

Center for Diversity, Media, and Law

July 2025

Dear Friends and Members of the JLU and Center for Diversity, Media and Law Community,

It is my pleasure to report on news from the Center for Diversity, Media, and Law (DiML). First, I am delighted to announce that since the beginning of this calendar year the Center has a charter and thus also a clear agenda for its planned activities during the coming five years. Additionally, the directorship of the Center signed an agreement with the presidium on targets for the Center during the same period. As a result, the Center's central aims to do diversity and promote media literacy and media awareness while noting the imbrications of these topics with legal regulations and norms now has a clearly defined institutional basis.

An important part of this basis consists of the members of the JLU community who form the heart of the Center. In May, the general assembly elected members from FB 01, FB 03, FB 04, FB 05, FB 11, thus expanding the scope of the Center's membership. To fulfil the Center's ambitious research aims, new individuals have been hired, including Lilli von Stengel (PhD candidate in American Media Studies), Laura Goller (PhD candidate in public and migration law), Madita Oeming (Independent Scholar), and Dr. Folke Brodersen (Youth and Education, Gender and Diversity Studies). Dr. Brodersen's appointment comprises part of the JLU's continuing efforts to promote research in gender and diversity studies at the university. In May, a new board of directors was elected for the Center as well, consisting of Prof. Jürgen Bast, Prof. Julian Ernst (Deputy Director), Laura Goller, Prof. Malte-C. Gruber, Dr. Jutta Hergenhan (Research Coordinator), Lisanne Jung, Prof. Christine Klapeer, Prof. Greta Olson (Director), Anna-Sophie Vogelsang, and Anna Wagner.

The wide variety of research, publication, and transfer activities that we embarked on is rendered in detail below. Yet I wish to point out some highlights. These include a new book series with transcript called "diversity, media, and law," edited by Julian Ernst, Malte-C. Gruber, Jutta Hergenhan, and myself. The first open-access book in the series "Diversity and the USA: Transnational Perspectives on the 2024 Presidential Elections" came out before the elections and anticipated many of the anti-migration, anti-LGBTQIA, and anti-educational measures we are now witnessing in the USA and elsewhere. Further books, based on work at the Center, are in progress. This includes *Law, Narrative, and Narratology: Interdisciplinary Essays* (NYU Press), *Law and Critique // Recht und Kritik* (Alber), and *The Emergence of Gendered Power Structures from Early Modern Times to the Present* (Routledge), and *Sprache als Kampffeld autoritärer Geschlechterpolitiken. Analysen zur Bedrohung pluraler Demokratien* (diversity, media, and law, transcript series, 2026).

The Center was delighted to host three Fellows thus far, including Dr. K. Allison Hammer (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, USA), Dr. Laura Petersen (University of Lucerne, Switzerland) and Haidamteu Zeme (Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India). The Fellows joined members of the Center in a variety of transfer events concerning the elections in 2024, attacks on gender-sensitive language, the meaning of generative AI for education and research, and furthering Law and the Humanities. Finally, the three working groups on Diversity, Media, and the Borders of Law have all embarked on joint research initiatives that we look forward to reporting on in the future.

At the GGS Sommerfest in June of this year, Vice President Prof. Dr. Wencke Gwozdz prefaced my talk on "Trump 2.0: The Return & the Resistance." Vice President Gwozdz spoke about the need to be aware of the freedom to teach, conduct research, and articulate ourselves freely that we enjoy in Europe and European universities. I strongly agree with her. Thus, in a moment of polycrisis marked by severe attacks on academic freedoms, diversity, and democratic institutions, the Center is happy to have been given a mandate by the university to do the political and academic work in which we so passionately believe.

