

## *Short Bios*

25–26 June 2026

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

GGK/GCSC  
Conference Room (Ground Floor)  
Otto-Behaghel-Straße 12  
35394 Gießen

**GGK** **GCSC**  
25 JAHRE 20 YEARS  
CULTURE AT THE CENTRE

**Doris Bachmann-Medick** is Distinguished Research Fellow at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) of the Justus Liebig University Giessen. Her main fields of research are cultural theory, Kulturwissenschaften, literary anthropology, and translation studies. Her recent book publications include *Übersetzung neu denken. Eine gesellschaftliche Perspektive* (2026), *Cultural Turns. Neuorientierungen in den Kulturwissenschaften* (7th ed. 2021 [2006]), revised English edition *Cultural Turns: New Orientations in the Study of Culture* (2016) and Polish, Russian, Korean editions. Her edited volumes include *The Translational Turn, a special issue of the journal Translation Studies* (2.1, 2009), *The Trans/National Study of Culture: A Translational Perspective* (2014), *Migration: Changing Concepts, Critical Approaches* (2018, co-edited with Jens Kugele), *Futures of the Study of Culture: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Global Challenges* (2020, co-edited with Jens Kugele and Ansgar Nünning) and *Sacred Space(s): Cultural Dynamics, Interdisciplinary Perspectives, a special issue of Saeculum. Jahrbuch für Universalgeschichte* 71.2 (2021, co-edited with Jens Kugele and Katharina Stornig).

**Michael Basseler** is Academic Manager of the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture and adjunct professor (außerplanmäßiger Professor) at the English Department at Justus Liebig University Giessen. His main areas of expertise are in American literary and cultural studies, with a particular focus on the twentieth and twenty-first century. He has published widely on African American literature, on questions of collective and cultural memory, on short narrative forms, on intersections between narrative and cultural theory as well as on literary and cultural perspectives on resilience. His most recent publications include the volume *Bouncing Forward: Future Narratives, Scenarios and Transformation in the Study of Culture* (de Gruyter 2026, forthcoming, ed. with Jens Kugele & Jan Rupp). He is a member of the international research group “Narrating Resilience, Achieving Happiness? Toward a Cultural Narratology”, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation.

**Thorsten Bonacker** is Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies at Marburg University, where he also serves as President's Delegate for the European University Alliance EUPeace. He studied sociology, psychology, philosophy, and cultural studies at the Marburg University received his Ph.D. in sociology from Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg in 1999. Since 2004, he has held a professorship in Peace and Conflict Studies in Marburg. His research is situated at the intersection of International Political Sociology and International Relations, with a particular focus on peace and conflict research, critical security studies, and the role of the United Nations in decolonization and peacebuilding. He also works on victim compensation after political violence and on affective and atmospheric dimensions of violence in post-war societies. Methodologically, his work combines theory-driven and comparative research designs, with regional expertise in Central and Southeast Asia, especially Cambodia and Timor-Leste. He directs international research and curriculum partnerships in peacebuilding and conflict transformation and currently leads two MA programs in Peace and Conflict Studies in Marburg.

**Hubertus Büschel** is Professor for Modern and Contemporary History at the University Kassel since April 2019. At the University of Kassel, he is also one of the directors of the Exceed Network "Global Partnership Network," which is funded by the DAAD and the BMZ as a programme of excellence. He is also the director of studies of the new MA programme "Sustainability and Postcolonial Studies." From September 2015 until March 2019, Büschel was Chair for Contemporary History at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands. From 2009 until 2015, he was Juniorprofessor for Cultural History at the Justus Liebig University, Giessen, and the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture, Giessen, Germany. 2012, he was awarded with the *venia legendi* in Modern and Contemporary History. He received his doctorate (2004, *summa cum laude*) from the Georg August University Göttingen and the Max Planck Institute for History Göttingen. In the year 2015 Hubertus Büschel received a Heisenberg grant of the German Research Foundation (DFG). His more recent publications include *Der*

*Rorschachtest reist um die Welt. Globalgeschichten aus der Ethnopschoanalyse* (Vienna, Turia + Kant, 2021) and together with Nancy Rose Hunt *Psychiatric Contours: New African Histories of Madness* (Durham, Duke University Press, 2024).

