

HGGS

HEIDELBERGER
GRADUIERTENSCHULE
FÜR GEISTES- UND
SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386



This Winter Semester, the Heidelberg Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences welcomes with Prof. Dr. Kama Maclean from the Philosophy Faculty and Prof. Dr. Astrid Schweighofer from the Theology Faculty two new Board Members. A warm welcome to them as well as to the new Doctoral Committee, led by Eva Marie Heimers and Nadja Samira Fraenkel, and the 18 new HGGS members from our six different faculties!

The Winter Forum in January brought together many new doctoral candidates as well as HGGS members from recent years and there was a lively debate of 1st year projects as well as a retrospective of doctoral projects brought to a successful conclusion. The Q&A session after the guest lecture by Prof. Marta Fanasca (Bologna) was a vibrant display of the interdisciplinary perspectives and interests of HGGS members.

We already look forward to seeing you all again at our Masterclasses, Workshops and especially at the HGGS Summer Forum in 2026!

Newsletter Winter Semester 2025-26

Welcome

Doctoral Committee

Winter Forum

Academic Writing Retreat

Georg Lukács Day

South-South-North News

Research Methods
Masterclasses

Research News

Publications

Summer Forum CfP

EDITOR: DEEPA E. JOHN

Doctoral Committee

We are Eva Marie Heimers, PhD candidate in Medieval Latin Philology, and Nadja Samira Fraenkel, PhD candidate in Comparative Literature, the newly elected representatives of the doctoral candidates in the Heidelberg Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Our aim this year is to strengthen both everyday support and long-term networking opportunities within the HGGs community—from informal meet-ups and peer-mentoring to joint academic events. We are currently developing several ideas and will keep you informed via email, so please feel free to reach out to us at phd-committee@hggs.uni-heidelberg.de with your questions, suggestions, or concerns. We look forward to connecting with you all soon!



PhD Representatives

Eva Marie Heimers
Faculty of Modern Languages



Nadja Samira Fraenkel
Faculty of Modern Languages



HGGS Winter Forum 2026

The HGGS Winter Forum took place on 16 January 2026 at the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg (IWH). This annual event brought together members of the HGGS, which comprises more than 100 doctoral candidates from 35 countries.

In the first part of the programme, recent graduates were awarded the HGGS certificate and told us about their doctoral projects and the next steps in their academic careers. Next, new HGGS doctoral candidates from the six participating faculties presented an introduction to their interdisciplinary dissertation topics. Participants engaged in a discussion round and a lively exchange of ideas between doctoral candidates and HGGS faculty members.

The programme culminated in a keynote lecture by Professor Marta Fanasca from the University of Bologna, entitled “Commodified Intimacy for Women in Contemporary Japan and the Concept of Iyashi.” The keynote lecture was met with strong interest from the audience, who raised multi-faceted questions about Professor Fanasca’s thought-provoking research.

After the academic programme concluded, a social gathering took place at the IWH over lunch, providing further opportunities for networking and informal exchange. The HGGS Winter Forum was well attended and offered an engaging platform for scholarly discussion, presentation of current research, and community building within the graduate school.



WINTER FORUM



The 2026 Winter Forum was hosted by HGGS members, Kanya Viljoen and Marco Del Din

Impressions of the Winter Forum



A Productive Writing Retreat in the Heart of the Odenwald

I still feel delighted by the energy of the HGGS Writing Retreat in Michelstadt! As the workshop leader, I had the pleasure of accompanying 13 talented colleagues through the ups and downs of academic writing. Over four days, we explored the subtleties of crafting a compelling doctoral dissertation, from time management and structuring to writing with clarity and purpose. We laughed, we brainstormed, and we wrote! The beautiful surroundings of Michelstadt, with its half-timbered houses and scenic hills, provided the perfect backdrop for our varied writing sessions.

But it wasn't all work and no play! We made time for cultural activities, group hikes, and delicious meals at picturesque venues. The sense of community and camaraderie was palpable, and I am so grateful to have been a part of it.

HGGS ACADEMIC WRITING RETREAT

Dr. Cristian Camilo Cuervo
Faculty of Modern Languages
Writer, Educator & Philologist



As a writing coach and university teacher, I have led many workshops and courses, but this retreat was truly special. The participants were engaged, motivated, and eager to learn and share their own experiences. In turn, as a recent PhD graduate myself, I was able to offer advice and insights on navigating the writing and publication of dissertations, as well as share many of the learnings from my own doctoral pathway.

Completing a PhD can be a demanding and challenging experience and, in the words of several participants, even stressful and lonely. That is why initiatives such as the HGGs Writing Retreat can undoubtedly help to reframe each personal doctoral journey and make it more enriching and enjoyable.

Many thanks to the HGGs team for organising this fantastic event, and to the participants for their energy and enthusiasm. Here's to many more writing retreats and productive collaborations in the future!



Michelstadt Rathaus



Excursion to Erbach

Georg Lukács Day in Heidelberg

On Tuesday, 21 October 2025, Heidelberg celebrated the Georg Lukács Day, dedicated to the life and work of one of the most important thinkers of the 20th century. The day began with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque at Lukács' former home at Keplerstraße 28, where he lived between 1914 and 1918. More than forty participants from Germany and abroad attended the ceremony. Journalists from Heidelberg and the surrounding region were also present and documented the event with photographs, making it part of the city's history.

