

**READING IN THE AGE OF TRUMP
THE POLITICS AND POSSIBILITY
OF LITERARY CRITICISM NOW**

MAY 15-18, 2019

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Public Event

“What to Read in the Age of Trump,” Literaturhaus Villa Clementine Wiesbaden
Nicholas Brown, Caren Irr, Madhu Krishnan, Mathias Nilges

8:45 p.m.

Joint Dinner (Andechser, Wiesbaden)

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Tim Lanzendörfer (U Mainz) and Mathias Nilges (St. Francis Xavier U)

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Panel 1: Reading, Critique, and Society

- Johannes Voelz (U Frankfurt): “Polarization and Critique”
- Günter Leypoldt (U Heidelberg): “Populism and the Moral Economies of Reading”
- Merve Emre (Oxford U): “Toward a Sociology of Not Reading”

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Panel 2: Fiction and the Critic Now

- Timothy Bewes (Brown U): “What Does It Mean to Write Fiction? What Does Fiction Refer To?”
- Matthew Hart (Columbia U): “Contemporary Literature and the Incompetent Critic”
- Josh Toth (MacEwan U): “The Notion of Criticism at the Present Time”

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Panel 3: Commitment, Ethics, Politics

- Clemens Spahr (U Mainz): “Literature and Commitment in the Age of Trump”
- Mitchum Huehls (UCLA): “An Irrational Leftism?”
- Sascha Seiler (U Mainz): “Literary Criticism in the Age of ‘Fake News’”

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Coffee Break

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Keynote 1

Caren Irr (Brandeis U): “Phronesis, or the Aims of Political Critique in the Environmental Humanities”

7:00 p.m.

Joint Dinner (Haus des deutschen Weines, Mainz)

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Panel 4: Critique, Aesthetics, and Politics

- Emilio Sauri (U Mass. Boston): “Postcritical Critical Acts”
- Matthew Mullins (Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary): “The Politics of Postcritique”
- Rachel Greenwald Smith (St. Louis U): “Compromise Aesthetics”

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Panel 5: Theory and Politics I

- Carolyn Lesjak (Simon Fraser U): “The Perils of the Present, Theory, and the University”
- Philip Wegner (U Florida): “Reading Theory and Utopia in Dark Times”

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Panel 6: Theory and Politics II

- Nicholas Brown (U Illinois Chicago): “Mimesis and the Politics of Representation”
- Susan Hegeman (U Florida): “21st Century Criticism and the Problem of Class”
- Madhu Krishnan (U Bristol): “Locating African Literature in the Neoliberal Contemporary: Affect, Ethics, and Entrepreneurship”

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Coffee Break

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Keynote 2

Ellen Rooney (Brown U): “The Contingency of Critique: Spoken and Unspoken”

7:00 p.m.

Joint Dinner (Heiliggeist)

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Panel 7: The Flipped Panel—Students Keeping Us on Our Toes

- Jennifer Aftanas (St. Francis Xavier U)
- Laura Blinn (St. Francis Xavier U)
- Emma Hofland-Burry (St. Francis Xavier U)
- Jessica Morrison (St. Francis Xavier U)
- Erin Rieser (Freie U Berlin)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

“Keywords” Video Project

12:15 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Concluding Remarks

Tim Lanzendörfer (U Mainz) and Mathias Nilges (St. Francis Xavier U)

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch Break

6:00 p.m.

Public Event: “What to Read in the Age of Trump,” Hessisches Literaturforum, Frankfurt

8:00 p.m.

Joint Dinner (Mosebach, Frankfurt)