**Bettina Brockmeyer** is Professor of Modern History at Justus Liebig University Giessen. Her research interests include the history of medicine, colonialism, memory, gender, and the body. She wrote the books *Geteilte Geschichte, geraubte Geschichte. Koloniale Biografien in Ostafrika (1880–1950)*, Frankfurt/M. 2021 and *Selbstverständnisse. Dialoge über Körper und Gemüt im frühen 19. Jahrhundert*, Göttingen 2009. She also publishes on current postcolonial debates on collections and the question of restitution; see e.g. the article with Frank Edward and Holger Stoecker, *The Mkwawa Complex. A Tanzanian-European History about Provenance, Memory, and Politics*, in: *Journal of Modern European History* 18 (2020) H. 2, S. 117–139.

**Martin Butler** is Professor of “American Studies: Literature and Culture,” director of the Research Center “Genealogy of the Present” (WiZeGG), and co-spokesperson for the university’s research focus “Diversity and Participation” at Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg. After studying English and Social Sciences at the University of Duisburg, he earned his Ph.D. in 2007 from the University of Duisburg-Essen with a dissertation on the American folk singer Woody Guthrie. From 2004 to 2007, he was also a member of the International Doctoral Program “Literary and Cultural Studies” at Justus Liebig University Giessen. His research focuses on popular cultural practices, specifically on forms and figures of mobility in and of popular music, the cultural (co-)production of futures, and popular culture’s engagement with scientific knowledge and expertise. Butler is co-editor of the journals *Popular Music and Society* and *Rock Music Studies* (with Gary Burns and Thomas M. Kitts) and a range of books, including *Hybrid Americas: Contacts, Contrasts, and Confluences in New World Literatures and Cultures* (2008, with Josef Raab); *Sound Fabrics: Studies on the Intermedial*

and Institutional Dimensions of Popular Music (2009, with Patrick Burger and Arvi Sepp); *EthniCities: Metropolitan Cultures and Ethnic Identities in the Americas* (2011, with Jens Gurr); *Precarious Alliances: Cultures of Participation in Print and Other Media* (2016, with Albrecht Hausmann and Anton Kirchhofer); *Resistance: Subjects, Representations and Contexts* (2017, with Paul Mecheril and Lea Brenningmeyer); and, most recently, *Coming to Terms with a Crisis: Cultural Engagements with COVID-19* (2025, with Sina Farzin, Michael Fuchs and Fabian Hempel).

**Raul Calzoni** is Full Professor of German Literature at the University of Bergamo (Università degli Studi di Bergamo), where he currently serves as Head of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. His research focuses on classical and romantic German literature, German modernism, and the transmission of European cultural memory. He has extensively worked on the relationships between literature, history, and the Holocaust, as well as on the intersections of literature and science. He is the author of numerous academic books and articles, including studies on postwar German literature.

**Alexander Chertenko** is a fellow at the Giessen Center for Eastern European Studies (GiZo). He was a research fellow and lecturer at the Institute for Slavic Studies' Chair of East and West Slavic Literatures at Justus Liebig University Giessen until April of this year. Dr. Chertenko received his Ph.D. in German Studies (Swiss literature) in 2006 and his second M.A. degree in Slavic and Eastern European Studies from Freie Universität Berlin in 2019. His current research focuses on Ukrainian, Russian, Belarusian, and Polish literature and culture, with an emphasis on wars and identity conflicts in postsocialist Eastern Europe, as well as Postcolonial and Gender Studies. His habilitation project examines reappraisals of the war in Ukraine in East Slavic (Ukrainian and Russian) and West Slavic (Polish) literatures. Dr. Chertenko has worked on various research projects, most recently on a project that examined women's perspectives on the war in Ukraine as part

of the joint project, “(Un)Disciplined: Pluralizing Ukrainian Studies—Understanding the War in Ukraine” (funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)). Currently, he is the coordinator of the BMFTR-funded research project “War and Peace in Post-Socialist Space.”