The plaque was unveiled by Hassan Maarfi Poor together with Rüdiger Dannemann, Chairman of the International Georg Lukács Society in Essen. Dannemann opened the event with a short lecture on Lukács' life and intellectual development. He spoke about Lukács' feeling of "homelessness" in his own country, his importance for 20th-century philosophy, and especially his connection to Heidelberg. PD Dr. Thomas Petersen, Lecturer in Philosophy at the Heidelberg University and supervisor of Maarfi Poor's doctoral work, gave a short talk on the importance of *History and Class Consciousness* and its key role in the student movement of the 1960s. The final speaker was Michael Buselmeier, a well-known Heidelberg writer and cultural figure, who spoke briefly about Lukács' role in the city. The evening lectures given by Rüdiger Dannemann, Peter König, Thomas Petersen and Hassan Maarfi Poor attracted a large audience that engaged with the presenters in a lively exchange during the Q&A sessions. With over 80 participants, the Georg Lukács Day was both an academic and cultural success and highlighted Heidelberg's connection to an influential figure in modern intellectual history.

The Georg Lukács Day was organized by Hassan Maarfi Poor, who is currently editing a collection of essays on Lukács, with contributions by renowned scholars from different countries.



Hassan Maarfi Poor
Faculty of Philosophy



SOUTH-SOUTH-NORTH NEWS

The HGGGS initiated a new exchange programme with universities in South Africa in 2025 and was delighted to welcome the first doctoral scholars this Winter Semester!

Anastasia Gordon is a mathematics teacher and researcher with over ten years of teaching experience, currently pursuing a PhD in Education at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT). Anastasia focuses on Hybrid Communities of Practice for Sustainable Critical Pedagogy in ICT-Integrated Mathematics Education among pre-service teachers. She holds an MEd in Education (CPUT, 2023), a BEd Honours in Education Management (Stellenbosch University, 2015), and a BEd in General Education (Cum Laude) (Stellenbosch University, 2014). Outside academia, she is a 3rd Dan Black Belt in Kimura Shukokai Karate and an accomplished international competitor. Her achievements include World Champion gold (2014, Johannesburg), silver (2016, Berlin), bronze (2023, Cape Town), and 4th place (2025, Järvenpää, Finland) in Ladies Kumite events. She also represented the National Team multiple times in kata, kumite and team events.

Genevieve Lentz is an academic and a doctoral researcher dedicated to advancing transformative education, Africanisation, and inclusive pedagogical practices within higher education. She obtained her Master's degree from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, in Education with Summa Cum Laude distinction and is currently pursuing her PhD, which focuses on developing a Framework for integrating translanguaging as a transformative pedagogy to promote Africanisation in the English curriculum in South African higher education institutions. Her research is anchored in the Translanguaging framework, reflecting her commitment to decolonial, contextually grounded, and socially responsive teaching approaches. In her academic career, Genevieve has contributed extensively to English studies lecturing and student supervision at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, nurturing reflective and critical engagement among future educators. Besides being an excellent academic, Genevieve is also the first African woman to be Olympic Table Tennis deputy referee!

SOUTH-SOUTH-NORTH SCHOLARS

SOUTH AFRICA



Anastasia Gordon



Genevieve Lentz

“Bridging African and European perspectives in educational research.”

HGGS Research Methods Masterclasses

During the winter semester, the HGGS successfully organised three research methods masterclasses, focused on Qualitative Research Methods, Ethnographic Methods and Visual Approaches and GIS Mapping respectively. They aimed at strengthening the methodological skills of doctoral researchers and to provide them with useful feedback and discussion on their own individual projects. The workshops were led by distinguished professors from the London School of Economics, the University of Bologna and Heidelberg University.

The masterclasses generated strong interest, with over 35 doctoral scholars from all the faculties of the HGGS participating. Designed as an intensive and interactive sessions, the workshops provided participants with the opportunity to engage with key methodological debates and receive individualised feedback on their own research projects. Through discussions with expert facilitators and fellow doctoral researchers, participants were able to critically reflect on their research design, methodological choices, and fieldwork strategies.

The first workshop, “Doing Qualitative Social Research: Procedures and Good Practice”, conducted by Prof. Martin Bauer (LSE), was very well received and provided participants with valuable guidance on qualitative research design, data collection and analysis. Participants particularly valued the opportunity to discuss their own methodological challenges, doubts, and barriers in a supportive setting, and to receive constructive feedback tailored to their individual research projects.

The second workshop was led by led by Prof. Marta Fanasca (University of Bologna) on “Exploring Gender and Intimacy in Japan: Ethnographic Methods and Visual Approaches”. This masterclass introduced participants to ethnographic research methods with a specific focus on gender and intimacy. It also explored the use of visual ethnography as a methodological tool, encouraging scholars to think creatively about how visual approaches can be integrated into their own research and fieldwork practices.

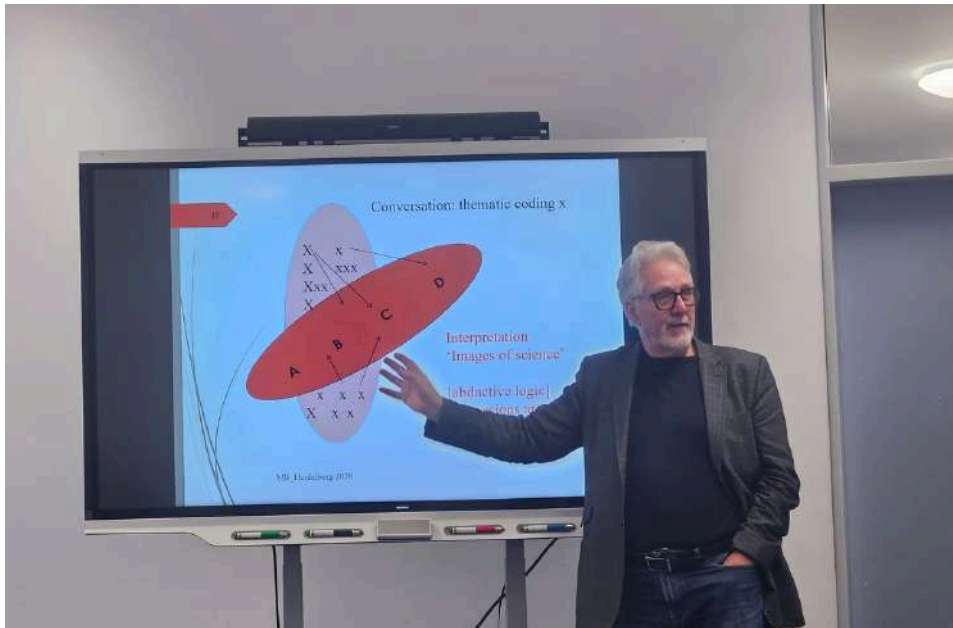
RESEARCH METHODS

Rishika Rai
Faculty of Philosophy



The third workshop, “Visual Approaches and GIS Mapping,” will be conducted on 11 February 2026 by Dr. Christina Ludwig (Heidelberg University). This upcoming session will introduce participants to methods of geospatial analysis, offering practical insights into how geospatial data can be collected, analysed, and visualised to enhance research across the social sciences and humanities.

ai evaluation
methods analysis
qualitative research rhetorical
text mapping
images fallacies
geospatial quantitative
discourse observation
sampling interviews



WEBSITE:
<https://www.hggs.uni-heidelberg.de/en/research-methods>

Kanya Viljoen

In September 2025, I had the privilege of participating a colloquium entitled, 'Post'-Violence Subjectivities in the Global South, hosted by the Centre for the Study of the Afterlives of Violence and the Reparative Quest (AVReQ) at Stellenbosch University under the leadership of Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. The colloquium brought together postgraduate scholars, artists and practitioners whose work engages deeply with the enduring legacies of violence and the fragile, necessary labour of repair.

Grounded in AVReQ's commitment to the South African Research Chair in Violent Histories and Transgenerational Trauma, the gathering created a rare interdisciplinary space for thinking across history, memory, affect, justice and embodiment. Over two days of presentations and conversations, we explored how socio-historical violence continues to reverberate through bodies, families, communities and geographies, and how these afterlives of violence are narrated, resisted and reimagined.

RESEARCH NEWS

Kanya Viljoen
Faculty of Modern Languages



What made the colloquium especially generative was its refusal to separate the academic from the lived. Rather than approaching violence as something contained in the past, the convening asked how its echoes shape contemporary subjectivities in the Global South, and how inherited trauma circulates across generations. In this way, the colloquium functioned not only as a scholarly forum, but also as a space of ethical witnessing and collective reflection.

I presented a paper titled *When 'I' Becomes 'We': Collective Resistance as Collective Reimagination*, which explored how individual experiences of trauma and silencing can be transformed through collective forms of resistance, storytelling and political imagination. Drawing on my research and creative practice, I considered how moving from the isolated "I" to a shared "we" allows new ways of seeing, feeling and acting to emerge, particularly in contexts marked by gendered and structural violence. Being part of this colloquium affirmed, for me, the importance of working across disciplines and forms, between theory, art, activism and lived experience, in order to think seriously about the afterlives of violence.

Bahar Akgün

Dissertation Submission

In January 2026, I submitted my doctoral dissertation, *The Girih Mode in Context, in Experience, and in Practice: Toward a Cognitive Ecology of Islamic Ornament in Contemporary Architectural Design*, to the Faculty of Philosophy. This research positions the girih mode of Islamic geometric ornament as a methodological analogue for contemporary architectural ornament. By bringing historical aesthetic thought into dialogue with empirical investigations of visual perception, it develops a methodological framework at the intersection of Islamic studies, art history, aesthetics, cognitive science, and architectural theory, examining the girih mode in context, in experience, and in practice. The dissertation was supervised by Prof. Dr. Rebecca Sauer, Prof. Dr. Brigitte Sölch, Dr. Rebecca Chamberlain, and Prof. Dr. Andreas Voß.

Visual Science of Art Conference (VSAC 2025)

In August 2025, I participated in the Visual Science of Art Conference (VSAC) 2025 in Wiesbaden, Germany, an interdisciplinary forum bringing together cognitive, computer, vision scientists and neuroscientists, artists, gallerists, curators, art historians. I presented a poster entitled *The Role of Mental Imagery in the Perception of Girih Ornamentation: An Eye-Tracking Study*, which focused on the empirical aesthetics dimension of my PhD research. The poster presented findings from an eye-tracking experiment investigating mental imagery, gaze behavior, and perceptual strategies in the aesthetic experience of Islamic geometric ornament.

