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The American Council on Germany (ACG) 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 make sure they are better informed about transatlantic issues.



The American Council on Germany 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.



The Council is committed to:

Forging Mutual Understanding to Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

The ACG provides 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 government, business, nongovernmental organizations, academia, the military, and media on both sides of the Atlantic. On issues such as environmental sustainability, trade relations, security policy, and urban development, to name just a few, the ACG provides a forum to examine challenges facing our societies and to propose possible strategies and collaborative solutions for the future. In 2020, the ACG moved its policy discussions online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 Conferences, 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, 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 about important issues influencing the transatlantic partnership through a range of programs, activities, and updates. In 2020, when much of the world went into lockdown, Hot Topics Calls and podcasts kept audiences updated on current developments until the Council transitioned to virtual events. The ACG's news digest also expanded to share news and analysis twice a week. The Council reaches across generations, sectors, and regional boundaries to inform the community at large.

About the ACG O

A Message from the President

2020 was a year like no other. The simultaneous public-health, economic, and racial and social justice crises brought unprecedented – and often unanticipated – challenges for individuals, organizations, companies, and governments at the local, state, national, and international levels.

After a strong start to the year in January and February (including five events in Germany on the periphery of the Munich Security Conference), like so many other organizations the American Council on Germany was forced to adapt to a new set of constraints posed by the coronavirus pandemic. On March 13, 2020, the Council closed its office and the team began working from home. We stepped up the frequency of our Hot Topics Calls before moving all of our programming online in early April.

Despite the inability to convene in person, between April and December the ACG was able to react to current events in real time by hosting or co-hosting 119 online policy discussions on a range of issues shaping the transatlantic agenda. Topics included the COVID-19 response, economic challenges and recovery, the rise of China, the impact of Brexit, the 30th anniversary of German unification, political developments in Germany and Europe, Germany's European Council Presidency, the future of the transatlantic partnership, and much more. These timely events involved nearly 200 experts and external moderators (45 percent of whom are women) from Europe and across the United States. Through our virtual programming, the ACG reached more than 12,000 unique viewers - including members, Young Leader alumni, fellowship alumni, and other friends at our 22 Eric M. Warburg Chapters and beyond. Coming from all 50 states and all 16 Bundesländer, and from more than 60 other countries, the ACG's programming has demonstrated that transatlantic relations are not only relevant but also of great interest around the world.

In addition to standalone events, the Council introduced several new series, including [virtual] Transatlantic Town Halls featuring mayors from German and American cities as well as discussions with Bundestag members focused on the local and national response to the health, economic, and social crises. Held under the auspices of Wunderbar Together USA 2020, a comprehensive and collaborative initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by the Goethe-Institut, these events honed in on issues such as health-care infrastructure, urban development, transportation, the environment, digitalization and digital access, education and workforce development, social equity and cohesion, and government engagement and communication with citizens.

Working with the New York-based nonprofit 1014, we began the Resilience and Adaptation Series, which features a German and an American expert discussing the impact of the pandemic on international relations, global supply chains, hospitals, travel and tourism, and more. The Council provided program alumni the opportunity to share their perspectives and insights regarding the lasting effects of the pandemic through its own events and in partnership with other organizations – including the ZoomAtlantic Dialogues. Working with a consortium of German-based

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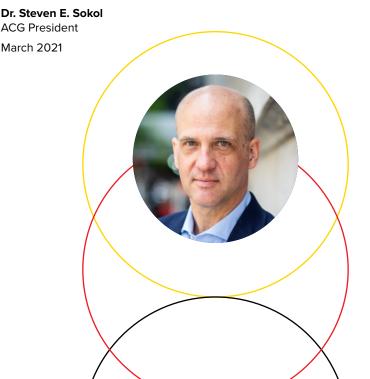
transatlantic organizations and political foundations, the ACG co-hosted a series of panel discussions in the runup to the U.S. Presidential Election called the Road to Election Night & Beyond.

Due to the pandemic, the ACG was unable to hold some of its flagship programs in person, such as the American-German Young Leaders Conference or the German-American Conference. It was also not possible for fellows to travel or for study tours or leadership missions to be carried out. The ACG and Atlantik-Brücke worked to close this gap by holding a series of events between April and November as part of a [virtual] German-American Conference. And, the team has used online tools to connect with participants and alumni of our immersive exchange programs in an effort to keep them engaged.

In total, over the course of 2020, the ACG hosted 130 events. That's quite a feat for a team of six people – all working remotely! Many viewers have commented that the ACG has been a reliable source of information about Germany, Europe, and the transatlantic alliance writ large during a tumultuous time.

As we continue to fight the myriad repercussions of a pandemic and also work to overcome inequality and heal deep societal wounds at home, I am reminded that we live in a world of challenges that know no international boundaries. Increasingly, we must work together – at home and abroad – to bring the peace and prosperity that defined the last 70 years to all of our citizens, regardless of their race, color, or creed.

In 2021 we will continue offering a robust menu of timely online discussions and, once the circumstances allow, hybrid events combining virtual programming with in-person gatherings. We also look forward to resuming our immersive in-person exchanges once it is safe to do so, including the Young Leaders Conference, fellowships, and study tours. We hope you will remain engaged in our work in 2021 and beyond.



ACG Activities in a Pandemic

2020 saw the worst public-health crisis in a century, a severe economic crisis, as well as racial and social justice crises in the United States, with rippling effects felt around the world. Amid the multifaceted crises and widespread division in the United States, Germany, and the wider world, the urgency of working together across borders to address common challenges and build understanding could hardly have been greater.

ACG programming had a strong start to the year – on both sides of the Atlantic. However, when much of the world went into lockdown and travel was restricted, the ACG faced new hurdles to its work of promoting transatlantic dialogue. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic. That same day, President Donald Trump suspended travel from most of Europe. The ACG immediately responded by canceling in-person events, including three planned study tours set to take place between mid-March and the end of April. As the gravity of the health emergency became readily apparent, the Council closed its office and the team began working from home on March 13.

In early 2020, the American Council on Germany had already been conducting Hot Topics Calls, conference calls that connect ACG members with experts and officials who share their insights on breaking news as it unfolds. Between mid-January and early April, the ACG held almost a dozen Hot Topics Calls, covering a range of timely economic, political, and social issues – and addressing the COVID-19 pandemic as much of the world was forced into lockdown.

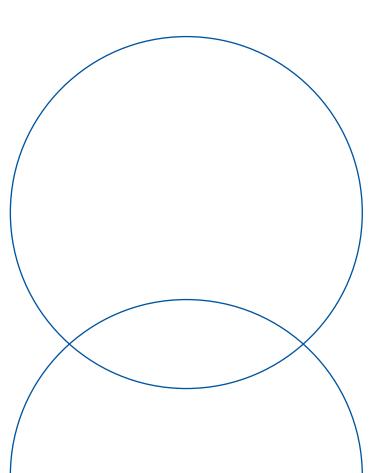
The ACG held a call on rising tensions with Iran with **Dr. Cornelius Adebahr**, a political analyst and Nonresident Fellow at Carnegie Europe, and on Brexit with **Dr. Nicolai von Ordanza**, Deputy Head of the Research Division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP). The Council held several calls on the evolving political landscape in Germany with speakers such as **Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger** (1985 Legislative Aide Exchange Fellow), Foreign Editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*; **Thomas Krüger**, Director of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, bpb); and **Dr. Christian Martin**, Professor of Political Science at the University of Kiel, Germany, and Max Weber Visiting Chair in German and European Studies at New York University.

