

JLU

NEUE WEGE. SEIT 1607.

JUSTUS-LIEBIG-
UNIVERSITÄT
GIESSEN

BOUNCING FORWARD:

Future Narratives, Scenarios, and Transformations in
the Study of Culture

ESSCS and TransHumanities Joint Summer School

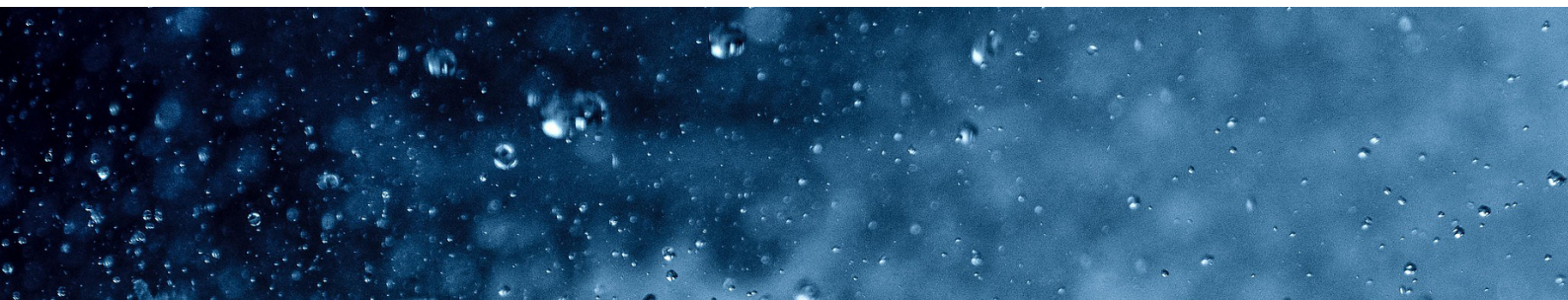
June 19-23, 2023

GCSC | Room 001 (MFR)
Otto-Behaghel-Straße 12
35394 Gießen





Engaging the future is never more pressing than in uncertain times with a sense of no future. With a conceptual focus on narrativity, scenarios, and transformations in (the study of) culture, this summer school addresses questions of cultural imagination and uncertain futures through a variety of productive lenses, such as planetary futures, resilience-thinking, “imagineering” (Metelmann/Welzer 2020), or notions of time and risk criticism in order to foster discussion on how we – both as a society and an interdisciplinary field of research – can bounce forward or perhaps move in multiple ways and directions to (re-)shape the future. Since future imaginations via their specific temporality as often as not rely on a certain degree of narrativization, we want to put our attention to the scenarios and transformative potential they yield. Our summer school takes a two-pronged approach: We are interested in 1) how future narratives, scenarios and transformations figure within our various research objects and 2) how the urgent and complex problems sketched above prompt us to rethink, recalibrate and renew our very conceptual and methodological apparatuses in the study of culture.



Monday, June 19

09:30 Registration, Coffee in the GCSC foyer

10:30 Welcome & Opening Remarks
Michael Basseler, Deborah de Muijnck

10:45 **Keynote I.**
Ansgar Nünning (*Department of English and American Literature and Culture, Justus-Liebig-University*)
"Extending Futurability through the Imagination: Affordances and Constraints of Factual and Fictional Narratives as Cultural Ways of Making Futures".

Chair: Deborah de Muijnck (*GCSC, Justus-Liebig-University*)

12:15 Lunch at JLU Mensa

14:00 **Panel 1: Challenging Futuristic Tech-Discourses**

Bo Wang (*ASCA, University of Amsterdam*): Retro-futuristic Fantasy, Obsolete Machines and Eschatological Time.

Lucien Schönenberg (*University of Bern*): Constructing 'the Future of Humanity' in the Business of Algorithmic Video Surveillance.

