

# Welcome to the Centre

Our Monthly Updates in the Study of Culture!

Giessen | July 2026



*Health and illness span infinite dimensions of culture—language, customs, faith, what counts as health, what counts as illness. To help others to face their health concerns, one needs the knowledge, wisdom, and skills of many. Perhaps a first step in caring for the sick is to humbly listen to their stories—stories that will lead to the needed wisdom.*



**Prof. Dr. Rita Charon**  
Keynote Speaker

Liebe Mitglieder des GGK und GCSC,  
liebe interessierte Leser\_innen,

mit der Jubiläumskonferenz des GGK und GCSC liegt ein zentrales Event dieses Jahres bereits hinter uns. Die vielen interessanten Vorträge und Diskussionen, aber auch die verschiedenen Begegnungen außerhalb des offiziellen Programms werden uns noch lange in guter Erinnerung bleiben. Bevor das Sommersemester in einigen Wochen zu Ende geht und für Sie alle hoffentlich ein paar Tage zur Erholung anstehen, möchten wir Ihnen wie üblich einen kurzen Ausblick auf die Veranstaltungen und Aktivitäten an unserem Zentrum geben. Wie gewohnt können Sie mit einem Klick im Inhaltsverzeichnis direkt zu den jeweiligen Bereichen navigieren.

Ein besonderer Hinweis an dieser Stelle noch einmal auf unsere alljährliche [Vollversammlung inkl. der Gremienwahlen](#) und das anschließende [Sommerfest](#) am 8. Juli. Wir freuen uns darauf, das Semester gemeinsam in entspannter Atmosphäre mit Ihnen ausklingen zu lassen. ☀️

In diesem Sinne wünschen wir Ihnen ein gutes und erfolgreiches Semesterende und einen guten Start in die vorlesungsfreie Zeit.

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Dear GGK and GCSC Members,  
dear Interested Readers,

With the GGK and GCSC anniversary conference, one of this year's key events is already behind us. We will long remember the many interesting papers and discussions, as well as the various encounters that took place outside the official programme.

Before the summer term comes to an end in a few weeks' time and, hopefully, you all have a few days' rest ahead of you, we would like to give you, as usual, a brief preview of the events and activities at our centre. As always, you can click on the table of contents to navigate directly to the relevant sections.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you once again of our annual [general meeting, including the committee elections](#), and the [summer party](#) to follow on 8 July. We look forward to bringing the semester to a close with you in a relaxed atmosphere. ☀️

With this in mind, we wish you a pleasant and successful end to the semester and a good start to the summer break.



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](#).

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## General Assembly and Elections

8 July 2026



**We want you!** 🗳️ Our general assembly is the one and only opportunity to elect representatives for various GGK/GCSC committees—and to stand for election yourself. From Selection Committee to Board of Directors, Graduate Student Committee or Equal Opportunities Committee—our bodies of academic self-governance rely on active contributions to the interests and concerns of our members. Becoming an elected member of a committee also provides the chance to gain practical experiences within university representative core groups. Whether as candidate for one of the GGK/GCSC committees or voter at the ballot box—we hope to see many of you at our plenary to set the course for our centre's development in the future. 🗳️

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## Summer Party

8 July 2026



Mark your calendar and get ready for a special evening with good food and good vibes to celebrate our centre's double anniversary! This evening will stand in the light of 25 years of community spirit in the interdisciplinary Study of Culture at our Centre. Join us for a community BBQ and international potluck, music, mingling and good company. We are looking forward to some special programme features like a Body Movement Session, the GCSC Band, the forth edition of our GGK/GCSC Swap Party, DJ vibes and Karaoke. 🍷🎵 Register [here](#).

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## Call for Applications

### Predoc Programme for the Study of Culture

Apply by 9 August 2026



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](mailto:predoc@gcsc.uni-giessen.de) by **9 August 2026**.