By April, the ACG had moved all of its programming online. Despite the inability to convene in person after early March, between April and December the ACG held almost 120 virtual discussions on a wide range of issues shaping the transatlantic agenda.

The main themes addressed in ACG programming included:

- The Transatlantic Alliance: U.S. Relations with Germany and the European Union;
- Health Care and the Fight Against COVID-19;
- The Economy;
- Security Policy; and
- Identity Politics, Social Justice, and the Fabric of Society.

Read more about these issues starting on p. 8 Click here to see our 2020 Calendar of Events



Discussions with High-Level Officials

Policy Discussions with Bundestag Members

In 2020, the American Council on Germany hosted 20 Bundestag members for more than 15 different discussions on issues from foreign policy to the COVID-19 crisis. The events included several [virtual] Transatlantic Town Halls: German Bundestag Member Dialogues as part of Wunderbar Together USA 2020, a comprehensive and collaborative initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by the Goethe-Institut.

On February 4 in New York City, Bundestag member **Stefan Liebich** (Die Linke) discussed the foreign policy challenges facing Europe and the United States at a Breakfast Briefing hosted by Alston & Bird LLP.

Bundestag member and physician **Professor Dr. Andrew Ullmann** (FDP) spoke about Germany's response to the coronavirus, and **Ekin Deligöz** (Alliance 90/The Greens), Spokeswoman for the Bavarian Greens in the Bundestag and member of the Budget Committee, talked about how the German social system is coping with the pandemic during a [virtual] Transatlantic Town Hall.

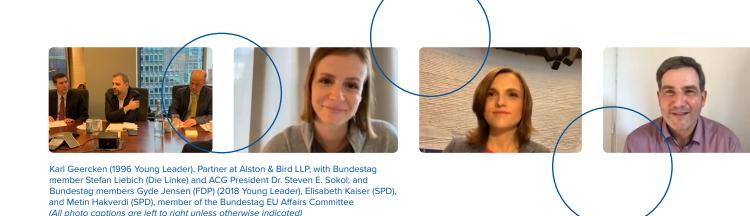
Peter Beyer (CDU), Coordinator for Transatlantic Cooperation in the German Federal Foreign Office, briefed members and friends about the state of the transatlantic partnership via Zoom in mid-April and again during a [virtual] Transatlantic Town Hall.

In late May, **Metin Hakverdi** (SPD), member of the Bundestag EU Affairs Committee, shared his thoughts on the Merkel-Macron European Union recovery fund – and what it means for the future of Europe.

In mid-August, **Dr. Tobias Lindner** (Alliance 90/The Greens), Spokesman for Security Policy and Chairman of the Defense Committee, spoke about defense spending and the implications of the proposed U.S. military drawdown in Germany with **Congressman Rob Bishop** (R-Utah), senior member of the House Committee on Armed Services. The discussion was moderated by **Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook**, Executive Director of the Future of Diplomacy Project and Executive Director of the Project on Europe and the Transatlantic Relationship at the Harvard Kennedy School and Co-Director of the ACG's Eric M. Warburg Chapter in Boston, and held under the auspices of Wunderbar Together USA 2020.

Following the 2020 Democratic and Republican Conventions in August, several Bundestag members shared their reactions during online discussions, including **Dr. Franziska Brantner** (Alliance 90/The Greens), Party Spokesperson for European Policy and member of the Bundestag Committee on European Affairs; **Thomas Erndl** (CSU), member of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee; Mr. Hakverdi (SPD); **Alexander Kulitz** (FDP), member of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee; and **Dr. Nils Schmid** (SPD), Party Spokesman on Foreign Affairs and member of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee.

Marking the 30th anniversary of German unification, the ACG hosted a [virtual] Transatlantic Town Hall featuring **Gyde Jensen** (FDP) (2018 Young Leader) and **Elisabeth Kaiser** (SPD) to discuss how young parliamentarians view this historic date and the path ahead. This event was held in partnership with the German Consulate General in New York and with support from 1014 Inc.



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Transatlantic Sounding Board

In June 2019, the American Council on Germany and the Policy Planning Staff at the German Federal Foreign Office launched the Transatlantic Sounding Board to provide representatives from various federal government ministries and German Bundestag staffers with a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the political climate in the United States leading up to the 2020 Presidential Election. The group met regularly in Berlin, and the ACG organized a fact-finding mission to Pittsburgh and Washington, DC, in November 2019 to look at structural change, social cohesion, and the overall political atmosphere.

In 2020, Transatlantic Sounding Board participants met on February 18 to discuss religion in American society and U.S. foreign policy. The group pivoted to online sessions when the COVID-19 pandemic caused much of the world to go into lockdown, meeting virtually with officials and experts to discuss topics including social cleavages and economic recovery, the Green New Deal, the state of transatlantic ties, relations with China, the U.S. Presidential Election, and later the implications of the election results.

Discussants included Dr. Thomas Bagger, Head of the Office of the Federal President; Sven Egenter, Editor in Chief and CEO of Clean Energy Wire; ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson, Vice Chairman at Capital Group International and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany; Dr. James Goldgeier, Professor of International Relations at the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC; Zoe Hudson, an independent consultant in New York; Dr. Mikko Huotari, Director of the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS); Dr. Rachel Kleinfeld, Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; ACG Board member Dr. Charles A. Kupchan, Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Professor of International Relations at Georgetown University, and former Special Advisor to the U.S. President and Leading Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council; Heather Long (2015 Young Leader), Economics Correspondent for the Washington Post; Anna Sauerbrey (2018 Kellen Fellow), Opinion Page Editor for Der Tagesspiegel and monthly contributor to the New York Times; Orville Schell, Arthur Ross Director of the Center for U.S.-China Relations at the Asia Society; and Dr. Constanze Stelzenmüller (1993 Young Leader), Kissinger Chair on Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Library of Congress and a Senior Fellow at the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution.

Conversations Between the ACG Chairman and the German Ambassador

The American Council on Germany is pleased to have hosted the German Ambassador to the United States Dr. Emily Haber in conversation with ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson several times over the course of 2020. On May 7, they discussed key issues on the transatlantic agenda - including the lasting consequences of COVID-19 for society and the importance of cooperation on China policy – at the summit titled "Putting the World Back Together" as part of CxC: Amplified. The event was held in partnership with the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA). On June 9, they discussed Germany's response to COVID-19, unrest following the murder of George Floyd, the latest developments in the European Union, and more in an event held in partnership with the Los Angeles World Affairs Council & Town Hall. And, on September 23, they participated in the Road to Election Night & Beyond series and shared their insights regarding the perceptions of citizens on both sides of the Atlantic. Key issues on the transatlantic agenda: Watch here (>) Germany's response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Watch here () Perceptions on both sides of the Atlantic: Watch here



German Ambassador to the United States Dr. Emily Haber in conversation with ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson

German-American Mayors Forums and Other Discussions on Local Issues

Since 1977, the American Council on Germany has been committed to addressing urban issues and providing a forum where local government officials in Germany and the United States can exchange best practices and discuss approaches to common challenges. In 2020, cities found themselves on the front lines dealing with the impact of the simultaneous health-care, economic, and social justice crises.

