



21/09

23/09/23

Steffen Andrae  
 Susan Buck-Morss  
 Eva-Maria Ciesla  
 Dorothea Douglas  
 Anne Eusterschulte  
 Sören Fiedler  
 Rainer Forst  
 Jason Frank  
 Daniel Hartley  
 Dominik Herold  
 Rob Horning  
 Martin Jay

Antje Krause-Wahl  
 Bianca Laliberté  
 Sandra Laugier  
 Leonie Licht  
 Sophie Loidolt  
 Jaka Lombar  
 Patchen Markell  
 Sabine Müller  
 Claudia Young-joo Park  
 Francesca Raimondi  
 Martin Renz  
 Leonhard Riep

Samuel Rosenblum  
 William Ross  
 Martin Saar  
 Jochen Schuff  
 Julius Schwarzwälder  
 Samu/elle Striewski  
 Nathan Taylor  
 Katrin Trüstedt  
 Johannes Völz  
 Franziska Wildt  
 Johanna Wurz

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

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

Program:



Everyone is welcome,  
 registration encouraged at  
[aedl.grade@gmail.com](mailto:aedl.grade@gmail.com)

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

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.

**PROGRAM**  
**21/09–23/09/2023**

International Graduate Conference  
THE AESTHETICS OF DEMOCRATIC LIFE-FORMS

**Thursday**

**21/09/2023**

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

**Friday**

**22/09/2023**

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

**Saturday**

**23/09/2023**

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