

## ANTICIPATING MODERNITIES

In an age of so-called ›globalisation‹ and dramatically deteriorating environmental conditions, the concept of modernity has come under ever-increasing scrutiny, not least for its traditional links to specifically Western grands récits. Because of literature's fundamental involvement with issues of temporality, and also because of its tendency to construct temporalities of its own, literature, too, must be affected by these debates. How many modernities are there, how are they constructed and how are they related to the cultural modernisms they are associated with? How do those modernities/modernisms anticipate their break with a past they claim to have overcome, how do they anticipate the futures they envisage, and how do these various anticipations inform our historical view on multiple modernities?

EXC 2020's annual conference »Anticipating Modernities« (July 6th – 8th, 2022) will critically address these and similar issues, inquiring how a broad range of literary phenomena construct, engage with and question their own temporalities beyond reductive oppositions such as ›old‹ vs. ›new‹, ›innovation‹ vs. ›tradition‹ or ›circular‹ vs. ›linear‹. Our conference will explore how the process of ›doing literature‹ is always involved in developing and transforming its own historical and temporal forms of signification, how imagined futures can only be established by relying on past models, how current cultural productions are haunted by the suppressed lines of tradition embedded within them, and how visions of literature go out of date. Is it possible to think modernity within a broad variety of cultural and historical settings without simultaneously falling prey to the supersessionist, teleological and self-fulfilling tendencies so dominant in the Western understanding of modernity? Is it possible to think a concept of anticipation that contributes to a project of modernity/modernism devoid of those Eurocentric biases and Western trajectories that continue to bedevil so many attempts to define and construct the ›modern‹?

### CONTACT

Sebastian Tränkle, [s.traenkle@fu-berlin.de](mailto:s.traenkle@fu-berlin.de)  
Simon Godart, [simon.godart@fu-berlin.de](mailto:simon.godart@fu-berlin.de)

[www.temporal-communities.de](http://www.temporal-communities.de)

### PARTICIPATION

The event will be held in a hybrid format, participants may follow the presentations and discussions online. For registration, please visit <https://userblogs.fu-berlin.de/anticipating-modernities/registration/>



Funded by  
**DFG** Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft  
German Research Foundation

Freie Universität  Berlin

# Anticipating Modernities

Annual  
Conference  
July 6–8  
2022

**TEMPORAL  
COMMUNITIES**

DOING LITERATURE IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

---

WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY

---

3:00 p.m.

Check-In

3:15 p.m.

Welcome

Directors Anita Traninger & Andrew James Johnston, EXC 2020

---

### PANEL 1: COMMUNITIES IN TIME

---

3:30–5:30 p.m.

**Beowulfian Anticipations: Wealhtheow's Conflicted Modernisms**

Andrew James Johnston, EXC 2020

**To Free a Soul from Hell: The Debate on Trajan's Salvation between Late Antiquity and Early Modern Theology**

Bernd Roling, EXC 2020

---

### PANEL 2: PLANETARY MODERNITIES, MODERN TEMPORALITIES

---

6:00–8:00 p.m.

**White Times: The Many Temporalities of the Arctic**

Carolyn Dinshaw, NYU (New York University)

»What we do not forget is forever in the future«:

**Modernities of Oceania**

Susan Stanford Friedman, University of Wisconsin-Madison

---



---

THURSDAY, 7 JULY

---

### PANEL 3: GLOBAL ANTICIPATIONS

---

1:30–3:30 p.m.

**Shifting Temporalities in Chinese Discourses on the Modern West in the Early Twentieth Century and Early Twenty-First Century**

Thomas Fröhlich, FAU (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität)

**World Elegy, Anticipatory Mourning, and Ecocritique**

Jahan Ramazani, University of Virginia

---

### PANEL 4: MAPPING MODERNITIES

---

4:00–6:00 p.m.

**Time-Maps: Modernity, Spatiotemporality, and Postcolonial Futures**

Vilashini Cooppan, University of California, Santa Cruz

**Disorienting Times and the Crisis of Modernity:**

**South Asian Reflections**

Prathama Banerjee, CSDS (Centre for the Study of Developing Societies), New Delhi

---

### PANEL 5: MAPPING MODERNITIES

---

6:30–8:30 p.m.

**Active Thought and Future Perfect: Reading History and Expression with the Belgrade Surrealist Circle**

Sanja Bahun, University of Essex

**The Neo-Baroque as Writing Community**

Ana Rocío Jouli, National University of La Plata, EXC 2020

---

---

FRIDAY, 8 JULY

---

### PANEL 6: ENCOUNTERS

---

2:00–4:00 p.m.

**Encounters in Works on Paper: Beirut, Baghdad, Beijing**  
Sonja Mejcher-Atassi, American University of Beirut

**Anticipating the Arab(ic) Gothic: a Forgotten Prehistory of the Modern Novel**

Alexandra Chreiteh, Tufts University, EXC 2020

---

### PANEL 7: LIMINAL ANTICIPATION

---

4:30–6:30 p.m.

**Francis Bacon against Anticipation**

Simon Godart, EXC 2020

**Anticipation in an Age of Uncertainty**

Mark Currie, Queen Mary University of London

---

7:00 p.m.

Closing

---



Images: A man falling off a horse. Collotype after Eadweard Muybridge, 1887. Wellcome Collection, public domain. | A man standing on his hands from a lying down position. Collotype after Eadweard Muybridge, 1887. Wellcome Collection, public domain. | Animal Locomotion, Plate 172 by Eadweard Muybridge, 1887. Wikimedia Commons, public domain.