

Organisers & Contact Information

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Participation is free but we kindly ask you to register with us prior to the event at **rbloch@uni-koblenz.de** or **dlehmler@uni-koblenz.de**

The keynotes and conference panels address the topic of the body and corporeality in travel writing, focusing on texts that are based on actual journeys and therefore feature an inscribed habitus of experience and 'authenticity'. Travel texts use different representational strategies to convey (more or less) prefigured bodily experiences and states of mind that refer to the corresponding perceptions of travelers. Both the physicality and corporeality of the travel writer and the travelees are observed, narrated, and reflected on. Of course, the embodied experiences depicted in the texts should not be understood as 'authentic' experiences of the empirical travelers. Rather, the object of research is the textual staging of bodily and corporeal perceptions and experiences of media figures (the 'I' in the text; travel writer). These perceptions and experiences are also reconfigured in relation to traditional genre conventions and traditions of representation (including their disruption), intertextual references, linguistic forms of aestheticization, etc.

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International Conference & Opening of the

Koblenzer Forschungsstelle Körper • Reise • Literatur
Koblenzer Research Unit Body • Travel • Literature

Exploring Bodies and Corporeality in Travel Writing

University of Koblenz, D 239

November 25-26, 2025

Organizers: Nicole Maruo-Schröder & Uta Schaffers

Program

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Day 1: **Opening of the Research Unit**

1.30 pm

Registration open

2.30 pm

Musical Intermezzo

Annika Becker & Jakub Lojek (UniMus) – “Road of No Return” (based on “Winterreise” by Franz Schubert & Lia Pale)

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Nicole Maruo-Schröder & Uta Schaffers

Welcoming Notes

Vice-President Research and Transfer of the University of Koblenz: Claudia Quaizer-Pohl
Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Stefan Neuhaus

3.15 pm

Opening Keynote – Extending Encounters

Tim Youngs (em. Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom)
Introduction: Zoë Kinsley

Musical Intermezzo

Annika Becker & Jakub Lojek (UniMus) – “Voyager” (by Birdy)

4.00 pm

Presentation – Smoking Guns of a Gendered Biker

Trui Hanoulle (Belgium)
Introduction: Andreas Niehaus

4.30 pm

Opening of the Exhibition “Trailblazers. Women and Their Vehicles”

Featuring photographs by Trui Hanoulle

Reception

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Day 2: **Workshops & Presentations**

9.00 am

Keynote – Writing Travelling Bodies: a Corporeal Turn?

Charles Forsdick (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom)
Introduction: Alison Martin

9.45 am

Panel 1 (3 papers à 20 min., Chair: Sofie Decock)

Devi Perakathu Jeevan (University of Hyderabad, India)
Traveling Bodies, Contested Spaces: Embodied Experiences in Mid-Twentieth Century Travelogues by Malayali Women

Nadia Butt (University of Frankfurt, Germany)
The Subaltern in Motion: Investigating the Female Body in William Dalrymple's Nine Lives: In Search of the Sacred in Modern India (2009)

Paul Raj (Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India)
Queer Mobilities and the Raced, Gendered Body: Reframing Corporeal Narratives in Contemporary Travel Writing

11.15 am

Coffee break

11.45 am

Panel 2 (3 papers à 20 min., Chair: Kira Schmidt)

Florian Deroo (Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium)
Direct Contact: Sensory Immediacy in Interwar Travel Writing

Sunil Choudhary (Amity University Jaipur, Rajasthan)
Walking the World: Embodiment, Slowness and Vulnerability in Paul Salopek's Out of Eden Walk

Nihan Kadioglu (University of Göttingen, Germany)
Travelling Bodies in the Anthropocene: Posthuman Corporeality and the More-than-Human World

1.00 pm

Lunch break

2.15 pm

Keynote – Risking the Body in the World: Embodiment in Simone de Beauvoir's American Travels
Babs Boter (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands)
Introduction: Dúnlaith Bird

3.00 pm

Panel 3 (2 papers à 20 min., Chair: Björn Weyand)

Jasmin Köhler (University of Jena, Germany)
Starving Cook. Hunger, Malnutrition, Sickness, and Disgust Aboard the “Resolution”

Christian Wilken (University of Düsseldorf, Germany)
From Steam to Spirit. Dickens and the Corporeal Ethics of Travel Writing

4.00 pm

Coffee break

4.15 pm

Panel 4 (2 papers à 20 min., Chair: Rebecca Lauren Bruce)

Ingrid García Wistädt & Mireia Vives (University of València, Spain)
Female Gazes and Corporeal Constructions of the ‘Other’ in Nineteenth-Century German Travel Writing on Spain

Stefano Romagnoli (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)
Ailing Body, Unfamiliar Bodies: Ariyoshi Sawako in New Guinea

5.15 pm

Coffee break

5.30 pm

Panel 5 (2 papers à 20 min., Chair: Stefan Hermes)

Maren Eckart (Dalarna University, Falun, Sweden)
The (Dis-)Able Body as a Site of Experiencing Pilgrimage

Christina Kraenzle (York University, Toronto, Canada)
Drawing the Traveling Body: Embodied Perception, Vulnerable Bodies and the Graphic Travelogue

6.30 pm

Closing of the Conference

7.30 pm

Conference dinner

(self-paid, pre-registration); *Saphir* in Koblenz (www.saphirkoblenz.de/)