

Preliminary Programme

# Reading between Ruptures: Literature and Reading Cultures in the 21st Century | Zwischen Zäsuren lesen: Literatur und Lesekulturen im 21. Jahrhundert

December 3-4, 2025, University of Giessen

Location: International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC)  
Otto-Behaghel-Straße 12, 35394 Giessen (Germany)

## Wednesday, 3 December

10.00 Reception/Coffee

### **10.30 Opening**

Kirsten von Hagen, Elena Hamidy, Marie-Theres Stickel (Giessen)

– Chair: Kirsten von Hagen

### **10.45 Annette Simonis** (Giessen)

*Transmedial reading cultures – Reflections on reading practices and delightful reading in the context of contemporary media evolution*

11:30 Coffee Break

– Chair: Marie-Theres Stickel

### **11:45 Kirsten von Hagen** (Giessen)

*Attention in the Age of Media Competition – Rereading Proust with Clara*

### **12:30 Charles Garatynski** (French writer/ independent scholar) (Online)

*Reading Against the Reader: Witold Gombrowicz and the Performative Breakdown of Literary Expectations*

13:15 Lunch Break

– Chair: Kirsten von Hagen

### **14:15 ‘Reading Post-Postmodernist Fictions of the Digital: Narrative, Technology, and Cognition in the 21st Century’**

**Jan Alber** (Giessen) / **Alice Bell** (Sheffield)

*Multimodality and Transmediality in Post-Postmodernist Fictions*

**Denise Wong** (Giessen)

*An Experimental Study of Post-Postmodernist Fictions of the Digital*

**Nadia Georgiou** (Sheffield)

*Insights from Reader Reviews and Reading Group Discussions of Post-Postmodernist Fictions of the Digital*

15:45 Coffee Break

– Chair: Elena Hamidy

### **16:00 Lukas Kosch** (Wien) (in German / auf Deutsch)

*Medialität, Digitalität und Literarizität: Literarisches Lesen als Praktik und Prozess [Mediality, Digitality, and Literariness: Literary Reading as Practice and Process]*

### **16:45 Alexandra Pontzen** (Duisburg-Essen) (in German / auf Deutsch)

*Lesen und Werten als soziale Praxis in (akademischer) Lehre und Literaturbetrieb [Reading, Evaluation and Valorization as Social Practices in (Academic) Teaching and the Literary World]*

17.30 Coffee Break

**18:00 Podiumsdiskussion** (in German / auf Deutsch)

*“Weiter-Lesen: Welche Ressourcen braucht eine Zukunft des Lesens?“*

**Isabella Caldart** (Literaturvermittlerin | Journalistin)

**Cosima Schneider** (Buchherstellung | Diplom-Designerin)

**Anja Golebiowski** (Referentin | Universitätsbibliothek Giessen)

Moderation: **Kirsten von Hagen** (JLU Giessen)

Dinner (*self-pay*)

### **Thursday, 4 December**

9.00 Reception/Coffee

– Chair: Dirk Uffelmann

**9.30 Keynote Lecture**

**Ilya Kukulín** (Stanford)

*Making Meaning from Extreme Experiences: New Reading Practices and Their Mediatization in Russophone Communities, 2022–2025*

10:30 Coffee Break

– Chair: Dirk Uffelmann

**10:45 Birgitte Beck Pristed / Nadiia Pavlyk** (Aarhus)

*Reading (with) the Readers: Research Ethics and Informed Consent in a Shared Reading Project for War-Affected Youth in Ukraine*

**11:30 Elena Hamidy** (Giessen)

*Digital Literary Battlegrounds: Russian-Ukrainian Communities Clash Over the Dar 2025 Award on Facebook*

12:15 Lunch Break

– Chair: Elena Hamidy

**13:15 Gerhard Lauer (Mainz)**

*A Gentle Madness. The Social Role of the Young Female Reader*

**14:00 Xiaofei Tu (Boone, North Carolina)**

*Gender, Genre, and the Global: Transcultural Reading Practices in Chinese Baihe (Girls' Love) Fandoms*

14:45 Coffee Break

– Chair: Oleksandr Chertenko

**15:00 Barbara Bausch** (Berlin)

*Plenitude and sustenance. Reparative reading practices of the present (Zambreno, Nelson, Geißler)*

**15:45 Marie-Theres Stickel** (Giessen)

*A 'Reparative Rupture' in 21st-Century Literary Reading Cultures: Martina Hefter's Novel Hey guten Morgen, wie geht es dir? and its Book Prize*

**16.30 Closing Session**

17.00 Farewell and Bon voyage!