

GFF CONFERENCE  
2021

SPECULATIVE  
FICTION  
AND ETHICS

23 - 25 SEPTEMBER 2021  
VIA ZOOM

IF YOU ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS DURING THE CONFERENCE,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS  
VIA ZOOM CHAT OR VIA

GFF-2021@UNI-KOELN.DE

LORENA BICHERT  
MAREIKE SPYCHALA  
AMERIKANISTIK



SARA TEWELDE-NEGASSI  
JUN.-PROF. DR. JUDITH RAUSCHER  
AMERIKANISCHE LITERATUR UND KULTUR



# SPECIAL

# EVENTS

DAY 1: SEP 23, 2021  
18:00-19:00

## KEYNOTE (ENGL):

“Dark Mirrors:  
German Science Fiction  
in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

Prof. Dr. Ingo Cornils  
(University of Leeds)

DAY 2: SEP 24, 2021  
18:00-19:00

## AUTHOR READING (ENGL):

“Fairy Tales for Robots”

Sofia Samatar  
(James Madison University)

This event is organized with the support of Amerikahaus NRW e.V.

DAY 3: SEP 25, 2021  
17:00-18:30

## PANEL DISKUSSION (DT):

”Queere Fantastik: Gegenwart und Zukunft”

Sameena Jehanzeb - Juri Susanne Pavlovic - Judith C. Vogt

### BAMBERG ROOM

#### PANEL 1:

##### Menschlichkeit und Verantwortung

Chair:

Mareike Spychala  
(University of Bamberg)

Sophia Mehrbrey  
(Universität des Saarlandes):  
“We’re all haunted by our choices’ – die Verhandlung ethischer Leitlinien in *Snowpiercer*”

Álvaro Arango Vallejo  
(Universität Bonn):  
“Horror als Emanzipation in zwei Erzählungen von Amparo Dávila”

Roberta Maierhofer  
(University of Graz):  
“Spielen mit Möglichkeiten: Ursula Le Guin, Anokritizismus und Überlegungen zur *conditio humana*”

Discussion

09:00-

09:30

09:30-

11:00

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10:00

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10:40-

11:00

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break/ Kaffeepause

### COLOGNE ROOM

#### PANEL 2:

##### Gender and Race in Speculative Fiction

Chair:

Sara Tewelde-Negassi  
(University of Cologne)

Christian Knöppler  
(JGU Mainz):  
“The Small Steps and Giant Leap that Might Have Been: The Alternate History of *For All Mankind*”s

Cora Övermann  
(University of Bremen):  
“Gender, Science, and Two Cultures in Marion Zimmer Bradley’s *The Ruins of Isis* (1978)”

Philine Schiller  
(University of Heidelberg):  
“It ain’t no fucking Middle-earth’: The Genre Turn As a Tool for Postcolonial Expression In Junot Diaz’ *The Brief, Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*”

Discussion

## BAMBERG ROOM

### PANEL 3:

#### Kantian Speculations

Chair:  
Judith Rauscher (University of Cologne)

Stavroula Anastasia Katsorchi  
(University of Athens):  
“When the End is Way Too Near:  
The Sublimity of Human Extinction and  
Margaret Atwood's  
*Oryx and Crake*”

René Reinhold Schallenger  
(University of Klagenfurt):  
*"Reality Denied?"*  
– On Progress, Identity, Just Government  
and Textual Authority in Zac Thompson's  
*Relay*”

Discussion

11:30-  
12:30

11:35-  
11:55

11:55-  
12:15

12:15-  
12:30

## COLOGNE ROOM

### PANEL 4:

#### Kontrafaktik in der Fantastik

Chair:  
Lorena Bickert (University of Bamberg)

Michael Navratil  
(Universität Potsdam):  
“Die Norm der Realitätsvariation: Zum  
Verhältnis von Kontrafaktik und Ethik”

Martin Wambsganß  
(unabhängig):  
“Einige Arbeitsweisen beim Aufgriff  
ethischer Fragestellungen in  
phantastischen Geschichten des  
Vortragenden”

Discussion

12:30-13:30

Lunch Break/ Mittagspause

## BAMBERG ROOM

### PANEL 5:

#### Verantwortung und Nicht-Menschlichkeit

Chair:

Sara Tewelde-Negassi (University of Cologne)

Jan-René Schluchter

(PH Ludwigsburg):

“Objects in the mirror are closer than they appear’ – Ethisch(-philosophische) Reflexionen von Gesellschaft(en) in Dinosaurier-Filmen (am Beispiel der *Jurassic Park/ World* -Reihe)”

Friedhelm Schneidewind

(unabhängig):

“Gegenseitige Verantwortung? Zum Verhältnis von Schöpfer\*in und Geschöpf”

Peter Podrez

(FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg):

“Playing with the Other  
- Fantastische Figuren im Spiel”

Discussion

13:30-  
15:00

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15:00-15:30

Coffee Break/ Kaffeepause

## COLOGNE ROOM

### PANEL 6:

#### Queer Speculations I - Corporeality

Chair:

Judith Rauscher (University of Cologne)

Ina Batzke

(University of Cologne):

“Re-envisioning Reproduction in Octavia E. Butler’s *Fledgling*”

Corina Wieser-Cox and Stina Novak

(University of Bremen):

“‘This is the World We Made’: Intersectional Representations of Queer Futurism, Neo-Colonial Militarization, and Scientific Ethics in *The Old Guard* (2020)”

Moritz Ingwersen

(TU Dresden):

“The Ethics of Exposure: Transcorporeal Hybridity in Bernard Wolfe’s *Limbo* and Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*”

Discussion

## BAMBERG ROOM

### PANEL 7:

#### Imagining Corporeal Ethics and Social Justice

Chair:

Julia Gatermann (University of Bremen)

James Hoyle

(Marshall University):

“Gene Editing, Designer Humans, and the Will to Live: A Glitch Analysis of *Blade Runner*”

Alena Chicolewski

(University of Oldenburg):

“‘We had wanted to change the world’ – Militant Environmental Activism as Retributive Justice in Cindy Pon’s YASF Novel *Want* (2017)”

Milena Krischer

(University of Augsburg):

“Ethical Dimensions of Estrangement and Precariousness in Merlinda Bobis’ *Locust Girl*.”

Discussion

Walking Break

15:30-  
17:00

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18:00

## COLOGNE ROOM

### PANEL 8:

#### Political Possibilities

Chair:

Jonas Nerke (University of Cologne)

Franko Burolo

(University of Bamberg):

“Visions of Utopia and Dystopia in ex-Yugoslav and Italian Punk Songs”

Pedro Branco

(Independent):

“Neither Fact nor Fiction: Speculative Documentaries for a Post-Truth Era”

Sascha Joseph

(University of Cologne):

“The Dilemma in Posthuman Literature: Ethical Theory and Philip K. Dick’s *Human Is*”

Discussion

Walking Break

Keynote Room  
18:00-19:00

**Keynote** (Engl.): “Dark Mirrors: German Science Fiction in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”  
by Prof. Dr. Ingo Cornils

## MAIN ROOM

10:00-  
10:30

## BAMBERG ROOM

## COLOGNE ROOM

### PANEL 9:

### PANEL 10:

#### Fantastische Geschichte(n)

#### Beyond Good and Evil in the Fantastic

Chair:  
Sarah Böhlau (Universität Bamberg)

Chair:  
Igor Baldoino (University of Bamberg)

Peter Seyferth  
(unabhängig):  
"Ist es gerecht, übermächtige  
SF-Gadgets zu benutzen?  
Eine Analyse des Falls Kropotkin  
(Dennis Danvers: *The Watch*, 2002)"

Nina Marie Voigt  
(University of Bremen):  
"A Modern Fairytale?  
Gender in *Ex-Machina*"

Janina Dillig  
(Universität Bamberg):  
"Rittertugenden als PR Tool:  
Parahumane Moral im Web Serial *Worm -Doing  
the Wrong Things for the Right Reasons*"

Saga Bokne  
(Karlstad University):  
"Drought, Rats, and Pecksies:  
Exploring the  
Mechanisms of Xenophobia in Robin  
Hobb's "Words Like Coins"

Simon Spiegel  
(Universität Zürich/Universität Bayreuth):  
"Die Einsamkeit der Zeitreisenden.  
Zum Solipsismus von Zeitreise-Erzählungen"

Jelena Filipovic  
(University of Düsseldorf):  
"Mimetic Rivalry in "Middle-earth:  
Shadow of War"

Discussion

Discussion

12:00-13:30

Lunch Break/ Mittagspause

## BAMBERG ROOM

## COLOGNE ROOM

### PANEL 11:

#### Speculative Environments

Chair:  
Lorena Bickert (University of Bamberg)

Lars Schmeink  
(University of Flensburg):  
“After the End: The Postanthropocene Future of  
*Endzeit*”

Christian Lenz  
(TU Dortmund):  
“Does the Rainforest Have a Body?  
Eco-geographical Reflections  
on *FernGully*”

Sladja Blazan  
(University of Würzburg):  
“Indigenous Concepts of the Monstrous in  
Popular Culture: Exploring the Aesthetics of  
the EcoGothic in *Stranger Things*  
and *Annihilation*”

Discussion

13:30-  
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15:00

15:00-15:30

Coffee Break/ Kaffeepause

### PANEL 12:

#### Fantastik in Romanischer Literatur

Chair:  
Judith Rauscher (University of Cologne)

Elisabeth Kruse  
(LMU München):  
“Eine Welt ohne Tod und Krankheit:  
Ethische Fragestellungen zur  
Utopie durch die  
fantastische Literatur”

Kai Nonnenmacher  
(Universität Bamberg):  
“Fantastik und Kritik gesellschaftlicher  
Werte im französischen Gegenwartsroman”

Claudia Gatzemeier  
(Universität Leipzig):  
“Grenzerfahrungen und Abgründe.  
Dystopien in der aktuellen  
spanischsprachigen Literatur”

