

5:00-
6:30
pm

Keynote II, **Adrian Daub** (Stanford University), “Managing Failure: Discourses around ‘Political Correctness’ and ‘Cancel Culture’ as Fables of Disinvestment”

Introduction: Katharina Motyl (University of Mannheim)

7:00
pm

Conference Dinner, Restaurant OhJulia

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

09:00-
10:30
am

Keynote III, **Heather Houser** (University of Texas / Austin), “When Climate Knowledge Becomes Atmospheric”

Introduction: Regina Schober (University of Düsseldorf)

Coffee Break

10:45
am-
12:00
pm

Panel VII: Subversive Knowledges / Failure as ‘Empowerment’

Chair: Juliane Gamböck-Strätz (University of Marburg)

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”

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

Coffee Break

12:30-
2:00
pm

Panel VIII: Institutional Failures and the Dissemination of Literary Knowledge

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

Corinna Norrick-Rühl (University of Münster), “#publishingfail. Understanding the Shortcomings of ‘Conglomerate Literature’”

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

Ilka Brasch (Leibniz University Hannover), “*Modern Chivalry*, Knowledge Production, and the American Philosophical Society”

2:00-
2:30
pm

Closing Reflections



- Mannheim Central Station**
Willy-Brandt Platz 17
- Fuchs-Petrolub-Festsaal O138**
Schloss east wing, 2nd floor
- Restaurant OhJulia**
Q6, 6
- Hotel Kurpfalzstuben**
L14, 15
- InterCity Hotel**
Ecke, Schlossgartenstraße 1

Conference Committee:

Katharina Motyl, Regina Schober, DFG Network “The Failure of Knowledge”

Administrative Assistance:

Anna Göbel, Diana Krieger, Hanna Lechner, Katrin Ramseier

Tech Support:

Marvin Schreuer



The Failure of Knowledge – Knowledges of Failure

May 4-6, 2023
Fuchs-Petrolub-Festsaal

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

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: Ruxandra Teodorescu (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

Weishun Lu (University of Wisconsin at Madison), “The Poetics of Junk: An Alternative Mode of Knowing”

Antje Kley (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg), “Knowledge in the Face of Death – Contemporary Literary Narratives of the End of Life in the US”

Mark Schmitt (Technical University of Dortmund), “‘A Lyrical Failure of Philosophical Thinking’: Towards a Pessimist Epistemology”

Coffee Break

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

Chair: James Dorson (Free University of Berlin)

Linda M. Hess (Augsburg University), “Failing in the Know: Satire as a Lens for Anthropocentric Failures in Climate Narratives”

Solvejg Nitzke (Technical University of Dresden), “Failing to Care: Catastrophic Knowledge Transfers in Climate Fiction”

Marina Pingler (University of Tübingen), “Alternative Modes of Future-Making: The Anthropocene and Its Imaginaries”

Coffee Break

4:30-5:45 pm Panel III: Gender, Genre, and Knowledge

Chair: Astrid Fellner (Saarland University)

Julia Nitz (University of Halle-Wittenberg), “Re-Imagining Black (Personal) Histories: Hazel V. Carby’s and Bernardine Evaristo’s Selfscapes”

Antonia Purk (University of Erfurt), “Recognitions of the Real: The Failure of Romanticism in Constance Fenimore Woolson’s ‘Castle Nowhere’”

Break

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

Introduction: Katrin Horn (University of Bayreuth)

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

9:00-10:30 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)

Adriana Mica and Mikolaj Pawlak (University of Warsaw), “The Promise of Failure: Unbalanced Emancipation and Oppression in Policymaking”

Jennifer Roberts (University of Edinburgh), “How Failed Knowledges in the Classroom Silently Reproduce Hegemonic Power”

Sydney Sheedy (Concordia University, Tiohtià:ke / Montreal), “‘It mutates to survive’: How the Occult is ‘Reclaimed’ as Queer Genealogy, Method of Historical Encounter, and Divestment from Whiteness in Montreal”

Break

11:00 am-12:30 pm

Panel V: Knowledge from Below as Democratic Panacea?

Chair: Marlon Lieber (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Susan J. Matt (Weber State University), “From Horatio Alger to the Ouija Board: Searching for Knowledge during the Great Depression”

Gereon Rahnfeld (Bauhaus University Weimar), “Democratising Expertise – How Citizen Assemblies Fail to Produce Knowledge from Below”

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

Chair: Marius Henderson (University of Erlangen-Nuremberg)

Luke Fernandez (Weber State University), “AI Hype and the Failure of Knowledge”

Heather Woods (Kansas State University), “Optimizing Failure: What the Rise of the Smart Home Tells Us about the Future of Living in Digitality”

Samridhi Aggarwal (National University of Singapore / King’s College London), “The Future as Failure: Representations of Alternate Technical Imaginations in Postcolonial Futuristic Fictions”

Coffee Break

Poster Session by Network Members