

Welcome to the Centre

Our Monthly Updates in the Study of Culture!

Giessen | June 2026



This year, the GGK and GCSC celebrate their 25th and 20th anniversary, respectively. Founded by Ansgar Nünning, the GGK and GCSC introduced new standards and collaborative practices to the study of culture. This attains a new significance today. Studying culture is crucial for addressing today's pressing issues, while key areas in the study of culture are coming under pressure themselves. On 25 and 26 June, we will explore our 'response-abilities' and sense of professing.



Prof. Dr. Andreas Langenohl

English follows German

Liebe Mitglieder des GGK und GCSC,
liebe interessierte Leser_innen,

das Sommersemester ist bereits in vollem Gange und wir steuern auf eines unserer diesjährigen Highlights zu: Ende Juni findet unsere **Jubiläumskonferenz** statt, bei der wir nicht nur auf 25 Jahre GGK und 20 Jahre GCSC zurückschauen, sondern unseren Blick ganz bewusst auch in die Zukunft richten wollen. Unter dem Titel „Response-Abilities: Professing the Study of Culture in Times of Disruption, Entanglements, and Transformation“ steht die Frage nach der Antwortfähigkeit der Kulturwissenschaften auf die Polykrisen unserer Zeit im Mittelpunkt. Diese möchten wir in verschiedenen Formaten gemeinsam mit unseren Gästen aus dem In- und Ausland diskutieren. Das aktuelle Programm sowie weitere Informationen zur Konferenz finden Sie auf unserer [Homepage](#).

Ebenfalls kurz hervorheben möchten wir den Start unserer Reihe „[Culture Matters](#)“, mit der wir die Arbeit an unserem Zentrum auch an eine breitere Öffentlichkeit kommunizieren und mit dieser ins Gespräch kommen wollen.

Darüber hinaus bietet der heutige Newsletter wie üblich die Möglichkeit, sich über alle neuen Entwicklungen und weitere anstehende Events zu informieren. Wie gewohnt können Sie mit einem Klick im Inhaltsverzeichnis direkt zu den jeweiligen Bereichen navigieren.

Wir wünschen Ihnen weiterhin ein bereicherndes Sommersemester und freuen uns darauf, Sie zur Jubiläumskonferenz und den weiteren Veranstaltungen der nächsten Wochen an unserem Zentrum begrüßen zu können!

Dear GGK and GCSC Members,
dear Interested Readers,

The summer semester is already in full swing, and we are heading toward one of this year's highlights: At the end of June, we will hold our **anniversary conference**, where we will not only look back on 25 years of GGK and 20 years of GCSC, but also deliberately set our sights on the future. Under the title “Response-Abilities: Professing the Study of Culture in Times of Disruption, Entanglements, and Transformation,” the focus is on the question of whether and how the study of culture can effectively respond to the multiple crises of our time. We would like to discuss this topic in various formats together with our guests from Germany and abroad. The current program and further information about the conference can be found on our [website](#).

We'd also like to briefly highlight the launch of our "[Culture Matters](#)" series, through which we aim to share information about the work at our centre with a wider audience and engage in dialogue with them.

In addition, today's newsletter offers, as usual, the opportunity to learn about all the latest developments and upcoming events. As always, you can navigate directly to the respective sections with a single click in the table of contents.

We hope you continue to have an enriching summer semester and look forward to welcoming you to our centre for the anniversary conference and the other events taking place over the coming weeks!



apl. Prof. Dr. Michael Basseler,
Geschäftsführung
(Academic Manager)



Dr. Jens Kugele,
Forschungskoordination
(Head of Research Coordination)



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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](#).



Let's celebrate our double anniversary together! This year marks 20 years of collaborative research at the GCSC and 25 years of innovative graduate training at the GGK. We have two more months in this summer term to focus on both the plurality and the programmatic approaches of an interdisciplinary Study of Culture. Join us as we celebrate 25 years GGK and 20 years GCSC! Find more information and some of our special events [here](#). ✨



🎉 **8 July | GGK/GCSC Summer Party**

GGK/GCSC Anniversary Conference "Response-Abilities" 25-26 June 2026



We are excited to invite all our associates, members, sponsors, colleagues and friends to celebrate this year's double anniversary at our centre! In our Anniversary Conference, we set the focus on professing the Study of Culture in times of disruption, entanglements, and transformation. We are looking forward to exchange with inter/national guests, discuss the role of the Study of Culture as an international and interdisciplinary field, its future tasks and 'response-abilities'. 🙌 Find more information on the programme on our [website](#) and register [here](#).

