

More often than not, academic research tries to solve the issues of the 21st century with concepts of the 20th in institutional frameworks of the 19th. The very term ‘humanities’ can be seen as somewhat problematic today, as it implies an exclusive focus on humans and humanity. There is, however, hardly an issue of cultural or social concern today, which does not involve complex entanglements of human and nonhuman actors.

The conference focus is on matter, networks, affect, objects, animals, and media in order to show how other entities act in and shape our world. Making these nonhuman entities visible helps us better engage with the contemporary moment and problems such as global climate change, the collapse of financial markets, or nonhuman internet traffic. Papers will address such diverse fields as actor-network theory, affect theory, animal studies, assemblage theory, new media theory, new materialism, speculative and object-oriented realism, ecology or systems theory. Turning towards the nonhuman in the study of culture, however, is not just about “contemporary thought”—it’s about politics, knowledge, and embodied experience both in the present and throughout history. Thus a “nonhuman turn” in the study of culture might just as well be described as a “re/turn of the nonhuman”, as research on the cultural and social relations of human and nonhuman actors can be traced to a variety of different intellectual and theoretical developments moving back through the last decades of the 20th century and well before.

This is the first in a series of conferences at the International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC) designed to identify and discuss emerging topics for the study of culture. Together with the Center for 21st Century Studies (C21)/University of Wisconsin, this first event is meant to explore how the re/turn of the nonhuman might provide a way forward for the contemporary study of culture in light of the difficult challenges of the 21st century.

Monday May, 27

10 - 11 am	Registration
11 am - 1 pm	Introduction Florian Sprenger, Beatrice Michaelis, Richard Grusin Keynote Ursula Heise: I, Rainforest: Posthumanism and Multispecies Communities in the Anthropocene <i>Chair: Ansgar Nünning</i>
1 - 2.30 pm	Lunch
2.30 - 4 pm <i>guest house</i>	Panel 1: Aesthetics of Belonging (in English) <i>Chair: Jens Kugele</i> Jörn Ahrens: The Gravity of Infection. ‘Contagion’ and the Moving Adversary Julia Bee: Turning Non/Human: Vampires, Monsters, Cyborgs and their Propositions for Posthuman Performativity and Media Entanglements Erin Obodiac: Wagers of the Apparatus: Transgenic and Robotic Citizenries
<i>room 001</i>	Panel 2: Digital Non-Humans (in English) <i>Chair: Florian Sprenger</i> Till Heilmann: Digitality and Humanity Sebastian Gießmann: Law as Code and Code as Law. Is there a media anthropology of the non-human? Shintaro Miyazaki: The Body as a Media Agencement. Short Circuiting the Non-Human with the Human
4 - 4.30 pm	Coffee <i>guest house</i>

Monday May, 27

4.30 - 6 pm <i>guest house</i>	Keynote Jussi Parikka: Psychogeophysics: Aesthetics for the Non-Organics <i>Chair: Richard Grusin</i>
6 - 6.30 pm	Break
6.30 - 10 pm <i>probabühne 1</i>	Performance Filmscreening 6.30 pm: Welcome thoughts about nonhuman performance by Bojana Kunst 7 pm: Performance by Swoosh Lieu “Everything but solo” 8 pm: Reception 9 pm: Screening of Heiner Goebbels’ film “Stifters Dinge”

Tuesday May, 28

9.30 - 11 am <i>guest house</i>	Panel 3: The Production of Vitality (in English) <i>Chair: Michael Basseler</i> Martin Müller: Biofacts and Homo Faber - The aporia of the (non) human within Synthetic Biology Maria Temmes: “Finnish mice” and the question of the unnatural Jordana Greenblatt: Towards a new Constructivism, or How Bodies Matter: Epigenetics and the Bodily Text
<i>room 001</i>	Panel 4: Ecology of Things (in German) <i>Chair: Philipp Schulte</i> André Eiermann: Theater, menschenleer: “Stifters Dinge” von Heiner Goebbels



Tuesday May, 28

Christoph Schanze:

Vorüberlegungen zu einer historischen Narratologie der Dinge

Laura Moisi:

Von Lärm zu Logos? Möglichkeiten und Grenzen einer Politik der Dinge

11 - 11.30 am Coffee *guest house*

11.30 am - 1 pm **Panel 5: Non Sequitur – Animals and Humans** (in English)

Chair: Doris Bachmann-Medick

Jessica Lomanowska:

Roach LabRedux: Biomedica, OOO, and the "Intraactivity of Becoming"

