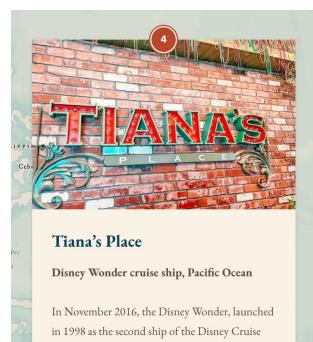
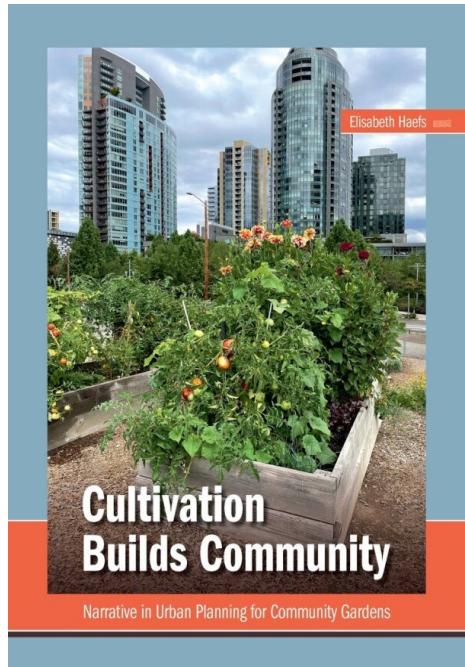




North American Studies

2024 in Review

The Department • Teaching • Research • In the News • Snapshots



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Snapshots

3, 7, 15, 22



January 3, 2024 – On the stage of the Bibliothekssaal, organizers Ana Elisa Gomez Laris and Florian Deckers pose with the participants of the “Inter-American Studies Student Conference: Arte y Literatura Transregional del Siglo XXI” (see p. 13), during which BA students presented their term paper topics in research fields such as “Borderlands, Language and Migration,” “Racism and Migration,” and “Family Dynamics.”

January 27, 2024 – During the Ruhr PhD Forum, PhD candidates in American Studies from the three universities of the Universitätsallianz Ruhr – RUB, TUD, and UDE – discuss their research with the UA Ruhr American Studies community as well as external experts. The yearly Ruhr PhD Forum constitutes one of the central elements of the collaboration between the American Studies Departments in the UA Ruhr.



Staff

Prof. Dr. Barbara Buchenau (Professor)

Monika Buchgeister-Niehaus, Mag. (Office Manager)

Juliane Borosch, M.A. (WiMi)

Dr. Florian Deckers (WiMi)

Wiebke Engel, M.A. (LfbA)

Prof. Dr. Florian Freitag (Professor)

PD Dr. Elena Furlanetto (WiMi)

Ana Elisa Gomez Laris, M.A. (WiMi)

Zohra Hassan-Pieper, M.A. (WiMi)

Christian Hunt, M.A. (LfbA)

Sophie Karkowski (Student Assistant)

Dr. Stephan Maksymiuk (Instructor)

Apl. Prof. Dr. Frank Pointner (Professor)

Francine Poschmann (Office Manager)

Nasir Steldermann (Student Assistant)

Lara Ullrich (Student Assistant)

Adam von Wald, M.A. (LfbA)

Jule Windeler (Student Assistant)

Francine Poschmann joined our team in February 2024. Francine worked for the UDE rectorate before joining the team of American Studies at UDE as Florian Freitag's office manager.

Guests



Jarred Johnson is a writer and educator from Kentucky in the United States. He graduated in spring 2024 from the U of North Carolina Wilmington with a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing and previously worked for three years at the German Center for Research and Innovation New York City. He visited the Department of American Studies at UDE under Florian Freitag's tutelage after receiving a short-term research grant from the DAAD to conduct research on memory and history in post-industrial areas for his novel *Coal X* on the future of former coal mining regions. Jarred used UDE as a base for his work and research in the Ruhr region and also gave a reading from his novel-in-progress (see p. 24).

Francesco Casalbordino, a postdoctoral researcher at the Faculty of Architecture of the U of Naples Federico II (UNINA), was at UDE from September to November 2024 as part of the Aurora mobility program. Francesco is a researcher specializing in cultural heritage, architecture, urban planning, and urban narratives. In 2022, he obtained his PhD in Architecture with a dissertation on “Images of the Terrestrial: The Project of Worldliness in the Global City.” During his stay in Essen, Francesco collaborated with the team of American Studies under the direction of Florian Freitag. His research focused on the transformation of European cities from industrial production to logistics centers.