Discussion



## BAMBERG ROOM

## COLOGNE ROOM

### PANEL 13:

#### Queer Speculations II – Transgressions

Chair:  
Mareike Spychala  
(University of Bamberg)

Si Sophie Pages Whybrew  
(University of Graz):  
“Almost visible? The Specter of Trans  
Belonging and Trauma on  
*Star Trek: Discovery*”

Verónica Mondragón-Paredes  
(Tecnológico de Monterrey):  
“Deviant and Abnormals: The Portrayal  
of Queer Characters in  
*The Power* (2016)”

Julia Gatermann  
(University of Oldenburg):  
“Crossing Lines in the Sundown Town:  
Exploring Racially and Sexually Fluid  
Embodiment in Misha Green's  
*Lovecraft Country*”

Discussion

Walking Break

15:30-  
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18:00

### PANEL 14:

#### Imagining Otherness in Speculative Fiction

Chair:  
Maria Wiegel & Kathrin Lachenmaier  
(University of Cologne)

Jake Casella Brookins  
(Independent):  
“Potentials and Limits of Alterity Ethics  
in Cherryh's Science Fiction”

Mariana Rios Maldonado  
(University of Glasgow):  
“Ethics and Otherness in Tolkien's  
Middle-earth Narratives”

Jonas Nerke  
(University of Cologne):  
“Nietzschean Influences in Robert  
A. Heinlein's Work”

Discussion

Walking Break

Reading Room  
18:00-19:00

Author Reading (Eng.): “Fairy Tales for Robots”  
by Sofia Samatar

## MAIN ROOM

09:00-

09:30

## BAMBERG ROOM

## COLOGNE ROOM

### PANEL 15:

#### Brave New Worlds

Chair:  
Kerstin-Anja M $\ddot{u}$ nderlein  
(University of Bamberg)

Jonas Faust  
(University of Heidelberg):  
"From Mindlessness to Mindfulness –The  
Role and Ethical Classification of Altered  
States of Consciousness in the Works of  
Aldous Huxley"

Hisashi Ozawa  
(Meiji University):  
"Motherhood and Reproduction in the  
Dystopian Future: E. M. Forster and Aldous  
Huxley"

Samira Aziz  
(North South University):  
"‘But I do have hope, I feel it in here  
like a pain!’ Redemption and Ethics  
in Sarah Perry’s *Melmoth*"

Discussion

09:30-

11:00

### PANEL 16:

#### Fantastic Temporalities

Chair:  
Alexandra Novacov  
(University of Cologne)

Julia Grillmayr  
(University of Art and Design Linz):  
"Ethical and Unethical Jumps to the  
Future"

Maria-Ana Tupan  
(Alba Iulia University):  
"The Passage to Other Worlds: from  
Moral Edification to Collapse of All  
Values"

Povilas Dumbliauskas  
(Vilnius University)  
and Jonas Neldner  
(University of Cologne):  
"Science Fiction as a Symptom of Time:  
Futurity and the Temporality of  
Catastrophe"

Discussion

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11:00-11:30

Coffee Break/ Kaffeepause

## BAMBERG ROOM

## COLOGNE ROOM

### PANEL 17:

#### Ethik und Außerirdisches Leben

Chair:

Sara Tewelde-Negassi (University of Cologne)

Katharina Scheerer

(Universität Münster):

“Im Reich des zweiten Gesichts’ –  
Außerirdische als Ausgangspunkt ethischer  
Diskurse in spekulativer Literatur um 1900”

Niklas Rughöft

(Universität Potsdam):

“Revolutionsexport im All:  
Eine Science-Fiction-Variante  
des Umgangs mit anderen Gesellschaften”

Discussion

Lunch Break

11:30-

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GFF Room

14:00-16:00

GFF Membership Meeting (Dt.)/ GFF Mitgliederversammlung

Roundtable Room

17:00-18:30

Panel-Diskussion (Dt.): “Queere Fantastik: Gegenwart und Zukunft”

18:30-19:00

Wrap Up/ Verabschiedung

### PANEL 18:

#### Posthumanism and Afropessimism in Black SF

Chair:

Verena Wurth (University of Cologne)

Andrew Erickson

(University of Flensburg):

“An Ethics of Posthumanism  
and/as Black SF”

Max Rhiem

(University of Tübingen):

“What was the world coming to?:  
Thinking Afropessimism’s  
End of the World through  
George S. Schuyler’s  
*Black no more*”

Simon Lee-Price

(Buckinghamshire New University):

“Derrick Bell’s chronicle of ‘The Space  
Traders’: Afropessimism and the Future of  
Racial Justice in the USA”

Discussion

Lunch Break

GFF Room

14:00-16:00

GFF Membership Meeting (Dt.)/ GFF Mitgliederversammlung

Roundtable Room

17:00-18:30

Panel-Diskussion (Dt.): “Queere Fantastik: Gegenwart und Zukunft”

18:30-19:00

Wrap Up/ Verabschiedung