

Welcome to the Centre

Your Monthly Study of Culture Update!



Giessen | December 2025



**Imagining the future is
world-making in the present.
As a sociologist working at
the interface of technology
and culture, I try to make
sense of the present by
researching future visions.**

Prof. Dr. Sebastian Pranz
GCSC/RCSC Research Fellow



*Liebe Leser_innen,
aufgrund von technischen Problemen konnten wir den Newsletterversand leider nicht wie geplant am ersten Montag im Monat durchführen. Wir bitten um Entschuldigung für die Verspätung. Wir hoffen Sie mit dieser Dezember-Edition trotzdem gut ins neue Jahr zu senden und im Januar wieder auf gewohntem Wege erreichen zu können.*

*Dear readers,
due to technical issues, we were unfortunately unable to send out the newsletter on the first Monday of the month as planned. We apologise for the delay. Nonetheless, we hope that this December edition will get you off to a good start in the new year and reach you again in January in the usual way.*

English follows German

Liebe Mitglieder des GGK und GCSC,
liebe interessierte Leser_innen,

bevor das Jahr zu Ende geht, möchten wir Sie noch einmal über die anstehenden Veranstaltungen sowie aktuelle Entwicklungen an unserem Zentrum informieren. Wie gewohnt können Sie mit einem Klick im Inhaltsverzeichnis direkt zu den einzelnen Bereichen navigieren.

Wir wünschen Ihnen alles Gute für die verbleibenden Wochen des Jahres sowie eine erholsame Winterpause, bleiben Sie gesund und zuversichtlich!

Dear GGK and GCSC Members,
dear Interested Readers,

As the year draws to a close, we would like to inform you one more time about upcoming events and current developments at our centre. As usual, you can click on the table of contents to navigate directly to the respective sections.

We wish you all the best for the remaining weeks of the year as well as a relaxing winter break!

Best wishes,





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Goings On

Let's zoom in on some selected events, highlights, accomplishments, and other news from our centre's orbit. If you have questions regarding goings-on or public relations activities, please contact [Sandra Engels](#).

2026 GCSC Scholarships & Memberships 2026 IPP Memberships

Call for Applications

2026 SCHOLARSHIPS & MEMBERSHIPS



DEADLINE:
1 FEBRUARY 2026

IPP

GCSC

2026 Announcements are out! We invite applications for memberships and scholarships starting from October 2026. In addition to up to 6 PhD scholarships and up to 20 memberships at the GCSC, we are delighted to once again be able to offer 2 additional scholarships for international

applicants funded by the DAAD Graduate School Scholarship Programme (GSSP). Moreover, the IPP grants new memberships for its structured three-year doctoral programme in literary and cultural studies. For further information, please check the [GCSC application procedure](#) and [FAQs](#) or the [IPP FAQs](#).

👉 Apply now and join a thriving community of interdisciplinary scholars!



Our [GCSC/IPP Info Hub](#) is back! For the third time, this online format provides further information about the application processes at the GCSC and IPP, as well as the GSSP funding scheme provided by the DAAD. In January, we also offer a live Q&A session to tackle individual questions about the application processes of the GCSC and IPP, as well as individual consultation hours by JLU professors from all associated faculties and departments to specifically address the supervision situation at JLU and the departments. 🗺️ Explore and browse the material to fine-tune your application!

Want to stay on top of all alumni news, publication releases and, announcements from our centre's orbit?

[Visit our Newsboard](#)

Publications

With the interdisciplinary Open Access journals *KULT_online* and *On_Culture* as well as its publication series at WVT and De Gruyter, the GCSC offers varied publication forums for academic exchange on the study of culture. If you have any questions regarding publications, you can contact [Isabella Kalte](#).



On_Culture: The Open Journal for the Study of Culture is a biannual, peer-reviewed scholar-led journal created and edited by doctoral and postdoctoral researchers at the GCSC. It provides a platform and forum for pursuing and reflecting on key concepts and methods in the Study of Culture.

[Visit On_Culture](#)

Latest Issue: #19 “Disruption”
guest-edited by Farouk El Maarouf, Justus Grebe, and
Anastasiia Marsheva



For issue 19 of *On_Culture* on “Disruption,” guest editors Farouk El Maarouf, Justus Grebe, and Anastasiia Marsheva have assembled four articles, two perspectives, and two essays that use the concept of disruption to show that it not only interrupts normality, but also reshapes knowledge practices, reconfigures cultural imaginaries, and challenges the foundations of critique itself.

[Read now](#)

Call for Applications Editorial Team Membership

The Open Journal for the Study of Culture, On_Culture, invites applications for an Editorial Team position. We extend our invitation to all GCSC, GGK, and IPP (post-)doctoral researchers. The new team member will start in **February 2026** and play an integral role in the publication cycles of our journal, i.e. conceptualising calls for papers, editorial work, and the publishing process with. The position requires a continued time commitment in each biannual issue, attendance of regular editorial team meetings, a commitment of at least one year, English language proficiency on an academic level and interest in publishing. **This is a unique opportunity to gain editorial experience, work creatively and conceptually, and help shape an innovative publishing project.** 🚀 Please note that this position is unpaid.

