

## AAAS 2025 Conference Schedule

### Ruptures, Fractures, Discontinuities: Troubling American Studies

Oct. 3-5, 2025, University of Vienna

Preliminary Conference Program

#### Friday, Oct. 3

##### Pre-Conference

#### 11:30am-12:30pm JAAAS Editorial Meeting

(Helene Richter Saal, Department of English and American Studies)

#### 1:30pm-3pm AAAS Board Meeting

(Helene Richter Saal, Department of English and American Studies)

#### 12:30pm-2:30pm CEU Roundtable with Carole Boyce Davies (Howard University)

(Central European University, Quellenstraße 51, Room QS D-001)

“Global Blackness and Decolonial Black Feminisms: Contesting Colonial Legacies in  
Academia and Beyond”

Respondents: Jessica Varela (Central European University), Marta Werbanowska (University of  
Vienna)

#### 3:30pm Registration

(Sky Lounge, Oskar-Morgenstern Platz 1)

#### 4pm Conference Opening

(Sky Lounge, Oskar-Morgenstern Platz 1)

Opening Remarks

Words of Welcome:

Stephan Müller (Dean of the Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies, University of  
Vienna), Monika Pietrzak-Franger (Head of the Department of English and American  
Studies, University of Vienna)

Fulbright Prize 2025

Honorary Membership Award (Gudrun Grabher)

**5:30pm-7pm Keynote Lecture**

**Robert McRuer (George Washington University):**

**“The Crip Camp Yet to Come: Crossing Borders with Queer/Crip Theory”**

Chair: Katharina Wiedlack

**7pm Reception**

**Saturday, Oct. 4**

**8:30am Registration**

**9am-10:30am Parallel Panels**

**AYA Rest Space Opening**

**Francesca Romana Audretsch:**

**“Cracks of Rest: On Sleep, Softness, and Structural Breaks”**

**Ruptures of History / History of Ruptures**

Chair: Ingrid Gessner

**Nassim Balestrini (University of Graz):** Re-Visiting Muscogee (Creek) Experience: Joy Harjo’s Approach to Historiographic Rupturing

**Klaus Rieser (University of Graz):** Representing Historical Trauma: Craig Baldwin’s *O No Coronado!*

**Angelos Evangelinidis (University of Graz):** Reinterpreting the Original: Cultural Appropriation and Visual Representation Through the Example of Rosie the Riveter

**Todd Hoffman (Augusta University):** History as Abject: The Legacy of Violence in Jesmyn Ward’s *Sing, Unburied, Sing*

**Labor, Liberty, Libertarianism**

Chair: TBA

**Karin Hoepker (University of Konstanz):** *Severance* – Innies, Cubicles, and the Future of Work

**Klara Stephanie Szezlak (University of Passau):** A Different Kind of American Revolution: The Persistence of an American Anti-Capitalist Discourse from Michael Gold to Bernie Sanders

**Marcel Hartwig (University of Siegen):** “Normal Dad Stuff”: Proud Boys and Predatory Freewheelers in Current US Politics

**Making Trouble: Subversions and Reclamations in American Imaginaries**

Chair: TBA

**Stefan L. Brandt (University of Graz):** The Scarlet Threshold: Moral Panics from Hester Prynne to Hashtag Shame

**Lisa Buchegger (University of Graz):** Queerness Meets Hegemonic Masculinity: Making Trouble in “Brokeback Mountain”

**Lilliia Makala (University of Graz):** Bleeding Futures: Power, Consent, and Kinship in Octavia Butler’s “Bloodchild”

**Saptarshi Mallick (University of Graz):** Decolonizing the Mind: Creativity and Beyond in Bengali and American Women's Writing

### **Masculinities and (Anti-)Heroes**

Chair: TBA

**Mehri Razmi (Ataturk University):** Disability, Masculinity, and the Fractured American Hero in Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*

**Ranthild Salzer (University of Vienna):** Troubling *comfortable* origins: How the practice of retroactive continuity fractures simple readings of Marvel Comics' Captain America

**Georg Gruber (University of Graz):** Murderer, Martyr, Meme: The Memeification of Luigi Mangione as an Anarchistic Icon and Martyr on Reddit

**Alexander Rüter (University of Cologne):** Disruption: Silicon Valley, Libertarianism, and Discontinuity from the Right

10:30am-11am Coffee Break

### **11am-12:30pm Parallel Panels**

#### **Decolonial and Ecological Interventions in the Anthropocene**

Chair: Elisabeth Lechner

**Linda Heß (University of Augsburg):** Satirical Disruptions of the Environmental Crisis Narrative

**Melissa Kennedy (University College of Education of Upper Austria / University of Vienna):** Indigenous Knowledge and Narrative Literacy: Constructive Methodologies in Troubling Times

**Sahar Kheirandish (Bordeaux Montaigne University):** Liquid Narratives: Water, Resistance, and the Body in Lidia Yuknavitch's Autobiographical Works