Marco Presago (*GCSC, Justus-Liebig-University*): Tackling the Future Challenges of Memory, Technology Ethics, and Grieving: Trajectories from Akil Kumarasamy's *Meet Us by the Roaring Sea* (2022).

Chair: Mike Toggweiler (*University of Bern*)

15:30 Break

16:00 **Panel 2: Shifting Cultures and Implications of Societies**

Matthew Childs (*University of Washington*): Foggy Past, Shifting Presents, Uncertain Futures: Wilhelm Raabe's *Pfisters Mühle: Ein Sommerferienheft*.

Piera Mazzaglia (*GCSC, Justus-Liebig-University*): New Ways of Representing Love on Social Media. Is the Future of Love Letter Writing really at Stake?

Ziling Song (*GCSC, Justus-Liebig-University*): Which Culture for the Future? A Debate about Eastern and Western Cultures around May Fourth Era in China.

Chair: Jan Rupp (*GCSC, Justus-Liebig-University*)

17:30 20th Anniversary Dinner Reception at the GCSC

Tuesday, June 20

09:30 Panel 3: Alternative Epistemologies and Bio-Futures

Jueling Hu (*ASCA, University of Amsterdam*): A Flash of Silver Green: Machine, Rainforest, and Tropical Futurism.

Payel Pal (*The LNM Institute of Information Technology*): Colonial Epistemologies and Ecological Violence: Amitav Ghosh's Call for Planetary Solidarity.

Chen Zhou (*ASCA, University of Amsterdam*): Consuming Ecological Food: Permeable Imaginations of Rural Authenticity under the Ecological Crisis.

Chair: Jens Kugele (*GCSC, Justus-Liebig-University*)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Panel 4: (Post-) Human Futures & the Anthropocene

Lidia Cuadrado Payeras (*University of Salamanca*): Time Paradoxes in Contemporary Speculative Fiction: How to Make Sense of (Post)Human Futurities.

Matteo Gallo Stampino (*University of Bergamo*): 'Bouncing forward' in the Apocalypse: Valerie Fritsch's *Winters Garten* (2006) and Mats Strandberg's *The End* (2019).

Franciszek W. Korbanski (*Lund University*): Exploring the Future in 'What-If' Mode: Scenarios, future-making and Anthropocene.

Chair: Susie O'Brien (*Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University*)

13:00 Lunch at JLU Mensa

15:00 Master Classes (Parallel Sessions: SR 109 & 126, 1st floor)

Doris Bachmann-Medick: Conceptual Tools for Future Research: Scenarios and Narratives.

Susie O'Brien/ Michael Basseler: Bouncing Back, Bouncing Forward?

Temporalities of Resilience.

17:00 Coffee Break & On_Culture Poster Presentation

18:00 Keynote II.

Ursula Heise (*Department of English, Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, UCLA*), Online "Into the Multiverse: Cultural Studies and Environmental Futures."

Words of Welcome: Jens Kugele

Chair: Ansgar Nünning

Wednesday, June 21

09:30 **Keynote III.**

Jörg Metelmann (*School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University St. Gallen*)
"Imagineering & Co. Transformative Practices and Cultures of Change".

Chair: Esther Peeren (*Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis, University of Amsterdam*)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 **Panel 5: Explorations of Non-Human Entities and Paranature**

Gabriela Andrina Jörg (*University of Bern*): *Paranature Research Laboratory* – An artistic-ethnographic exploration of ideas of future ›natures‹.

Caesy Stuck (*University of Duisburg-Essen*): *Of Monsters and Plants. An Analysis of Plant Narratives in the Context of Nonhuman Narration.*

Sababa Monjur (*Marburg University*): *Contingency of Hope: Evaluating the Role of the Sub/Non-human in MaddAddam Trilogy and The Tiger Flu.*

Chair: Isabella Kalte (*GCSC, Justus-Liebig-University*)

13:00 Lunch (Sandwiches) at the GCSC

14:00 ESSCS + TransHumanities Business Meeting (SR 109, 1st floor)

15:00 **Panel 6: Artistic Transformations and Compositions of Time**

Amaru Ibarra Olguín (*University of Copenhagen*): "F*ck my Life" and a Performance of Sinvergüencería: Xandra Ibarra Bouncing Forward from Shame.