**Deborah de Muijnck** is a researcher and academic coordinator at the GCSC. Formerly a (post-) doctoral researcher at RWTH Aachen University (2019–2023), an Affiliate at Harvard University (2023), and a Research Fellow at the Universities of Graz (2024) and Stockholm (2026), she holds a PhD in ‘English Literature’. Her first monograph, *Narrative Identity after Combat: The Cognitive and Cultural Work of Storytelling* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming), explores how British military writers reconstruct public legibility through autobiographical narratives. Other publications, such as *Pandemic Storytelling* (Brill, 2025), address the reciprocal impact of pandemics and narrativity, the influence of non-normative life experiences on narration (*Poetics of Disturbances*, Brill, 2024), and the intersections between identity, culture, and narrative (*Routledge Companion*, 2025). For her second monograph, she develops a typology of literary scandals in Great Britain from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. Her work on scandalous literature appears in leading journals such as *Style and Storyworlds* (forthcoming), and she is the editor of the special issue “Narratives of Scandal and Shock,” published in *Frontiers of Narrative Studies* (2026). Dr. de Muijnck has taught seminars, workshops, and guest lectures on narratology and Anglophone literatures across European institutions. She has received grants from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (2025), the European Union (*NextGenerationEU*, 2024), and the Martin Buber Society (2025–2029).

**Paul Fleming** is the L. Sanford and Jo Mills Reis Professor of Humanities at Cornell University, where he teaches German and Comparative Literature. Fleming has published monographs on *Exemplarity and Mediocrity: The Art of the Average from Bourgeois Tragedy to Realism* and *The Pleasures of*

Abandonment: Jean Paul and the Life of Humor and is the translator of Peter Szondi's *Essay on the Tragic*, Hans Blumenberg's *Care Crosses the River*, and the co-translator of Blumenberg's *Saint Matthew Passion*. He is completing a short book on Redemptive Criticism, on Benjamin and Adorno reading the George-Kreis, and another on Thinking through Stories, which explores the story as a modus of thought in the 20th century from Freud through Hans Blumenberg. Fleming is the editor of the *Signale Book Series* at Cornell Press and co-editor of *New German Critique* as well as interim editor of *diacritics*.

**Sebastian Garbe** holds a PhD in sociology and is currently a postdoctoral researcher at Fulda University of Applied Sciences, where he leads the PROTEST sub-project within the "Shaping Future Society (SaFe)" research impulse, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). He is also the academic coordinator of the Fulda Graduate Centre of Social Sciences (FGCSS) at the same university and a member of the editorial board of the journal *PERIPHERIE*. From 2013 to 2022, he worked as a research assistant and lecturer at Justus Liebig University Giessen. From 2014 to 2017, he was a member and fellow of the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC). His teaching and research focus on (international) solidarity, protest and social movements from a post-/decolonial, intersectional and posthumanist perspective.

Since 2015, **Eva Geulen** has been director of the Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research as well as Professor for European History of Culture and Knowledge at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. She received her PhD in 1989 from Johns Hopkins University with a dissertation on Adalbert Stifter. From 2003 until 2012 she was Professor for German Literature at the University of Bonn and then at the Goethe University Frankfurt until 2015. She taught at various US institutions, including Stanford University, Rutgers University, New York University, Columbia University, and University of California, Berkeley. Since 2025, she has been Secretary of the Humanities Class and Member of the Board as well as the Council of the Berlin-

Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities. She was co-editor of the *Zeitschrift für deutsche Philologie* from 2004 to 2025 and is one of the General Editors of the *Critical Edition* of Hannah Arendt's Complete Works. Her research focusses on literature and philosophy from the 18th century to the present. She is the author of *Aus dem Leben der Form: Goethes Morphologie und die Nager* (August Verlag 2016), *Giorgio Agamben zur Einführung* (Junius Verlag 2005) and *The End of Art: Readings in a Rumor after Hegel* (Stanford University Press 2006).

**Julika Griem** holds a professorship for English Literature at the University of Duisburg-Essen after appointments to the universities of Darmstadt and Frankfurt. She acts as the director of two complementary institutes for advanced study in the Ruhr area: KWI, an institute for advanced study in cultural studies, and the College for Social Sciences and Humanities. From 2016 to 2023 she served as a vice president of the German Research Foundation and collected diverse experience in further advisory boards of funding organisations and universities. Her research interests comprise theories of literature, research on reading, literary sociology, the practice of interdisciplinarity and cross-disciplinary collaboration, cultural studies of science and the higher education system and, more recently, the limits and affordances of first-person scholarly writing as well as the problem of stopping and quitting in the academic world.