#### **Revisiting and Challenging U.S. Health Care Discourses through Narratives**

Chair: Eva-Maria Trinkaus

**Nina De Bettin Padolin (University of Graz):** Disabled Indigenous Resistance in Gabe Calderón's *Màgòdiz*

**Laura Hochsteiner (University of Graz):** Mental Health, Spatiality and In-betweenness in Freda Epum's *The Gloomy Girl Variety Show*

**Alekszandra Rokvity (University of Graz):** Freudian Hysteric with an iPhone: Misogyny and (Mis)Treatment of Endometriosis in Abby Norman's *Ask Me About My Uterus* and Emma Bolden's *The Tiger and the Cage*

**Eva-Maria Trinkaus (University of Klagenfurt):** Immigrant, Domestic, Sick: Health and Domestic Work in Mary Beth Keane's Novel *Fever*

#### **Erasure, Rupture, Vulnerability: Contemporary Poetry**

Chair: Barbara Gföllner

**Jules Machtenberg (Ruhr-University Bochum):** Troubling Conventions: Vulnerability in Contemporary U.S. Poetry

**Gulsin Ciftci (Wesleyan University / University of Münster):** Poetics of Rupture

**Mahshid Mayar (University of Innsbruck):** I asked why [REDACTED] -- Erasure Poetry, De-Formance, and Re-Formance in Nick Flynn's "Seven Testimonies (redacted)" (2011)

**Lynn Gibbard (Appalachian State University):** Rupture through Poetry: Soldiers' Experience of Combat

#### **Memory and Kinship in Indigenous Storytelling**

Chair: Markus Schwarz

**Layla Koch (University of Heidelberg):** Pious Parents, Troubled Children: The Fraught and Fracturing Kinship of Missionaries and the Cherokee Nation

**Éva Urbán (University of Debrecen):** Storytelling through Space and Time in *The Removed*

**Nicole Koenigsknecht (University of Zurich):** Disrupting Sentimental Settler Narratives in/through Ojibwe Children's Literature

**Judit Kadar (University of Budapest):** Re-Membering, De-Constructing and Empowering Mixed Race in Southwestern Literature and Visual Arts

### **Reclamation and Recovery in Contemporary Life Writing**

Chair: Christoph Straub

**Lena LeBlhumer (University of Salzburg):** Resistance, Ruptures and Repair in John Lewis' memoir *Walking with the Wind* (1998)

**Geoffrey Gideon (Independent Scholar):** Genre Disruptions in Addiction Memoirs

**Justyna Wierchowska (Warsaw University):** From Fractured Stars to Lenses of Hope: Daniel Libeskind's Rapturous Relation to Poland

**Ileana I. Diaz (University of Waterloo):** Diaspora as Rupture and The End of Home

12:30pm-1:30pm Fulbright Info Session and Pizza Lunch

### **1:30pm-3pm Roundtable Discussion**

#### **“Academic Freedom under Attack: Transgenerational Perspectives on Contemporary Transatlantic American Studies”**

Ingrid Gessner (Vorarlberg University of Education), Walter Grünzweig (Andrássy University Budapest), Cornelia Klecker (University of Innsbruck), Juliann Knaus (University of Graz), Heike Paul (Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg), Markus Schwarz (University of Salzburg)

Chair: Alexandra Ganser

3pm-3:30pm Coffee Break

### **3:30pm-5pm Parallel Panels**

#### **“Technologies of Death”**

Chair: Marie Krebs

**Manuela Neuwirth (University of Graz):** Breaking the (Genetic) Code: *The Matrix* as Antinatalist Critique

**Rhonda Armstrong (Augusta University):** Disrupting Death: Biopolitics, Necropolitics, and the Technologies of Death

**Dawn Keetley (Lehigh University):** Displaced: Folk Horror, Ruins, and the Unsettling of America

**Tatiana Konrad (University of Vienna):** *The Hate U Give*: Police Brutality, Political Fantasies, and Black Popular Culture

### **Fractured Futures and New Pedagogies**

Chair: Martina Pfeiler

**Christer Vindelov-Lizelius (Stockholm University of the Arts / Elisava School of Design and Technology) and William Tate (James Madison University):** Regenerative Pedagogy for the Future of Learning

**Eva Katharina Bauer (University of Graz):** Fractured Futures: Speculative Critical Thinking as Ecopedagogy in the Anthropocene

**Roger Dale Jones (University of Klagenfurt) and Melissa Kennedy (University College of Education of Upper Austria / University of Vienna):** Disrupting Educational Narratives of North America – Biases & Troubling Culturalism in Austrian and German EFL Schoolbooks

**Ruchi Mundeja (University of Delhi):** Wandering (s) in the Classroom: Rupture as Revivification

### **Disruptive Presences and Absences of the Female Body from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries**

Chair: Isabel Kalous and Antonia Purk

**Allison M. Stagg (Technical University of Darmstadt):** Invisible Networks: Uncovering the Women Responsible for Printmaking in the Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century

**Antonia Purk (University of Mannheim):** “Like the work of an evil sprite” – The Insistence of the Female Body and the Disruption of the Male Narrative in Constance Fenimore Woolson’s “Miss Grief” (1880)

**Isabel Kalous (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg):** “To disrupt a life process”: Abortion, Fetal Representation, and the Reproductive Body in Jodi Picoult’s *A Spark of Light*

