

Arts – be they texts, books, images, films, or performances – travel through time with their materialities constantly changing. While the spatial dynamics of travelling materialities have already been conceptualized in a variety of ways, the conference will shift attention primarily to material mobilities in time: Materials move through time, they are transferred and transformed, they decay and are restored, repaired, conserved, revalued. Even where works of art appear stable and durable in their material structures, the ways in which they appear to us are based on material processes into which change is inscribed. What role does the mutability of the material play in the practice of the arts? What opportunities lie in this material mutability and what forms of unpredictability? How do material transformations affect the perception of artistic works, but also the production and experience of time? How are the relations between materials and time negotiated in theories and discourses of the arts? How does the professional stance towards materials change over time – for example from the perspective of artists, writers, performers, curators and conservators?

Based on these discussions, the conference will also provide contributions to the Cluster's ongoing research on temporal communities. Communities need material resources, need infrastructures, and throughout history and down to the present the arts have provided forms and models for such material ways of community building. How do collectives and communities in the arts materialize today? How can communities sustainably and fairly manage the material resources that are indispensable for their existence and for their future continuity? What do the arts contribute today by, on the one hand, pointing to the indispensable material foundations of any form of sociality and communality, and, on the other hand, by critically reflecting on the pressing ethical, political, ecological, and economic problems that result from material (co)dependencies?

#### Location

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Wilhelm-von-Humboldt-Saal,  
Unter den Linden 8, 10117 Berlin

#### Contact

Torsten Jost: [constant.change@temporal-communities.de](mailto:constant.change@temporal-communities.de)


#### Registration


Please register by 23 June 2023:  
[conference.registration@temporal-communities.de](mailto:conference.registration@temporal-communities.de)

The conference is held in collaboration  
with the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin.

[www.temporal-communities.de](http://www.temporal-communities.de)

Image credit:  
King Aha, Dynasty 1, c. 3000 BCE,  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

 Staatsbibliothek  
zu Berlin  
Preußischer Kulturbesitz

Funded by  
 Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft  
German Research Foundation

Freie Universität  Berlin

# CONSTANT CHANGE

## The Temporal Dimensions of Materialities in the Arts

Annual Conference  
5–7 July 2023

TEMPORAL  
COMMUNITIES

DOING LITERATURE IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

# WEDNESDAY

## 5 JULY 2023

---

**2.30 p.m. Check-In**

---

**3.00 p.m. Opening**

### Welcome

Director General Achim Bonte, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin

Directors Andrew James Johnston & Anita Traninger, EXC TC

### Introduction

Karin Gludovatz & Matthias Warstat, EXC TC

---

### PANEL 1: GENESIS, DECAY AND RECYCLING

---

**3.30 p.m.**

#### **Gesture and the Jump of Flesh**

Rebecca Schneider, Brown University

Response: Torsten Jost, EXC TC

---

**4.30 p.m. Coffee Break**

---

**5.00 p.m.**

#### **The Temporality of Things and Their Obstnacy: How to Deal with the Uncontrollability of Material Change over Time**

Hans Peter Hahn, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt

Response: Simon Godart, EXC TC

---

**6.00 p.m.**

#### **The Travelling Torso**

Anna Degler, EXC TC

Response: Yvonne Albers, EXC TC

---

**7.00 p.m. Reception**

---

# THURSDAY

## 6 JULY 2023

---

**10.00 a.m. Check-In**

---

### PANEL 2: GENERATING TIME IN THE ARTS

---

**10.30 a.m.**

#### **Silentium! The Codex as a Time Capsule**

Anita Traninger, EXC TC

Response: Michail Leivadiotis, EXC TC

---

**11.30 a.m.**

#### **Fragilities: Time and Materials in a More-Than-Human World**

Shannon Jackson, UC Berkeley

Response: Friederike Schäfer, EXC TC

---

**12.30 p.m. Lunch Break**

---

**2.00 p.m.**

#### **Snakes and Matters: The Entangled Temporalities of Early Medieval English Heroic and Elegiac Poetry**

Andrew James Johnston, EXC TC

Response: Rebecca Hardie, EXC TC

---

### PANEL 3: MATERIAL COMMUNITIES

---

**3.00 p.m.**

#### **Film Credits and Visual Prologues: Addressing the Audience Matters**

Sabine Nessel, EXC TC

Response: Till Kadritzke, EXC TC

---

**4.00 p.m. Coffee Break**

---

**4.30 p.m.**

#### **shifts**

Amund Ulvestad, artist Oslo/Berlin

artwork / response

---

**6.00 p.m. Bread & Wine**

---

# FRIDAY

## 7 JULY 2023

---

**9.30 a.m. Check-In**

---

**10.00 a.m.**

#### **Knots, Stones and Living with the Dead**

Evelyn Schuler Zea, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina

Response: Lindsey Drury, EXC TC

---

**11.00 a.m. Coffee Break**

---

### PANEL 4: CONCEPTS OF PRESERVING MATTER

---

**11.30 a.m.**

#### **Consistently Inconsistent: Dressing Degas' Little Dancer**

Monika Wagner, Universität Hamburg

Response: Marie Hartmann, EXC TC

---

**12.30 p.m.**

#### **Flax in Flux: Material Biography and Its Formats**

Ann Sophie Lehmann, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen

Response: Nina Tolksdorf, EXC TC

---

**1.30 p.m. Closing**

---