**Katharina B. Hacker** is a doctoral candidate and scholarship holder at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC). For her doctoral project, she is examining changes to the cultural and trans-collective memory structures surrounding the genocide of the Ovaherero and Nama in light of its official recognition by the Federal Republic of Germany in 2021. She focuses her research on collective memory, colonial genocide, social relations and groups, and radicalisation processes, adopting a sociological, cultural and collective studies perspective. She is interested in recognition processes in a postcolonial setting, and in the interplay between memory, recognition, and reconciliation. Her research

focuses on the conceptualisation and understanding of genocide. Furthermore, she works on the environmental aspects of genocide negotiations and memory, as well as de- and re-commemoration in the public sphere as an expression of reclaiming space. She completed her bachelor's degree in political science and German Studies, followed by a master's degree in criminology and violence research, both at the University of Regensburg. She is also a member of the editorial team of the open access journal *On\_Culture*. Dissertation working title: *Changes of Trans-collective Memory Structures of the Ovaherero and Nama Genocide in the Course of Recognition Processes*.

**Kirsten von Hagen** has been Professor of French and Spanish Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Giessen since 2013. She is Graduate Studies Executive at the Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) and is responsible for the PhDNet and the Peernet. Together with Prof. Dr. Michael Basseler she has been organising the IPP Colloquium on a regular basis since 2025/26. Her research interests include literature and cultures of the long 19th century and the present day. She has worked on various projects funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) focusing on female authors of realism and literary modernism, and has published renowned studies on this topic (e.g. Kirsten von Hagen/Corinna Leister (eds.), *An Actor between Eras, Signs and Media: Théophile Gautier and the Aesthetics of Modernity*, Berlin: ESV 2022; Kirsten von Hagen/Raul Calzoni, (eds.), *The Vampire: A European Myth of Cultural Transfer*, München: AVM Edition 2023; Kirsten von Hagen/Jana Keidel (eds.), *Anna de Noailles. Author of the Belle Époque, Actor of Modernity | Auteure de la Belle Époque, Actrice de la Modernité*, Baden-Baden: Rombach 2024.) She also examines eco-critical and intermedial forms of writing, most recently published in: Kirsten von Hagen/Corinna Dziudzia, (Re-)Mythologising the Forest in the Digital Age? A Literary and Cultural-Historical Search for Clues, Berlin: Metzler, 2025. She has also published numerous articles on the relation between economics and literature, like the following: “‘New courses of the stock exchange can already call the whole existence into question’. Time, Fashion, and Social Change in the Mirror of Three French

Novels of the 19th Century.”, in: de Muijnck (ed.): *Troubling Time(s). Questioning Prevailing Notions of Time in the Study of Literature and Culture*. Trier: WVT, 2025, 199–217 ; and: “‘un trésor pour un homme qui veut parvenir’: Body and Commodity Flows in the 19th-Century Novel – Fashion and Correspondence in the Works of Zola and Maupassant”), in: Borst/Febel (eds.), *Corps et capital dans le roman français du XIXe siècle*, Berlin: Frank und Timme, 2024, 243–262. Together with Andreas Langenohl she published the article: “Literature and Sociology as Genres of Reflection on Monetary Knowledge”, in: Magerski/ Steuerwald (eds.) *“The Three Cultures reloaded”. New Perspectives on a Classic of Literary Sociology*, Wiesbaden, Springer, 2024, 151–170).

**Claudia Hattendorff** has been Professor of Art History at JLU since 2008, specialising in 19th-century visual culture, political image discourses and the history of European painting from the 18th to the 20th century. Current research project on realisms in images of contemporary history in France around 1800.

**Elisabeth Herrmann** is Co-Head of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures and Professor of German Studies at the University of Warwick. Her areas of specialization are German and Scandinavian literature and culture from the 18th to 21st centuries. She completed her PhD on Goethe’s *Wahlverwandtschaften* [*Elective Affinities*] and later focused on literary and cultural border-crossing. After holding positions at the Albert-Ludwigs University Freiburg in Germany, the University of Alberta in Canada and Stockholm University in Sweden, she joined the University of Warwick in 2018 as Chair of German Studies. Her research is distinguished by its transnational and interdisciplinary approach. Her expertise spans 18th to 21st century comparative literatures and cultures. She has widely published on cultural identities and collective memories, transnationalism, cosmopolitanism, regional and world literatures, and literature of crises. She currently works on the concept of social energy and how literature and cultural representations impact social imaginaries and our notions of the

present time and future. Professor Herrmann is a member of the Alexander von Humboldt community and a German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) alumna. She is the Warwick co-ordinator of the international postgraduate program The European PhDnet: Literary and Cultural Studies. She is an editorial board member of Stockholm German and Dutch Studies, Stockholm University Press and has served as a member of the advisory board for the development of the Berlin research strategy.

