

Annual  
Conference

9–11 July  
2025

For detailed information,  
please scan the QR code:



# Futures of Doing Literature

silent green Kulturquartier  
Gerichtstraße 35  
13347 Berlin-Wedding

Access to the venue is step-free.

We recommend using public transport:

S+U Wedding

(U6, S41, S42, S46) – approx. 400 m

U Leopoldplatz

(U6, U9) – approx. 600 m

Nettelbeckplatz

(bus lines 247, M27) – approx. 250 m

**TEMPORAL  
COMMUNITIES**  
DOING LITERATURE IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

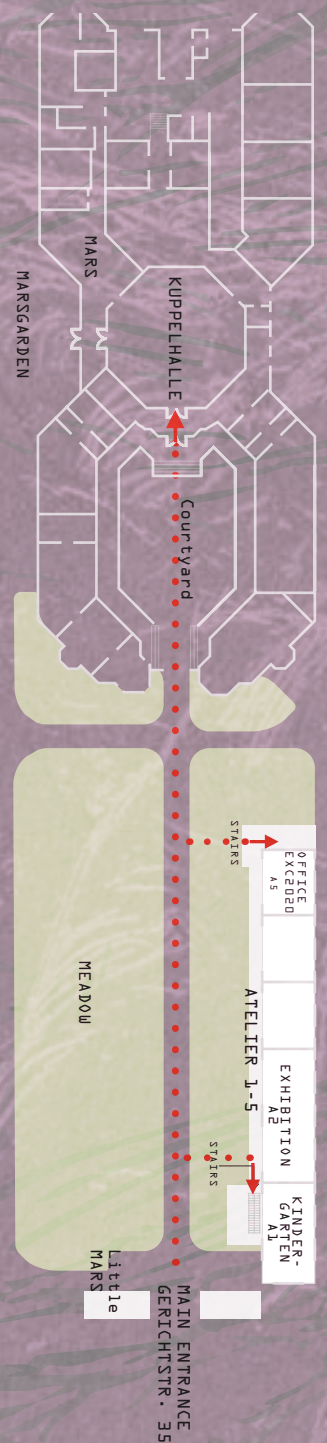


FRIEDRICH SCHLEGEL  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
of Literary Studies

Berlin University  
Alliance



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The 5th Annual Conference *Futures of Doing Literature* explores the potentialities, imaginaries and challenges that constantly mediate how literature is practised, studied, valued and conceptualised today. At a moment marked by rapid technological, ecological, political and institutional change, this conference investigates what it means to *do* literature.

This includes not only scholarly and publishing activities but also literature as a social, aesthetic and performative act. Together, we examine literature as a generative site of unsettling and reimagining, where narratives entail memory, belonging, world-making and transformation.

The conference takes place over three days of presentations, quick-fire talks, interviews with Q&As, roundtables and a participatory fishbowl session. During these sessions, we critically evaluate how climate fiction and ecocriticism anticipate environmental and postcolonial futures; how evolving reading practices transform social participation and identity; and how themes like sustainability and the politics of scholarly communication can be conceptualised as material-aesthetic practices. It also explores emerging literary and scholarly forms, including immersive media that reshape reader-text relations, and anarchival or anarchitectural approaches that challenge dominant narratives and institutional norms.

These explorations extend beyond the panels and discussions into the exhibition *Among Waves*, a sound installation by Kollektiv »kaboom« and The Poetry Project.

We invite you to join us here, in conversation with our Cluster members, associated researchers, fellows and international partners, as we reflect on the ways that *doing literature* will continue to shape, expand and reimagine the humanities.

Conference Organisation Team:  
Research Area 5: Building Digital Communities  
Dilan Canan Çakır, Frank Fischer, Rebecca Hardie,  
Viktor J. Illmer and Bart Soethaert



9 July

12:30 | Registration

13:00–13:30  
Conference Opening

13:30–15:30  
Panel: Hierarchies of the Past,  
Entanglements of the Future

With: Suja Sawafta (Arabic Studies|University of Miami),  
Mark Schmitt (English Cultural Studies|HU Berlin)  
and Amina Zarzi (Francophone Postcolonial Studies|  
University of Oxford)  
Chair: Hanan Natour (Arabic and Comparative Literature)  
and Frank Fischer (Digital Humanities)

15:30–16:00 | Break

16:00–17:30  
Roundtable: Reading Matters –  
Literature as Social and  
Political Practice