Warm wishes to all for the summer break,

Greta Olson

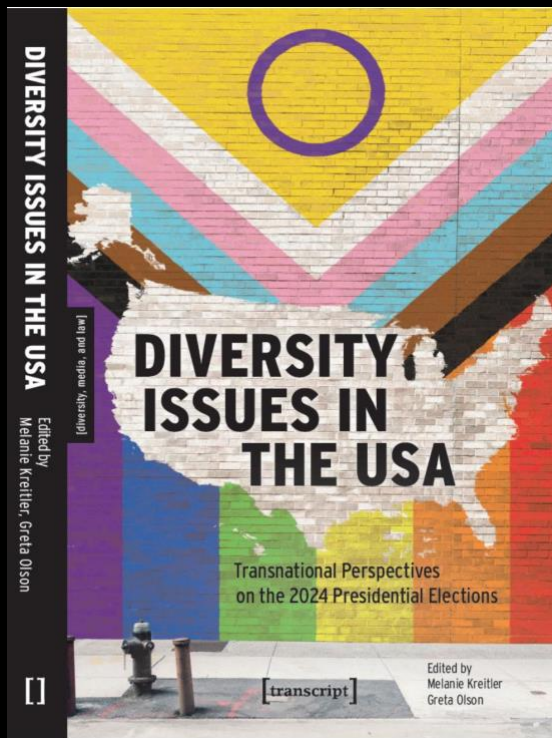
Coming Up

22 July 2025: Guest Lecture by Greta Olson "In Defence of the Legal Humanities" at the Legal Humanities Association Launch and Inauguration Event, 10:00 - 12:00 (UTC+1) on MS Teams. Klick [here](#) to join.

Summer camp on the "Technics and Ethics of Generative AI" (8 – 26 September) with Prof. Julian Ernst (DiML), the Center for Applied Informatics and Data Science (ZAD), FB 07 (JLU), and Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Klick [here](#) to join.

The poster is for a summer camp titled "Techniques and Ethics of Generative AI" held from September 8th to 26th, 2025, at Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen (JLU) and Macquarie University. The main headline is "KI verändert alles." (AI changes everything). The text describes the camp as interdisciplinary, involving learning, research, and co-creation. It lists three levels of participation: a Basic Course (Sept 8-12) covering fundamentals, an Advanced Course (Sept 15-19) covering tools and workflows, and a Research Week (Sept 22-26) for consulting on AI in research projects. The poster includes logos for the participating institutions, the DiML center, and a QR code for registration.

Publications and Projects



We are pleased to announce that the first book in our series “diversity, media, and law” with transcript was published in October 2024:

“Diversity and the USA: Transnational Perspectives on the 2024 Presidential Elections,” edited by Dr. Melanie Kreitler and Prof. Greta Olson. With bans on reproductive rights and access to health care, censorship in schools and universities, and the instrumentalization of rights rhetoric itself, diversity stands at the heart of the elections in the United States.

Diversity Issues in the USA examines how the American elections affect diversity issues in the United States and elsewhere. Authors focus on reproductive and immigration rights, planetary justice, epistemic and physical violence against LGBTQIA+ people as well as efforts to abet this violence. The book and its contributors highlight

the symbolic and political weight of the 2024 U.S. elections as a watershed moment for citizens of the world.

More books in the transcript series are planned.

Review of Recent Events

A great deal of activities occurred at DiML during the past few months, ranging from research visits by Fellows to panel discussions on the U.S. elections throughout the fall of 2024 and the winter and spring of 2025.

As a conclusion to the summer semester 2024 lecture series on the U.S. elections, the Center for Diversity, Media, and Law hosted a panel discussion on the topic of “What concerns Germans about the U.S. elections?” on July 10, 2024. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Birte Christ (American Studies, JLU), and the discussants included Professor Helmut Breitmeier (Political Science, JLU), Andreas Schwarzkopf from the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, and Prof. Greta Olson. The panelists debated the relevance of the U.S. presidential elections for Germany and German citizens.

The election theme followed DiML throughout the fall and winter of 2024 – 2025, including many panel discussions in which Greta Olson took part and interviews, for instance, Kira von der Brelie: Interview with Greta Olson (2024) “US-Expertin: ‚Viele finden Trump humorvoll und bodenständig.“ *Rnd.de*.online. One of the panel discussions: “Die USA nach der Wahl“ (21 November 2024) was organized by the Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften with the John McCloy Transatlantic Forum, and the Hessische Landeszentrale für politische

Bildung Bad Homburg, and was subsequently made into a podcast episode that can be accessed [here](#) (ep. 04).