**Katharina Hoppe** is a research associate at the Institute of Sociology at Goethe University Frankfurt. Her teaching and research focus on general sociology and sociological theory, gender studies and feminist theory, as well as the sociology of nature relations and the sciences. She recently completed her habilitation at the University of Hamburg and is now working on the book "Sociology of Dependency". Recent publications include „Das ‚Prinzip Antworten‘: Eine post-apokalyptische Theorie der Verantwortung für das Anthropozän“ in *Berliner Journal für Soziologie* and the article „Ecodependence: The intrinsic connection between living and killing“ in *Theory, Culture & Society*.

**Carolín Jesussek** is a postdoctoral researcher in American studies and coordinator of the International PhD Program "Literary and Cultural Studies" (IPP) at Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany. Her research interests include American Gothic studies, contemporary literature, marginalization, space, environmental humanities, and metamorphosis. She completed her PhD at the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, Department of English and Linguistics, at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in 2025. In her dissertation, "Gothic Materialism: Space, Ecosystems, and Marginalization in Contemporary North American Literature," she examined the material and spatial dimensions of discrimination, exclusion, and inclusion. She is currently co-editing the collection *Metamorphosis in the 21st Century: Feminist, Queer, and Ecocritical Perspectives* (forthcoming with Peter Lang) and has published on intertextual storytelling in MDPI

Literature and on Shirley Jackson's literary legacy in *Monstrum*. Her chapter "Archive of the Unspeakable: Unsilencing Violence in Carmen Maria Machado's *In the Dream House* (2019)" appears in the edited collection *Rethinking Gothic Transgressions of Gender and Sexuality: New Directions in Gothic Studies* (2024).

**Jens Kugele** is Head of Research Coordination at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) at Justus Liebig University Giessen. He is one of the research centre's Principal Investigators and has been a member of the centre's Executive Board since 2014. Previously, he held appointments as Visiting Researcher and Assistant Professor at the LMU Munich and the Institute for German Cultural Studies at Cornell University. He obtained his PhD from Georgetown University, Washington DC, in German literary and culture studies. His research interests include intersections of the literary and cultural history with the history of religion; German-Jewish literature and culture; constructions of belonging, memory, and space. Recent publications include the volume *Bouncing Forward: Future Narratives, Scenarios, and Transformations in the Study of Culture* (De Gruyter, 2026, co-edited with Michael Basseler and Jan Rupp); the special issue *Conceptualizing Sacred Spaces* (*Saeculum*, 2022, co-edited with Doris Bachmann-Medick and Katharina Stornig); the volume *Migration: Changing Concepts, Critical Approaches* (De Gruyter, 2018, co-edited with Doris Bachmann-Medick). He is co-founder and editorial team member of the peer-reviewed interdisciplinary open access journal *On\_Culture* (<https://www.on-culture.org/>).

**Andreas Langenohl** is Professor of Sociology and acting director of the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC), Justus Liebig University Giessen. He also holds a position as professor extra-ordinary of Political Studies at North-West University, South Africa. Andreas Langenohl held research fellowships at Cornell, Konstanz, Freiburg, and Durham universities. His fields of research and teaching include social and cultural theory, research on political public communication, the sociology of finance,

security studies, and the epistemology of the social sciences. Recent publications include “Infrastructures and capitalist world ordering” (*International Political Sociology* 19:3, 2025, with Jutta Bakonyi, Eugenia Giraudo and Shrey Kapoor), “When transactions turn awry: Infrastructural ambivalence in financial security” (*Finance & Society* 10:1, 2024), and “From post-war reconciliation to European integration? Competing historicities of ‘exchange’ in European small-town twinning” (*Urban History* 51, 2024). He is currently writing a book for Palgrave Macmillan entitled *A Critique of Infrastructural Reason*.

