Biographical Notes

Katherine Buse is a doctoral candidate in English with an emphasis in science and technology studies at the University of California, Davis. Her publication and research areas focus on the relationship between environmental science and speculative media. She is completing a dissertation on how the history of climate modeling has interacted with speculative world-building in science fiction literature, cinema, and videogames.

Jordan S. Carroll is Visiting Assistant Professor in English at the University of Puget Sound. His work has appeared in American Literature, Twentieth-Century Literature, and Post45.

Jeanne Cortiel is Professor of American Studies at the University of Bayreuth. She has published on feminist science fiction, feminist religious thought, and on race/ethnicity in nineteenth-century American literature. Currently, she is exploring technoscientific risk and catastrophe in contemporary dystopian/utopian speculative fiction, with a focus on film and comics.

Joseph Dumit is Professor of Science and Technology Studies and Anthropology and Chair of Performance Studies at the University of California, Davis. His research focuses on brain imaging, pharmaceutical clinical trials, drugs and life, fascia science and movement, contact improvisation, touchy subjects, art and neuroscience, data science, capitalism and gaming, passions and justice.

Wolf-Dieter Ernst is Professor of Theatre at the University of Bayreuth. His research topics include postdramatic theatre, media art, and the history and theory of acting. He is the review editor for the journal Forum Modernes Theater, and his most recent book is Psyche-Technik-Darstellung: Beiträge zur Schauspieltheorie als Wissensgeschichte (2015), co-edited with Anja Klöck and Meike Wagner.

Christine Hanke is Professor of Digital and Audiovisual Media at the University of Bayreuth and Principal Investigator in the Cluster of Excellence 2052 “Africa Multiple: Reconfiguring African Studies.” Her teaching and research focusses on
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Matthew Hannah holds the Chair in Cultural Geography at the University of Bayreuth. His research revolves around knowledge, power, and constructions and embodied experiences of spatiality.

Jan Simon Hutta is Assistant Professor in the cultural geography working group at the University of Bayreuth. His research focuses on urban politics and peripheralization in Brazil, as well as affect, citizenship, LGBTIQ+ politics, and relations of subjectivity, movement, and space. He is the founding editor of the critical urban research journal *sub\urban: Zeitschrift für kritische Stadtforschung*.

Mark Jerng is Professor of English at University of California, Davis. He is the author of two monographs, *Racial Worldmaking: The Power of Popular Fiction* (2018) and *Claiming Others: Transracial Adoption and National Belonging* (2010), as well as numerous articles on genre and critical race studies.

Susanne Lachenicht is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Bayreuth. She works on Europe and the Atlantic world with a special focus on diasporas, religious migrations, knowledge transfer and transformation, as well as temporalities in the early modern world.

Sylvia Mayer is Professor of American Studies at the University of Bayreuth. Her major research areas are ecocriticism and African American studies. Her publications include monographs on Toni Morrison and the environmental ethics of New England regionalist writing. Currently, she focuses on environmental risk narratives, climate change fiction, and petrofiction.


Felix Raczkowski is Assistant Professor in the Department of Media Studies at the University of Bayreuth. His PhD thesis investigated the instrumentalization of digital games and play, focusing on the historical precursors of gamification and serious games. Among his research interests are game studies, media history, media aesthetics, media in working environments, fakes in digital environments, and motivational media.
Christoph Schemann is a research associate in the cultural geography working group at the University of Bayreuth. He studied sociology, cultural anthropology, and human geography in Frankfurt and Bayreuth, and he is chiefly concerned with topics of biopolitics, multispecies studies, and more-than-human geographies. He is currently continuing his research on socio-material spores of contamination in a PhD project.

Melissa Wills is a doctoral candidate in English at the University of California, Davis. Her research examines how conceptions of microbial life are changing in response to contemporary microbiome science, as evidenced in scientific discourse, science fiction, and popular science writing. Her work has appeared in Games and Culture and Philosophy, Theory, and Practice in Biology.
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