

# Literary Value

## Artistic, Academic and Critical Practices

Annual Conference  
3–5 July  
2024

**TEMPORAL COMMUNITIES**  
DOING LITERATURE IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

The Annual Conference 2024 of the Cluster of Excellence »Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective« investigates practices, contexts and agents of literary evaluation. The assignment of value to texts and artworks within the cultural sphere, the academic world and on the global market is deeply entangled with the dynamics of power and gatekeeping, inclusion and exclusion. As such, notions about literature and literary value are subject to continuous, explicit or implicit negotiation, challenge and subversion. The three conference sections »Artistic Practices«, »Academic Practices« and »Critical Practices« aim to develop a praxeological perspective on the various ways in which literary value is produced and questioned within the respective fields.

With Yvonne Albers Arabic Studies | EXC Temporal Communities Maryam Aras Journalist · Writer Dustin Breitenwischer American Studies | Universität Hamburg Sophia Brown Arabic Studies | Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung Elke Buhr Journalist · Editor | Monopol. Magazin für Kunst und Leben continent. Experimental Publishing Collective Gregor Dotzauer Literary critic · Writer | Tagesspiegel Sabine Erbrich Editor | Suhrkamp Verlag Frank Fischer Digital Humanities | EXC Temporal Communities Emma Gallon Publisher | University of London Press Eva Geulen Literary Studies · European Culture and the History of Knowledge | Humboldt-Universität Berlin · Director | Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Dominique Haensell Writer · Translator · Co-editor | Missy Magazine Rebecca Hardie Managing Editor | Living Handbook of Temporal Communities Lea Hopp Artist Christian Junge Modern Arabic Literature | Universität Marburg Alevtina Kakhidze Artist Georg Kasch Journalist · Theatre critic Ekkehard Knörer Critic · Co-editor | Cargo | Merkur

Caroline Kögler Global Literature and its Media | EXC Temporal Communities Madhu Krishnan African, World and Comparative Literatures | University of Bristol Nadja Küchenmeister Poet · Writer Lianna Mark English and American Studies | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München Chris Möller Curator · Director | KASCH Label für Literaturvermittlung · Editor | &SHY magazine Joseph North English Studies | Columbia University Christopher Ohge Digital Approaches to Literature | University of London Lily Robert-Foley Writer · Translator · English Studies | Université de Montpellier Lea Schneider Poet · Translator · Writer Girish Shambu Film critic · Educator Bart Soethaert Greek Literature and Digital Humanities | EXC Temporal Communities Susanne Stratling Comparative Literature and Slavic Literatures | EXC Temporal Communities Ana Teixeira Pinto Writer · Theory and Practice of Contemporary Art | Hochschule für Bildende Künste Braunschweig Jasmin Wrobel Latin American Studies | Ruhr-Universität Bochum

### Concept and Organisation

Florian Fuchs (Princeton University), Michael Gamper, Till Kadritzke, Alexandra Ksenofontova, Anna Luhn, Jutta Müller-Tamm (EXC Temporal Communities, Research Area 4)



### Location

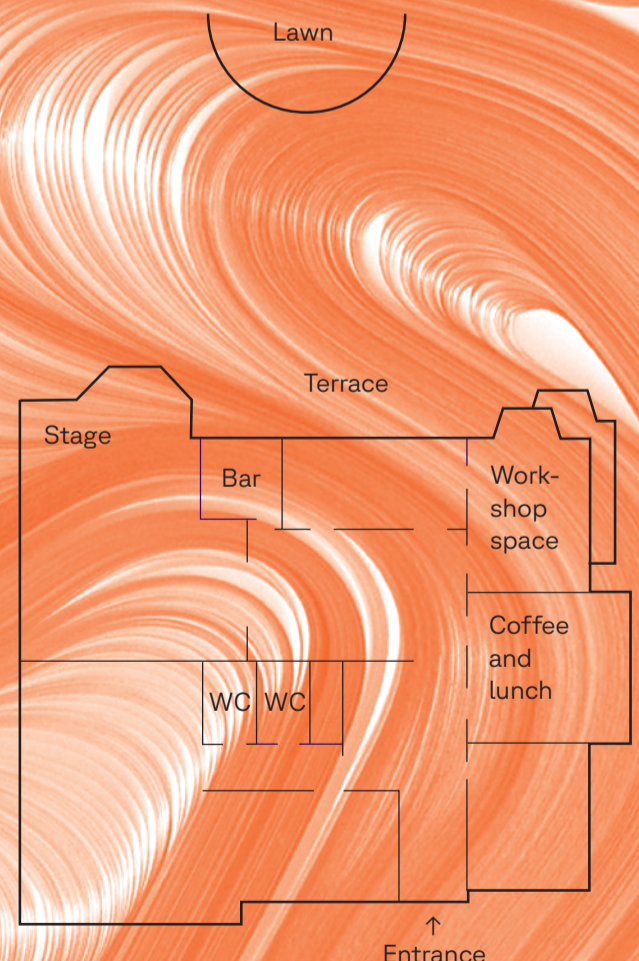
Literarisches Colloquium Berlin  
Am Sandwerder 5, 14109 Berlin

### How to get there

The LCB is approximately 5 minutes walking distance from the S-Bahn station Wannsee (S1, S7). When leaving the station, keep right and follow the sign reading »Schiffsanlegestelle« to the Kronprinzessinnenweg / Am Sandwerder junction. After crossing the street, the LCB will be on your left.