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## Recap

### Wege in die Promotion

25.06.2026

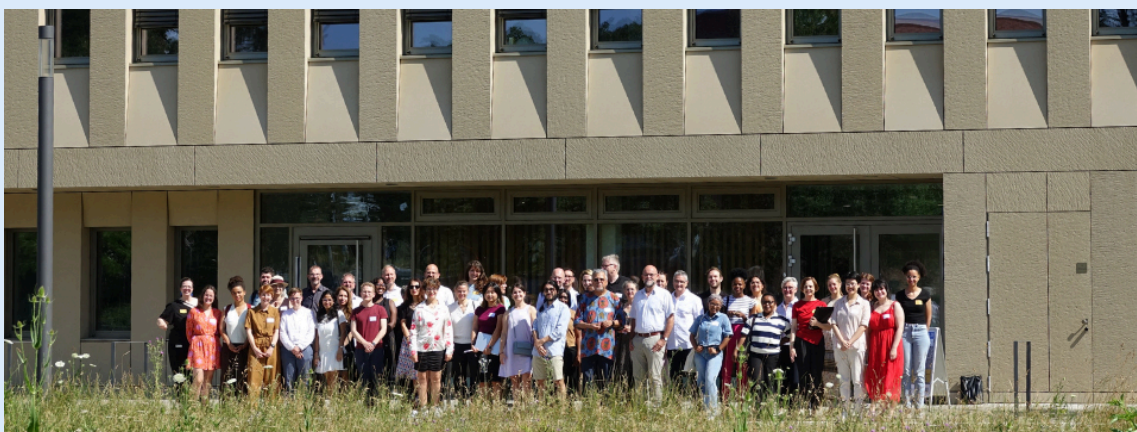


In summery temperatures, around 200 prospective PhD students from all disciplines and universities in Central Hesse gathered for the information event 'Ways into Earning One's Doctoral Degree', co-organised by the Giessen graduate centres, the initiative ArbeiterKind.de, and the Research Campus of Central Hesse. We are delighted that the initiative's new brochure 'Wege in die Promotion' was launched, now available at our centre and in consultation services. Many thanks to all participants and contributors for the successful exchange, for in-depth discussions and initial contacts, and a great collaboration! 🍷✨

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**Recap Anniversary Conference**  
**Response-Abilities. Professing the Study of Culture in Times of**  
**Disruption, Entanglements, and Transformation**

25–26.06.2026



Less than a week ago, we had the pleasure of celebrating our double anniversary with an inspiring international conference. It was an absolute blast to welcome many inter/national guest speakers, old friends, former colleagues, and current and former members of our centre to discuss responsibilities of the study of culture (and the possibilities to respond) in the context of political debates, ecological challenges, and societal concerns. We thank all participants and contributors for the valuable exchange and intriguing debates! 🎉

We will be sharing some more flashbacks and material on our [LinkedIn](#) and [website](#), soon—stay tuned!

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We are delighted to be featured in the latest and last print issue of JLU's university newspaper *uniforum* with some recent goings-on at our centre. Find our article on the anniversary year and recaps on recent projects like the "First Generation" mentoring programme and the last Predoc cycle [here](#). 📄 ✨

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

[Visit our Newsboard](#)

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## 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](#)

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## 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.

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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!

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## 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](#)

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## GCSC KEYNOTE LECTURE SERIES Summer Semester 2026

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. 🗣️💬

[The Ethicality of Storytelling: Privacy, Confidentiality, and "Ownership" of Patients' Stories](#) | Tuesday, **21.07.2026**, 16:00-18:00 (CEST) | CFR and online | Prof. Dr. Rita Charon (Columbia University)

[Visit our KNL Series](#)

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## Workshops & Masterclasses

**"Urban Ugliness" – The Deconstruction of a Gießen Stigma** | Friday, **03.07.2026**, 10:00-18:00 | SR 109 | Hannah Mansour (GGK) *in cooperation with* [Haus der Nachhaltigkeit Giessen e.V.](#) and [Institut für Geisterforschung](#)