**Caroline Levine** is David and Kathleen Ryan Professor of the Humanities at Cornell University and author of four books: *The Activist Humanist: Form and Method in the Climate Crisis* (2023); *Forms: Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network* (2015); *Provoking Democracy: Why We Need the Arts* (2007); and *The Serious Pleasures of Suspense: Victorian Literature and Narrative Doubt* (2003). She was part of the team that pushed the Cornell Trustees to divest the endowment of fossil fuels in 2020 and is a member of coordinating committee of TIAA-Divest.

**Angela Locatelli** is Distinguished Professor, Emerita at the University of Bergamo, Italy, and Former Full Professor of English Literature at the University of Bergamo, Director of the “Department of Languages and Comparative Literatures” (1999–2006), and Director of the PhD Program in “Euro-American Literatures” (2009–2018). She has been Visiting Professor at: The University of Pennsylvania in the English Department and Adjunct Faculty in the Religious Studies Department, Visiting Professor at Nihon University Tokyo (2004), and The Catholic University UCP of Lisbon (2018). She is one of the founders of the PhD Network in “Literary and Cultural Studies, established in 2009 by JLU Giessen with the Universities of Helsinki, Stockholm, Bergamo, UCP Lisbon. Angela Locatelli is also “Distinguished Researcher” at the International Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) at Justus Liebig University Giessen. Her main are literary and cultural theory, the intersections of philosophy and literature, the cultural,

cognitive and ethical meanings of literature, and literary translation. Angela Locatelli has edited ten volumes on literary epistemology (*The Knowledge of Literature / La conoscenza della Letteratura*, 2002-2011). She has written extensively on Shakespeare and Early-modern Culture and Literature (3 books and over 50 articles) and has also published the first modern edition (with an Italian translation) of Henry Peacham's *A Merry Discourse of Meum and Tuum* (1639) (*Il Doppio e il Picaresco*, Milano, Jaca Book, 1998). Moreover, her publications include a book on the "stream of consciousness" novel, one on Harold Pinter's early plays, and several articles on Modernist and Postmodern fiction, and cultural theory. She has published in Italy, England, Germany, France, Finland, Romania, Sweden, the USA, and Japan.

**Greta Olson** is Director of the Center for Diversity, Media, and Law (DiML) and Professor of American and British Literature and Cultural Studies at the University of Giessen, Germany. She is Principal Investigator of a project on images of migration and human rights in the interdisciplinary research group "Human Rights Discourse in Migration Societies" (MeDiMi). Greta was Fellow at the Käte Hamburger Center for Advanced Study in the Humanities "Law as Culture" in Bonn (2014, 2016), served as general editor of the *European Journal of English Studies* (EJES) from 2010 until 2025, and is, with Jeanne Gaakeer, the co-founder of the European Network for Law and Literature.

**Stefan Peters**, Professor for International Relations and Peace Studies at the Justus Liebig University Giessen, Academic Director of the Instituto Colombo-Alemán para la Paz (CAPAZ), PI in the Research Project: Transformation of Political Violence (TraCe). Stefan holds a PhD in Political Science from Kassel University and an MA in Political Science from Philipps-Universität Marburg. He was a visiting scholar/professor at different universities in Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Puerto Rico and South Africa. His academic work focuses on Peacebuilding, Natural Resources and Development, Education, Social Inequalities, Memory and Transitional Justice.

**Ciraj Rassool** is Senior Professor in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, and director of the African Programme in Museum and Heritage Studies. He has published widely on changing old museums and making new museums, race in museums, restitution, love and revolution, and the politics of nonracialism. He served on the boards of the District Six Museum and Iziko Museums of South Africa (and also served as Chairperson for a term of both), and is a member of the South African National Advisory Board for Restitution and Repatriation. He was also chaired the scientific committee of the International Council of African Museums, and served on the Advisory Board of the Von Luschan Human Remains Collection in Berlin. He was a principal investigator on the international research projects, Action for Restitution to Africa, and Reconnecting 'Objects': Epistemic Plurality and Transformative Practices in and beyond Museums, and a Critical Friend of Pressing Matter, a Dutch museum transformation project. He is a co-investigator of the Canadian-based international project, Thinking Through the Museum. He has held visiting fellowships at the Emory University, the University of Minnesota and the University of Cologne, and was recently an international professor at the University of Cologne.

