

# Literary Value

## Artistic, Academic and Critical Practices

Annual Conference  
3–5 July  
2024

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

The Annual Conference 2024 of the Cluster of Excellence »Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective« investigates practices, contexts and agents of literary evaluation. The assignment of value to texts and artworks within the cultural sphere, the academic world and on the global market is deeply entangled with the dynamics of power and gatekeeping, inclusion and exclusion. As such, notions about literature and literary value are subject to continuous, explicit or implicit negotiation, challenge and subversion. The three conference sections »Artistic Practices«, »Academic Practices« and »Critical Practices« aim to develop a praxeological perspective on the various ways in which literary value is produced and questioned within the respective fields.

With Yvonne Albers Arabic Studies | EXC Temporal Communities Maryam Aras Journalist · Writer Dustin Breitenwischer American Studies | Universität Hamburg Sophia Brown Arabic Studies | Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung Elke Buhr Journalist · Editor | Monopol. Magazin für Kunst und Leben continent. Experimental Publishing Collective Gregor Dotzauer Literary critic · Writer | Tagesspiegel Sabine Erbrich Editor | Suhrkamp Verlag Frank Fischer Digital Humanities | EXC Temporal Communities Robert Forke Editor | deGruyter Verlag Emma Gallon Publisher | University of London Press Eva Geulen Literary Studies · European Culture and the History of Knowledge | Humboldt-Universität Berlin · Director | Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Dominique Haensell Writer · Translator · Co-editor | Missy Magazine Rebecca Hardie Managing Editor | Living Handbook of Temporal Communities Lea Hopp Artist Viktor J. Illmer IT-Researcher | EXC Temporal Communities Christian Junge Modern Arabic Literature | Universität Marburg Alevtina Kakhidze Artist Georg Kasch Journalist · Theatre

critic Ekkehard Knörer Critic · Co-editor | Cargo | Merkur Caroline Kögler Global Literature and its Media | EXC Temporal Communities Madhu Krishnan African, World and Comparative Literatures | University of Bristol Nadja Küchenmeister Poet · Writer Eva Locher Editor | deGruyter Verlag Lianna Mark English and American Studies | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München Chris Möller Curator · Director | KASCH Label für Literaturvermittlung · Editor | &SHY magazine Joseph North English Studies | Yale University Christopher Ohge Digital Approaches to Literature | University of London Lily Robert-Foley Writer · Translator · English Studies | Université de Montpellier Lea Schneider Poet · Translator · Writer Girish Shambu Film critic · Educator Bart Soethaert Greek Literature and Digital Humanities | EXC Temporal Communities Susanne Strätling Comparative Literature and Slavic Literatures | EXC Temporal Communities Ana Teixeira Pinto Writer · Theory and Practice of Contemporary Art | Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig Jasmin Wrobel Latin American Studies | Ruhr-Universität Bochum

### Concept and Organisation

Florian Fuchs (Princeton University), Michael Gamper, Till Kadritzke, Alexandra Ksenofontova, Anna Luhn, Jutta Müller-Tamm (EXC Temporal Communities, Research Area 4)



### Location

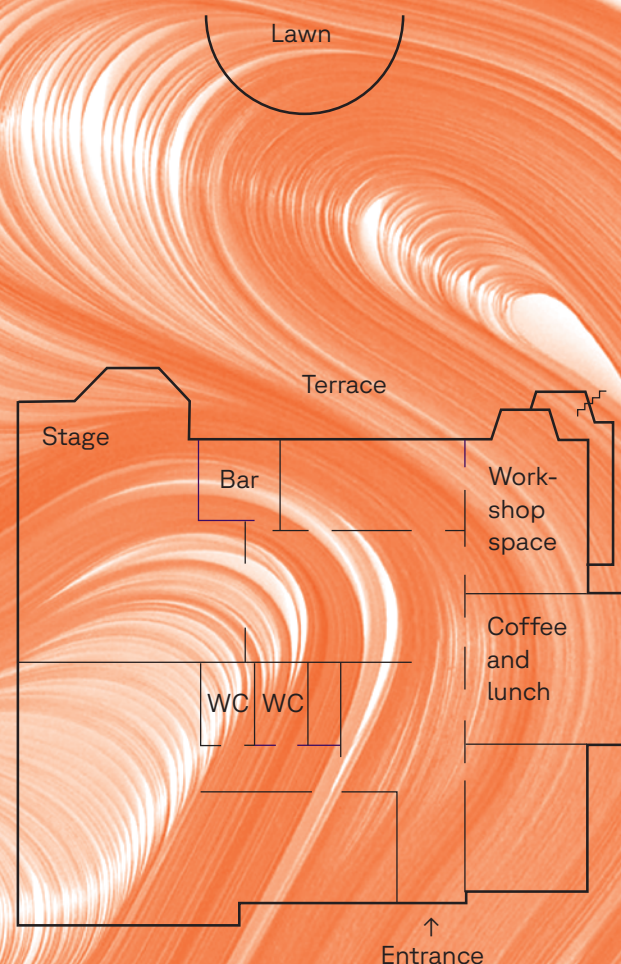
Literarisches Colloquium Berlin  
Am Sandwerder 5, 14109 Berlin

### How to get there

The LCB is approximately 5 minutes walking distance from the S-Bahn station Wannsee (S1, S7). When leaving the station, keep right and follow the sign reading »Schiffsanlegestelle« to the Kronprinzessinnenweg / Am Sandwerder junction. After crossing the street, the LCB will be on your left.