35th Deutscher Orientalistentag (DOT 2025)

In September 2025, I presented a paper at the 35th Deutscher Orientalistentag (DOT 2025) at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. My talk, *Girih Ornamentation: A Historically Informed Empirical Study on Its Aesthetics and Contemporary Architectural Applications*, introduced the broader conceptual framework of my PhD research, situating empirical methods within the historical and theoretical study of Islamic ornament. The presentation addressed the potential of interdisciplinary approaches to bridge art-historical scholarship and contemporary architectural practice.

RESEARCH NEWS

Bahar Akgün
Faculty of Philosophy



Julian Tobias Klar

In times of upheaval in international politics and as governments worldwide – including in the erstwhile exemplary USA – become increasingly hostile to science, it is reassuring that Europe remains a reliable safe harbor for academic freedom, providing emerging scholars with plenty of opportunities to showcase their research in encouraging and supportive settings.

In August and September 2025, I joined three such events, each time giving talks. First, I joined the Fifth European Pragmatism Conference, hosted by University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, held from August 20th to 22nd. On the university's impressively modern campus, the conference offered a stimulating atmosphere for researchers on the philosophy of pragmatism, providing a welcome opportunity to socialize with old friends and make new ones in a collaborative format, the local host, Prof. Michael Festl, being a personal friend of mine.

The academic exchange continued at 2025's ECPR General Conference in enchanting Thessaloniki, Greece having been chosen to host an ECPR-conference for the very first time (ECPR: European Consortium for Political Research). There, from August 26th to 29th, political scientists from across the globe convened under Greece's reinvigorating sun in a city of more than two millennia of rich culture, art, and history, to vividly debate the current state of the art in all subfields of political science. My friend and HGGs-peer Ioannis Stylianidis, himself from Thessaloniki, was so kind to show me his hometown from a local's view.

And concluding this academically highly beneficial summer, I enjoyed merry old Heidelberg's hospitality for my participation in the 17th International Marsilius Academy from September 21st to 26th, 2025's edition of this annual event being dedicated to the extremely current topic: "AI and Human Values – Exploring Technological, Social, and Normative Perspectives". Any HGGs-member will appreciate the highly interdisciplinary character of this Summer School!

RESEARCH NEWS

Julian Tobias Klar
Faculty of Economics and
Social Sciences



Anna-Zoë D. Herr

"Have a good time in Tanzania," an acquaintance hollered after me, after a group gathering in the park right before I took off to Tasmania. At that point, I realised: Tasmania, the fox-shaped island south of Australia, is often lacking in our mental maps. From August to November 2025, I travelled to Hobart, the capital of Tasmania to conduct my Anthropological field study research with Antarctic Researchers at one of the most renown places for Polar Research in the world. Hobart, as one of five Antarctic Gateway cities, also hosts the largest concentration of IPCC authors per geographic location globally, making it a remarkable place for studying science at the edge of our world.

As part of my field study, I conducted ethnographic observations at the largest Tasmanian Science Festival called Beaker Street Festival, which has its own Antarctic offshoot: Hobartica. Through lucky circumstances in the first week of my stay, I was asked to present my doctoral research at a Networking event leading to being asked to speak on National Radio (ABC) about my topic, which focuses on the role of hope in ecological crisis. It was a beginning with a bang.

The most interesting part of the fieldwork was two-fold. First, I conducted over 20 interviews with experts in ecology, specifically polar researchers. I asked them how they navigate responsibility, meaning-making, purpose, and hope within their research, lives and communication. Polar researchers are among the most important for climate projection and prediction on the planet, yet they exist in humble numbers: only a few hundred conduct regular research in Antarctica related to climate science. The information we get from these researchers matters deeply for how we predict, project, and communicate about the future. This combination of high public relevance and low public access made it a perfect field study for my doctoral thesis, which sits at the rare crossroads of anthropology of science and ecological humanities. In short: how these researchers hope, feel, and communicate matters to all of us.

RESEARCH NEWS

Anna-Zoë D. Herr
Faculty of Behavioural and
Cultural Studies



The second fascinating part was the enthusiasm with which researchers approached me to be part of my project. My initial goal of five in-depth interviews was quickly surpassed as awareness of my project spread. Several scientists approached me saying, "I am looking for hope, can I be part of your project?" Besides my doubt I would find enough interlocutors, in fact these researchers wanted to share their perspectives and feelings. Over my time in Tasmania, I was also invited to speak to the Tasmanian Climate Collective, give a workshop at the Center for Marine Social Ecology, and give a talk for the Humanities Live section of the so-called cold humanities (humanities that engage with the poles). In my wildest dreams, I had not imagined that my interest in these researchers and their stories would be matched and blossom into its own iridescent dynamic.

With more than enough data for my project, and already missing my new home in Tasmania, I am now back in Germany, diving into my data analysis.

And, by the way, I learned that many expats and travelers in Tasmania report being thought of as traveling in Tanzania. And yet, besides its global scientific, political, and future relevance, Hobart is an inclusive and accessible scientific community.



Dr. Andrew Wambua

Dr. Andrew Wambua attended the G20 Social Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2025. He also organised and facilitated a two-day Education for Africa Dialogic Summit (EADiS) on 21-22 November 2025.

In October, Dr. Wambua facilitated a symposium held at Cape Peninsula University of Technology on 22 October 2025. The theme of the conference was Can Educational Equity and Quality Be Advanced in Both the Global South and North within the context of Artificial Intelligence?

In January 2026 he attended the International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement (ICSEI) at Doha, Qatar, and presented the following papers:

- Continuous Professional Development for Inclusive Education in Kenya: A Systemic Imperative
- Pedagogies of Care, Connection and Belonging: Humanizing Education through Dialogue and Generosity
- Teacher Professional Development: Key to Improving South Africa's School System

Dr. Wambua was also a panelist at the ICSEI 2026 Early Career Forum https://icsei.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/ICSEI_EarlyCareerForum_12.4-1.pdf



RESEARCH NEWS

Dr. Andrew Wambua
HGGS Alumni



Fact-checking versus Misinformation: A Mexican Case Study

This study explores the dynamics of misinformation and fact-checking in Mexico through an analysis of 20 randomly selected fact-checks published by the Mexican fact-checking organization El Sabueso between June and July 2024. The paper identifies the most prevalent topics and persuasion strategies used in misinformation claims and assesses the argumentation mechanisms El Sabueso uses to debunk them. It also evaluates El Sabueso's alignment with international best practices in factchecking.

Findings show that misinformation in social media in Mexico commonly focuses on international, national, and local news, relying heavily on emotional appeals and storytelling. In response, El Sabueso primarily counters claims by contrasting them with factual data and exposing omitted information while also consistently adhering to expert-recommended practices such as using simple language, avoiding truth scales, and clarity in structure. This research highlights how misinformation operates in a Global South context and offers a critical assessment of a professionalized fact-checking organization, contributing to the limited scholarship on misinformation debunking in Latin America.

Published in *HCIAS Working Papers on Latin America* (2025-08-11).

Link: <https://doi.org/10.48629/hcias.2025.1.112638>

PUBLICATIONS

Luis Rodrigo Pesce Villagómez
Faculty of Economics and
Social Sciences



Crossmopollinate

Crossmopollinate is a student-led research collective founded in 2023, bringing together students and practitioners working with transculturality to read, write, and collaborate on independent research and creative projects. With members and contributors across the globe, the collective maintains strong links to Heidelberg, particularly through its ongoing engagement with the Heidelberg Graduate School for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HGGS).

In 2025, Crossmopollinate marked several key milestones. In June, the collective launched the *Handbook of Urban Transformation*, curated and edited by founders Inah Kim and Kattyayani Joag, both alumni of the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS). The volume reflects on contemporary plural urbanities and lived urban experiences, and includes a prologue by Christiane Brosius (Department of Visual and Media Anthropology, HCTS). The handbook was partially funded by the DAAD-supported initiative Urban Transformation and Placemaking: Learning from South Asia and Germany (2020–23).

Alongside the handbook, Crossmopollinate released the second issue—and first print edition—of its magazine, *Interval*, titled *Longing and Belonging*. The magazine is co-edited by Julia Edelmann and Rishika Rai, with Rai—an HGGS member—serving as Editor-in-Chief. *Interval* is published with the support of HGGS, and this issue explores the affective and political dimensions of international studenthood.

Members of Crossmopollinate also contributed to the ECSAS exhibition *Paths through the City*. Tara Brahme and Kattyayani Joag (HGGS Visiting Scholar) curated the path *Disentangling the Object from the Gaze* in collaboration with artist Sharmila Samant. Installed across Heidelberg's old town, the project used augmented reality to interrogate questions of value, mobility, and the uneven freedoms afforded to objects and people connected to South Asia.