The ACG provided online discussions looking at how cities were dealing with the challenges posed by the concurrent crises. In May and again in August, the ACG brought together **William Peduto**, Mayor of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and **Ullrich Sierau**, Lord Mayor of Dortmund, to discuss how their cities were responding to the pandemic and how they are developing sustainable strategies for the future as a result of their experiences with both structural change and COVID-19.

Under the auspices of Wunderbar Together USA 2020, a comprehensive and collaborative initiative funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and implemented by the Goethe-Institut, the ACG held five [virtual] Transatlantic Town Halls: German-American Mayors Forums. Each event brought together mayors or senior representatives from German and American sister cities to discuss how their communities have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic and how they are rethinking plans for the future based on both new challenges and new opportunities. The online conversations paired Julie Eiselt, Mayor Pro Tem in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Frank Meyer, Lord Mayor of Krefeld; Lyda Krewson, Mayor of St. Louis, Missouri, and Fritz Kuhn, Lord Mayor of Stuttgart; Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, and Jochen Partsch, Lord Mayor of Darmstadt; State Secretary Christian Gaebler, Head of the Berlin Senate Chancellery, and Ambassador Nina Hachigian, Deputy Mayor of International Affairs for Los Angeles, California; and Steve Adler, Mayor of Austin, Texas, and David Langner, Lord Mayor of Koblenz, in an event held in partnership with Sister Cities Austin-Koblenz. Watch the [virtual] Transatlantic Town Halls here ()



Read more about Wunderbar Together USA 2020 and watch the Mayors Forums here

Read more about our work to foster relationships at the local level on p. 19



Frank Meyer, Lord Mayor of Krefeld, and Julie Eiselt, Mayor Pro Tem in Charlotte, North Carolina, in conversation with ACG President Dr. Steven E. Sokol In Focus

The Transatlantic Alliance: U.S. Relations with Germany and the European Union

2020 was an important year for the transatlantic relationship because of the COVID-19 pandemic – and also because of events unfolding in the European Union and the U.S. Presidential Election. The economic and public-health impact of the coronavirus crisis, Brexit, and friction between EU member states were just some of the issues dominating the European agenda as Germany began its Presidency of the Council of the EU. Americans took to the polls at a time when Europe was concerned that a second term for President Donald Trump would mean more trade tensions and less multilateral cooperation with the United States, along with significant troop reductions in Germany.

In April, journalist **Emily Schultheis** discussed the impact of the pandemic on far-right populist parties in Europe. At the start of Germany's EU Presidency, **Dr. Ulrike Guérot**, Head of the Department for European Policy and the Study of Democracy at the Danube University in Krems (Austria) and Founder of the European Democracy Lab in Berlin, discussed Germany's plans for bringing Europe together. During the first month of Germany's Presidency, **Steven Erlanger**, Chief Diplomatic Correspondent in Europe for the *New York Times*, shared his perspectives on the marathon EU Summit and the compromises and concessions the member states reached.

An overview of the EU Summit: Watch here 🕟

The implications of Brexit for the transatlantic alliance were the focus of a panel discussion with **Heather Conley** (2007 Young Leader), Senior Vice President for Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic and Director of the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; **Klaus-Dieter Frankenberger** (1985 Legislative Aide Exchange Fellow), Foreign Editor of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*; and **David Smith**, Washington Bureau Chief for the *Guardian*. The event was held in partnership with 1014 Inc. In addition, as former German Ambassador to the Court of St. James, **Ambassador Dr. Peter Wittig**, Senior Advisor for Global Affairs at Schaeffler AG, shared his insights about the implications of Brexit.

Ongoing Brexit-related issues: Watch here 🕟

Dr. Constanze Stelzenmüller (1993 Young Leader), Senior Fellow at the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution, talked about the consequences of the U.S. elections for the transatlantic alliance at an event held in partnership with the Denver Council on Foreign Relations. The ACG also partnered with the University of Pittsburgh, the Georgia Tech Center for European and Transatlantic Studies, and the Transatlantic Policy Center to host Dr. Mai'a Cross, Edward W. Brooke Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at Northeastern University; Ignacio Garcia-Bercero, Director of the Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission and former Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Chief Negotiator; and Dr. James Goldgeier, Professor at the School of International Service at American University, for a discussion about transatlantic relations after the election. Consequences of the U.S. election: Watch here ()

In October, former ACG Board member **Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick**, Lead U.S. Official for the Two-Plus-Four Negotiations; former President of the World Bank, U.S. Trade Representative, and Deputy Secretary of State; and author of *America in the World: A History of U.S. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy*, reflected on 30 years of German unification – and what lies ahead for the transatlantic partnership. The event was held in cooperation with the German Consulate General in New York and 1014 Inc. The 30th anniversary of German unification: Watch here ()

Among the challenges the transatlantic alliance continued to face in 2020 was the development of a common approach to China. The EU-U.S. Dialogue on China agreed to by Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell Fontelles was an impetus for exploring closer transatlantic cooperation vis-à-vis China. **Dr. Melanie Hart**, Senior Fellow and Director of China Policy at the Center for American Progress; **Dr. Mikko Huotari**, Executive Director of the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS); and **Dr. Orville Schell**, Arthur Ross Director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations at the Asia Society, addressed the opportunities and challenges at an event held in partnership with the Asia Society.

In December, Dr. Guérot of the European Democracy Lab in Berlin joined the Council again to provide her assessment of Germany's accomplishments during its six-month Presidency of the EU. In Focus Health Care and the Fight Against COVID-19

The fight against COVID-19 dominated the headlines in 2020 and with good reason: The world as we knew it ground to a halt as this highly communicable disease charged onto the scene, forcing societies around the globe to go into lockdown. Health-care workers were thrust into the front lines to battle this poorly understood disease.

In June, ACG members and friends heard from the leader of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine team, **Dr. Kathrin U. Jansen**, Senior Vice President and Head of Vaccine Research and Development for Pfizer Inc, on the company's work in tandem with transatlantic partner BioNTech SE to employ revolutionary mRNA technology to combat the insidious disease. She painted a moving portrait of the round-the-clock heroic efforts being undertaken to bring an effective vaccine to market in record-breaking time. <u>COVID-19 and the fight for global health: Watch here</u>

ACG Board member **Dr. Franklin W. Maddux**, Global Chief Medical Officer and member of the Management Board of Fresenius Medical Care, gave a behind-the-scenes look at Fresenius' role in a global framework for containing the coronavirus, and the many measures implemented to ensure the health and safety of its vulnerable kidney-care patients. Global efforts to contain the coronavirus: Watch here

"Fighting the Pandemic and Balancing Economic, Social, and Health Challenges in Europe and the United States" was the topic of a discussion held in partnership with the Hanns Seidel Foundation with **Michael Chertoff**, Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee ReOpen DC, former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and Co-Founder and Executive Chairman of The Chertoff Group, and **Dr. Florian Herrmann**, Chair of the Bavarian Corona Crisis Task Force, Head of the Bavarian State Chancellery, and State Minister for Federal and European Affairs and Media. The event was moderated by **Ann Marie Hauser** (2007 Young Leader), Vice President for Public Affairs at Hudson Institute. Economic, social, and health challenges: Watch here (**>**)