Further, the Center has been fortunate to host Fellows from all over the world. During their research stay at the Center, [Dr. K. Allison Hammer](#) held a guest lecture on "[How to Make an Enemy: Transmisogyny and the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election](#)" and a workshop on "Trans Utopia" in July 2024. The fellowship stay was generously supported by the [Forschungscampus Mittelhessen](#).

On 22 October 2024, [Prof. Niluka Silva](#) (English, University of Colombo), [Dr. Elizabeth Drame](#) (Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, Division of Community Empowerment and Institutional Inclusivity (CEII):Department of Teaching and Learning, Autism Spectrum



Disorders Program Coordinator, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), and [Prof. Chia Youyee Vang](#) (Vice Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the Division of Community Empowerment & Institutional Inclusivity and Professor in the Department of History) took place in a workshop on "Doing Diversity Now." The workshop took place within the JLU-University of Wisconsin exchange. Prof. Neluka Silva gave an input talk on "The Construction of

Ethnic and Religious Identity in Post-War Cinema in Sri Lanka." Dr. Elisabeth R. Drame offered an input on "Sites of Risk for Black Autistic Youth in Police Encounters." A discussion of what it means to be doing diversity related work now and the future of diversity programs followed and included Julia Volz, Head of the International Office of the University of Giessen.

Professor Vang held a lecture on "History of Asian Migration to the United States" on 21 October 2024 and also spoke at the book launch for "Diversity Issues in the USA" on 23 October 2024, as did Dr. K. Allison Hammer and Āryā Jeipea Karijo (human, activist, storyteller and community organizer Kenya, Global Narratives Hive, TransQueer Fund and Collective). Ms. Jeipea Karijo will be a research guest at the Center later this year.

During the spring and summer of 2025, the Center for Diversity, Media, and Law had the pleasure of hosting Fellows [Dr. Laura Petersen](#) (University of Lucerne, Switzerland) and [Haidamteu Zeme](#) (Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India). Laura Petersen's research is cross-disciplinary, integrating approaches to visual culture and literature with jurisprudence, particularly in Germany in the 20th Century. Currently, Laura is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies in Lucerne, Switzerland, working with a team on a

major SNSF research grant on the project “Imagining Justice: Law, Politics and Visual Culture in Weimar Germany.”

As part of her fellowship at DiML, Dr. Petersen pursued her current research on the cultural and legal history of the Weimar Republic, with a special focus on the role of artistic expression within institutional and marginal contexts. Her guest talk “Challenging the Carceral Gaze? Re-viewing Franz Prinzhorn’s Artistry of the Prisoners (1926)” explored themes such as the role of artistic communities and influences, training, materials, and the relationship between objects, art-making and institutions. Dr. Petersen’s stay was supported by the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD).



Haidamteu Zeme was a research fellow at the Center during the summer of 2025. As part of her visiting fellowship at DiML under the 'Modes and Media in Narrative Studies' project, which was supported by the Scheme for Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) of the Government of India, she examined discursive formations in language through the framework of translation. She is a doctoral fellow in Literature and a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India. Her research interests include comparative literature, translation studies, and affective archives. Additionally, she is currently working on a project with Zubaan Publications on women’s movements in India from the 1940s to the 1950s.

Diversity

Under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Christine Klapeer (Political Science and Gender Studies, DiML and JLU), and Dr. Jutta Hergenhan (Political Science, DiML), members of the Working Group on Diversity have been busy during the last several months. The conference “Gender Cultures and War” was held on 14 and 15 November 2024. Jana Keidel and Dr. Jutta Hergenhan opened the conference with a discussion of the far-reaching implications of war on gender cultures. The effects of war and military (service) on gender identities, gender relations, and gender orders as well as constructions of masculinities, femininities, and queerness were also examined from an intersectional perspective as were related cultural

artefacts and media representations. A complete H-Soz-Kult conference report can be found [here](#).