With: Laura Bieger (American Studies|Ruhr University  
Bochum), Heike Geißler (Writer · Dorothea Schlegel  
Artist-in-Residence) and Hanan Natour (Arabic and  
Comparative Literature)  
Chair: Barbara Bausch (Literary Studies)

17:30–18:30 | Dinner Break

18:30–20:30  
Roundtable: Past Perspectives on  
Contingent Futures for the Performing  
Body – Anarchival, Anarchitectural  
and Queering Practices

With: Jack Halberstam (Gender Studies and English|  
Columbia University), Friederike Schäfer (Art History),  
Caroline Lillian Schopp (Art History|Johns Hopkins  
University) and Jennifer Sichel (Art History|University of  
Louisville)

10 July

11:00–12:30  
New Voices, Next Turns: Emerging  
Futures in Literary Research

With: Julius Böhm (Comparative Literature), Melina  
Brüggemann (Comparative Literature), Carla  
Dalbeck (French Studies), Dhritii Dutta (Performance  
Studies|University of Hyderabad), Chiara Liso (Compara-  
tive Literature), Nicolas Longinotti (Romance Studies|  
FU Berlin), Pedro Mora Madriñán (Cultural Studies),  
Omid Mashhadi (Performance Studies), Sulthana Nasrin  
(Cultural Studies|Jawaharlal Nehru University), Elena  
Patrika (Modern Greek Studies), Ananya Punyatoya  
(English Studies|Jawaharlal Nehru University), Nathalie  
Rennhack (Early American Studies), Anton Terhechte  
(China Studies), Laura Untner (Digital Literary Studies)  
and Victoria Wirtz (English Studies)  
Initiated by Dılan Canan Çakir (Digital Humanities),  
Rebecca Hardie (Articulations · Early English Literature)  
and Viktor J. Illmer (Digital Humanities)

12:30–13:30 | Lunch Break

13:30–15:30  
Panel: Infinite Texts – Digital  
Editions as Matters of Time

With: Marwa M. Ahmed (Arabic Studies), Gimena del  
Rio Riande (Digital Scholarly Editions|CONICET), Till  
Grallert (Digital History|HU Berlin), Beatrice Gründler  
(Arabic Studies) and Christopher Ohge (Digital Humanities|  
University of London)  
Chair: Yvonne Albers (Arabic Studies) and  
Bart Soethaert (Digital Scholarship)

15:30–16:00 | Break

16:00–17:30  
Doing Literature: A Fishbowl  
Conversation on Literary Futures

Initiated by Dılan Canan Çakir (Digital Humanities),  
Rebecca Hardie (Articulations · Early English Literature),  
Viktor J. Illmer (Digital Humanities) and Stefanie  
Messner (Digital Humanities · Visual Communications|TU  
Darmstadt)

17:30–18:30 | Dinner Break

18:30–20:00  
Repairing the World through Fiction:  
Reading and Q&A with Saskya Jain (Writer)

Moderated by Torsten Jost (Theatre and Performance Studies)

11 July

11:00–13:00  
Panel: The Futures of  
Doing Publishing / Publishing  
as Doing Literature

With: Janneke Adema (Digital Media|Coventry  
University), Johanna Maierski (Publisher · Printer|  
Colorama), Niki Rhyner (History of Science|HU Berlin ·  
Scholar-led Publishing|intercomverlag) and Olga Schubert  
(Cultural Worker · Editor|From Now · Haus der Kulturen der Welt)  
Invited by Anouk Luhn (Constellations · Comparative  
Literature) and Christina Schmitt (Publications  
Management · Film Studies)

13:00–14:00 | Lunch Break

14:00–16:00  
Panel: Literature Augmented

With: Anke Finger (German and Media Studies|University  
of Connecticut), Vadim Keylin (Sound Studies|University  
of Hamburg) and Carolin Schmidt (#freethetext|  
Kollektiv »kaboom«)  
Chair: Nina Tolksdorf (German Studies)

16:00–16:30 | Break

16:30–17:30  
Exhibition Talk: *Among Waves*.  
A Sound Installation by Kollektiv  
»kaboom« and The Poetry Project

17:30–18:00  
Conference Round Up

18:00–19:00  
Reception with International Partners

19:00  
Summer Party  
with the Adriano Celentano Gebäckorchester

\* Exhibition: *Among Waves*. A Sound Installation by Kollektiv »kaboom« and The Poetry Project  
Open for the entire duration of the conference from Wednesday, 15:30 to Friday, 19:00 (Atelier 2)

Unless otherwise noted, participants are members of EXC 2020 and/or the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies.