

International Postgraduate Program Performance and Media Studies

The IPP "Performance and Media Studies" at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz is an international PhD program, designed to offer a guiding academic structure to doctoral students. Founded in 2002 with support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Foundation for Research (DFG), it is a unique program combining the fields of theatre studies, performance studies, cultural and media studies in an interdisciplinary dialogue.

IPP Summer School

The Summer School has been an integral part of the IPP Performance and Media Studies since 2003. Taking place at the end of every summer term, it discusses central questions in cultural studies and media studies, focusing on a different thematic aspect each year. The IPP Summer School addresses graduate and postgraduate/doctoral students from a variety of disciplines. It offers an international forum of study and supports interdisciplinary exchange. The participants attend Lectures, Seminars and Workshops regarding the Summer School's respective thematic focus. In Presentation Panels, they have the opportunity to discuss their own projects with outstanding academics from Germany and abroad.

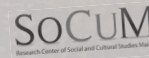
Concepts of Holiness Performing Radicality - The Return of the Religious

From the perspective of the late 20th century, religion in Europe could still be conceived as a waning entity: Religious practices had increasingly become invisible through their dissociation from religious institutions and by their banishment to the realm of the private. Simultaneously, they seemed to have been succeeded by "the spirit of capitalism" (Max Weber) or to have found their new place within this "spirit," as in Walter Benjamin's claim that capitalism was not beyond religion, but a form of religion itself. However, the global events inaugurating the 21st century, such as the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, the subsequent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the recent, near collapse of the capitalistic financial markets, have vehemently brought the religious back into public discourse.

Against this background, the program "Concepts of Holiness" proposes an operational approach to the religious that allows students to revisit diverse concepts of holiness in a broader sense and to reevaluate the role of religion(s) in Theatre, Cultural Performance, and Media. During 2013 and 2014, "Concepts of Holiness" scrutinised the religious in performance and the religious as a critical practice. In 2015, we would like to address the return of (radical) religious performativity within a range of formats, such as seminars, lectures and excursions.

Contact

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International Summer School
13-19 July 2015
University of Mainz

Concepts of
Holiness
Performing Radicality
- The Return of the Religious

Keynote

Mon., 13th July 2015, 5pm, Linke Aula

Prof. Freddie Rokem (Tel Aviv):

„But the full sum of me is the sum of something“

- Counting to Three in 'The Merchant of Venice'

Evening Lectures

Tue., 14th July 2015, 6pm, Linke Aula

Dr. Gabriele Pfeiffer (Vienna):

Putting on a Phrygian Hat

Wed., 15th July 2015, 6pm, Linke Aula

Prof. Steve Wilmer (Dublin):

Invisible Mothers: Biopolitical Control in Catholic Ireland

Thu., 16th July 2015, 6pm, Linke Aula

Prof. Jody Enders (Santa Barbara):

Medieval Church Pornography and the Radical Farce of Theology

Fri., 17th July 2015, 6pm, RW3

Dr. Joshua Edelmann (London):

**What Performance Studies Needs from Religious Studies
(and vice versa)**

Presentation Panels

Sat., 18th July & Sun., 29th July 2015, 9.30am-1pm, Infobox

**Presentations by IPP Ph.D. candidates
and international guests**

Excursion

Sat., 18th July 2015, starting 2.30am
destination to be announced!

Seminars

July 14th-15th 2015, 9.30am-5pm, Infobox

**Energies of Truth:
Utopia, Sacrifice, and Performance**

Prof. Sharon Aronson-Lehavi (Bar-Ilan)

Prof. Michael Bachmann (Glasgow)

With its etymological origins in the Latin word for root (radix), the term "radical" engenders two seemingly contradictory meanings: either having roots or departing from what is deemed to be traditional. Through a series of case studies—including, but not limited to the work of Adrienne Kennedy, Heiner Müller, Deb Margolin and Hanoch Levin—we look at religious "returns" in contemporary theatre and performance and examine how they relate the different meanings of "radical". More specifically, the seminar asks how the "radical" performance of religious themes allows for a broader discussion about the ways in which notions of "truth" are constructed and problematized. Drawing on theoretical readings by Jacques Derrida, Alain Badiou and René Girard, among others, we will explore these questions by focusing on sacrifice and utopia as two paradigms that are not only central to religious theatricality and performativity, but intrinsically bound up with a performance of and a belief in "truth".

July 16th-17th 2015, 9.30am-5pm, Infobox

**Theatre and Asylum Seekers.
Performing Stories of Utopia
and Refuge**

Prof. Julia Stenzel (Mainz)

Prof. Steve Wilmer (Dublin)

The topics of leaving home, of homelessness, and of looking for a better place to live are crucial to Attic Theatre. As Hikesia cannot be described without a strong reference to mainly religious practices of un/doing borders and generating temenoi ('places of asylum'), it is all but surprising that many of the ancient Greek tragedies dealing with asylum seekers involve religious beliefs and devotional practices. But Attic Comedy is a paradigmatic place negotiating utopian and dystopian ways of leaving home as well. Especially plays which provide stage journeys of anabasic/katabasic nature (e.g. 'Birds', 'Peace' or 'Frogs'), have been brought to (post)modern theatrical life for they are dealing with precarious political situations.

In our seminar, we will focus not only on the plays themselves and theoretical readings on hospitality, but also on the role of theatre in general and specific theatres, festivals and theatrical events in current debates on immigration and political utopianism (e.g. Berlin theatres and the Berliner Theatertreffen becoming active in the debate about immigration at the moment, scenic negotiations of European Utopias and Eu/Utopia in general). Europe comes into sight as a place of longing or a merely abstract ideal of freedom, equality and solidarity.

Concepts of

Homelessness