Toward the end of the year, ACG members and friends had the opportunity to hear the perspectives of **Jens Spahn** (CDU), German Federal Minister of Health, on Germany's approach to countering COVID-19 in an interview led by **Anne McElvoy**, Senior Editor at the *Economist*. The event was held as part of the German-American Conference organized by Harvard University. COVID-19 and German foreign policy: Watch here (>)



Dr. Kathrin U. Jansen, Senior Vice President and Head of Vaccine Research and Development for Pfizer Inc



ACG Board member Dr. Franklin W. Maddux, Global Chief Medical Officer and member of the Management Board of Fresenius Medical Care



Ann Marie Hauser (2007 Young Leader), Vice President for Public Affairs at Hudson Institute



Germany and the United States have longstanding, integral economic and trade ties. The United States' biggest trading partner is the European Union, with Germany at the center of that relationship. U.S. affiliates of German firms employ close to 700,000 U.S. workers. While trade disputes had already been simmering between Germany and the United States before 2020, the global economy and trade around the world faced a devasting hit when the COVID-19 pandemic took hold - wreaking havoc for manufacturers and disrupting supply chains. In April of 2020, the World Trade Organization predicted a drop in global trade even greater than that experienced during the 2008 financial crisis, between 13 percent and 32 percent for the year.

ACG programming put economic and trade issues under the microscope. At an event for Young Leader alumni, hosted at Hudson Institute early in the year in Washington, DC, **Steffen Kampeter**, Director General and member of the Presidential Board of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitgeberverbände, BDA), spoke about the future of transatlantic relations in a conversation moderated by **Peter Rough**, Senior Fellow at Hudson Institute.

In an event hosted by AllianceBernstein in New York City, **Dr. Christian Forwick**, Deputy Director-General for External Economic Relations, Trade Policy, America at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie, BMWi), and **Lena Knecht**, Policy Officer for Transatlantic Economic Relations, also in the Directorate-General for External Economic Relations, Trade Policy, America at BMWi, shared their insights on trade disputes between Europe, the United States, and China. Transatlantic trade and the economic implications of Brexit for Germany were the focus of a discussion with **Dr. Volker Treier**, Chief Executive of Foreign Trade and member of the Executive Board of the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (Deutscher Industrie- und Handelskammertag, DIHK), and **Melanie Vogelbach**, Head of International Economic Policy and Foreign Trade Law at DIHK. The event was hosted by ServicePlan Group and held in partnership with the Wirtschaftsrunde/CEO Roundtable of German-American Cooperation in the United States.

Dr. Johannes Beermann, member of the Executive Board of the Deutsche Bundesbank, met with members of the ACG's Dallas Warburg Chapter for a Breakfast Briefing on economic developments in Germany, Europe, and the United States and the challenges inherent in a world of political uncertainty.

ACG corporate members got a behind-the-scenes look at how corporations were coping with the impact of COVID-19 when they met virtually with ACG Board members Wayne T. Smith, Chairman and CEO of BASF Corporation, and Julie Linn Teigland, EY Managing Partner for the EMEIA region (Europe, Middle East, India, and Africa) and EY Global Leader – Women. Frank Naeve, Vice President of Sales for the Americas for Lufthansa, shared an insider's look at the state of air travel and the measures being undertaken to ensure the health and safety of passengers amid the pandemic. The controversy with TikTok in the United States and its implications for Europe were the focus of an online discussion with Christoph Keese, CEO of Axel Springer hy GmbH, and John Lee, Senior Analyst at the Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS). That event was held in cooperation with the Freunde des American Council on Germany e.V. How corporations are coping with the pandemic: Watch here (>) Air travel amid the pandemic: Watch here (>>

Sharing his insights on the significant economic integration between Europe and the United States in one of the ACG's first online events, **Dr. Daniel S. Hamilton**, Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, outlined the findings of his report on "<u>The Transatlantic Economy 2020</u>."

ACG members and friends also met virtually with **Wolfram von Heynitz**, Deputy Consul General of Germany in New York and former Head of the Cyber Policy Coordination Staff in the German Federal Foreign Office, to look at the future of German-American cooperation in cyberspace and on digitalization. The event was held with the Wirtschaftsrunde/CEO Roundtable of German-American Cooperation in the United States. <u>Cooperating on digitalization: Watch here</u>

Dr. Volker Treier, Chief Executive of Foreign Trade and member of the Executive Board of the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (Deutscher Industrieund Handelskammertag, DIHK), and Melanie Vogelbach, Head of International Economic Policy and Foreign Trade Law at DIHK



In Focus Security Policy

While the COVID-19 pandemic may have dominated headlines in 2020, myriad security issues remained front and center throughout the year. In June, President Donald Trump announced plans for a major reduction in U.S. troop strength in Germany, calling out Germany for not yet spending at least 2 percent of gross national product on defense.

Early in the year, the ACG looked at German foreign policy at a discussion with **Dr. Stefan Fröhlich**, Professor of International Politics and Political Economy at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg. The event was hosted by Phillips Nizer LLP. New German and European climate policies were the focus of a Breakfast Briefing with **Professor Dr. Christoph Schmidt**, Chairman of the German Council of Economic Experts and President of the RWI – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research. That event was held in partnership with the University Alliance Ruhr at the Consulate General of Germany.

The ACG looked at the planned military drawdown and its implications, cybersecurity, wider global security, and other issues in its online programming. The Council held a discussion with Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, Pershing Chair in Strategic Studies at the Center for European Policy Analysis and former Commanding General for U.S. Army Europe, and Dr. Claudia Major, Head of the International Security Research Division at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP), and another with Paul-Anton Krüger, Deputy Foreign Editor of the Süddeutsche Zeitung, on the proposed drawdown. U.S. and German models of military innovation and the "dual-use conundrum" were the subjects of an event with Dr. Amy J. Nelson, Research Associate at the Center for International and Security Studies (CISSM) at the University of Maryland, and Dr. Bastian Giegerich, Director of Defense and Military Analysis at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. Transatlantic defense cooperation?: Watch here (>)

The U.S. election, cybersecurity, and deepfakes were the focus of a panel discussion with **Dr. Sandro Gaycken**, Founder and Director of the Digital Society Institute at the European School of Management and Technology in Berlin, and **Wolfram von Heynitz**, Deputy Consul General of Germany in New York and former Head of Cyber Foreign Policy and Cyber Security at the German Federal Foreign Office. The event was moderated by **Kathryn Harrison** (2018 Young Leader), Founder and CEO of the DeepTrust Alliance, and was held with the Freunde des American Council on Germany e.V.

Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger (1978 Young Leader), Chairman of the Munich Security Conference and former German Ambassador to the United States, discussed his book *A World in Danger: The Future of U.S.-European Relations* with Ambassador Christopher Hill, former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Macedonia, Poland, and South Korea, in an event held in partnership with WorldDenver and under the auspices of Wunderbar Together USA 2020. Ambassador Ischinger also discussed his book with ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson, Vice Chairman at Capital Group International and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, in an online event held in partnership with the Los Angeles World Affairs Council & Town Hall.