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, contact [Isabella Kalte](#).



Our peer-reviewed scholar-led *Open Journal for the Study of Culture* provides a forum for pursuing and reflecting on key concepts and methods in the Study of Culture. Stay informed on [LinkedIn](#) or the [On Culture Newsletter](#)!

[Read our latest issue](#)

Out Now: *On_Culture* Issue 20 “Celebration”



What does it mean to celebrate—and what happens at celebration’s edges, where joy meets grief, resistance meets co-optation, and festivity meets power? Issue 20 of *On_Culture* takes its tenth anniversary as an occasion to explore celebration in all its ambivalence: from elite banquets and national days to reggaetón parties, religious processions, and the quiet festivity of literary life. Thirteen contributions examine how communities gather, mark time, and negotiate belonging through the celebratory act.

[Read now](#)



Since 2003, our Open Access review journal features reviews of recent books from the broad Study of Culture field and has become a model for other graduate publication media in Germany.

[Read our latest issue](#)


Out Now: KULT_online 73





Issue 73 of our open access review journal is now available online! This issue features 13 reviews of current publications in the study of culture that explore new ecocritical methods, African cinema and online comments as political space—amongst much more!

Call for Reviews
Autumn Issue 2026

Are you interested in reviewing recent publications within the Study of Culture? Then (re-)join the team of authors through one of the following options:

 **Grab a Preselected Review Copy:** [Email us](#) for the list of available titles and pick up your choice at the GCSC.

 **Suggest a Review:** Pitch a recent publication (2023-2026) to us and if it aligns with our journal's scope, we'll secure a review copy from the publisher.

 **Write Event Reports:** Attended an engaging conference, workshop, or summer school? Share your experience with a report for KULT_online.

Become part of one of our next issues and enhance your publication portfolio.

Check out our [submission guidelines](#) for more details!

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 Calender](#)



Artificial Intelligence is increasingly shaping academic work, teaching practices, career pathways, and questions of responsibility. This interactive World Café offers a low-threshold entry point into the topic by bringing together four perspectives: Research, Teaching, Careers, and Research Ethics. Participants rotate through the discussion tables, each hosted by an expert who provides a short input and moderates the exchange. The event is designed to support orientation, peer exchange, and the identification of future training needs.

Research Communication Series



We are thrilled to see the first projects from our Anniversary Slam "Culture Matters" coming to life! Last year, we invited our (post-)doctoral members to shape our anniversary year through collaborative projects focussing on science communication. Over the course of this year, we will see various formats that make the Study of Culture visible in public contexts. Stay tuned for more!



'The sun here, is the sun there'. A poetic sound installation on memory and disrupted afterlives in German colonial museums | from mid-June | GGK/GCSC building | curated by Alma Simba (GCSC) *in collaboration with RA 1 "Cultural Memory Studies"*



Practical Courses

Didactic Café | Monday, **01.06.2026**, 10:00-12:00 (CEST) | SR109 | Prof. Dr. Ivo Steininger (JLU)

Anthropocene Affordances: Scale, Narrative Form, and the Human in US-American Literature | Wednesday, **03.06.2026**, 14:30-16:00 (CEST) | SR 129 | Lena Pfeiffer (University of Würzburg) | *organised by the IPP in collaboration with RA 9*

Defense Course—Let´s prepare to defend! | Tuesday, **09.06.2026**, 09:00-17:00 (CEST) | CFR GCSC | Dr. Jens Kugele (GCSC)

Giving and Receiving Feedback | Wednesday, **10.06.2026**, 14:30-16:30 (CEST) | SR 109 | Prof. Dr. Kirsten von Hagen (IPP), Carolin Jesussek (IPP) | *part of the IPP Research Skills Series*

With Fresh Eyes: Reframing Your Dissertation Topic for Different Contexts | Wednesday, **17.06.2025**, 14:00-16:00 (CEST) | SR 109 | Carolin Jesussek (IPP) | *part of the IPP Research Skills Series*



Skill Swap Series

This Series is a student initiative hosted by the GCSC that offers an official outlet for a peer-led knowledge transfer.