The Department

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Guests

Courtney Hodrick is a Lecturer in Civic, Global, and Liberal Education (COLLEGE) at Stanford U. She received her BA from Yale U in 2016 and completed her PhD in German Studies at Stanford U in 2023. During the 2023-2024 academic year, Courtney held the Eli Reinhard Stanford Alumni Postdoctoral Fellowship in Jewish Studies at Stanford's Taube Center for Jewish Studies. At the invitation of Barbara Buchenau, Courtney presented at the research colloquium in literary and culture studies on "Can one work on Hannah Arendt in an American German Studies department?" In this talk, she explored the history of disciplinary boundaries from the postwar era to the present, comparing Hannah Arendt to her contemporary Theodor Adorno.



Marcus Zepf is Professor of Urban Planning and former Dean of the École d'Urbanisme de Paris at U Paris-Est Créteil (UPEC). In the summer of 2024, Marcus spent one week at UDE as the Aurora Fellow in the area of Health and Well-being. His hosts were Susanne Moebus (Institute for Urban Public Health, University Hospital Essen), Anke Hinney (Institute for Gender-Sensitive Medicine, University Hospital Essen), and Barbara Buchenau. During his time at UDE, Marcus Zepf met with Anke Hinney and Susanne Moebus to discuss future research collaborations and assess the potential for a new master's program in Urban Research. One of the highlights of his visit was the symposium "Scripting Futures for Urban Sustainability" (see p. 14).

AURORA



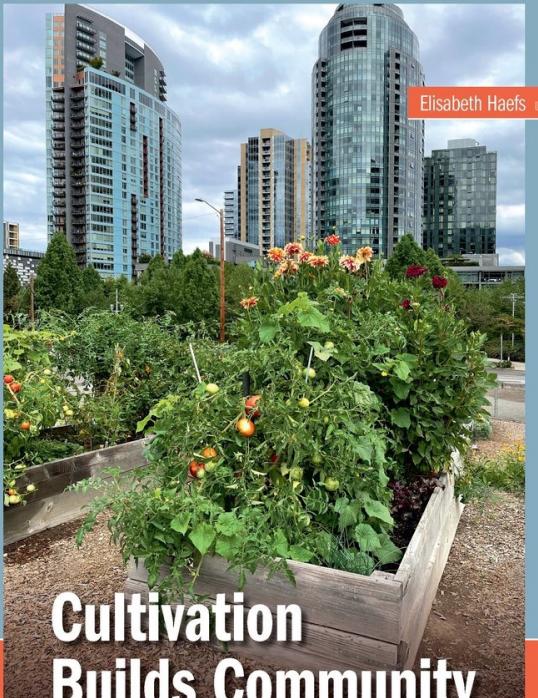
March 19, 2024 – During the Radboud University Duisburg-Essen Spring Academy (RUDESA) 2024, MA students in American Studies from UDE and Radboud U (Nijmegen, the Netherlands) visit the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek, the Netherlands. RUDESA constitutes a joint initiative of the American Studies programs at both universities to engage in transnational American studies, exchange ideas, research agendas, and establish new academic contacts.

April 25, 2024 – Members of the interdisciplinary and international research group “Multimodal Landscapes of Antiquity” take the “Essen 1887” mixed-reality guided tour. Directed by Marta García Morcillo, a fellow at the UA Ruhr College for Social Sciences and Humanities, the project explores traces of antiquity in the contemporary cityscape of Essen and also involves staff and students of the American Studies Department at UDE.