The future of U.S.-European relations: Watch here 🕟

Relations with Russia came into focus in two events: a panel on Russia's involvement in the spread of disinformation during the coronavirus crisis with **Dr. Evelyn Farkas**, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia, and **Sarah Pagung**, Associate Fellow for International Order and Democracy at the Robert Bosch Center for Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia at the German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP), and a discussion on the transatlantic debate over Nord Stream 2 with **Ambassador Daniel Fried**, Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow at the Atlantic Council and former U.S. Ambassador to Poland, and **Dr. Kirsten Westpha**l, Head of Geopolitics of Energy Transformation for the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, SWP).



Dr. Evelyn Farkas, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia



Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger (1978 Young Leader), Chairman of the Munich Security Conference

In Focus Identity Politics, Social Justice, and the Fabric of Society

2020 was an inflection point on many social justice issues, from racial and gender equity to the digital divide, and from unemployment to migration and immigration policy. While many of the virtual events hosted by the ACG touched on these issues, the Council hosted multiple discussions focused directly on these topics.

Early in the year, the ACG partnered with Northeastern University to host a discussion on the impact of artificial intelligence and digitalization on social cohesion in Boston with **Dr. Gesche Joost**, Professor of Design Research at the Berlin University of the Arts. She spoke again in New York at an event co-hosted with the Hasso Plattner Institute. Both events were supported by the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius.

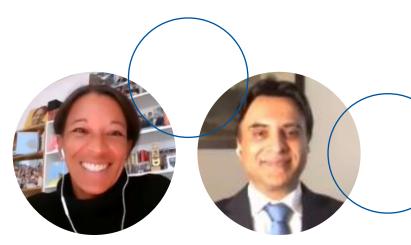
As civil unrest broke out across the United States, the ACG reflected on what it means for society. On June 5, ACG President **Dr. Steven E. Sokol** released <u>a statement on the importance of standing on the right side of justice</u>. The following week, the Council hosted a critical conversation on racial justice as a concern not only on a national level but also on an international level with **Bishop Garrison** (2017 Young Leader), Director of National Security Outreach at Human Rights First, President and Co-Founder of the Joseph Rainey Center for Public Policy, and former Defense and Homeland Security official in the Obama administration.

In mid-July, the ACG and the Heidelberg University Association partnered to host two Heidelberg Lectures under the auspices of Wunderbar Together USA 2020. The first focused on how countries were tackling increased unemployment as a result of COVID-19 and featured **Professor Dr. Welf Werner**, Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies at Heidelberg University. The second drilled down on the criminal justice system in the runup to the U.S. Presidential Election: **Michael McMahon**, District Attorney for Staten Island, New York, former U.S. Congressman, and University of Heidelberg alumnus, spoke with **Annett Meiritz**, a U.S. Correspondent for the Handelsblatt Media Group based in Washington, DC.

Marking the five-year anniversary of the refugee crisis in Germany, the ACG hosted a discussion with **Jagoda Marinic**, writer and columnist for the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and Director of the International Welcome Center program in Heidelberg, and **Victoria Rietig**, Head of the Migration Program at the German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP), moderated by **Adam Hunter**, Executive Director of the Refugee Council USA. The event was held under the auspices of Wunderbar Together USA 2020 and in partnership with the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and the World Affairs Councils of America. Ms. Rietig later joined a second conversation on migration with **David Lubell**, Founding Director of the Welcoming International initiative, moderated by **Regina Omlor**, Senior Program Officer for Africa at Relief International.

The ACG also looked at race, income inequality, and the digital divide in a discussion with **Janina Kugel**, a former senior executive at Siemens AG, and **Apjit Walia**, Managing Director and the Global Head of Technology Investment Strategy at Deutsche Bank. The digital divide: Watch here ()

ACG members and friends discussed diversity in the newsroom with **Paulina Fröhlich**, Head of the Future of Democracy Program at Das Progressive Zentrum; **Martina Guzmán**, Damon J. Keith Race and Justice Journalism Fellow at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School; **Nil Idil Cakmak** of Neue Deutsche Medienmacher; and **Aleksandra Tulej**, Head of Service of biber Verlagsgesellschaft, Vienna. Moderated by **Leonard Novy** (Multilateral Young Leader alumnus), Director of the Institute for Media and Communications Policy (Institut für Medien- und Kommunikationspolitik, IfM), the event was organized by 1014 Inc. and the IfM in cooperation with the ACG as part of the Media (R)evolution series.



Janina Kugel, a former senior executive at Siemens AG, and Apjit Walia, Managing Director and the Global Head of Technology Investment Strategy at Deutsche Bank

German-American Conference

Each year, the American Council on Germany and Atlantik-Brücke hold a German-American Conference – alternating between Berlin and Washington, DC – to bring together alumni, members, and friends to discuss the most pressing issues on the transatlantic agenda with government officials, politicians, and thought leaders. When the conference could not be held in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACG and Atlantik-Brücke instead partnered to hold a series of online discussions over the course of the year on the key issues shaping the transatlantic relationship during the crisis.

The 2020 German-American Conference had been scheduled to take place in person in May in Washington, DC, to look at both the U.S. Presidential Election and the 2021 federal election in Germany, with an eye toward opportunities to reinvent the transatlantic agenda to address common challenges. Even though the in-person conference had to be canceled, the crisis sparked a heightened sense of urgency to work together across borders to meet global challenges of a magnitude not witnessed in a century. Watch the discussions of the German-American Conference here ()

Events

4.9. I "The National and International Responses to COVID-19 and the Future of Multilateralism" with ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson, Vice Chairman at Capital Group International and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, and Sigmar Gabriel, Chairman of Atlantik-Brücke e.V. and former German Federal Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor of Germany, in conversation with Juliane Schäuble, U.S. Correspondent for Der Tagesspiegel

4.22. I **"COVID-19 and the Mess It Creates for the Global Economy"** with **Professor Dr. Andreas Dombret**, Global Senior Advisor at Oliver Wyman and former Board member of the Deutsche Bundesbank; **Sigmar Gabriel**, Chairman of Atlantik-Brücke e.V. and former German Federal Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor of Germany; and ACG Board member **Dr. John Lipsky**, Peter G. Peterson Distinguished Scholar at the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs and Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and former First Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund

5.14. I **"Global Order in Crisis Mode: Coping Strategies of the West"** with **Omid Nouripour** (Alliance 90/The Greens), Bundestag member and Foreign Policy Spokesperson of the Green Parliamentary Group and Board member of Atlantik-Brücke e.V., and **Ambassador Victoria Nuland**, former Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. State Department and Senior Counselor at Albright Stonebridge Group

5.21. I "Did We Miss the Warning Signals? Global Trends and New Security Threats" with Ambassador Boris Ruge, Vice-Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, and Dr. Gregory
F. Treverton (1982 Young Leader), Professor of the Practice of International Relations and Spatial Sciences at the University of Southern California and former Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, in conversation with Dr. Constanze
Stelzenmüller (1993 Young Leader), Kissinger Chair on Foreign Policy and International Relations at the Library of Congress and a Senior Fellow at the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution



Bundestag member Omid Nouripour (Alliance 90/The Greens), Foreign Policy Spokesperson of the Green Parliamentary Group, and Ambassador Victoria Nuland, former Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. State Department and Senior Counselor at Albright Stonebridge Group



