**Academic Writing Part II** | Monday, **13.07.2026**, 10:00-15:00 (CEST) | SR 109 | Dr. Deborah de Muijnck (GCSC)

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### **"Forest Cabins, Garden Sheds, and Other Niches: Spaces of Retreat and the Potentiality of Writing"**

**IPP-Workshop**

14.–15.07.2026



Writing practices have long been associated with withdrawal and retreat, often into nature. This conference seeks to examine secluded, marginal, and sometimes remote spaces of retreat more closely, with a particular focus on writing as creative practice. What forms of writing emerge in such settings? How are writers shaped by spaces of withdrawal? Following the 2025 workshop ["The Cabin in the Woods and Other Utopian Confinements: Hopes and Horrors of Living in Small Houses in Remote Areas"](#), this year's workshop places creative practice and writing at the centre of its exploration of spaces of retreat, including cabins, garden sheds, and other hut-like environments. 🥗🍴

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### **"The Ethics of Storytelling"**

**International Summer Workshop**

20.–23.07.2026

# International Summer Workshop "The Ethics of Storytelling"

20-23 July 2026

How do stories shape the way we understand ourselves, others, and the world around us? In this International Summer Workshop, scholars and practitioners will explore the power, responsibility, and consequences of narratives across fields including healthcare, environmental advocacy, education, consultancy, and digital media. Featuring workshops and keynote lectures by internationally renowned experts, the event invites its participants to rethink storytelling as an ethical, social, and political practice. 🧠📖

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## Reading & Writing Groups

 'Reading Palestine' | [contact](#)



## Research Groups & Colloquia

[Research Colloquia](#)


[Research Groups](#)


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## 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](#)

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## [Doctoral Consultation Hour](#)



This consultation hour offers PhD students from JLU departments 03, 04, and 05 individual support at every stage of their PhD. In individual appointments, you can discuss questions regarding time management, funding, supervision or graduation formalities. The consultation is also a no-obligation service for anyone still considering whether a PhD is the right choice for them. 💡💬

[Visit the GGK](#)

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## 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: 16.07.2026, 14:00–16:00** (SR 101, GCSC)

[Visit the GGK](#)

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## Call for Applications

### GGK Mentoring-Programme for First Generation Academics

Apply by 31 October 2026



We are delighted to announce that the call for the second cohort of First Generation Academics is open now! "First-Generation"-Doctorate is a mentoring programme for doctoral candidates who have been the first in their family to study at a university and are now continuing their path into academia. It provides a space to openly address questions, challenges, and issues and supports finding your way in the academic world by

👂 Exchanging shared experiences in 1:1 mentoring

🧭 Navigating the informal rules of academia

🌐 Finding networks and role models

✉️ Submit your application to [ggk@uni-giessen.de](mailto:ggk@uni-giessen.de) by **31 October 2026**.

🚩 **Call for Mentors:** Do you already have a doctorate and also come from a non-academic background? Then become a mentor and support us breaking down barriers for first-time academics!



## From and For Our Members

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

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## 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:**

**[Wild Peace, Unruly Memories—Rethinking War, Peace, and Memory](#)**

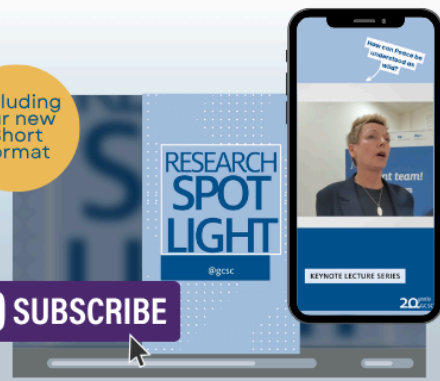
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View the full Keynote with Prof. Dr. Johanna Mannergren [here](#).

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