Full List of Publications

1. Borosch, Juliane. “Ruinen mit Zukunft: Detroits Wandel im Blick.” *Aus Politik und Zeitgeschichte Special Issue: Ruinen* 24 (2024). <https://www.bpb.de/shop/zeitschriften/apuz/ruinen-2024/549186/ruinen-mit-zukunft/>.
2. Buchenau, Barbara. “Founding Myths in the Americas.” *Oxford Bibliographies Online in Atlantic History*. Ed. Trevor Burnard. New York: Oxford UP, 2024. DOI: 10.1093/OBO/978019930414-0404.
3. Breinig, Helmbrecht, Barbara Buchenau, and Susanne Opfermann. “Kapitel 2: Revolutionszeit und frühe Republik.” *Amerikanische Literaturgeschichte*. Ed. Hubert Zapf and Timo Müller. Stuttgart: Metzler, 2024. 45-104. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-662-68062-9_2.
4. Buchenau, Barbara, and Ralf Scholt. “Wollen wir so leben? Das Konzept ‘Großstadt im Gebüsch.’” *Blaues Wunder* (2024). <https://plus.rtl.de/podcast/blaues-wunder-ok0oi1f4fu9yo>.
5. Freitag, Florian. “Eine amerikanische Vorstadt im Herzen Frankreichs: Suburbanität und Thematisierung als ‘travelling concepts.’” *Unikate* 61 (2024): 44–53. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-91263-5_53-1.
6. Freitag, Florian. “Intermediality in Theme Parks.” *The Palgrave Handbook of Intermediality*. Ed. Jorgen Bruhn, Asunción López-Varela Azcárate, and Miriam de Paiva Vieira. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-91263-5_53-1.
7. Freitag, Florian. “‘Oasen der Ruhe’: Religion und Kirche im Europa-Park.” *Transformatio Special Issue: Mobilität: Welt in Bewegung* 3.1 (2024): 148–62. DOI: 10.35093/tf.v3i1.1111.
8. Freitag, Florian, and Filippo Carlà-Uhink. “Antike Mythen im Themenpark.” *Mythen multimedial: Modernste Antike in der Gegenwartskultur*. Ed. Markus Janka, Raimund Fichtel, and Berkan Sariaydin. Stuttgart: J.B. Metzler, 2024. 319–36.
9. Freitag, Florian, and Birgit Mersmann. “Theming the Nation: Nationalism, Puy du Fou, and the Decolonization of Museums and Heritage Sites.” *Weltoffenheit, Toleranz und Gemeinsinn: Chancen und Herausforderungen in der Gegenwartsgesellschaft*. Ed. Anja Gampe and Seçkin Söleymez. Bielefeld: Transcript, 2024. 85–106.
10. Furlanetto, Elena. “Undomesticated: Nonhuman Animals and Queer Resistance in Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman.” *America in the 19th Century* 6, Season Eight. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/s08-e01-undomesticated-nonhuman-animals-and-queer/id1275235064?i=1000666402853>.
11. Furlanetto, Elena. “Nomadwords: Declensions of Creoleness in the Anglophone Atlantic.” *Anglistik: International Journal of English Studies* 35.1 (2024): 107–19.
12. Furlanetto, Elena. “‘Too much joy, I swear, is lost’: Ambiguity in Ocean Vuong’s *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous*.” *Mapping World Anglophone Studies*. Ed. Frank Schulze Engler and Paval Malreddy. New York: Routledge, 2024. 183–196.
13. Furlanetto, Elena. “Living Deliciously? The Borderless Horror of Female Empowerment.” *Culture Wars and Horror Movies: Gender Debates in Contemporary Cinema*. Ed. Noelia Gregorio. Cham: Palgrave McMillan, 2024. 33–54.
14. Haefs, Elisabeth. *Cultivation Builds Community: Narrative in Urban Planning for Community Gardens*. Trier: WVT, 2024.



Cultivation Builds Community

Narrative in Urban Planning for Community Gardens

This book develops methods to analyse how urban planning texts narrate urban practices. It sets out to answer why community gardening projects can become exclusive and disadvantageous to urban communities and how such processes are entwined with narrative structure. The book applies this narrative analysis to texts from the cities of Portland (OR) and Essen (Germany). *Cultivation Builds Community* therefore uses an interdisciplinary approach to urban planning texts for municipal community gardening programs, focusing on implied exclusions, inclusions, and the ubiquitous promise of community building. Through its persuasive nature and benign appearance, this promise simultaneously obscures a lack of clarity as to *how* the community can be built, and who might be excluded in the process. In consequence, plans for gardens can go unquestioned and their impacts can be left unmonitored.

Formal community gardening programs are increasingly used in municipalities' approaches to tackling social inequality as well as environmental issues. While these programmes are generally well-researched, a closer look at

how this form of planning for gardening in an “inclusive green city” works on a narrative level is overdue. This monograph is the first book-length study to address the narrative structure of community gardening texts in urban planning, and the first book to address this narrative topic in a transatlantic context, considering the respective situations of community gardening in the US and Germany.



Elisabeth Haefs
*Cultivation
Builds Community*

Elisabeth Haefs was a doctoral researcher in the *City Scripts* graduate research group. She received her BA from the U of Siegen, and an M.A. in Anglophone Studies as well as Literature and Media Practice from UDE (2018). She finished her studies with a thesis on narrativity in texts from scientific journals. Her research interests include Science and Literature, British Literature and Culture, American Studies and Urban Studies.

Barbara Buchenau

- “Flipping the Script? Storytelling and Urban Futures” (UC Santa Barbara)
- “Writing in Times of the Holocaust: Elias, Auerbach, and Cassirer” (U of Minnesota, Duluth)
- “Aurora to Go: How New Trends in the Internationalization of European Higher Education Are Changing Educational and Research Partnerships” (U of Minnesota, Duluth)
- “Jewish Intellectuals in a Postcolonial Era: Auerbach, Elias, Cassirer” (Stanford U)

Elena Furlanetto

- “Terrors of White America: Horror, Race, and Suburbia since *Get Out*” (Palacky U Olomouc)
- “How to Get Away with Race: Victor Séjour and the 1830 Louisiana Censorship Law” (Aix-Marseille U)
- “Kindness, Vulnerability, and Postheroism in Hollywood Dragon Narratives” (U Siegen)
- “The Ambiguous Century: Passing, Cross-Dressing, and Transgressing in 19th Century American Literature” (Taiwan U)
- “Misunderstandings Are Cruel Things: *The Whole Family*, An Ambiguity Reading” (U of Zagreb)