Held on 24 and 25 November 2024, the conference “Language Policies as (De)democratizing Gender Policies? Current Debates on Gender-Equitable and Gender-Diverse Orthography” followed soon after and was a great success. Organized by Dr. Jutta Hergenhan, Prof. Christine Klapeer and Dr. Inga Nüthen (International Gender Politics, University of Kassel), the conference provided an in depth analysis and a multi-perspectival discussion of current debates on gender-equitable forms of writing and speech. In particular, the conference focused on the complex contestation of democracy, politics, gender, and language/linguistic justice (Hergenhan 2012). Through an inter- and transdisciplinary dialogue between scholars from the social sciences, political studies, and law, the conference contributed to a differentiated analysis of current linguistic-political debates. The results of the conference will be published in the "diversity, media, and law" series at transcript Verlag in 2026.

After the conference, gender researchers from Hessian universities met at DiML and founded the Hessian Network for Gender Research. Meanwhile, Christine Klapeer and colleagues from Kassel and Frankfurt achieved funding from the Hessian Ministry for Science and Art (HMWK) for a network cooperation to strengthen gender research at Hessian universities (title of the project: *Gendering Democratic Resilience*).

Forschungstagung
Sprachpolitiken als (de)demokratisierende Geschlechterpolitiken
Aktuelle Auseinandersetzungen um geschlechtergerechte und geschlechterdiverse Schreibweisen

Donnerstag, 24. Oktober

18-18.30 Uhr: Einführung durch die Organisator:innen
 18.30 - 20 Uhr: Einführungsvortrag: Dr. Jutta Hergenhan, Prof. Christine Klapeer, Dr. Inga Nüthen

Freitag, 25. Oktober

9 - 10.30 Uhr: **PANEL I: GENDERPOLITIK ALS (DE)DEMOKRATISIERENDE GESCHLECHTERPOLITIK**
 Moderation: Prof. Dr. Christine Klapeer

10.45 - 12.15 Uhr: **PANEL II: PARLAMENTARISCHE UND RECHTLICHE POLITIKEN IN SPRACHE UND GESCHLECHT**
 Moderation: Dr. Jutta Hergenhan

13.15 - 14.45 Uhr: **PANEL III: SEXUELLE UND GESCHLECHTLICHE WELFARE, SPRACHE UND GENDERIDENTITÄT**
 Moderation: Dr. Inga Nüthen

15 - 16 Uhr: **PANEL IV: TRANSNATIONALE KORRESPONDENZEN**
 Moderation: Prof. Dr. Christine Klapeer

16.30 - 18.30 Uhr: **Gründungstreffen: Netzwerk Geschlechterforschung Hessen**

Logo: JLU NEUE WEGE. SEIT 1607. JUSTUS-LIEBIG-UNIVERSITÄT GIESSEN

Tagung
Geschlechterkulturen und Krieg
14. & 15. November 2024
Margarete-Bieber-Saal, Ludwigstraße 34, 35390 Gießen

Donnerstag, 14. November

14:00 Begrüßung und Einführung
 15:00 **Panel I: Literarisch-mediale Thematisierungen von Geschlecht und Krieg**
 15:30 **Von Helmen und Haaren - Crossdressing während des Ersten Weltkriegs in französischen und italienischen Karikaturen und Comics**
 16:00 **Weibliche Erfahrungen des Zweiten Weltkriegs aus der Perspektive des 21. Jahrhunderts**
 16:30 **Weibliche Agency, Männlichkeit und Othering in der Auseinandersetzung mit Nahost-Kriegen: Incendies von Wajdi Mouawad (2003) und Denis Villeneuve (2011)**
 17:00 Diskussion
 17:45 Pause

