

Keynote von Dr. Jean-Marie Théodat (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne): “An Island for Two”

Freitag, 19. Juni 2026, 13:30 - 14:30 Uhr, Abteilung für Altamerikanistik und Ethnologie

Zoom-Link:

<https://uni-bonn.zoom-x.de/meeting/register/XA9YZ6djTSazxEVZtfsLjA>

Dr. Jean-Marie Théodat is a Haitian geographer, writer, and professor at the University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne whose work focuses on borders, identity, and the intertwined histories of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Trained in geography and philosophy at the Sorbonne, he is the author of influential works such as *Haïti–République Dominicaine: Une île pour deux* and has contributed widely to debates on postcolonialism, debt, and urban life in Haiti. After the 2010 earthquake, he supported the reconstruction of higher education, serving as the first president of the board of the Université d’État d’Haïti’s Campus Henri Christophe. His scholarship and public engagement make him one of the leading contemporary interpreters of Haitian spatial, political, and cultural dynamics.

Abstract zum Vortrag “An Island for Two”

Rather than a dividing line, the border functions as a zone where people from both sides live as close neighbors with deep relationships, creating an island isolated between two countries. This presentation explores "An Island for Two," a concept where the border exists like an island placed inside another island. Within this space, Haitians and Dominicans share unique proximity and a specific spatial solidarity. It is a cultural and social island—a gateway where the border experiences dialectics, rupture, and suture. Ultimately, it represents the revenge of geography over history: what history divided, geography has united.