9.10. | "How Identity Politics Has Shaped Modern Political

Discourse" with **Dr. Francis Fukuyama** (1985 Young Leader), Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), Mosbacher Director of FSI's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL), and Director of the Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy at FSI, in conversation with German journalist Christiane Hoffmann (1997 Young Leader)

10.29. I "Changing Demographics: Diversity in the United States and Germany" with Dr. Petra Bendel, Professor of Political Science at Erlangen-Nuremberg University and Chair of the Advisory Council of the Federal Office of Migration and Refugees; Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) (2009 Young Leader), Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Janet Murguia, President and CEO of UNIDOS; and Bundestag member Cem Özdemir (Alliance 90/The Greens) (2001 Young Leader), moderated by Dr. Michael Werz, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress

12.2. I **"Reinventing the German-American Agenda in 2021"** with ACG Chairman **Ambassador John B. Emerson**, Vice Chairman at Capital Group International and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, and Atlantik-Brücke Chairman **Sigmar Gabriel**, former German Federal Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor of Germany, in conversation with **Christiane Meier**, Director of ARD's studio in New York

Bundestag member Cem Özdemir (Alliance 90/The Greens) (2001 Young Leader); Janet Murguia, President and CEO of UNIDOS; Dr. Petra Bendel, Professor of Political Science at Erlangen-Nuremberg University and Chair of the Advisory Council of the Federal Office of Migration and Refugees; and Congressman Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) (2009 Young Leader), Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (from top to bottom, left to right)

Dr. Francis Fukuyama (1985 Young Leader), Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), Mosbacher Director of FSI's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL), and Director of the Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy at FSI, in conversation with German journalist Christiane Hoffmann (1997 Young Leader)

ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson, Vice Chairman at Capital Group International and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany; Christiane Meier, Director of ARD's studio in New York; and Atlantik-Brücke Chairman Sigmar Gabriel, former German Federal Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor of Germany

Resilience and Adaptation Series

Early on in the coronavirus crisis, the American Council on Germany partnered with 1014 Inc. to organize a series of discussions under the heading Resilience and Adaptation. In 16 online events between April and December, German and American experts honed in on key challenges – and also opportunities – both countries faced during the simultaneous publichealth, economic, and social justice crises. In an effort to assess how resilient our societies are and how we might adapt as a result of the pandemic, speakers analyzed current events and explored what measures can be taken during these uncertain times.

Democracy and Democratic Institutions

In an important election year, **Stefan Kornelius**, Foreign Editor of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, and **Dr. Kori Schake** (1999 Young Leader), Director of Foreign and Defense Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), shared their insights on challenges to democracy. **Dr. Francis Fukuyama** (1985 Young Leader), Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), Mosbacher Director of FSI's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL), and Director of the Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy at FSI, and **Dr. Daniela Schwarzer**, Director of the German Council on Foreign Relations (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Auswärtige Politik, DGAP), discussed the future of liberal democracy. **Thomas Carothers**, Senior Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and **Laura Krause**, Director of More in Common, Germany, discussed public trust in democracy – and the lack thereof. The future of democracy: Watch here ()

Civil Society

Two events addressed the role that civil society can play in a time of unprecedented crisis: **Dr. Nina Lemmens**, member of the Executive Board of the Joachim Herz Stiftung, and **Daniela Kaisth**, Founder and President of Gratias Partners and former Vice President of Development at the EastWest Institute, shared their perspectives in one panel, and **Brian Gallagher**, President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way Worldwide, and **Dr. Andreas Rickert**, Founder and CEO of PHINEO, in another.

Social Equity and Migration

With the COVID-19 pandemic bringing equity issues into the fore, **Dr. Gesche Joost**, Professor of Design Research at the Berlin University of the Arts, and **Dr. Mona Sloane**, a Fellow with the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University, discussed digitalization and the digital divide. **Dr. Jutta Allmendinger**, President of the Social Science Research Center Berlin (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, WZB) and a Professor of Educational Sociology and Labor Market Research at Humboldt University, and **Bill Strickland**, a community leader and Founder and Executive Chairman of the nonprofit Manchester Bidwell Corporation, spoke about economic opportunity and social equity in an event that was held with the Thomas Mann House. Digitalization and the corona crisis: Watch here ()

Migration policy was the focus of a discussion with **Theresa Cardinal Brown**, Director of Immigration and Cross-Border Policy, and **Cristobal Ramón**, Senior Policy Analyst, both at the Bipartisan Policy Center, and **Dr. J. Olaf Kleist**, Senior Researcher at the German Centre for Integration and Migration Research (Deutsche Zentrum für Integrations- und Migrationsforschung, DeZIM) and Founder and Chair of Netzwerk Fluchtforschung. Global migration and the corona crisis: Watch here (>)



Dr. Jutta Allmendinger, President of the Social Science Research Center Berlin (Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, WZB)



Bill Strickland, community leader and Founder and Executive Chairman of the nonprofit Manchester Bidwell Corporation



Cristobal Ramón, Senior Policy Analyst at the Bipartisan Policy Center

Policy Programs 🔾

The Impact of the Pandemic

Sharing their perspectives from the front lines on how hospitals were managing COVID-19 were **Dr. David L. Reich**, President and COO of the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and President of Mount Sinai Queens, and **Professor Dr. Eckhard Nagel**, Managing Director of the Institute for Health Care Management and Economics at the University of Bayreuth, Doctor of Medicine at the Erdhof Rehabilitation Center in Iselsberg-Stronach, Austria, and the German President of the Chinese-German Friendship Hospital of the Tongji Clinic Wuhan.

Health care and the corona crisis: Watch here 🕟

With the vast majority of college students sent home and children around the world forced to learn from home overnight, the upheaval in education was addressed in a panel with **Carson Crochet**, a Davidson College junior who works on the College Crisis Initiative; **Dr. Chris Marsicano**, Assistant Professor of the Practice in Educational Studies at Davidson College; and **Dr. Uta G. Ploiger**, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities and Professor of History at Northeastern University. Education and the corona crisis: Watch here ()

Turning to a wide swath of sectors severely affected by COVID-19, **Elke Buhr**, Chief Editor of *Monopol*, Germany's largest contemporary art magazine, and **Adrian Ellis**, Chairman of the Global Cultural Districts Network and Founder/Director of AEA Consulting, discussed the challenges the arts and cultural institutions were facing, while **Ricarda Lindner**, Regional Manager for the Americas and Director of the U.S. Office of the German National Tourist Office, and **Guy Martin** (1991 McCloy Fellow in Journalism), Senior Correspondent for *Condé Nast Traveler* and Senior Contributor at *Forbes*, talked about the significant impact on travel and tourism. **Sewell Chan** (2014 Young Leader), Editorial Page Editor for the *Los Angeles Times*, and **Anna Sauerbrey** (2018 Kellen Fellow), Opinion Page Editor for *Der Tagesspiegel* and a monthly contributor to the *New York Times*, talked about the impact on the media.