Freitag, 15. November

9:45 **Grußwort Forschungsverbund "Militär, Krieg und Geschlecht/Diversität"**
 10:00 **Der vergessene Aktivismus von Frauen im Kosovo in den 1990er-Jahren - Nation, Gedächtnis und Geschlecht**
 10:30 Diskussion
 11:00 Kaffeepause
 11:15 **Das Geschlecht der Kriegsindustrie. Weibliche Arbeitskräfte an der deutschen Heimatfront im Ersten und Zweiten Weltkrieg**
 11:45 Diskussion
 12:15 Mittagessen
 13:30 **Visuelle Darstellung von Heldentum und Männlichkeit in den Fotografien finnischer Grenztruppen während des Fortsetzungskrieges (1941-1944)**
 14:00 **„Warum jetzt mit dem Männerbild kommen?“ - Männlichkeitskonstruktionen in der deutschen Medienberichterstattung über den Krieg gegen die Ukraine**
 14:30 **Identität zwischen Versicherheitlichung und Gespöttelung: Die ambivalente Rolle queerer Personen im Russland-Ukraine-Krieg**
 15:00 Diskussion
 16:00 Ende der Tagung

Logo: DiML, Frauen- und Gleichstellungsbeauftragte der Justus-Liebig-Universität, MKGP, GGS, JLU

Media

Led by Prof. Dr. Julian Ernst (Media Education), the Working Group Media's current focus is on media criticism and the way it is constructed interdisciplinarily. One of the main areas of investigation includes AI, its effects on media production as well as education, including a "promptathon" for Working Group members. AI is increasingly shaping the way we teach and learn. As an interactive co-actor in subject-related learning and writing, as a subject matter or in performance assessments. AI is now an important structural element in (higher) education didactics. In particular, generative AI systems such as ChatGPT and DALL-E raise fundamental questions about new teaching-learning cultures and challenge existing beliefs and categories.

From 13-14 June 2024, the DiML workshop "Input - Output: Didactic Perspectives on AI" examined aspects of the opacity of AI systems and asked about the effects of this opacity on didactics. Experts from the fields of computer science, media didactics, historical didactics, and language didactics presented theoretical approaches and empirical projects to create a room full of practical analysis as well as intensive discussions.

Another workshop, not connected to AI but to media criticism, covered the practice of screenwriting. On 6 December 2024, screenwriter Nicole Armbruster (Film University Konrad Wolf Babelsberg) offered insights on the practical aspects of creative writing at the intersection of text, film, and adaptation. She used the current ARD production "Ein Mann seiner Klasse," based on the novel by Christian Baron (2021/2024), as a case study. By means of writing exercises on screenplay and the film adaptation of classical texts, the workshop focused on questions of reception and the transformation of literary material in the audiovisual medium.

At the end of the winter semester, on 28 January 2025, DiML hosted a roundtable on generative AI in cooperation with the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC). Generative AI systems such as ChatGPT, Midjourney, and DALL-E have turned processes of text and image production upside down and can be seen as expressions of a "scientific revolution" (Kuhn). Mass access to forms of generative AI is also leading to cultural upheavals, not least of all in schools and universities.

The poster features a vibrant, abstract illustration of a modern meeting space with people at tables, overlaid with glowing digital lines and nodes. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with logos for the participating institutions.

JLU
NEUE WEGE. SEIT 1607.

JUSTUS-LIEBIG-UNIVERSITÄT GIESSEN

GCSC-DiML ROUNDTABLE

Generative KI und (Hochschul)Kultur

Prof. Dr. Christoph Bareither (Tübingen), Dr. Matthias Ehmann (Bayreuth),
Prof. Dr. Julian Ernst (Gießen), Dr. Jens Kugele (Gießen),
Prof. Dr. Katrin Lehnen (Gießen)

In Kooperation mit dem Center for Diversity, Media, and Law (DiML), JLU Gießen

Dienstag, 28.01.2024
18:00 Uhr (MEZ)
GCSC & online

GGK/GCSC | Konferenzraum
Erdgeschoss
Otto-Behagel-Straße 12
35394 Gießen

GCSC
International Graduate Centre
for the Study of Culture

DiML

Practices that were thought to be safe from disruption and established categories have been fundamentally called into question. For example, the assessment of performance through written assignments, basic skills in the field of academic work, and even categories such as “authorship” or “creativity” are all in flux. The aim of the roundtable was to critically reflect on the disruptive potential of generative AI for schools and universities and to discuss perspectives for the future use of corresponding technologies.

