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The
American **Corner** Innsbruck and StudienVerlag
invite you to a lecture/book presentation by

em. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Berndt Ostendorf

„New Orleans. Creolization and All That Jazz”

Wednesday, July 17, 2013, 16.00/4:00pm
Claudiasaal, Herzog-Friedrich-Str. 3 (2nd floor up), Innsbruck

*“There are a lot of places I like, but I like New Orleans better [...].”
(Bob Dylan, Chronicles, Volume I)*

New Orleans was founded in 1719, situated on the margin of three European colonial empires, France, Spain and England. European settlers interacted (and mixed) with enslaved Africans, with free people of color, Native Americans, and with migrants from Spain, Mexico, Canada, the Caribbean, Cuba, and St. Domingue. After the Louisiana Purchase (1803) this cultural gumbo was over-layered by a typically American port city with Irish, German, Jewish and later Italian immigrants, creating a complicated political urban arena, but also a range of amazing multicultural resources. The Civil War and Reconstruction threatened to make the Caribbean city more American, particularly in terms of race relations and public policy. But both also energized antagonistic culture formation processes that may best be described as creolization. Over time they have resulted in Mardi Gras, the Second Line, Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs, Mardi Gras Indians, music and in a unique cuisine which represent a cultural counterpoint and a challenge to Anglo-Saxon habits of the heart. Last but not least, New Orleans is the cradle of the only truly American art form – jazz – a music that has left an imprint on all aspects of American culture.

Prof. Ostendorf speaks in conjunction with the presentation of his latest monograph of the same title. A book table will be provided by *StudienVerlag* and a small reception follows the lecture.



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