

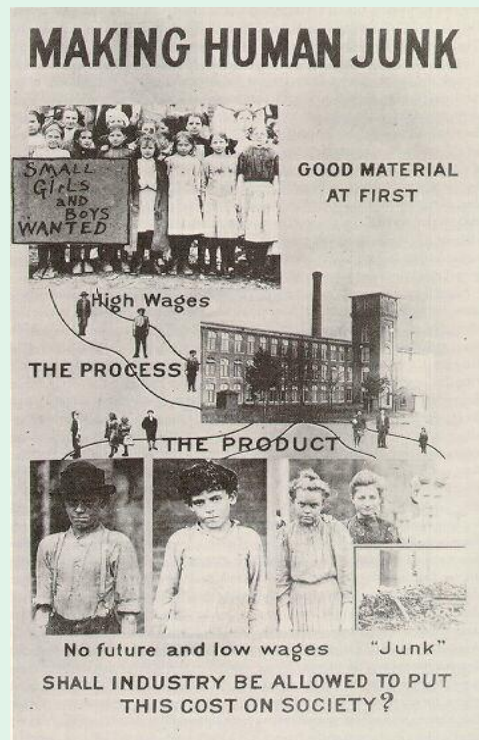
Current Issues in North American and Cultural Studies | Lecture Series of the North American Studies Program

Dr. Simon Schleusener

John F. Kennedy Institute, FU Berlin, and North American Studies Program

Images of Degradation: Social Photography and the Politics of Visibility

Tuesday | 10 December 2024 | 6:00 c.t.-8:00 pm
53111 Bonn | Rabinstraße 8 | Room 7



Lewis Hine
Making Human Junk
(1915, poster)

Concentrating on the US-American tradition of social photography, Simon Schleusener's lecture interrogates attempts to visualize dimensions of inequality that are effectively invisible. While academic discourse on the subject has focused on how the socially disadvantaged are depicted, his talk shifts our attention to representations of social structures that produce inequality and poverty in the first place. Accordingly, he engages with images of degradation that go beyond empathy- or recognition-oriented forms of social photography, examining visual strategies in which the photographic image is transformed from a still image into an image of thought.

Dr. Simon Schleusener is assistant professor at the University of Bonn's North American Studies Program and lecturer at the John F. Kennedy Institut, FU Berlin. His research interests and publications include work on the neoliberal imagination, climate change and ecocriticism, American literary history, visual culture, and the politics of affect.