Florian Freitag

- “Immersive Spaces: The Cosmology of Disneyland’s Tomorrowland” (U Potsdam)
- “Die vielen Sprachen der Geschichte: Multimodale historische Landschaften in Themenparks” (U Heidelberg, with Filippo Carlà-Uhink)
- “Disney Cities: The Case of Val d’Europe” (Palacky U Olomouc)
- “Dreaming of Disneyland: Theme Park Paratexts and Virtual Tourism” (U Paris 1)
- “Kendom statt Kingdom: Post-feministische Männlichkeiten in *Barbie*” (U Bochum, with Änne Söll)
- “A Greener Tomorrow(land): Sustainability in Disney Theme Parks” (U Innsbruck)

Ana Elisa Gomez Laris

- “Contest(ed) Legitimacy: The Pulitzer Prize and the Immigrant American” (UA Ruhr)
- “Immigration Stories and Celebrity Book Clubs: Javier Zamora’s *Solito. A Memoir* and ‘Read with Jenna’” (UDE)
- “Policy, Poetry, and Prizes” (AURORA)

Zohra Hassan-Pieper

- “Wordless Narration in the Works of Eric Drooker” (UA Ruhr)

Third-party Funding



Research group 2600 "Ambiguität und Unterscheidung: Historisch-Kulturelle Dynamiken" (2019-2025), Project "Das ambige Jahrhundert: Gender, 'Bewegungen' und Ambiguitätsästhetik in den USA, 1800-1900" (2022-2025): Furlanetto (PI 2022-2025)



Research network "Voices and Agencies: America and the Atlantic, 1600-1865" (2021-2024): Furlanetto (co-lead)



"Just Futures: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Cultural Climate Models" (2023-2026): Gurr (researcher)



Aurora European University Alliance (2023-2027): Buchenau (applicant), Freitag (participant)



Strategic Partnership "SUBEUA: Urbanism and Suburbanization in the EU Countries and Abroad: Reflection in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts" (2022-2024): Buchenau, Furlanetto, Freitag (participants)



Interdisciplinary research group "Kulturen des Kompromisses" (2022-2024): Buchenau, Gurr (participants); Haefs (science communication)



Mercator Graduate Program "Open-Mindedness, Tolerance and Public Engagement" (2020-2024), Project "Beteiligung (er-)proben. Zu Praktiken der Teilhabe/Teilnahme in Probenprozessen partizipatorischen Kinder- und Jugendtheaters": Freitag (co-lead), Kubesch (PhD candidate)



Graduate Program "Scripts for Postindustrial Urban Futures: American Models, Transatlantic Interventions" (2018-2024): Buchenau (lead), Gurr (co-lead), Borosch, Deckers, Haefs (PhD candidates)



Established in 2015 by Danny Graydon in collaboration with Inter-disciplinary.net, The Superhero Project was the first academic conference solely dedicated to the superhero genre, initially run at Mansfield College in Oxford. The Superhero Project then became a collaboration between Graydon – an academic with the U of Hertfordshire, UK – and Dr Torsten Caeners of UDE, who was a delegate at the first edition of the conference. The project was revived in late 2019 with its third edition in Mülheim an der Ruhr in Germany.

In addition to a podcast (<https://sites.google.com/view/thesuperheroproject/podcast?authuser=0>), The Superhero Project organizes yearly global meetings on such topics as “The Fragmented Superhero” (2022), “Fifteen Years of the Marvel Cinematic Universe” (2023), or “The Technological Superhero” (2024).

Within superhero cinema, the representation of technology is a way of aligning the characters with contemporary screen action heroes (the gadget-infused James Bond) and our modern culture. The flagstone of Marvel Cinematic Universe is an explicitly technological superhero – Iron Man – and characters like Spider-Man are less defined by their physical powers than the technological

capabilities of their costume, from the familiar and plausible (drones, augmented reality) to the comparative “magic” of nanotechnology. Outside the narrative worlds, Technology has a fundamental role to play in the production of superhero spectacles. Since the renaissance of superhero cinema with 2000’s X-Men, the growth of digital-based visual effects has been a driving factor in the achievement of most, if not all, screen superhero spectacles, realising what was mostly impossible previously.



The Superhero Project has quickly distinguished itself as an invigoratingly diverse showcase of critical coverage of the superhero genre, amply demonstrating the scope of potential, thereby illuminating what is a truly vibrant area of pop culture scholarship.