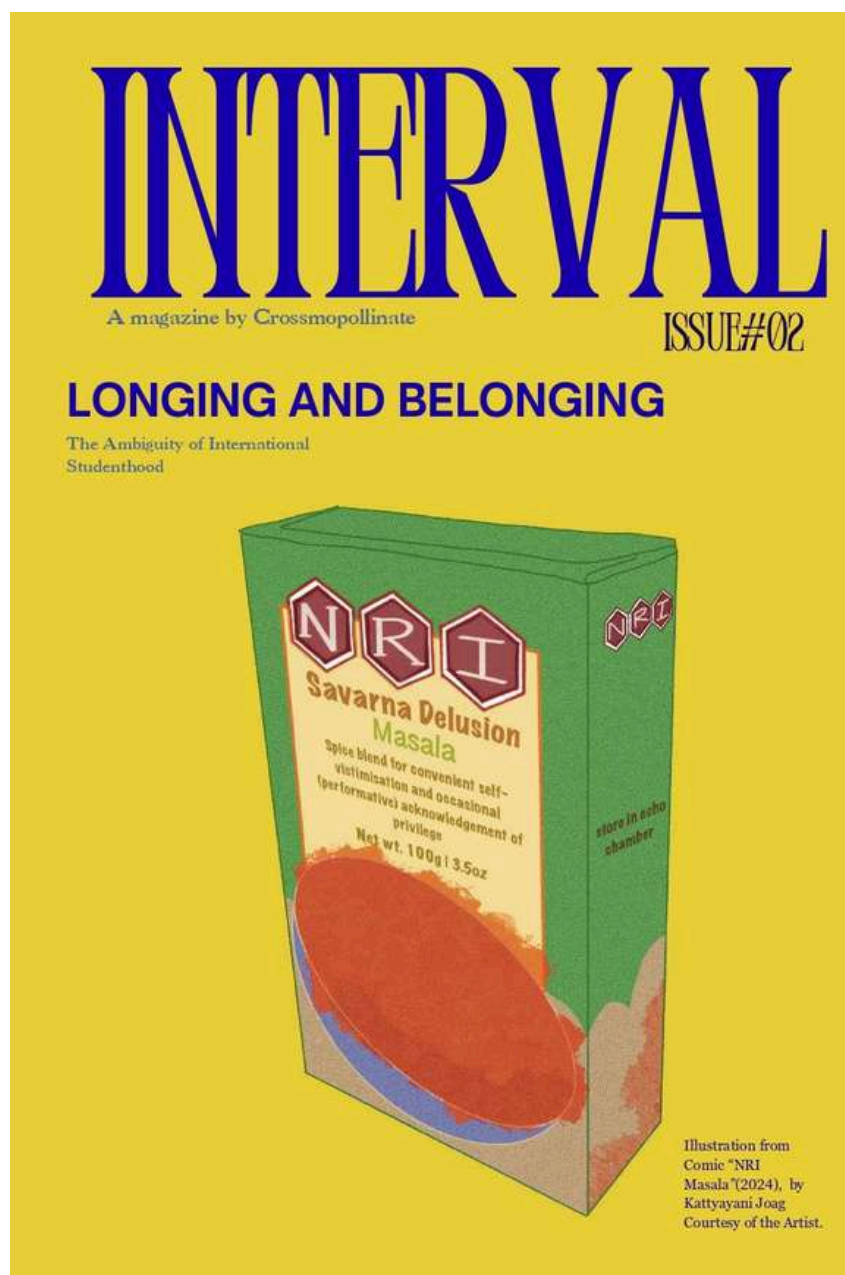
PUBLICATIONS

Kattyayani Joag
University of Chicago
HGGS Visiting Scholar



Further activities included a workshop facilitated by Inah Kim and Bora Kim at the Frankfurter Kunstverein, in collaboration with the artist collective Iacoaba, as part of their Saturday Cooking Sessions, as well as the launch of the podcast series Tea and Tirades by Rishika Rai and Kattyayani Joag. The first episode addresses the politics of citation in a post-#MeToo academic landscape.

Looking ahead, Crossmopollinate is preparing the upcoming issue of Interval Magazine, The Burial and The Yield, which invites reflections on hope as a radical and political practice. The issue will be accompanied by a thematic bootcamp offering workshops and collective discussion spaces. We invite submissions of essays, poetry, visual work, and experimental forms that sprout, tangle, and yield new imaginaries of what is yet to come.

