

KICK-OFF EVENT

OPEN UP

NEW RESEARCH SPACES FOR
THE HUMANITIES AND
CULTURAL STUDIES

Xplanatorium
HERRENHAUSEN

MARCH 11-12, 2025

DEAR PARTICIPANTS,

On behalf of the Volkswagen Foundation, we would like to welcome you to the Kick-off meeting "Open up" at Herrenhausen Palace!

With the funding program "Open Up - New Research Spaces for the Humanities and Cultural Studies", the Volkswagen Foundation supports explorative collaborative projects that have the potential to open up new research spaces in an original and unconventional way. Scientists who take risks with their research can at the same time set new impulses and point out starting points for further research.

In the third round of calls for proposals, a total of 18 collaborative projects were approved.

The Kick-off "Open Up" is intended to give you the space to present your projects to each other, to discuss them together and to get impulses for the implementation of your research projects. At the same time, we would like to give you the opportunity to network and to identify possible synergies between the projects.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you and wish you two exciting days full of new ideas and stimulating discussions!

Yours sincerely

PIERRE SCHWIDLINSKI
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, Team Exploration

BARBARA NEUBAUER AND NINA HAHNE
Organizing Team

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

9:00 A.M. REGISTRATION

10:00 A.M. WELCOME

HANNA DENECKE

Head of Team Exploration, Volkswagen Foundation

PIERRE SCHWIDLINSKI

Program Director, Volkswagen Foundation

10:30 A.M. WARM UP

11:00 A.M. SESSION I

Let the People of the Past Speak! Turning Migrant Letters of the 19th Century into Speech

ATIBA PERTILLA

German Historical Institute Washington DC, USA

THOMAS SCHMIDT

Universität Duisburg

HANS BOAS

University of Texas at Austin, USA

11:20 A.M. *Methodology of the Inaccurate (MotI)*

MALTE REHBEIN

ALEXANDER WERTH

Universität Passau

11:40 A.M. *Subverting archival practices: Unfolding diversity in the historiography of performance-based arts*

BARBARA BÜSCHER

FRANZ ANTON CRAMER

Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" Leipzig

12:00 P.M. LUNCH

13:00 P.M. FAQ STARTING YOUR PROJECT
Short introduction to the call for funds and use of funds

BARBARA NEUBAUER

ASSISTANT OF THE FUNDING INITIATIVE „OPEN UP“,
VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION

SILKE AUMANN

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUNDING INITIATIVE
„OPEN UP“, VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION

13:20 P.M. SESSION II

Developing an Artificial Social Childhood (ASC) to improve AI causal reasoning, information gathering and decision making.

AZZURRA RUGGERI

Technische Universität München

DIMITRI OGNIBENE

University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy

13:40 P.M. *Precursors to language of thought in preverbal infants*

ALAN LANGUS

Universität Potsdam

MIREIA MARIMON

Universität München/ Pompeu Fabra University
Barcelona, Spain

14:00 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

14:30 P.M. DISTRIBUTED PEER REVIEW (DPR)

HANNA DENECKE

Head of Team Exploration, Volkswagen Foundation

PIERRE SCHWIDLINSKI

Program Director, Volkswagen Foundation

15:30 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

16:00 P.M. SESSION III

Metals Make the World Go Round: Unravelling Ancient Mediterranean Copper Trade Systems using a Multi-Disciplinary Approach

IVAN STEPANOV

Curt-Engelhorn-Zentrum für Archäometrie, Mannheim

NAAMA YAHALOM-MACK

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

16:20 P.M. *Making Land in the Age of Urbanization*

ALLA VRONSKAYA

MEGAN EARDLY

ATEYA KHORAKIWALA

Universität Kassel

16:40 P.M. *The "Third Class": Hidden genealogies of the post-growth transformation*

LOUIS THIEMANN

CLAUDIA GONZÁLEZ MARRERO

Universität Kassel/ Food Monitor Program, Bogotá, Colombia

JULIEN-FRANCOIS GERBER

Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands

17:00 P.M. COFFEE BREAK

17:20 P.M. SESSION IV

Beyond Binaries: Attempting a Queer Islamic Theology

ABDUL BASIT ZAFAR

SEYEDEH SAEIDEH MIR SADRI

Universität Bonn

17:40 P.M. *Welfare in question: understandings of social protection in Germany and Italy*

VIOLA CASTELLANO

Universität Bayreuth

AGNIESZKA PASIEKA

University of Montréal, Canada

18:00 P.M *Dawn of the Doomed: The Religious and Political
'Zombies' of the Anthropocene*

PATRICK STOFFEL

Universität Lüneburg

CHRISTOPH ASMUTH

Augustana-Hochschule Neuendettelsau

UWE LINDEMANN

Universität Bochum

18:30 P.M. DINNER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

9:00 A.M. WELCOME

9:10 A.M. SESSION V

Theorising (im)mobilities at sea: Challenging the terra firma bias in Refugee Studies through human maritime movements

