

planetary  
thinking

JLU

NEUE WEGE. SEIT 1607

JUSTUS-LIEBIG-  
UNIVERSITÄT  
GIESSEN

PLANETARY AGENCY & POLITICS WORKSHOP 2025

# SOIL TRANSLATIONS

*How to read soil in the so-called Anthropocene*

**Sophie von Redecker**

Fellow in the Planetary Scholars & Artists in Residence Program

**Panel on Planetary Thinking**  
Justus Liebig University Giessen

**24 OCTOBER**  
at Gladbacherhof  
65606 Villmar

If humans learned how to translate soil's expressions, what would they get to know? How would that knowledge change their understanding of the soil's agency and its political relations to human society? And what would happen to common notions of what it means to be human, or to be democratic?

This workshop recognizes soil as vibrant, alive, and communicative. Starting from the insight that soil constitutes an agency that significantly shapes planetary life, *Soil Translations* asks how humans can sharpen their sensibilities to become able to read its expressions and translate its semiotics, its text(ure).

Through agricultural practices, art, and reflections on translation, we will explore what it means to listen to soil in times of climate change and soil devastation. A panel of artists, gardeners, farmers, soil scientists, and humanities scholars will invite participants to think *with* this planetary agency and reflect on what it means to be touched by soil-worlds.

**10:45 - 16:00 | Friday, October 24**

**10:45 | Introduction by the Panel on Planetary Thinking**

**11:00 | Panel discussion - *Soil Translations: Fertile Ground for Planetary Agency and Politics***

**alissa mirea weidenfeld** (Gardener & Artist, HBK Braunschweig)

**Brad Harmon** (Literature Scholar & Translator, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore)

**Lisa Krall** (Gender Studies Scholar, University of Cologne)

**SoLawi Terra Lumbricus** (Community Supported Agriculture Collective, Ebsdorfergrund)

**Wiebke Niether** (Scientist of Organic Agriculture & Sustainable Soil Management, JLU Giessen)

**13:00 | Plant-based lunch** (provided for participants)

**14:30 | Guided tour - *Soil at Gladbacherhof: Soil Genesis and Current Cultivation by Franz Schulz*** (Head of Research Farm, Oberer Gladbacherhof, JLU Giessen)

**16:00 | Closing remarks**

Register by **16.10.2025**, as number of participants is limited.

Transport: group train ride from Giessen or individual arrival.

See our [website](#) for registration & more information.

[panel@planet.uni-giessen.de](mailto:panel@planet.uni-giessen.de)