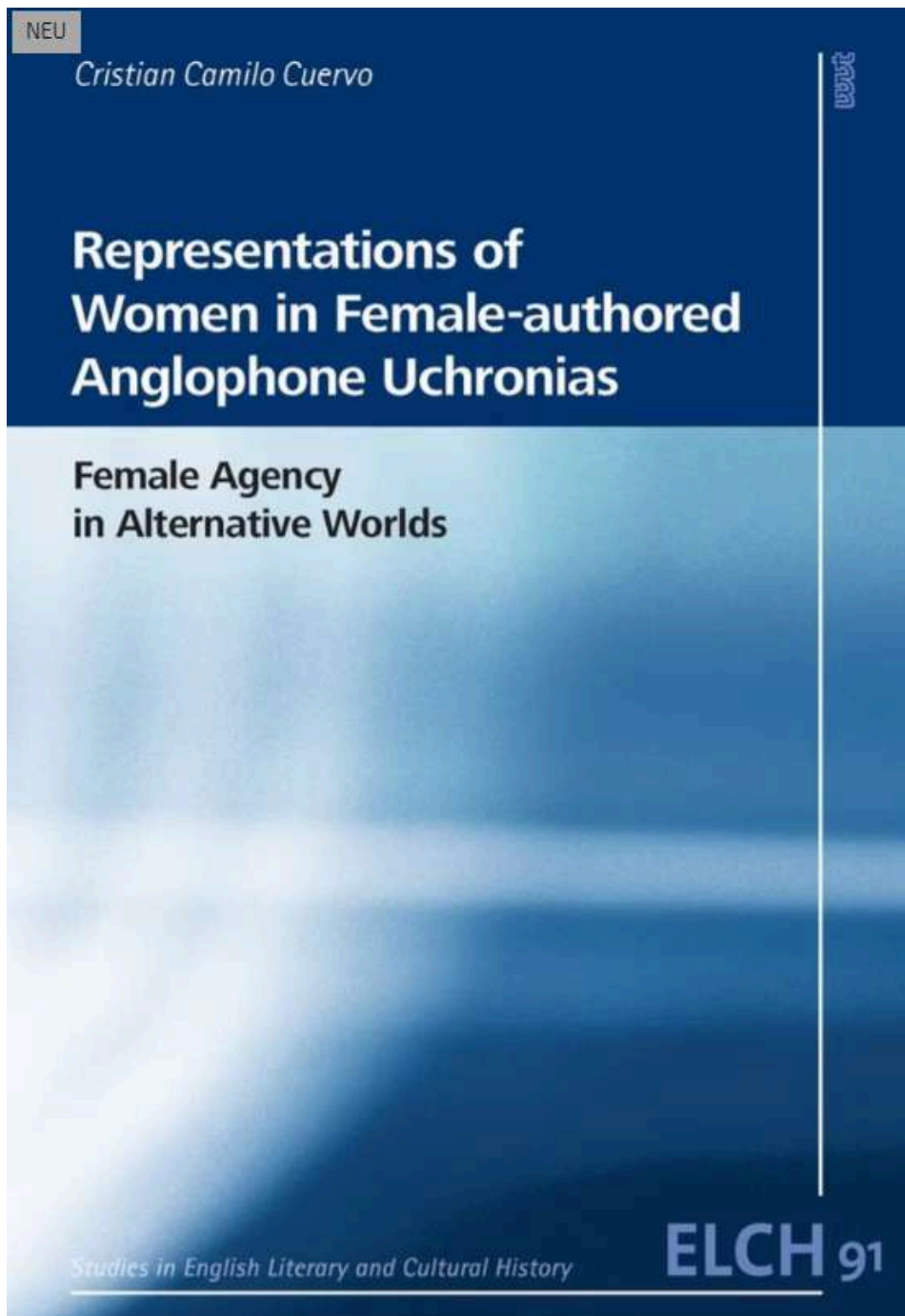


**CROSSMOPOLLINATE
WEBSITE**

crossmopollinate.org

For more details visit
<https://www.instagram.com/crossmopollinate/>
www.crossmopollinate.com

Dissertation Publication



Uchronias, or alternate histories, are a literary genre that enables us to explore the past, play with it, and even transcend it. These narratives speculate on what might have been, but never was, imagining alternative versions to our historiographical reality, and often confronting us with the implications of such scenarios. Despite its undeniable aesthetic and social potential, this genre is commonly overlooked by scholarly studies, particularly with regard to female-authored novels. This study seeks to fill this gap and analyse the representations of women and female agency in alternate histories written by women writers, exploring how these narratives reflect and challenge historical constructions of womanhood(s).

More details can be found on the publisher's website:
www.wvttrier.de/p/representations-of-women-in-female-authored-anglophone-uchronias

PUBLICATIONS




Dr. Cristian Camilo Cuervo
Faculty of Modern Languages
Writer, Educator & Philologist

South-South-North Publications

PUBLICATIONS

Esta publicación se enmarca en las iniciativas académicas de la Escuela de Estudios de Graduados de la Universidad de Heidelberg (Heidelberger Graduiertenschule für Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften), desarrollada dentro del Programa de Cooperación Sur-Sur-Norte activo desde el año 2018. La HGGS tiene como objetivo principal fomentar, estructurar, promover y supervisar programas doctorales interdisciplinarios en las seis facultades que la conforman: Lengua Moderna, Filosofía, Teología, Derecho, Estudios Culturales, Empadronamiento y Ciencias Económicas y Sociales. El enfoque innovador de la escuela integra metodologías tradicionales con perspectivas transdisciplinarias emergentes, creando puentes entre las humanidades clásicas y los desafíos contemporáneos. Paralelamente, la escuela gestiona iniciativas clave en el ámbito de las humanidades y ciencias sociales, incluyendo proyectos de internacionalización académica, programas de intercambio estudiantil e investigador, y especialmente la gestión de fondos para apoyar la formación doctoral de estudiantes internacionales en Heidelberg. Estas acciones se complementan con una red global de colaboraciones institucionales que enriquecen el diálogo académico entre distintas regiones del mundo. En este contexto, la HGGS —en coordinación con la oficina de relaciones internacionales— implementa un programa de becas para doctorantes de Bolivia, Cuba y Venezuela, financiado por la Fundación Baden-Württemberg y la propia universidad. La selección de beneficiarios sigue rigurosos criterios de excelencia académica y potencial de impacto social en sus países de origen. El presente volumen recoge los trabajos de seis investigadores del séptimo grupo de becarios que junto a otros autores invitados presentan un análisis interdisciplinario y pedagógico de la Inteligencia Artificial. Cada capítulo refleja tanto la diversidad de enfoques disciplinares como la unidad metodológica que caracteriza a los proyectos de la HGGS. Esta publicación no solo documenta resultados investigativos, sino que también testimonia el éxito de un modelo de cooperación académica que trasciende fronteras geográficas y culturales.

Reflexión Crítica sobre la IA. Astrid Wind, Cástor David Mora y Daniel Quintero (Eds.)



Reflexiones en torno a los trabajos de investigación desarrollados durante el año 2023 por el programa de cooperación Bolivia, Cuba, Venezuela y Alemania.

Astrid Wind, Cástor David Mora y Daniel Quintero (Eds.)


Critical Reflections on Artificial Intelligence. Interdisciplinary and pedagogical interpretations of the current technological landscape.