Thorsten Benner, Co-Founder and Director of the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi), and Dr. Shannon O'Neil, Vice President, Deputy Director of Studies, and Nelson and David Rockefeller Senior Fellow for Latin America Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, discussed globalization in the time of COVID. Climate change was the focus of a discussion with Dr. Claudia Kemfert, Professor of Energy Economics and Sustainability at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin and Head of the Energy, Transportation, and Environment Department at the German Institute for Economic Research (Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung e.V., DIW Berlin), and Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace International. Climate change and the corona crisis: Watch here ()

Looking ahead, **Maria Bothwell**, Chief Executive Officer of Toffler Associates, and **Gerd Leonhard**, Chief Executive Officer of The Futures Agency, shared their insights on anticipating the future in a time of uncertainty and tumult.

Predicting the shape of the post-COVID-19 world: Watch here





Sewell Chan (2014 Young Leader), Editorial Page Editor for the Los Angeles Times Anna Sauerbrey (2018 Kellen Fellow), Opinion Page Editor for *Der Tagesspiegel*



Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace International

Events in Germany

In February 2020, hundreds of decision-makers and other leaders gathered at the Munich Security Conference to look at the state of the West and to examine Western partners' abilities to address common global challenges. Only later would the sheer magnitude of those challenges become clear, as the COVID-19 pandemic led to lockdowns around the world. For many attendees, this was the last major conference they would attend in person in 2020. The American Council on Germany organized five events in Germany before the borders were closed.

The ACG held an official side event at the Munich Security Conference titled "Partner, Competitor, or Rival? The China Conundrum in Transatlantic Relations" with Robert Blair, Assistant to the President and Special Representative for International Telecommunications Policy at the White House; Representative Susan Brooks (R-Indiana), Co-Chair of the Congressional Study Group on Germany; Reinhard Bütikofer (Alliance 90/The Greens), member of the European Parliament, Chair of the European Parliament's China Delegation, and deputy member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; Senator Chris Coons (D-Delaware); Dr. Elizabeth Economy, C.V. Starr Senior Fellow and Director of Asia Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations; Senator Christopher Murphy (D-Connecticut); Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio); Dr. Norbert Röttgen (CDU/CSU), Bundestag member and Chairman of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee; Senator Chris van Hollen (D-Maryland); and Senator Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi), Chairman of the Commerce, Science, and Technology Committee. The event was held in partnership with the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS).

The ACG held three events in Munich on the periphery of the MSC: **Peter Kropsch**, CEO of the German Press Agency (Deutsche Presse-Agentur, DPA), discussed changing patterns of news consumption and what they mean for journalism and democracy. **Dr. Francis Fukuyama** (1985 Young Leader), Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), Mosbacher Director of FSI's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL), and Director of the Ford Dorsey Master's in International Policy at FSI, shared his insights on changes in world politics since the seminal year of 1989. That event was hosted by Allen & Overy LLP. Both events were held in cooperation with the Freunde des American Council on Germany e.V. The Council also held a discussion on foreign policy priorities in uncertain times with **Dr. Peter Berkowitz**, Director of Policy Planning for the U.S. Department of State and Tad and Dianne Taube Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and **Sebastian Groth**, Director of Policy Planning at the German Federal Foreign Office. That event was held in partnership with the Aspen Institute Germany at Rückel & Collegen.

In addition, following the MSC, the ACG held a debriefing in Berlin with **Matthew Karnitschnig**, Chief Europe Correspondent for Politico, and **Ines Pohl**, Editor in Chief of Deutsche Welle. The event was held in cooperation with the Freunde des American Council on Germany at the law offices of CMS.





The ACG's official side event at the Munich Security Conference, held in partnership with the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies (AICGS)

ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson and Senator Christopher Murphy (D-Connecticut) at the MSC side event

Read more about the Freunde des American Council on Germany e.V. (in German)



Road to Election Night & Beyond Series

The American Council on Germany was the only U.S.-based organization to join a consortium of leading German transatlantic organizations and political foundations spearheaded by the Aspen Institute Germany to organize a series of timely discussions under the heading the Road to Election Night & Beyond. Beginning in September, the series consisted of 10 virtual events with leading journalists, researchers, and policymakers in the runup to the U.S. Presidential Election and concluded with two panels and several interviews on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2021. The series looked not only at the U.S. Presidential Election but also at broader issues such as trade, migration, transatlantic relations, and the future of the multilateral order - along with the geopolitical implications of the election.

The speakers included Melissa Eddy, Berlin Correspondent for the New York Times; Dr. Christina Gommlich, Deputy Head of the Berlin Office, Corporate Government Relations, at BASF SE; Tina Hassel, Head and TV Editor in Chief of ARD-Hauptstadtstudio in Berlin; Eckart von Klaeden (1997 Young Leader), Chairman of the Aspen Institute Germany and Vice President and Head of External Affairs of Daimler AG; Alexander Graf Lambsdorff (FDP) (1997 Young Leader), member of the Board of Trustees of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom and member of the Bundestag; Thomas Silberhorn (CSU), Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Defense and member of the Bundestag; Frank Sportolari, President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany e.V. and President of UPS Germany, Austria, and Switzerland; Dr. Ellen Ueberschär, President of the Heinrich Böll Foundation; and former ACG Board member Ambassador Robert B. Zoellick, former President of the World Bank, U.S. Trade Representative, and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State.

Read more or watch the Road to Election Night & Beyond series Watch an interview with ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson on Inauguration Day



ACG Chairman Ambassador John B. Emerson addressing the Road to Election Night & Beyond series

Policy Discussions with ACG Program Alumni

In a typical year, the American Council on Germany's American-German Young Leaders Conference convenes young professionals from government, business, journalism, academia, the military, and the nonprofit sector for a week of intensive dialogue concerning domestic, bilateral, and global issues affecting Germany and the United States. The Council also administers fellowship programs and organizes leadership missions and immersive exchange programs to allow American and German journalists, scholars, and other mid-career professionals from a variety of fields to travel across the Atlantic to conduct in-depth research on key economic, political, and social issues that affect communities around the world but especially in Germany and the United States. These immersive exchange programs are designed to enhance participants' understanding of the current international agenda while building networks and deepening mutual understanding among the next generation of thought leaders and decision-makers from the United States and Germany.

Although these in-person programs could not be carried out in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACG engaged with program alumni for online discussions to hear their insights on the worst global health crisis in a century, the severe economic crisis, and the nationwide social justice crisis. In addition to including alumni in other virtual events, the ACG organized two speaker series showcasing the depth and breadth of expertise among the alumni and partnered with the Council on Foreign Relations to host a discussion with Young Leader alumni.

Transatlantic Perspectives: The Local Impact of COVID-19

During the early months of the pandemic, it quickly became apparent that cities were facing unprecedented challenges as COVID-19 spread around the globe. Honing in on these issues, the ACG held a series of online discussions with experts and practitioners who work at the local level - drawing primarily from program alumni from the Sustainable Urban Development Study Tour and Transatlantic Cities of Tomorrow exchanges and the McCloy Leadership Mission on Urban Affairs and Sustainability.