Guest Lectures

Francesco Casalbordino (U of Naples): “Designing Concepts and Myths: The Role of Visual Narratives in Planning and Design Processes”

Yekaterina Fomenko: “Voice Crafting through Poetry”

Courtney Blair Hodrick (Stanford U): “Can One Work on Hannah Arendt in an American German Studies Department?”

Jarred Johnson: “Remembering Lost Legacies on Election Night: Jarred Johnson’s *The Coal Memorial*”

Carole Martin (Ludwig-Maximilians-U München): “Controversial Categories of Migratory Humanity: Disentangling Complex Vietnamese American Refugee Histories through Viet Thanh Nguyen’s Work”

Courtney Moffett-Bateau (Wayne State U): “Automobility and the Legacy of Black Music from Detroit”

Marta García Morcillo (U Newcastle): “Theming Antiquity in Latin American Magazines”

Masayoshi Yamada (UCLA): “Sounds We Saw, Visions We Heard: The History of Jazz Fandom and the Politics of Imagining the Past and Envisaging a Future through Jazz Listening”

Marcus Zepf (U Paris-Est Créteil): “Adaptable and Healthy Cities: Permanent Autopoetic Process”

Workshops

Conference “Anglophone Literary and Cultural Studies Research Day” (Buchenau, Gomez Laris)

Student Conference “Arte y Literatura Transregional del Siglo XXI” (Deckers, Gomez Laris)

Workshop “Multiple Crossings: ‘Passing’ and its Adjacent Mobilities” (Furlanetto)

Writing Workshop “Re.Wri.T@UDE” (Furlanetto, Gomez Laris)

Conference “Ruhr PhD Forum in American Studies 2024” (Gomez Laris, Hassan-Pieper)

International Symposium “Scripting Futures for Urban Sustainability” (Buchenau, Hassan-Pieper)

Student Conference “Transhistorical Print Cultures” (Borosch, Gomez Laris)

Marking the conclusion of the Volkswagen Foundation-funded “Scripts for Postindustrial Urban Futures” doctoral program and the launch of the European “Healthy Cities Initiative” under the AURORA 2030 project, this two-day educational event brought together students and experts in urban planning, public health, cultural studies, and sports sciences to explore the interconnections between health, sports, cultural dynamics, and urban design. The symposium also featured a keynote address by Marcus Zepf, a leading urban planning expert from Université Paris-Est Créteil, and the UDE Aurora Fellow for summer 2024 (see p. 6).



With contributions from 22 international scholars and a diverse range of participants, including representatives from Johns Hopkins University and regional urban planners, the event facilitated a rich exchange of strategies and

Scripting Futures for Urban Sustainability June 6-7, 2024

In his lecture on “Adaptable and Healthy Cities: Permanent Autopoietic Process,” Zepf used data from his own students to emphasize the need to adapt urban planning and practices to global challenges from climate change to pandemics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZJOQoDVrDg>



ideas to promote sustainable urban development. The symposium explored the power of storytelling in urban renewal using examples from the Ruhr region, the United States, and Europe.

Student contributions were central to “Scripting Futures for Urban Sustainability.” MA students served as critics asking questions to those giving talks and keynotes. Doctoral students from UDE used landmarks from Detroit and the Ruhr area to highlight their potential for creative and sustainable urban development. And during the student poster session BA students presented their research on the theme of “Flipping Urban Scripts of Being Unwell/Well.”

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Snapshots



May 17, 2024 – In the context of the EU-funded project “Suburbanization and Urbanities in the EU countries and Abroad (SUBEUA),” Elena Furlanetto, Florian Freitag, and students of the American Studies Department at UDE visit the Baba Housing Estate in Prague (Czechia), developed in 1932 as part of the modernist Werkbund project. The white satellite on the left is a children’s playhouse.

June 5, 2024 – The evening before the first day of the “Challenges in Europe” student conference in Amsterdam, BA students from UDE share a pizza with colleagues from nine other European universities. Organized every summer semester by Florian Freitag for the Aurora European Universities alliance, “Challenges in Europe” invites students from all Aurora member universities to develop their research projects to help Europe tackle the sustainability challenges of the future.



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AURORA

Summer 2024

American Music (MA, Hunt)

Battling to Belong in the Age of Pluralism (MA, Buchenau)

Canada and the USA in the 1960s (BA, Maksymiuk) 

Doctoral Colloquium in Literary and Cultural Studies (PhD, Buchenau)

“Drama Queens”: Contemporary U.S.-American Female Playwrights (BA, Engel)

Game Studies: A Cultural History of Late Twentieth-Century America through “Dungeons and Dragons” (BA, Jones-Katz)

“God Knows How Many Devils There Are”: Witchcraft in Puritan New England (BA, Engel)

A History of American Literature and Culture (BA, Furlanetto)

Horror USA: Ghosts, Vampires, and Werewolves in American Film and Literature (BA, Deckers)

Introduction to American Civilization (BA, von Wald)