**Reeqqa Salem** (she/her) is a Ph.D. candidate at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Cultural at Justus Liebig University Giessen, where she has been co-speaker for the research area "Cultures of Knowledge, Research, and Education" and currently leads the "Skill-Swap" workshop series. Her work focuses on self-established refugee communities and lies at the intersection of human mobility and political economy. As an active member of the "Reading Palestine" book club, she also explores stickers as a means of socio-political engagement. Reeqqa holds an MA in International Relations from the Budapest Business School and a Bachelor of Arts in Translation and Interpreting from the German-Jordanian University. When she is distracted from work, she volunteers at the Refugee Law Clinic at JLU and enjoys discussing Fanon, literature, and anime over large cups of coffee.

**Peter Sands** is Director of the Honors College at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Associate Professor of English. He holds a PhD from Binghamton University and a JD from University of Wisconsin. He is a past president of the Society for Utopian Studies and of the Milwaukee chapter of Slow Food USA. He primarily works on utopias and utopianism, Slow movements, science fiction, and nineteenth-century American literature, and is particularly interested in nexus between utopian literature, utopian praxis, slow pedagogies, and the essay.

**Alma Simba** is a historian, poet and sound-practitioner from Dar es Salaam Tanzania who deals with themes of museums, heritage, violence and gender. She was a masters student on the Collaborative Provenance Research project between the Ethnological Museum Berlin, National Museum of Tanzania and House of Culture, Humboldt University and University of Dar es Salaam where she looked at museum collections and heritage of local rulers or chiefs in Northwest Tanzania. In 2022, she was a Sensitive Provenances Fellow at the University of Göttingen where she engaged with collections containing human remains from Tanzania and other colonial contexts. Her fellowship in Göttingen saw her using poetry, sound and her research sensibilities to address this heavy history. Alma is currently doing her PhD at the International Graduate Center for the Study of Culture (GCSC) where she is analyzing pre-colonial and colonial conceptualizations of the body of chiefs in 19th and 20th century Tanganyika. Alma actively works on questions of restitution, grief, injustice and black feminist methodologies using both artistic and academic media. She has conducted research stays and held poetic readings at the Museum Für Kontinente in Munich and at the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt. She was also the 2025 Research-Based Artist for TU Berlin's Global Centre for Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability, 2024 poet in residence for the anthropology magazine, SAPIENS, a 2023 Digital Fellow of Open Resitution Africa and remains engaged with the department of History at the University of Dar es Salaam.

**Katharina Stornig** is Professor of Modern History – Women’s and Gender History from the 18th century onwards at the Department of History at the University of Vienna. She holds a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence (2010) and completed her Habilitation at Justus Liebig University Giessen in 2022, where she was a Junior Professor of Cultural History at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) from 2016 to 2023. Her research interests include women’s and gender history, the history of education and labour mobility, colonialism and decolonization, mission history and the history of welfare and humanitarianism. Among her recent publications are: “Belief and Religion: European and North American Christianity and Global Missionary Expansionism,” in: Lorinda Cramer and Jessica Lake (eds.), *A Cultural History of Gender, 1750–1950*, pp. 131–150; with Esther Möller, “(Un)Settling Intimacies. Boundaries of Aid in a North African Refugee Camp, 1944–1946,” in: Marie-Lucie Desgrandchamps et al. (eds.), *Medical Care, Humanitarianism and Intimacy in the Long Second World War, 1931–1953*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2025, 109–130; *Spenden, Retten, Helfen. Das ‚ferne Kind‘ und die Transnationalisierung der Wohltätigkeit, 1830–1930*, Göttingen 2024.

**Frederik Van Dam** is Assistant Professor of European Literature at Radboud University (Nijmegen, the Netherlands). His recent scholarship focuses on diplomatic uses of literature, with particular attention to Victorian poetry and Central European modernism. He chairs the European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres and he is one of the editors of the *European Journal of English Studies*. His publications include *Anthony Trollope’s Late Style: Victorian Liberalism and Literary Form* (2016), *The Edinburgh Companion to Anthony Trollope* (2019), and the handbook *Research Methods in Literary Reception Studies* (2026). In 2015, he created *The Pleasure of that Obstinacy*, a documentary about the place of Trollope in the scholarship of J. Hillis Miller.