The series kicked off with a discussion on April 24 about the impact of the pandemic on cities in Germany and the United States, featuring Tobias David, Chief of Staff for the Lord Mayor of the City of Leipzig; Blaine Griffin, City Council member for the City of Cleveland, Ohio; Irmintraud Jost, Head of the Science and Communication Division of the Office of Economic Development for the City of Heidelberg; and Stephanie Welch, Deputy to the Mayor and Chief of Economic and Community Development for the City of Knoxville, Tennessee. The impact of COVID-19 on cities: Watch here (>)

On May 8, Jana Kugoth, Mobility and Transportation Reporter for Der Tagesspiegel; Brandie Lockhart, Director of Urban Design for Houston Metro; Jesse Mintz-Roth, Vision Zero Program Manager for the Department of Transportation in San Jose, California; and Laurin Sepoetro, Public Policy Planner for Uber Germany, discussed the impact of the pandemic on transportation. Current and future mobility challenges: Watch here

On May 22, Susana O'Daniel, Director of Public Affairs for the Arkansas Education Association; Daniela Schneckenburger, Commissioner of the Department for School, Youth, and Family for the City of Dortmund; and Laura Ward, Vice President of Talent Development for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, discussed the impact of the pandemic on education and the digital divide.

Schooling amid a pandemic: Watch here

On June 26, Sunanna Chand, Vice President of Systems Reinvention at Teach for America; Bruce Clark, Executive Director of Digital Charlotte; and Devin Dienes, Project Manager at Digitalstadt Darmstadt, discussed digitalization in cities against the backdrop of the pandemic.

Digitalization in cities: Watch here (

ZoomAtlantic Dialogues

Together with the Robert Bosch Foundation Alumni Association, Cultural Vistas, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the American Council on Germany hosted a four-part series of ZoomAtlantic Dialogues with transatlantic leadership program alumni to look at key issues on the transatlantic agenda in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The series featured alumni from the ACG's American-German Young Leaders Conference, the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship Program, and the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals.

The series began on May 4 with a discussion on the news media during the coronavirus crisis and featured **Sumi Somaskanda** (Bosch Fellow 2008-09), Senior News Anchor at DW News, and **Daniel Lippman** (2017 Young Leader), a reporter covering the White House and Washington for Politico. The news media and information amid a pandemic: Watch here (

On May 18, **Caroline Fredrickson** (Bosch Fellow 1993-94), Senior Fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice, and **Arnd Henze** (1997 ACG Young Leader), an editor and reporter at WDR, discussed individual rights vs. the common good with **Cordell Carter** (Bosch Fellow 2007-08), Executive Director of the Socrates Program at the Aspen Institute and member of the Cultural Vistas Alumni Council. Individual freedoms and the greater good: Watch here (F)

On June 10, **Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger** (1978 ACG Young Leader), Chairman of the Munich Security Conference and former German Ambassador to the United States, and **Denis McDonough** (Bosch Fellow 1999-2000), former White House Chief of Staff for President Barack Obama, discussed the international security environment in the midst of a pandemic. The conversation was moderated by **Dr. Torrey Taussig** (Bosch Fellow 2018-19), Research Director of the Project on Europe and the Transatlantic Relationship at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.

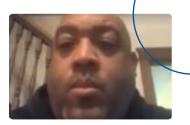
Evolving geopolitical challenges: Watch here

On June 22, **Jill Meiburg** (Bosch Fellow 1997-98), Senior Vice President for Sustainability Communications and Programs at Deutsche Post DHL Group, and **Ian Bolin** (CBYX for Young Professionals 1997-98), Partner in the Mobility and Automotive Practice at Egon Zehnder, discussed the future of the global economy with **Jennifer Clinton**, President and CEO of Cultural Vistas. Supply chains and the global economy: Watch here (

Alumni Programming with CFR

On September 14, the ACG partnered with the Council on Foreign Relations to host a special event for ACG Young Leader alumni and the Council on Foreign Relations' Stephen M. Kellen Term Members on the future of the transatlantic partnership with **Manuel Bewarder** (2018 Young Leader), journalist with *Welt* and *Welt am Sonntag*; **Tara Hariharan** (2016 Young Leader and CFR term member), Director of Global Macro Research at NWI Management LP; and **Dr. Seth A. Johnston** (2014 Young Leader and CFR term member), Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Center for Security Studies at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service.

















Stephanie Welch, Deputy to the Mayor and Chief of Economic and Community Development for the City of Knoxville, Tennessee, and Blaine Griffin, City Council member for the City of Cleveland, Ohio

Denis McDonough, former White House Chief of Staff for President Barack Obama, and Dr. Torrey Taussig, Research Director of the Project on Europe and the Transatlantic Relationship at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

Cordell Carter, Executive Director of the Socrates Program at the Aspen Institute • Laurin Sepoetro, Public Policy Planner for Uber Germany; Brandie Lockhart, Director of Urban Design for Houston Metro; and Jana Kugoth, Mobility and Transportation Reporter for *Der Tagesspiegel*

2020 Support

Corporate and Foundation Support

\$50,000 AND ABOVE

- Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation
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The American Council on Germany was deeply saddened in 2020 by the passing of ACG Vice Chairman Dr. Richard M. Hunt, the longestserving President of the ACG and longtime Marshal at Harvard University. Rick Hunt was a driving force and an ardent supporter of the Council for 50 years, serving as President of the ACG from 1972 to 1988 and as Vice Chairman until his passing. His unwavering dedication to the ACG's mission of strengthening transatlantic ties, his wise counsel, his keen knowledge of German-American relations, his faith in younger generations, and his warm, unassuming manner are sorely missed. He lives on in the hearts of all of us at the ACG, and his legacy will never die.

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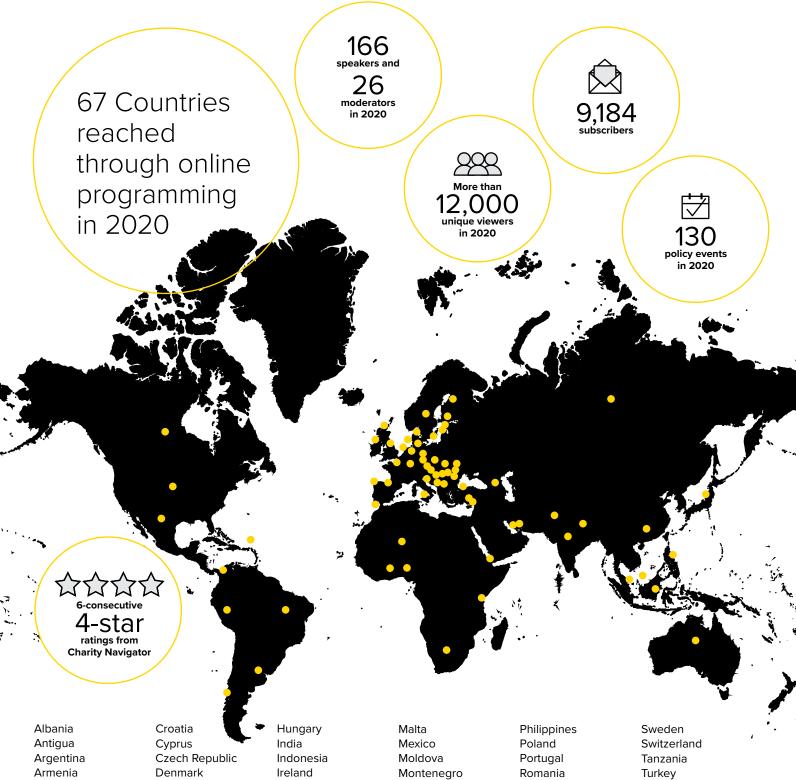
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