Literature and Urban Protest in North America (MA, Buchenau) 

Literary Marketplace(s) (BA, Gomez Laris)

Love and Other Fictions in American Animated Series (MA, von Wald)

The Paper, The Pen, and The Patriot (BA, Gomez Laris)

Renegade Theater: Converts, Traitors, and Reluctant Villains on the Early American Stage (MA, Furlanetto)

Street Literature and Ephemera: American (Print) Media before 1900 (BA, Borosch)

A Survey of American Literature (BA, Engel)

Theses in American Studies (BA/MA, Buchenau) 

Times of Compromise? Literature at the Turn to the American Century (BA, Buchenau)

Winter 2024/25

American Short Stories (BA, Deckers)

American Studies: Areas, Approaches, Methods (MA, Buchenau)

Canada Beyond the Stereotype (MA, Maksymiuk) 

Colonial North America (BA, Gomez Laris) 

Doctoral Colloquium in Literary and Cultural Studies (PhD, Buchenau, Freitag) 

Early North America (Freitag, Buchenau) 

Green Utopias? Flipping the Script on Urban Disaster (MA, Buchenau)

Introduction to American Civilization (BA, von Wald)

Lost Causes and New Opportunities: Exploring the American South (MA, Hunt)

North American Studies in Essen (BA, Freitag)

Queering Love and Death in North American Literatures (BA, Engel) 

Queer Texts, Queer Politics (MA, Chairetis)

Reforming and Reshaping California (BA, Gomez Laris)

Romanticism and American Literary Criticism, 1955-1990 (BA, Jones-Katz)

A Survey of American Literature (BA, Engel, Freitag) 

Sustainable Urbanities in North America and Europe (BA, Buchenau, Freitag) 

Theses in American Studies (BA/MA, Buchenau, Freitag) 

Bachelor Theses

- Breaking Boundaries: Queen Nzinga and the Defiance of Colonial Gender Roles
- Brownsville Bushido: Ka's Lyrical Re-Scriptings in Contemporary Urban America
- The Murals of Williamsburg, Brooklyn: Joe Matunis, Los Muralistas de El Puente, and the Artistic Perspective on Gentrification
- Pop Singer Documentaries from *Truth or Dare* (1991) to *Miss Americana* (2020)
- Residential Schools in 21st Century Canadian Literature 
- Women of Color and In/Visibility: The Case of Mary Church Terrell

Master Theses

- Authorial Voice and the Bible in and beyond Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- Echoes of Immortality: *Twilight* Fan Phenomena
- Imagining a Vivid Life after Death: Depicting the Land of the Dead in *Corpse Bride* (2005) and *Coco* (2017)
- Past and Present Wounds: Healing Trauma in Colleen Hoover's *It Ends with Us* (2016) and Octavia Butler's *Kindred* (1979)
- Scriptive Things: Gender Performance in Alice Munro's Short Fiction 
- The Trauma of Nature in Sylvia Plath's and Margaret Atwood's Poetry 

PhD Theses

- Raising Latinx Voices: Contemporary Creative Counterscripts in New York City
- Negotiating White Male Americanness in Travel Fiction

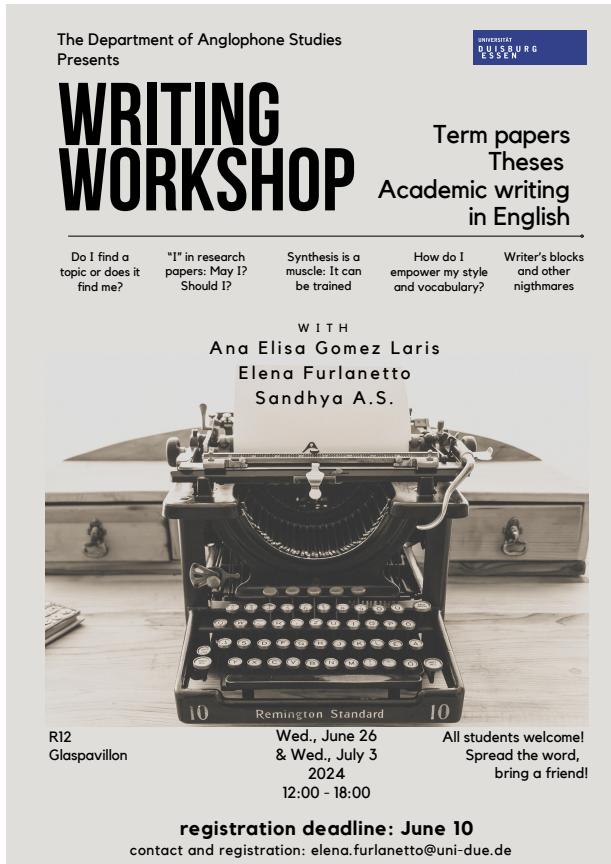
Postdoctoral Theses

- Failure in Antebellum America: Popular Literature and the Marketplace



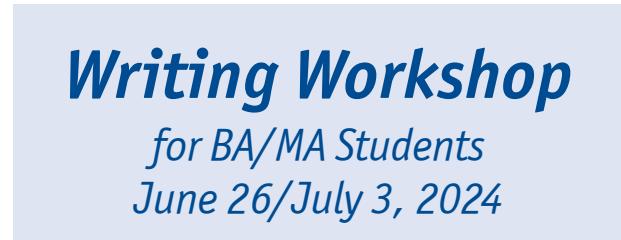
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Educational Events



