



21/09 ————— 23/09/23

Steffen Andrae	Antje Krause-Wahl	Samuel Rosenblum
Susan Buck-Morss	Bianca Laliberté	William Ross
Eva-Maria Ciesla	Sandra Laugier	Martin Saar
Dorothea Douglas	Leonie Licht	Jochen Schuff
Anne Eusterschulte	Sophie Loidolt	Julius Schwarzwälder
Sören Fiedler	Jaka Lombar	Samu/elle Striewski
Rainer Forst	Patchen Markell	Nathan Taylor
Jason Frank	Sabine Müller	Katrin Trüstedt
Daniel Hartley	Claudia Young-joo Park	Johannes Völz
Dominik Herold	Francesca Raimondi	Franziska Wildt
Rob Horning	Martin Renz	Johanna Wurz
Martin Jay	Leonhard Riep	

## **Goethe-University Frankfurt** **Normative Orders Building**

**Max-Horkheimer-Str. 2**  
**60323 Frankfurt**  
**EG 01/02**

Organizers:  
Dominik Herold, Claudia Young-joo Park,  
Martin Renz, Julius Schwarzwälder

NETZWERK  
PAULSKIRCHE IFS

**Everyone is welcome,  
registration encouraged at  
aedi.grade@gmail.com**



Since its birth at the end of the 18th century, modern democracy has proved to be more than a system of government: forms of governance and ways of living dovetail as to formulate its structural complexity. Already in classical antiquity, politicians and thinkers observed the profound influence of the self-governing collective in shaping individual sensibilities; the modern democratic mechanism of representation increases and foregrounds such structural complexity, seeing the self-actualization of the demos and selection of political representatives via aesthetic media and strategies. Indeed, the aesthetic dimensions reveal modern democracies to be life-forms. That is, democracies reach deep into the fabric of life, cultivating certain modes of conduct, forms of communication, artistic practices, individual as well as collective forms of experience – all of which intertwine and shape the lives of those involved.

The international graduate conference **THE AESTHETICS OF DEMOCRATIC LIFE-FORMS** thus seeks to understand aesthetics not as a disparate, hostile sphere in relation to democracy – an assumption which posits the aestheticization of politics to be inherently anti-democratic –, nor as a structurally analogous foil for democratic politics. Rather, this conference hopes to shed light on how aesthetic practices and phenomena provide insight into democratic life-forms, as well as how political practices and discussions implicate modes of conduct whose aesthetic dimensions lend themselves to productive analysis.

**Thursday**

**21/09/2023**

14:00–14:10	<b>Welcome from the Organizers</b> —Dominik Herold (Goethe-University Frankfurt)
14:10–14:20	<b>Opening Remarks</b> —Rainer Forst (Goethe-University Frankfurt)
14:20–14:35	<b>Introduction to the Conference Theme</b> —Johannes Völz (Goethe-University Frankfurt)
14:35–15:30	<b>Keynote: Leib, Körper and the Body Politic</b> —Martin Jay (UC Berkeley)
15:30–16:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:00–17:45	<b>Podium Discussion + Q&amp;A</b> —Martin Jay (UC Berkeley) —Susan Buck-Morss (CUNY) —Katrin Trüstedt (ZfL Berlin) —Martin Saar (Goethe-University Frankfurt)
17:45–18:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
18:00–18:50	<b>FORUM 1</b> Chair: Jonathan Schöniger (University of Art and Design Offenbach am Main)  <b>Lifeless Life-Forms: Generative AI as Predictive Solipsism</b> —Rob Horning (Independent Critic)