The venue is barrier-free.

Wannsee



Funded by  
**DFG** Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft  
German Research Foundation

**FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN**

**LITERARISCHES COLLOQUIUM BERLIN LCB**

## Wednesday July 3

2:15 PM Arrival and coffee

2:30–3:00 PM

### WELCOME

Anne Eusterschulte and  
Andrew James Johnston

Literary Value: An Introduction

Florian Fuchs, Michael Gamper, Till Kadritzke,  
Alexandra Ksenofontova, Anna Luhn  
and Jutta Müller-Tamm

3:00–4:30 PM

### CONVERSATIONS

Valuation in Literary Infrastructures

Writing and Publishing Postcolonial Literatures:  
Marginalised Aesthetics?

Caroline Kögler and Madhu Krishnan

Nothing but Trouble? Gender in Literary  
Production and Publishing

Sabine Erbrich and Chris Möller

4:30–5:00 PM Break

5:00–6:00 PM

ROUNDTABLE AND AUDIENCE DISCUSSION  
Diversity and Literary Infrastructures:  
New Voices, New Values?

Sabine Erbrich, Lea Hopp, Caroline Kögler,  
Madhu Krishnan and Chris Möller

Chair: Alexandra Ksenofontova

7:00 PM Conference dinner

## Friday July 5

10:15–11:45 AM

### PANEL

New Practices of Literary Reception

The Value(s) of Cultural Practice: Performing  
Social Mobility in London and Berlin

Lianna Mark

Literary Value and the Question of Palestine:  
A Case Study of Raja Shehadeh's Life Writing

Sophia Brown

Affect as Aesthetic Judgement:

Arabic Literature, Social Media and Vernacular  
Criticism

Christian Junge

Chair: Barbara Bausch

11:45 AM–12:00 PM Break

## Thursday July 4

10:15–11:45 AM

### KEYNOTE

What's the Deal with Languages? Language Learning  
and Experimental Translation in the AI Era

Lily Robert-Foley

Chair: Anna Luhn

11:45 AM–12:00 PM Break

12:00–1:30 PM

### ARTIST INTERVENTION

Topical Topoi: A Raw Material Picnic  
continent.

### DIGITAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOP

Measuring Public Engagement and the Valuation  
of Literature on Wikipedia

Frank Fischer and Bart Soethaert

1:30–2:30 PM Lunch Break

2:30–4:00 PM

### KEYNOTE

Does Close Reading Have a Politics?  
Joseph North

Chair: Eva Geulen

4:00–4:30 PM Break

4:30–6:30 PM

### PANEL DISCUSSION

The Circulation of »Close Reading« – Worldwide?  
Yvonne Albers, Dustin Breitenwischer,  
Florian Fuchs and Jasmin Wrobel

6:30–6:45 PM Break

12:00–13:30 PM

### DIGITAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOP

The Visible Editor: Valuing Literature  
through Editorial Practices in Open and  
Digital Publishing

Rebecca Hardie, Christopher Ohge  
and Emma Gallon

### ROUNDTABLE (in German)

Praktiken der Kritik – Ein Werkstattgespräch  
Elke Buhr, Gregor Dotzauer, Georg Kasch,  
Ekkehard Knörer and Lea Schneider

Chair: Nadja Küchenmeister

1:30–2:30 PM Lunch break

2:30–4:00

### ROUNDTABLE

Whose Values, Which Politics? Defaults  
and Exclusions in the Public Reception  
of Literature

Maryam Aras, Dominique Haensell,  
Girish Shambu and Ana Teixeira Pinto

Chair: Till Kadritzke

6:45–7:30 PM

### ARTIST INTERVENTION

All Good? (Based on Real Events)  
Alevtina Kakhidze

Chair: Susanne Strätling

7:30 PM Reception

## Section I Artistic Practices

This section explores valuation practices that emerge from within the processes of artistic production and distribution, focusing specifically on literary infrastructures. It examines how systems of funding and publishing, including creative writing programmes, as well as the practice and theory of literary translation construct certain ideas of literary value and literariness. At the same time, artist interventions inquire into the production and negotiation of value in practice-based and performative ways. The section sets a special focus on the distribution of power in practices of valuation and the resulting power relations within literary infrastructures.

## Section II Academic Practices

Perhaps the most crucial underlying practice by which literary scholarship values and evaluates texts is »close reading«. Surprisingly, this value practice has been little theorised and remains a fetishised concept in scholarship, criticism and beyond, often echoing its alleged peak in New Criticism. The panels of this section thus look at how this hermeneutic and didactic technique has spread to almost all humanities disciplines in the 20th century. They will develop a value-praxeological understanding of close reading and discuss its ideological and transdisciplinary transformations, especially regarding the global circulation of this practice. As a practical pendant, two Digital Humanities Workshops on metrics research and on digital editing will investigate value praxeologies via a hands-on process.

## Section III Critical Practices

Taking the hypothesis that practices of public reception such as reviewing are grounded in specific notions of literature, authorship and aesthetic value, this section focuses on two key developments: the latest change in practices of reception and their relation to economic relations of power, and conflicts of valuation as they emerge from the (in)transparent criteria of valuation practices and the (im)possibility to differentiate between aesthetic and political value judgments in public reception. Both focal points consider developments of the last few decades but understand them as inspirations for discussing the history of practices of the public reception of literature in general.