The Writing Workshop was a two-day event organized by Elena Furlanetto, Ana Elisa Gomez Laris, and Sandhya A.S. It aimed at supporting both BA and MA students in navigating the complexities of academic writing in the English language. The workshop attracted 44 university participants, marking this the initiative's first iteration.

The workshop was designed to provide students with practical tools and strategies for tackling various aspects of academic writing. The organizers recognized a growing need among students in the context of German academia for



assistance with writing in the English language. Given the importance of writing sound term papers, dissertations, and publishing/presenting one's work in English, the workshop aimed to bridge this gap by equipping students with essential writing skills.

While writing was the central focus, the two-day workshop also addressed the underlying processes contributing to effective writing. A variety of topics were covered, each working around a combination of discussions, lectures, and dedicated writing sessions. Topics included: Beginnings and Endings; Contexts and Assumptions; Developing an Argument; Negotiating Your Success; Artificial Intelligence and Its Use (and Misuse); and Feedback.



"The diversity of topics and interactive formats helped foster a productive learning environment. Students actively participated in discussions and shared their experiences, leading to an atmosphere of open, honest conversations about the challenges of academic writing. The practical exercises and peer interaction sessions helped them apply new strategies and gain confidence in their writing skills." – Sandhya A.S.

Educational Events

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Anglophone Studies Student Conference

Transhistorical Print Cultures



When: Thursday, July 4, 2024
Where: Bibliothekssaal
(R09 T00 K18)

14:05 **Welcome**

14:10 **Keynote:**
Anjali Rampersad

14:40–
15:20 **Panel I: Prizes and
Claims to Belonging**

Diana Gerlinger
Mahir Parlak
Pia-Luise Malik

15:20–
15:55 **Panel II: Public
Responses**

Tamisha Idehen
Lisa Büning
Okan Oktar

— **Intermission** —

16:00–
16:30 **Panel III: Calls to
Action**

Leonardo Fontao
Rishaa Uthayarajah
Lena Algermissen

16:30–
17:00 **Panel IV: Diversity
and Discrimination**

Sinah Langer
Patrick Illgner
Jerome Curt Frick

17:05–
17:30 **Panel V: Marketing**

Zoe Lohley
Diana Gerlinger

17:30–
18:00 **Panel VI: Politics on
the Page**

Angelika Wittich
Angelina Amling

18:00 **Closing Remarks**

Transhistorical Print Cultures

Student Conference
July 4/10, 2024

Like at a scholarly conference, student presentations were grouped into thematic panels – e.g., on “(Literary) Prizes and Claims to Belonging,” “Marketing,” “Politics on the Page,” “The Literary Marketplace,” or “Reader Engagement” – that covered various aspects of print cultures in the Anglophone world. Moreover, and again like at a scholarly conference, each presentation was followed by a Q&A session, allowing students and instructors to ask questions and provide peer-to-peer feedback.

Students thus not only honed their oral presentation skills but also learned how to think critically and to provide constructive criticism. Thanks to the conference, students received a broader view of print cultures on both sides of the Atlantic and also new ideas and motivation for their term papers.

At the end of the summer semester, Ana Elisa Gomez Laris and Juliane Borosch as well as their colleague from the British Studies Department, Anjali Rampersad, invited the students of their classes to present their term paper topics in the shape of a student conference on “Transhistorical Print Cultures” in the Bibliothekssaal of our library.



Anglophone Studies Student Conference

Transhistorical Print Cultures



When: Wednesday, July 10, 2024
Where: R12 S04 B21

14:00 **Welcome and
Introduction**

14:05–
14:25 **Panel I: The Literary
Marketplace**

Florian Klotzbach
Nils Schladebach

14:25–
14:50 **Panel II: Citizenship
and Literary Value**

Anida Kurtanovic
Michelle Preukschat
Davina Wetley

14:50–
15:15 **Panel III: Reader
Engagement**

Marlene Schulz
Marlou van Haaften
Mariam Yousef

15:15–
15:35 **Panel IV: Stereotypes
and Self-Promotion**

Janice Isufi
Lea Siemes

15:35–
16:00 **Panel V: Identity and
Literary Belonging**

Yelide Candemir
Barin Schukram
Emilia Dyla

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Educational Events



What does it take to formulate research questions that can be understood beyond one's disciplinary traditions and that enable a targeted collaboration between different disciplines and stakeholder groups? What form must future collaborative and individual research projects take if they are to tackle the major challenges in the field of sustainability and culture? And how can specialized debates across disciplinary boundaries reframe core problems?