**Friday**

**22/09/2023**

09:00–12:15	<b>PANEL 1</b> Chair: Ivo Eichhorn (Goethe-University Frankfurt)  <i>Ordinary Aesthetics and the Experience of Democracy.</i> <i>Emerson, Dewey, Cavell</i> —Sandra Laugier (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) <i>“I’m speaking for us.” Exemplarity of and in Democracy</i> —Sören Fiedler (TU Darmstadt) <i>The Pluralization of “Life-Form”</i> —Julius Schwarzwälder (Goethe-University Frankfurt, TU Darmstadt)
10:30–10:45	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	<b>[TBA]</b> —Jochen Schuff (FU Berlin) <i>Between Exclusion and Transgression:</i> <i>The Politics of Limit Experience After Foucault</i> —Leonhard Riep (Goethe-University Frankfurt) <i>“A horizon, then, is an empty locus...”</i> <i>On a Heavenly Metaphor as an Aesthetic Dimension in the Work of E. Laclau and Ch. Mouffe</i> —Leonie Licht (University of Applied Arts Vienna)
12:15–13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:30–16:45	<b>PANEL 2</b> Chair: Noah Grossmann (ZfL Berlin)  <b>[TBA]</b> —Susan Buck-Morss (CUNY) <i>Drag as Political Form of Life. From Tucking and Binding to Lip-Syncing Democracy</i> —Samu/elle Striewski (FU Berlin) <i>Architectural Processes of Designing and Intervening – Improvisation as an Aesthetic Practice of Democratic Life-Forms</i> —Eva-Maria Ciesla (FU Berlin)
15:00–15:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	<i>Senses of Democracy. Aesthetics as Counter-Discipline</i> —Francesca Raimondi (FU Berlin) <i>“Faking It” at the Highlander Folk Center and SNCC: On Improvisational Practices of Organizing</i> —Samuel Rosenblum (Cornell University) <i>Once You See It, You Cannot Unsee It.</i> <i>The Aesthetic Effectivity of Arendtian Power</i> —Martin Renz (Goethe-University Frankfurt)
16:45–17:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
17:15–18:45	<b>FORUM 2</b> Discussant: Nathan Taylor (Goethe-University Frankfurt)  <i>An Aesthetics of Democracy</i> —Jason Frank (Cornell University) <i>Aesthetics and Democracy: From Model to Medium</i> —Patchen Markell (Cornell University)

**Saturday**

**23/09/2023**

09:00–12:15	<b>PANEL 3</b> Chair: Lorena Nauschnegg (Goethe-University Frankfurt)  <i>Representing Gaia? Towards a Politics of Appearing</i> —Katrin Trüstedt (ZfL Berlin) <i>Political and Aesthetic Representation: A Problem Solved, Or Still a Challenge?</i> —Sabine Müller (University of Vienna) <i>The Politics of Style</i> —Daniel Hartley (Durham University)
10:30–10:45	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	<i>Politics of Prose. The Language of Resistance and the Resistance of Language</i> —Franziska Wildt (Goethe-University Frankfurt, Institute for Social Research) <i>Literary as Life-Form: Reflections on the Realism and Politics of Literature</i> —Claudia Young-joo Park (Goethe-University Frankfurt) <i>“Neues Sehen”. Realism as Critique</i> —Steffen Andrae (University of Erfurt)
12:15–13:30	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:30–16:45	<b>PANEL 4</b> Chair: Amadeus Ulrich (Goethe-University Frankfurt)  <i>The Aesthetics of Touch. Art and Being Together in Time of Crisis</i> —Antje Krause-Wahl (Goethe-University Frankfurt) <i>Exhibition Design as a Performative Medium of Democracy?</i> <i>The Aesthetic-Political Double Life of Permanent Art Exhibitions in the 1970s</i> —Johanna Würz (University of Kassel) <i>The Projected Body of the Legal Subject. Institutional Embodiment in the Stairwell of the Amtsgericht Mitte in Berlin</i> —Dorothea Douglas (HU Berlin)
15:00–15:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
	<i>The Return of Mimesis and Mirroring in New Media</i> —Jaka Lombar (Trinity College Dublin) <i>Spivak and Adorno on the Transformation of Darstellung</i> —William Ross (Goethe-University Frankfurt) <i>The “Useful Arts” Apparatus.</i> <i>The American Revolution’s Visual Production</i> —Bianca Laliberté (Université du Québec à Montréal)
16:45–17:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
17:15–18:15	<b>FORUM 3</b> Chair: Daniel Feijo (Goethe-University Frankfurt)  —Anne Eusterschulte (FU Berlin) —Sophie Loidolt (TU Darmstadt)