



Conference “The Failure of Knowledge – Knowledges of Failure” (Tentative Program)

Location: *Fuchs-Petrolub-Festsaal, O 138*

THURSDAY, MAY 4

12.00-12.30 pm Conference Opening: Katharina Motyl (University of Mannheim) and Regina Schober (University of Düsseldorf)

12:30-2:00 pm Panel I: Triangulating Mediality, Knowledge, and Failure

Chair: tba

1. Weishun Lu (University of Wisconsin at Madison), “The Poetics of Junk: An Alternative Mode of Knowing”
2. Antje Kley (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg), “Knowledge in the Face of Death – Contemporary Literary Narratives of the End of Life in the US”
3. Mark Schmitt (Technical University of Dortmund), “‘A Lyrical Failure of Philosophical Thinking’: Towards a Pessimist Epistemology”

2:00-2:30 pm Coffee Break

2:30-4:00 pm Panel II: What Gaia Knows / Failures of the Anthropocene

Chair: James Dorson (Free University of Berlin)

4. Linda M. Hess (Augsburg University), “Failing in the Know: Satire as a Lens for Anthropocentric Failures in Climate Narratives”
5. Solvejg Nitzke (Technical University of Dresden), “Failing to Care: Catastrophic Knowledge Transfers in Climate Fiction”
6. Marina Pingler (University of Tübingen), “Alternative Modes of Future-Making: The Anthropocene and Its Imaginaries”

Coffee Break / Snacks

4:30-6:00 pm Panel III: Gender, Genre, and Knowledge

Chair: Astrid Fellner (Saarland University)

7. Julia Nitz (University of Halle-Wittenberg), “Re-Imagining Black (Personal) Histories: Hazel V. Carby’s and Bernardine Evaristo’s Selfscapes”
8. Antonia Purk (University of Erfurt), “Recognitions of the Real: The Failure of Romanticism in Constance Fenimore Woolson’s ‘Castle Nowhere’”
9. Annika Thiem (University of Tübingen), “[I]magination! dreams! fancies! blind headache! nonsense!” – Epistemic Injustice und the Failure of Patriarchal Knowledge in Women’s Ghost Stories”

Break

6:30-8:00 pm Keynote I, Jack Halberstam (Columbia University), “The Failure of Community” (via Zoom)

Introduction: Katrin Horn (University of Bayreuth)

FRIDAY, MAY 5

09:00-10:30 am Panel IV: Encountering the Failures of Knowledge in the Field and in the Lab

Chair: Karin Hoepker (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg / Free University of Berlin)

10. Adriana Mica and Mikołaj Pawlak (University of Warsaw), “The Promise of Failure: Unbalanced Emancipation and Oppression in Policymaking”
11. Jennifer Roberts (University of Edinburgh), “How Failed Knowledges in the Classroom Silently Reproduce Hegemonic Power”
12. Sydney Sheedy (Concordia University, Tiohtià:ke / Montréal), “‘It mutates to survive’: How the Occult is ‘Reclaimed’ as Queer Genealogy, Method of Historical Encounter, and Divestment from Whiteness – *Risks and Tactics from anti-Racist Astrology in Montreal*”

10:30-11:00 am Coffee Break

11:00am-12:30 pm Panel V: Knowledge from Below as Democratic Panacea?

Chair: Marlon Lieber (Goethe University Frankfurt)

13. Susan J. Matt (Weber State University), "From Horatio Alger to the Ouija Board: Searching for Knowledge during the Great Depression"
14. Gereon Rahnfeld (Bauhaus University Weimar), "Democratising Expertise – How Citizen Assemblies Fail to Produce Knowledge from Below"
15. Sarah Ehlers (LMU Munich), "Criticizing the Global Pesticide Trade: Counter-Knowledge in between Academia and Environmental Activism during the 1980s"

Lunch Break

2:15-3:45 pm Panel VI: The Epistemic Functions and Malfunctions of Digital Technology (Panel will be streamed online due to a participant's inability to travel to Mannheim)

Chair: Marius Henderson (DGB Hamburg)

16. Madison Alan-Lee (Northwestern University), "Dismay and Destruction: Aesthetics of Failure in Contemporary Networked Genres"
17. Heather Woods (Kansas State University), "Optimizing Failure: What the Rise of the Smart Home Tells Us about the Future of Living in Digitality"
18. Samridhi Aggarwal (National University of Singapore / King's College London), "The Future as Failure: Representations of Alternate Technical Imaginations in Postcolonial Futuristic Fictions"

3:45-5:00 pm Break (Coffee Provided) / Poster Session by Network Members

5:00-6:30 pm Keynote II, Adrian Daub (Stanford University), "Managing Failure: Discourses around 'Political Correctness' and 'Cancel Culture' as Fables of Disinvestment" (via Zoom)

Introduction: Katharina Motyl (University of Mannheim)

Conference Dinner (Restaurant OhJulia, address: Q6 6, 68161 Mannheim)

SATURDAY, MAY 6

09:00-10:30 am Heather Houser (University of Texas/Austin), "When Climate Knowledge Becomes Atmospheric" (hybrid)

Introduction: Regina Schober (University of Düsseldorf)

10:30-10:45 am Coffee Break

10:45am-12:00pm Panel VII: Subversive Knowledges / Failure as 'Empowerment'

Chair: Juliane Gamböck-Strätz (University of Marburg)

19. Judith Schreier (Humboldt University of Berlin), “‘Everything that You Didn’t Think You Needed to Know about Fatness’: Autotheory and Knowledge in Fat Activist Life Writing”

20. Steph Berens (LMU Munich), “Transgender Literature as a Site of Alternative Knowledge Production”

12:00-12:30pm Coffee Break / Snacks

12:30-2:00pm Panel VIII: Institutional Failures and the Dissemination of Literary Knowledge

Chair: Alexander Starre (University of Duisburg-Essen / Free University of Berlin)

21. Corinna Norrick-Rühl (University of Münster), “#publishingfail. Understanding the shortcomings of ‘conglomerate literature’”

22. Miaïna Razakamanantsoa (University of Münster), “The (Re-)Production of Knowledge and its Failures in the Publishing of Translated Literature”

23. Ilka Brasch (University of Hanover), “*Modern Chivalry*, Knowledge Production, and the American Philosophical Society”

2:00-2:30pm Closing Reflections

Administrative Assistance: Anna Göbel, Diana Krieger, Hanna Lechner, Katrin Ramseier

Tech Support: Marvin Schreur