During this one-week retreat to the mountains in Austria, researchers as well as MA and PhD students from all over Europe and from all disciplines worked on honing their intercultural, teamwork, networking, and oral communication skills. Students learned about and engaged in collaborative projects, communicated complex ideas effectively, joined interactive sessions to master constructive feedback, and learned to navigate diverse knowledge domains.

Perhaps most importantly, professional training sessions for science communication offered students and researchers an opportunity to learn how to effectively pitch their research ideas in the 3MT format ("three-minute thesis"). During a 3MT presentation, presenters may use only one static slide and no cue cards.

On the last day of the one-week retreat, a public 3MT competition was organized in the U of Innsbruck's largest lecture hall, with students presenting their ideas and researchers acting as the jury. The competition was even broadcast live on YouTube, where viewers could also cast their vote for their favorite presentation. As a result of these efforts, the students' collaborative and individual research proposals made substantial progress, their science communication skills were enhanced, and concrete science communication products were prepared.



Rising Voices Emerging Scholars' Forum

Sustainability & Climate Change / Culture: Diversities & Identities
Educational Hub Events 2024
Blended Intensive Programme (BIP)

Matrei / Innsbruck

Virtual part: September 2024 (tbc) Physical part: 20-25 October 2024
November 2024 (tbc)

Join us for a transformative one-week retreat designed exclusively for emerging scholars, including late Master's and PhD students. This unique opportunity brings together bright minds from diverse disciplines, two Aurora Educational Hubs, and a range of Aurora universities to further develop problem-solving and teamwork competences, while also refining oral communication skills.

- Learn how to engage in collaborative projects
- Communicate complex ideas effectively
- Join interactive sessions to master constructive feedback
- Learn how to navigate diverse knowledge domains.

Whether preparing for a short-term research secondment or future collaborative research, this retreat offers the ideal setting to move ahead in your academic journey.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to boost your skills and network with fellow students, scholars and science communication experts!

Access the registration form and further information by scanning the QR code.

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OF ICELAND

Co-funded by
the European Union



"The event was unlike anything I have ever been a part of. It brought together MA and PhD students from all over Europe, people with different backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. It wasn't just about academic training; it was about building connections, expanding our horizons." – *Stephanie, Participant*

Snapshots

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October 25, 2024 – On the stage of the Ágnes-Heller-Haus at the U of Innsbruck, Barbara Buchenau, Florian Freitag and Janette Walde (Vice Rector for Teaching and Students at the U of Innsbruck) pose with the three winners of the public 3MT competition on the last day of the Blended Intensive Program “Rising Voices: Emerging Scholars’ Forum” (see p. 21).

November 6, 2024 – On the day after the U.S. presidential elections, Barbara Buchenau, Florian Freitag, Elena Furlanetto, Ana Elisa Gomez Laris, and Adam von Wald met up with students at Die Brücke to discuss the U.S. presidential election process, campaign rhetoric, and of course the potential implications of the election results.



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Selected Outreach Activities

“Die US Wahl 2024: Digitale Medien und die Demokratie.” Panel Debate with Barbara Buchenau, Annika Brockschmidt, and Jens Temmen (October 29, 2024; Heinrich Heine U Düsseldorf)



“Versprechen auf ein neues weißes Amerika: Die Anglistin und Kulturwissenschaftlerin Barbara Buchenau über die erfolgreiche Rhetorik von Donald Trump im Wahlkampf und in seiner Sieges-Rede.” (November 6, 2024; Deutschlandfunk Kultur Heute)

Special Events

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On the eve of the U.S. Presidential election, on November 4, 2024, in the Proust bookstore in Essen, novelist and visiting scholar Jarred Johnson read from his new novel-in-progress *Coal X*, launching a conversation about memory, postindustrial spaces, political polarization, and disenfranchisement in the American heartlands.

Coal X
A Reading with Jarred Johnson
November 4, 2024

"In May 2024 I will graduate with my Master of Fine Arts in creative writing. My thesis project is a novel titled *Coal X* about a man in east Kentucky whose father died in a mining accident. My protagonist moves back home to Kentucky to build a coal memory museum in virtual reality. How do you preserve something? Be it the memory of a father or the memory of a culture-defining industry? This is the question my novel asks. Having conceived this creative project and written into the themes of memory, loss, and preservation, I am ready to explore the real-world applications of these topics." – Jarred Johnson

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