**Katharina Wiedlack (University of Vienna):** In\_Visibility of Brittney Griner in Liberal and Left Anglophone Media Criticism of Russian Authoritarianism

**Stefanie Schäfer (University of Mannheim):** FLOTUS in Austria: Spectacle Politics, and In\_Visibility of Melania Trump

### **Crossing the Borders of Race and Space**

Chair: TBA

**Macarena García-Avello (Universidad de Cantabria):** Disrupting the Nation: US Latinx Literature in the Trump Era

**Sophia Hörl (Ludwig Maximilian University Munich):** Rupture and Redesign: June Jordan’s Reimagined Cityscapes of Spatial Justice

**Vanessa Vollmann:** Mark Twain vs. Percival Everett: Critical Race Theory Counterdialogue

**Saskia Fürst (University of The Bahamas):** Disrupting Human Rights Violations in The Bahamas: Haitian Migration Narratives in Karem Mortimer’s *Passage*

### **Disrupting the Genre and Conventions of the Novel**

Chair: Charles Wong

**Devon Anderson (University of Innsbruck):** Optimism Without a Future: Teaching Beyond Endings in the Adjunct Novel

**David J. Cross (University of Stuttgart):** Recursive Haunting and Gothic Futurity: Systems of Rupture in Don DeLillo’s *The Silence* and Colson Whitehead’s *Zone One*

**Philipp Leonhardt (University of Innsbruck):** Commissioned to Bridge the Gap: Valeria Luiselli’s *The Story of My Teeth* between Juice Factory and “Collective Novel-Essay”

**Grmusa Gruic (University of Rijeka):** Re-Membering Narratives of Trauma: *Everything Is Illuminated*

**5:15pm-6:45pm AAAS General Meeting**

**7:30pm CONFERENCE DINNER**

(Heuriger 10er Marie, Ottakringer Straße 222/224, co-sponsored by the Mayor of Vienna)

**Sunday, Oct. 5**

**9am-10:30am Parallel Panels**

**Unruly, Unreliable, Unwell? Resistant Women**

Chair: Marta Werbanowska

**Rebecca Schönsee (University of Vienna):** Magic Glitches, Glitch Witches: Future Capitalism, Feminism, and Longevity in Cyberpunk Literature and Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*

**Joanna Łapińska:** Performing Happiness and Affective Ruptures in Feminine Wellness Culture: From Bree to Goop

**Sandra Tausel (University of Alberta / University of Innsbruck):** Reproductive Ruptures: Contemporary Narratives of (Not) Having Children in the U.S.

**Katharine Wilson (Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg):** Disrupting (Un)Reliability: Identity and Narration in Tiffany D. Jackson's *Grown*

**(Dis-)continuing the American Gangster: From Silver Screen to Gaming Console**

Chairs: Wibke Schniedermann and Robert A. Winkler

**Wibke Schniedermann (Ghent University) and Robert A. Winkler (University of Salzburg):** The Gangster as a Transmedial Darling

**Marko Jevtic (University of Konstanz):** "The World is Yours": Open World Video Games and the 'Power Fantasy' of Becoming a Gangster

**Marco Caracciolo (Ghent University):** Crime Networks and Perspective Shifts in *GTA V*

**Mediating Rupture: Media, Materialisms, and Ecocritical Discontinuities in American Studies**

Chair: Marie Dücker

**Jessica Conrad (University of Tennessee Southern):** Unsettling Genre and Temporality in Indigenous Utopianism

**Marie Dücker (University of Graz):** Fractured Frames: Climate Crisis and Narrative Rupture in the Silent Graphic Narrative

**Johanna Pelikan (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg):** Refuse Reflections: Waste Art as Capitalocenic Rupture

**Edith Kreutner (Private University of Education, Diocese of Linz):** How Katrina Ruptured America

## **Metaphor, Materiality, and the Politics of Music**

Chair: TBA

**Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz):** If It Ain't Fixed, Don't Break It: Cultural Representations of Ruptures, Fractures, and Discontinuities as Narratives of Life

**Jonatan Horvat (University of Graz):** "What Jazz Is-and Isn't": Ruptures in Post-1965 Jazz-A Debate Between Purists and Progressives

**Hana Vrdoljak (University of Zurich):** (Anti-)Sentimental Disruptions: Gender and Prison Criticism in Rap Narratives

**Sebastian Roberts (York University):** No Longer a Minor Threat: Punk Rock, Ressentiment, and the American Right

## **An Intersectional Conjecture: The 'Right-Wing Anti-Gender Complex'**

Chair: Ranthild Salzer?

**Gabriele Dietze:** Strong Men and Tradwives: A Kryptomodern Power Couple

**Julia Roth (University of Bielefeld)**

**Birgit Sauer (University of Vienna):** The Right-Wing Anti-Gender Complex

10:30am-11am Coffee Break

## **11am-12:30pm Keynote Lecture**

**Carole Boyce Davies (Howard University):**

**"Gains and Losses Towards a Decolonized Literary Curriculum"**

Chair: Marta Werbanowska

**12:30pm Closing Remarks**

**1pm Meeting of the New Board**