In line with the Working Group’s current focus on AI, Prof. Julian Ernst gave a [digital coffee lecture](#) on 21 May 2025 at the JLU. Titled “Algorithmische Empfehlungssysteme verstehen lernen,” Prof. Ernst’s lecture offers insights into user-centered research on algorithms and related media education issues. The lecture discusses empirical findings on the perception and use of recommendation systems, and approaches to promoting critical awareness in dealing with these systems. All this and more can be found on YouTube through the [link](#) to the lecture.



Led by Prof. Malte-C. Gruber (Civil Law, Philosophy of Law, and Law of New Technologies) and Prof. Greta Olson, the Working Group on the Borders of Law began research by discussing how members understand concepts such as legality, living law, and the borders of law. The Working Group has supported a number of guest lectures linked to developing projects on the politics of migration as well as on digital pornography, and the nexus between law, narrative, and politics. This included guest lectures on “[Law and Legitimacy: Political Narratives of Migrant Crime](#)” by PD Dr. Georgiana Banita (American Studies, University of Bamberg) on 9 December 2024, and “[One Is Not Born but Is Made a Sex Robot: Feminist Perspectives on Sex Robot Regulation](#)” on 27 January 2025 by Rüyü Tuna Toparlak (Law, University of Lucerne).

Another highlight was Madita Oeming’s guest lecture on 10 February 2025 on “[The Porn Addiction Narrative - How Anti-Porn Activism has Hijacked Science](#),” which was connected to her reading at the Literaturhaus Gießen in cooperation with DiML on the same day. An independent porn scholar, Madita Oeming researches, teaches, and publishes on pornography from a cultural studies perspective. As a sex-positive feminist and pleasure activist, Oeming sees herself as a bridge builder between academia, the porn industry, and the general public. She will work with Professors Julian Ernst and Greta Olson at the Center on developing a research project on digital porn analysis and critical literacy.

The Working Group Law is also delighted to announce the launch of the [Global Law and the Humanities Mentorship Program](#). This initiative involves several law and humanities

organizations, including LCH; the Law and the Humanities Hub at IALS, London; the Italian Society for Law and Literature; the Law, Literature and Humanities Association of Australasia; the Netherlands Research School for Literary Studies (OSL) - Literature, Law and Society Research Group, and Iura Vasconiae.

The program aims to assist early career scholars (i.e., individuals pursuing a PhD, DPhil, or JD, or those who completed a PhD less than seven years ago) by having them network with a mid- to senior career mentor who can advise them on challenges they face concerning methodological questions and resources, advice on publication venues, and suggestions about preparing for the job market and developing a research profile. An online plenary workshop on scholarly publishing (journal articles and books) in Law and the Humanities is planned for February 2026. If you are interested in serving as a mentor or being a mentee, please follow this [link](#).



Further, Greta Olson and Malte-C. Gruber served as faculty at the summer school Critical Times 2025: Disruptions (30 June – 4 July) at the University of Lucerne, organized by the Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies – lucernaiuris). Prof. Gruber offered a seminar on “Introduction to Post-Apocalyptic Law” (3 July) and Greta Olson held a seminar on “Disrupting the Affective work of Anti-Immigration Narratives and Images” (4 July) that discussed insights from the research unit Human Rights Discourse in Migration Societies (DFG-FOR MeDiMi), led by

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Bast (Public and European Law, JLU and DiML). Held at the Institute for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies, the intensive summer school offers an ideal opportunity for academic and personal exchange for scholars working in Law and the Humanities.

Finally, the Working Group looks forward to joint publications in *Law and Critique // Recht und Kritik* (Alber) with Malte-C. Gruber and Greta Olson; and “What do the Humanities have to say to Law?” a special issue of *Law and Humanities*, scheduled to appear in summer 2027, with Prof. Franz Reimer (Public Law and Legal Theory) and Greta Olson.