👉 Interested? Please send your CV and a brief letter of motivation as e-mail attachment, subject line: "Application for Editorial Team Membership" to content@on-culture.org until **15 December 2025**.

Want to keep on top of all things On_Culture?



[Linked In](#)

[Newsletter](#)

Kult_online is the GGK/GCSC's biannual, interdisciplinary Open Access review journal featuring reviews of recent books related to the broad Study of Culture field. Launched in 2003, it has become a model for other graduate publication media in Germany.

[Visit Kult_online](#)



Out Now: KULT_online 72

[Issue 72](#) of our open access review journal is now available online! This issue features two conference reports and 4 intriguing reviews of current publications in the study of culture that explore cultures of dissent, archival practices for immaterial heritage, and the concept of cultural hybridity—amongst much more!

[Read now](#)

Research Programme

Courses and Events

The GCSC offers varied courses and events ranging from keynote lectures to master classes, and research workshops. If you have further questions or suggestions regarding the research programme, please contact [Piera Mazzaglia](#).

Visit our Study Calendar

SAVE THE
DATE

Conference Preview

[Nothing to Remember? Politics, Practices, and Agents of Commemorating Peace](#) | Thursday, **22.01.2026**–Friday, **23.01.2026** | GCSC
Organised by RA 1 "Cultural Memory Studies"

[The Shadow of the Aegean. Memory, Identity, and Trauma: Aftermath of the Population Exchange \(1923\) Between Greece and Turkey](#) | Thursday, **12.02.2026**–Saturday **14.02.2026** | GCSC, GiZo & JLU South Eastern History | GCSC (CFR)

GCSC
KEYNOTE Winter Semester 2025/2026
LECTURE SERIES

The GCSC Keynote Lecture Series is open to anyone interested in attending. To provide relevant topics for the diverse set of research interests pursued within the GCSC, the lectures in this series are positioned for an interdisciplinary spectrum of listeners and centred on current concepts, topics, and theories within the Study of Culture. 🗣️💬

Visit our Keynote Lecture Series


[🗣️ Politics, Religion and Variations of Transhumanism](#) | Tuesday, **16.12.2025**, 16:00–18:00 (CET) | GCSC (CFR) | **Prof. Dr. Stefan Lorenz Sorgner** (John Cabot University, Rome)

[🕊️ Wild Peace, Unruly Memories](#) | Thursday, **22.01.2026**, 16:00–18:00 (CET) | GCSC (CFR) | **Prof. Dr. Johanna Mannergren Selimovic** (Södertörn)

University, Stockholm)

Organised by RA 1 "Cultural Memory Studies" as part of the conference
"Nothing to Remember?"

 [The Dark Mirror - The Cultural \(Mis\)Representation of Non-Human Animals](#) | Tuesday, **27.01.2026**, 16:00–18:00 (CET) | GCSC (CFR) | **Prof. Dr. Dario Martinelli** (Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania)
Organised in cooperation with the RCSC

 [Outrage, Victimization, and Dystopian Futures: Social Media Rhetoric during Trump 2.0 and the Perceived Polycrisis](#) | Tuesday, **03.02.2026**, 16:00–18:00 (CET) | GCSC (CFR) | **Prof. Dr. Greta Olson** (JLU)
Organised jointly by RA 2 "Cultural Narratology", the IPP, and DiML



Master Classes

[Concepts for the Study of Culture III](#) | Tuesday, **20.01.2026**, 10:00–13:00 (CET) | GCSC (SR 109) | **Dr. Doris Bachmann-Medick** (GCSC)



Practical Courses


[Coordinating and Moderating Collaborative Research Groups. Roles, Tasks, Tools](#) | Thursday, **15.01.2026**, 10:00–14:00 (CET) | GCSC Conference Room | **Dr. Jens Kugele** (GCSC)



Workshops

[Aufbaukurs FB 05 /Intermediate Course FB 05 II](#) | Friday, **30.01.2026**, 10:00–15:00 (CET) | GCSC (SR 109) | **Dr. Melanie Kreitler** (JLU)

[Inventing the Savanna](#) | Wednesday, **05.12.2025**, 14:30–16:30 (CET) | GCSC (SR 109) | **Camille Lavoix** (University of Würzburg)

 **Preparatory Workshop for the Keynote by Prof. Dr. Martinelli: [Econarratives: Weaving Nature's Tales through AI and Ecological Resonance](#)** | Tuesday, **27.01.2026**, 10:00–14:00 (CET) | MFR GCSC | Dr. Nicola Zengario (University of Turin)

Teaching Centre

The Teaching Centre supports (post)doctoral researchers of our Centre in their higher-education teaching experiences. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the events of the Teaching Centre, please contact [Anna Ivanova](#).

[Visit our Teaching Centre](#)

Predoctoral Programme

[Die akademische Bewerbung](#) | Wednesday, **14.01.2026**, 10:00–14:00 (CET)
| GCSC | **Dr. Deborah de Muijnck** (GGK/PhDnet)

[Einführung in gute wissenschaftliche Praxis](#) | Wednesday, **28.01.2026**,
14:00–16:00 (CET) | GCSC | **apl. Prof. Dr. Michael Basseler** (GGK/GCSC)

Career Service

Our Centre's Career Service aims to prepare you for your further career path beyond the doctorate. To this end, we offer workshops on career-relevant topics

in cooperation with various partners. If you have any questions regarding the Career Service, please contact [Hannah Mansour](#).