The venue is barrier-free.

Wannsee



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**FREIE  
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**LITERARISCHES  
COLLOQUIUM  
BERLIN LCB**



Wednesday  
July 3

2:15 PM	Arrival and coffee
2:30–3:00 PM	
WELCOME	Anne Eusterschulte and Andrew James Johnston
Literary Value: An Introduction	Florian Fuchs, Michael Gamper, Till Kadritzke, Alexandra Ksenofontova, Anna Luhn and Jutta Müller-Tamm
3:00–4:30 PM	
CONVERSATIONS	Valuation in Literary Infrastructures
Writing and Publishing Postcolonial Literatures: Marginalised Aesthetics?	Caroline Kögler and Madhu Krishnan
Nothing but Trouble? Gender in Literary Production and Publishing	Sabine Erbrich and Chris Möller
4:30–5:00 PM	Break
5:00–6:00 PM	
ROUNDTABLE AND AUDIENCE DISCUSSION	Diversity and Literary Infrastructures: New Voices, New Values? Sabine Erbrich, Lea Hopp, Caroline Kögler, Madhu Krishnan and Chris Möller
	Chair: Alexandra Ksenofontova
7:00 PM	Conference dinner

Friday  
July 5

10:15–11:45 AM	
PANEL	New Practices of Literary Reception
The Value(s) of Cultural Practice: Performing Social Mobility in London and Berlin	Lianna Mark
Literary Value and the Question of Palestine: A Case Study of Raja Shehadeh’s Life Writing	Sophia Brown
Affect as Aesthetic Judgement: Arabic Literature, Social Media and Vernacular Criticism	Christian Junge
	Chair: Barbara Bausch
11:45 AM–12:00 PM	Break

Thursday  
July 4

10:15–11:45 AM	
KEYNOTE	What’s the Dil with Languages? Language Learning and Experimental Translation in the AI Era Lily Robert-Foley
	Chair: Anna Luhn
11:45 AM–12:00 PM	Break
12:00–1:30 PM	
ARTIST INTERVENTION	Topical Topoi: A Raw Material Picnic continent.
DIGITAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOP	Measuring Public Engagement and the Valuation of Literature on Wikipedia Viktor J. Illmer, Frank Fischer and Bart Soethaert
1:30–2:30 PM	Lunch Break
2:30–4:00 PM	
KEYNOTE	Does Close Reading Have a Politics? Joseph North
	Chair: Eva Geulen
4:00–4:30 PM	Break
4:30–6:30 PM	
PANEL DISCUSSION	The Circulation of »Close Reading« – Worldwide? Yvonne Albers, Dustin Breitenwischer, Florian Fuchs and Jasmin Wrobel
6:30–6:45 PM	Break

12:00–13:30 PM	
DIGITAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOP	The Visible Editor: Valuing Literature through Editorial Practices in Open and Digital Publishing Robert Forke, Rebecca Hardie, Eva Locher, Christopher Ohge and Emma Gallon
ROUNDTABLE (in German)	Praktiken der Kritik – Ein Werkstattgespräch Elke Buhr, Gregor Dotzauer, Georg Kasch, Ekkehard Knörer and Lea Schneider
	Chair: Nadja Küchenmeister
1:30–2:30 PM	Lunch break
2:30–4:00	
ROUNDTABLE	Whose Values, Which Politics? Defaults and Exclusions in the Public Reception of Literature Maryam Aras, Dominique Haensell, Girish Shambu and Ana Teixeira Pinto
	Chair: Till Kadritzke

6:45–7:30 PM	
ARTIST INTERVENTION	All Good? (Based on Real Events) Alevtina Kakhidze
	Chair: Susanne Strätling
7:30 PM	Reception

Section I  
Artistic Practices

This section explores valuation practices that emerge from within the processes of artistic production and distribution, focusing specifically on literary infrastructures. It examines how systems of funding and publishing, including creative writing programmes, as well as the practice and theory of literary translation construct certain ideas of literary value and literariness. At the same time, artist interventions inquire into the production and negotiation of value in practice-based and performative ways. The section sets a special focus on the distribution of power in practices of valuation and the resulting power relations within literary infrastructures.

Section II  
Academic Practices

Perhaps the most crucial underlying practice by which literary scholarship values and evaluates texts is »close reading«. Surprisingly, this value practice has been little theorised and remains a fetishised concept in scholarship, criticism and beyond, often echoing its alleged peak in New Criticism. The panels of this section thus look at how this hermeneutic and didactic technique has spread to almost all humanities disciplines in the 20th century. They will develop a value-praxeological understanding of close reading and discuss its ideological and transdisciplinary transformations, especially regarding the global circulation of this practice. As a practical pendant, two Digital Humanities Workshops on metrics research and on digital editing will investigate value praxeologies via a hands-on process.

Section III  
Critical Practices

Taking the hypothesis that practices of public reception such as reviewing are grounded in specific notions of literature, authorship and aesthetic value, this section focuses on two key developments: the latest change in practices of reception and their relation to economic relations of power, and conflicts of valuation as they emerge from the (in)transparent criteria of valuation practices and the (im)possibility to differentiate between aesthetic and political value judgments in public reception. Both focal points consider developments of the last few decades but understand them as inspirations for discussing the history of practices of the public reception of literature in general.