GERHARD HOFFSTAEDTER

University of Queensland, Australia

ANTJE MISSBACH

Universität Bielefeld

9:30 A.M. *Expanding Consciousness in Education - East, West, North and South. Towards a Global Philosophy of Education*

JOHANNES DRERUP

Technische Universität Dortmund

ANDERS SCHINKEL

VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands

9:50 A.M. *Educational programmes of the Neue Rechte/Nouvelle Droite in Germany and France*

THOMAS WORTMANN

CORNELIA RUHE

Universität Mannheim

10:10 A.M. *Graphic Feminisms from the Global South: Comparative Perspectives on Comics in the Arab Mediterranean and Latin America*

RASHA CHATTA

Freie Universität Berlin

JASMIN WROBEL

Universität Bochum

10:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

11:00 A.M. SESSION VI

*The Computerized Palate Digital Technologies and the
'lower senses'*

FELIX HÜTTEMANN

JENS SCHRÖTER

Universität Bonn

11:20 A.M. *Against Screen's Extractivism: Slow Production and
Spectatorship*

SEZEN KAYHAN

Universität Mainz

IPEK AZIME CELIK RAPPAS

Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

11:40 A.M. *When Anonymity is no longer Enough: "Fictionalization"
as a new way of writing Ethnography in the Age of Digi-
tal Surveillance*

MAX KRAMER

JÜRGEN SCHAFLECHNER

Freie Universität Berlin

12:00 P.M. LUNCH AND END OF THE EVENT

List of Participants

Name	First Name	Institution
Asmuth	Christoph	Augustana Hochschule Neuendettelsau
Aumann	Silke	VolkswagenStiftung
Büscher	Barbara	Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig
Castellano	Viola	Universität Bayreuth
Celik Rappas	Ipek	Koc University, Turkey
Chatta	Rasha	Freie Universität Berlin
Cramer	Franz Anton	Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig
Denecke	Hanna	VolkswagenStiftung
Drerup	Johannes	VU Amsterdam/Technische Universität Dortmund
Eardley	Megan	Universität Kassel
Gerber	Julien-François	Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands
Gonzalez Marrero	Claudia	Universität Kassel/ Food Monitor Program, Bogotá, Colombia
Hoffstaedter	Gerhard	University of Queensland, Australia
Hüttemann	Felix	Universität Bonn
Kayhan	Sezen	Universität Mainz
Kramer	Max	Universität München
Langus	Alan	Universität Potsdam
Lindemann	Uwe	Universität Bochum
Marimon	Mireia	Universität München / Pompeu Fabra University Barcelona, Spain
Mir Sadri	Seyedeh Saeideh	Universität Bonn
Neubauer	Barbara	VolkswagenStiftung
Ognibene	Dimitri	University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy
Pasieka	Agnieszka	University of Montreal, Canada
Pertilla	Atiba	German Historical Institute Washington, USA
Rehbein	Malte	Universität Passau
Ruggeri	Azzurra	Technische Universität München
Ruhe	Cornelia	Universität Mannheim
Schieren	Mona	Hochschule für Künste Bremen

Name	First Name	Institution
Schmidt	Thomas	Universität Duisburg-Essen
Schröter	Jens	Universität Bonn
Schwidlinski	Pierre	VolkswagenStiftung
Stepanov	Ivan	Curt-Engelhorn-Zentrum Archäo- metrie gGmbH,
Stoffel	Patrick	Leuphana Universität Lüneburg
Thiemann	Louis	Universität Kassel
Vronskaya	Alla	Universität Kassel
Werth	Alexander	Universität Passau
Wortmann	Thomas	Universität Mannheim
Wrobel	Jasmin	Universität Bochum
Yahalom-Mack	Naama	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Isreal
Zafar	Abdul Basit	Universität Bonn

INFORMATIONEN

CONFERENCE VENUE



Herrenhausen Palace
Herrenhäuser Straße 5
30419 Hannover

Tram lines 4 (Garbsen) and 5 (Stöcken)
stop: 'Herrenhäuser Gärten'

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Volkswagen**Stiftung**

POLICIES

The Volkswagen Foundation stands for respectful and fair cooperation. The conferences, symposia and other events organized by the Volkswagen Foundation provide scholars and scientists with a forum for an intensive exchange of ideas in a positive and constructive atmosphere. We value diversity and a respectful exchange of opinions. It goes without saying that no participant shall experience harassment or be discriminated against. Persons who violate this rule will be asked to leave the event. Be sure to contact a member of our staff directly if you witness or experience inappropriate behavior, harassment or discrimination.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage all participants to use social media to exchange information about the contents of events. When doing so, feel free to use **@VolkswagenSt** as well as **@Xplanatorium** and our conference hashtag **#InitiativeAufbruch**.

DOCUMENTATION

Within the framework of our events, we take photographs and produce videos – both analogue and digital – for the purpose of public relations and documentation. Should you not agree with the storage or use of photographs in which you as an individual participant (possibly with other persons) are the focus, please inform the photographers and/or camera teams and/or members of staff on site. You can find details on our conditions of participation and data information online at: <https://www.volkswagenstiftung.de/en/events/conditions-of-participation-and-data-information>