[Visit our Career Service](#)



Workshops

[Wirkungsvoll kommunizieren im Vorstellungsgespräch! Praxisworkshop mit Übungen zur Selbstpräsentation](#) | Wednesday, **14.01.2026**, 14:00–16:00 (CET) | GCSC (SR 126) | **Christiane Meyer-Fenderl** (JLU)



[Visit the IPP](#)

The International PhD Programme "Literary and Cultural Studies" (IPP) provides a wide range of possibilities for (post)graduate researchers to gain academic and practical qualifications. The core modules, seminars, workshops, and master classes feature renowned scholars from all over the world and allow to familiarise with state-of-the-art concepts, theories, methodologies, and approaches. If you have any questions regarding the events of the IPP, please contact the [IPP-Team](#).

Workshop Series

The IPP Workshop Series offers IPP members the opportunity to lead a workshop on current concepts and methods in the Study of Culture. It aims to create an interactive discussion group for doctoral candidates and students.

Topics can range from general introductions to various "schools" of literary and cultural theory to concepts, methods, and topics of literary and cultural theory. The sessions are open to all BA, MA, and PhD students.

[Deconstructing the Life Course: An Introduction to Literary Age Studies](#)

| Thursday, **29.01.2026**, 14:00–16:00 (CET) | GCSC (SR126) | **Yauheniya Lekarevich** (GCSC/IPP)

[Why Narratology? How to use Narrative Analysis for Interdisciplinary](#)

[Research](#) | Thursday, **05.02.2026**, 14:00–16:00 (CET) | GCSC (SR126) | **Caesy Stuck** (GCSC/IPP)



[Visit the RCSC](#)

As a dynamic hub and interface for the study of culture, the Research Centre for the Study of Culture (RCSC) offers a space for creative thinking and work with a view to mobilizing collaborative research projects and external funding. It involves both senior and early-career researchers to promote dialogue across different subjects and faculties, as well as engaging the wider public. If you have further questions regarding events or opportunities at the RCSC, please contact [Prof. Dr. Jan Rupp](#).

Support

Current Calls for Fellowships, Prizes, & Co



**Join our
Research Square**

Are you a (post)doctoral researcher at the Centre looking for opportunities to support your research plans and make new connections? To provide a few stepping stones into the world of external funding, we curate interesting calls on our [MS Teams Research Square](#). Explore information about fellowships, travel funding, prizes, publication support, and more. 🤝🚀📦🎯

All researchers from our network who would like to join our Research Square to collaborate in our Research Groups, please contact the [GGK/GCSC Office Team](#). If you have further questions regarding Member Support, please contact [Anastasiia Marsheva](#).



Sie haben mit ihrer **Promotion** gerade erst **begonnen**, stecken mitten drin oder befinden sich in der **Abschlussphase Ihrer Dissertation** und möchten Fragen zu Zeitplanung, Finanzierung, Betreuung oder Abschlussformalitäten klären? In unserer Promotionsprechstunde erhalten Sie als Promovierende der **Fachbereiche 03, 04 und 05** individuelle und vertrauliche Unterstützung – vor Ort oder digital und nach Terminvereinbarung. 💡💬

Sie überlegen, ob eine Promotion das Richtige für Sie ist—dann ist dieses unverbindliche Angebot das richtige für Sie!


Visit the GGK



From and For Our Members

GSC Office Hour | weekly, Tuesdays 10:00–12:00
(CET) | GCSC (R 201) | **Graduate Student Committee**

Relaunch Internal Member Area




IMA - Beginning.png

The Beginning

Get started with essential information on settling into the city, navigating the university, and joining our centre.


[More](#)



The Journey

Explore resources for managing your research projects, planning events, and collaborating in groups.

[More](#)



The Finale

Discover the steps and support available as you near the completion of your dissertation.

[More](#)

Our new [Internal Member Area](#) is live! 🚀 This internal space holds all vital information for our (post-)doctoral members to find your way through your membership, from the beginning up until the completion of your PhD journey. Log in to this space, explore all toolkits and information and be equipped for managing your research projects or mastering your first and final stretches of your membership at our centre. 📁🔍



Reading & Writing Groups



Research Groups & Colloquia

Features

People at the Centre

Our Centre thrives in and from multiple platforms, networks, and partnership, but first and foremost through all researchers involved. Meet our individual researchers and guests in our [YouTube Spotlight series](#) or [#MeetUsMonday on LinkedIn](#)! Thanks for enriching our Centre and advancing the interdisciplinary Study of Culture on an international scale!

New #KeynoteSpotlight: Waste is often discarded from those who produce it



View the full Keynote "Spaces of Peripheralization" by Ger Duijzings [here](#).

FOLLOW US ON



**Giessener Graduiertenzentrum Kulturwissenschaften (GGK)
International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC)**

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