#2 🤖 **Critical skills for research in the age of AI** | Tuesday, **02.06.2026**, 10:00-12:00 (CEST) | SR 109 | Lucia Mesa Valez (GCSC)

#3 🗺️ **Doing Qualitative Research: Interviews, Fieldwork and Ethics** | Tuesday, **09.06.2026**, 14:00-16:00 (CEST) | SR 109 | Marina Iaroslavtseva (GCSC)

#4 🗝️ **Unlocking Digital Archives: A Practical Workshop for Researchers** | Tuesday, **30.06.2026**, 10:00-12:00 (CEST) | SR 109 | Silas Edwards (GCSC)



Reading & Writing Groups

 **Writing Café** *sponsored by the IPP* | **Tuesdays**, 09:30–13:00 (CEST)
| no registration required
June Date: **02.06.2026** (SR 126)

 **'Reading Palestine'** | [contact](#)



Research Groups & Colloquia


Research Colloquia


Research Groups


Support




The GGK/GCSC offers comprehensive support for the successful completion of research projects as well as the acquisition of further professional skills for career paths in and outside academia.

 The [Teaching Centre](#) supports (post)doctoral researchers with their initial experience in higher education didactics. Contact [Anna Ivanova](#).

 Our [Career Service](#) offers key tools for professional orientation and preparation for entering the workforce. Contact [Hannah Mansour](#).

 We also advise doctoral researchers on [financial support](#), travel grants, and [combining family and career](#). Contact [Anastasiia Marsheva](#).

 Explore information about current fellowships, travel funding, prices, publication support, and more on our [MS Teams Research Square](#).

[Join our Research Square](#)

[First Generation Café](#)



This is an informal, open space for exchange on all topics related to being the first in your family to study and pursue a doctorate—open to all status groups, from students to professors. Everyone is welcome—across all languages, cultures, and nationalities. Drop by anytime (no registration needed) to connect,

share experiences, and learn from one another. During the summer term, we meet once a month to connect, network, and share experiences. ☕💬

📅 **Next Café: 18.06.2026, 14:00–16:00** (SR 101, GCSC)

Call for Applications

Predoc Programme for the Study of Culture



Thinking about doing a PhD in cultural studies, the humanities, or social sciences—but not sure how to start? Apply for our Predoc Programme and take part in workshops, get support from a PhD buddy, join GCSC events, and get answers to all your questions about starting a doctorate. In collaboration with JLU's faculties 03, 04, and 05, the Predoc Programme supports you in

- 🎯 Developing your topic and research question
- 📝 Writing your proposal and application
- 🔍 Finding funding opportunities
- ⌚ Managing your time effectively

✉️ Submit your application to predoc@gcsc.uni-giessen.de by **9 August 2026**.

Promotionsprechstunde



Diese Sprechstunde bietet Promovierenden der JLU-Fachbereiche 03, 04 und 05 individuelle Unterstützung in allen Phasen der Promotion.

Nach individueller Terminvergabe können Sie vor Ort oder digital Fragen zu Zeitplanung, Finanzierung, Betreuung oder Abschlussformalitäten klären. Die Beratung ist auch ein unverbindliches Angebot für alle, die noch überlegen, ob eine Promotion das Richtige ist. 💡💬

[Visit the GGK](#)



From and For Our Members

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

Features

People at the Centre

Our Centre thrives in and from multiple platforms, networks, and partnerships, but especially through all researchers involved. Meet our members, guests, and friends on [YouTube](#) or [LinkedIn](#)! Thanks for enriching our Centre and advancing the interdisciplinary Study of Culture on an international scale!

New Keynote Spotlight:

Being Human in an Age of Emerging Technologies

SHORT FORMS, BIG IMPACT!

**EXPLORE
MORE VIDEO
CONTENT** →

youtube.com/@gcsc

including our new Short format

RESEARCH SPOT LIGHT

@gcsc

SUBSCRIBE

What's the cultural role of Transhumanism?

KEYNOTE LECTURE SERIES

2023

View the full Keynote Lecture with Stefan Lorenz Sorgner [here](#).

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