation des Mimetischen* (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 1998) and *Faces of Fiction: Essays on American Literature and Culture from 1850 to the Present*, ed. Susanne Rohr and Sabine Sielke (Tübingen: Winter, 2001) as well as numerous books and articles on American literature and culture of the late nineteenth century, modernism, and postmodernism. He lives in Berlin and New York.