Astrid Wind, Cástor David Mora and Daniel Quintero (Eds.)



La obra *La Formación de Docentes en Ciencias Naturales como una Acción Cultural Emancipadora* del Dr. José Azuaje constituye un valioso aporte al pensamiento pedagógico latinoamericano contemporáneo. El autor realiza una crítica rigurosa al modelo positivista que ha reducido la enseñanza de las Ciencias Naturales a la transmisión mecánica de contenidos, desvinculados de la vida, la cultura y la historia de los pueblos. Frente a esta visión tecnocrática y fragmentaria, propone un enfoque Popular, Crítico y Emancipador, que concibe la educación como un proceso dialógico, ético y transformador, inspirado en la pedagogía freireana, el Dr. Azuaje plantea una didáctica por procesos basada en la integración de lo cognitivo, lo afectivo y lo social, donde el conocimiento se construye colectivamente a partir de problemas reales. Su propuesta se concreta en la Teoría de la Acción Cultural Emancipadora (TACE), la cual interpreta las contradicciones ideológicas como potencialidades para la transformación de la praxis educativa y cultural. Estructurada en cuatro "ventanas del entendimiento", esta obra invita a repensar la formación docente desde una perspectiva interdisciplinaria, crítica y humanista, orientada a crear nuevas fuentes de cultura popular y a colocar la ciencia al servicio de la justicia, la vida y la emancipación de los pueblos latinoamericanos.

La Formación de Docentes en Ciencias Naturales. José Azuaje



José Azuaje

Estudios Interdisciplinarios Sur-Sur-Norte

Teacher-training in natural sciences as an emancipatory cultural action.


José Azuaje



Los umbrales son espacios de liminalidad donde convergen dimensiones distantes. Representan temas de "intermedialidad", "otimismo" y "sueño". Son inicio y fin. En esta medida, la literatura es una puerta de entrada a realidades alternas y al respecto de oportunidades que sólo la imaginación puede permitir. Así, a través de las formas narrativas es posible no solamente contar historias, sino visualizar posibles períodos o que nos conecten, sobre todo, (ir)razonables o incluso intuir momentos diferentes. La literatura puede originar en una valiosa escape, o un instrumento que va más allá de lo racional y lo estético.

Esta obra recoge voces que se encuentran, dialogan e imaginan utilizando la palabra escrita como escucha y motor, como medio y objetivo. Voces en el Umbral abre un portal para descubrir las intertextualidades que residen en el espacio interior y que, una vez más, abren a un mundo, con sus propios ritmos y cadencias.

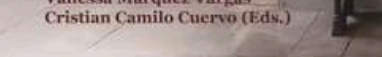
Voces en el Umbral. Encuentros de Escritura Creativa. Vanessa Márquez Vargas, Cristian Camilo Cuervo (Eds.)



Vanessa Márquez Vargas, Cristian Camilo Cuervo (Eds.)

Voices on the Threshold. Creative Writing Encounters.

Vanessa Márquez Vargas and Cristian Camilo Cuervo (Eds.)



HGGS Summer Forum 2026

Forum Group

ImA(I)gining the Future: How Digital Technologies Rewrite Our World

Heidelberg, Germany, July 16-17, 2026

What happens when reality becomes editable, creativity is automated, and our daily decisions are led by algorithms?

Who gets to imagine the future, and who is excluded from it?

Digital technologies are no longer merely instruments that support human activity. Datafication, platformization, and a growing algorithmic culture are shaping how we think, govern, decide, remember, create, and research. In doing so, they reproduce structural inequalities, redefine and redistribute power, and blur ontological boundaries between the real and the virtual. Today, digital technologies do not simply reflect society; they alter it. Artificial intelligence (AI), specifically, has become the defining buzzword of recent years, as its use is now unavoidable in our personal lives, education, and academic work.

The HGGS Summer Forum 2026 invites researchers at various stages in their academic careers (doctoral candidates, postdocs, professors) working at the intersection of technology, society, and culture to engage with these transformations under the theme: ***ImA(I)gining the Future: How Digital Technologies Rewrite Our World***. With a particular, but not exclusive, emphasis on AI, this forum seeks to explore the future of a hyper-digitalized world in a (growing) context of geopolitical change. Rather than asking whether technologies like AI should be used, this forum asks how they transform the present and future of scholarly voices, labor, creativity, and human understanding across languages, disciplines, and epistemic traditions. By foregrounding dialogue across disciplines, the forum aims to foster reflective and critical engagements with digital technologies, not only as a force of change but as a lens through which enduring questions about the future of humanity and society can be re-examined.

Call for Papers Deadline: (29/04/26). Please send your abstract to HGGS-FORUM@hggs.uni-heidelberg.de by the submission deadline. We only require the abstract by this date.

More details on the FORUM website:

<https://www.hggs.uni-heidelberg.de/de/akademisches-programm/hggs-winterforum-sommerforum>



Yuan Wang
Anna-Zoë Herr
Karla Alvarado
Eva Marie Heimers
Mariia Korneeva
Gamze Altinyaprak



HGGS
Summer Forum 2026

IM:AI **IMAGINING THE FUTURE**
How Digital Technologies
Rewrite Our World

Heidelberg, Germany
July 16-17, 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS
OPEN NOW