Rodrigo de Souza Marcondes (*the Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon*): *From the Past to the Future: Exploring the Role of Images in Shaping Ahead Worldmaking through the Portraits of Frederick Douglass.*

Chair: Bojana Kunst (*Institute for Applied Theatre Studies, Justus-Liebig-University*)

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 **Panel on Planetary Thinking: Shrinking Spaces & Toxic Zones: Climate Justice, Long-term Catastrophe, and Adaptation**

Jason Waite: *Art and More-than-Human Worlds in Fukushima.*

Adenike Titilope Oladosu: *My fight for climate justice: A perspective from Nigeria.*

Chair: Liza Bauer (*Interim Scientific Manager of the Panel on Planetary Thinking, Justus-Liebig-University*)

17:45 Break

18:30 Exhibition and Artist Talk – Kunsthalle Gießen

20:30 Free Evening

Thursday, June 22

09:30 **Keynote IV.**

Susie O'Brien (*Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University*)
"Unsettling Resilience Stories: Dismantling Colonial Ideas of Futurity"

Chair: Michael Basseler (*GCSC, Justus-Liebig-University*)

11:00 Break

11:30 **Panel 7: Re-Imagining Past and Present Alternative Realities through Narrative**

Parvez Alam (*ASCA, University of Amsterdam*): Journey through the Fury Road: Grasping Historical Images and Radical Potentials in Dystopian Imagination.

Anna Dijkstra (*the Huygens Institute*): Modernism's Epistemological Futures in Kafka's *The Castle*.

Goutam Karmakar (*University of Western Cape*): Slow Violence and Epistemic (Dis)obedience: Arguing for Sustainable Planetaryity in Imbolo Mbue's *How Beautiful We Were*.

Chair: Andreas Langenohl (*Department of Sociology, Justus-Liebig-University*)

13:00 Lunch at JLU Mensa

14:30 **Panel 8: Experimental Futures**

Anupama Surendranath (*Indian Institute of Technology Bombay*): "Growing Sideways" and Moving Forward: Some Notes on *Aditya 369*, India's First Time Travel Film.

Jonas Müller (*Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz*): Invasive Futures and Eco-Anxiety in Ben Lerner's *10:04*.

Taisuke Wakabayashi (*University of Illinois*): (Dis)appearing Landscape: The Nevada Test Site as the Archive of Nuclear History and Planetary Memory.

Chair: Frederik Tygstrup (*Department of Arts and Cultural Studies, University of Copenhagen*)

16:00 Break

16:30 Guided Tour through the City of Giessen

18:30 Final Dinner at *Zum Löwen*



Friday, June 23

09:30 Panel 9: Feminist and Queer Ways of Imagining Futurity

Kacper Radny (*GCSC, Justus-Liebig-University*): 'Bouncing Back' – on the Difficult History and Uncertain Future of Exhibiting Queer Art in Central-Eastern Europe.

Ysabel Munoz (*Trondheim University*): Islands of Transition. Reimagining Caribbean Futures through Trans-Ecofeminist Narratives.

Chair: Anna Tabouratzidis (*Department of English and American Literature and Culture, Justus-Liebig-University*)

11:00 Coffee Break

11:30 Concluding Discussion

12:30 Lunch – Sandwiches at the GCSC
Takeaway option for those leaving earlier

14:00 Goodbye and bon voyage!



To continue our exchange on Social Media, please use
[#ESSCS2023](#). Stay tuned and follow us [@GCSC_JLU!](#)



International Graduate Centre
for the Study of Culture



European PhDnet
Literary and Cultural Studies



International PhD Programme
Literary and Cultural Studies



Research Centre
for the Study of Culture