

## **New REAF Lecture Format with Dr. Leonard Schmieding**

On January 30, 2019, REAF launched a new lecture format: Lecture in Political Engagement and Responsibility. In many American Studies courses, and in numerous REAF roundtables, discussions have often arisen concerning the responsibility scholars have to actively address the issues discussed within the classroom outside of an academic setting. This new lecture series seeks to address these concerns, by bringing scholars whose work is tangibly involved with this scholarly responsibility or political engagement. The first guest lecturer of this new series was Dr. Leonard Schmieding, a public historian based in Münster. His lecture “Populism and Public History: Current Challenges in a Transatlantic Perspective” outlined two of the public history projects that he has undertaken within the past few years. After outlining some of the theories associated with public history, Dr. Schmieding shared two of his transnational projects which both seek to allow residents of specific areas with difficult histories understand and interact with these histories in constructive and interactive ways. The two case study projects which Dr. Schmieding shared are located in Münster, Germany and Charlottesville, Virginia. REAF thanks Dr. Schmieding for kicking off our new series with such a fascinating and fitting presentation.