Oxana Timofeeva:

Towards the History of Animals

Greta Olson:

Romancing the Non-Human Animal

room 001 **Panel 6: Calculation and Agency** (in German)

Chair: Hubertus Büschel

Caroline Gerlitz:

Numbering the social – The performativity of social media actions and metrics (in English)

Dietmar Wetzel:

Finanzwirtschaft und das Nicht-Humane – zur Aktualität einer finanzsoziologischen Konstellation

Florian Lippert:

Subjektlose Soziologie. Luhmanns "Autopoiesis"-Konzept und die Frage nach dem Menschen

1 - 2.30 pm Lunch

2.30 - 4 pm **Panel 7: Assemblages** (in English)

Chair: Martin Zierold

Jason Puskar:

Awake at the Switch: Technoagencies of Liberal Choice

Tuesday May, 28

Gerko Egert:

Nonhuman Choreographies: Mette Ingvarsten's "Artificial Nature Project"

Alexandra Claudia Manta:

Serresian (A)biogenesis, or the Inhuman Turbulence of Matter: De-Anthropomorphizing Biology into a Physics of Chaos & Complexity?

room 001 **Panel 8: Non-Human Images** (in German)

Chair: Beatrice Michaelis

Thomas Martin:

"Und kein Weib mit dem Tiere..., denn es ist ein Greuel!" Sodomie in der frühneuzeitlichen Kunst

Franziska Uhlig:

Tiere und Computer – Max Benses Ränder der Kunstkonzeptionen

Florian Leitner:

Von Robotern und Schildkröten. Nicht-anthropomorphe Blicke in Michael Snow's "La région centrale" und auf YouTube

4 - 4.30 pm Coffee *guest house*

4.30 - 6 pm **Keynote**

Noortje Marres:

From non-humans to issues: felicities of digital culture

Chair: Martin Zierold

End of Conference

Poster Presentations:

Benjamin Campbell | University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee

Beate Ochsner, Markus Spöhrer, Robert Stock | University of Konstanz

Katarzyna Ruchel-Stockmans | Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Konstantinos Vassiliou | Athens School of Fine Arts

Conference co-organised by



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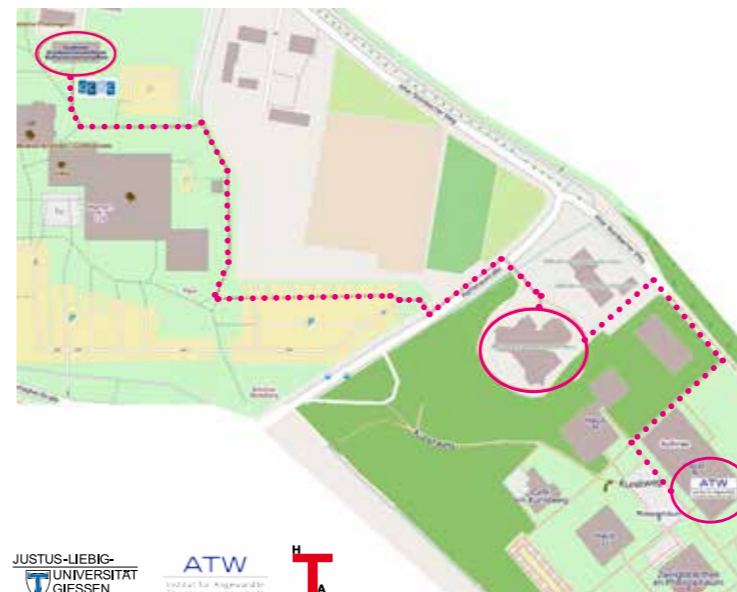


Center for 21st Century Studies (C21)
University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

<https://www4.uwm.edu/c21/>

There is no participation fee. However, we kindly ask you to register by writing an email to Falk Röbler: Falk.Roessler@ggk.uni-giessen.de.

We offer day-care for your children during the conference. If you are interested, please contact Katharina.Naumann@gcsc.uni-giessen.de.



the re/turn of the nonhuman in the study of culture

concepts
concerns
challenges

Keynotes
Panels
Performance
Filmscreening

International Conference
27 - 28 May 2013
Giessen | Germany

International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture
Room 001 | Alter Steinbacher Weg 38
35394 Giessen

Alexander von Humboldt Guest House
Rathenastr. 24 A
35394 Giessen

Probebühne 1
Institut für Angewandte Theaterwissenschaft | Phil. II
House A | Karl-Glöckner-Str. 21 A
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