

FRIAS Conference Popular Culture and Democracy: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Way Forward

## Program (October 2024)

## Organizers:

Kübra Aksay, Sophie-Constanze Bantle, Ece Ergin, Klara Machata, Kelly Schmidt, Kristina Seefeldt

## Thursday, October 24, 2024

| 15:00 - 16:00<br>16:00 - 16:30 | Registration (FRIAS Lounge)<br>Opening Remarks<br>Welcome Address FRIAS Director Ralf von den Hoff   |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| 16:30 - 17:30                  | Keynote by Wendy Weinhold (Coastal Carolina University):<br>"Popular Culture to the Rescue: Advancing Democratic Ideals through Feminist<br>Media Studies and Critical Pedagogy"   |  |
| 17:30 - 18:30                  | City Walk to Carl-Schurz-Haus  |  |
| from 18:30                     | Welcome Reception & Photo Exhibition at Carl-Schurz-Haus   |  |
| Friday, October 25, 2024       |  |  |
| 08:30 - 09:00                  | Arrival and Coffee (FRIAS Lounge)  |  |
| 09:00 - 10:30                  | PANEL 1: Popular Democracy: Perception, Reception, Adaptation<br>Panel Chair: Sonia García de Alba Lobeira   |  |
|                                | Brenda Cuellar Marines (National Autonomous University of Mexico):<br>"Are They Really So Lame? A Closer Look at Superhero Movies: <i>Captain America</i> :<br><i>The Winter Soldier</i> vs. the State Monopoly on Violence" |  |
|                                | Andrin Albrecht (Friedrich Schiller University Jena):<br>"Romantic Democracy and the Problem of the Awed Gaze in Kentaro Miura's<br><i>Berserk</i> "   |  |
|                                | Esther-Marie Schilling (University of Rostock):<br>"'Preaching to the Choir'?: Anticipated Audiences as Narrative Technique"   |  |
| 10:30 - 10:45                  | Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)  |  |
| 10:45 - 12:15                  | PANEL 2: Democratic Processes of the Everyday<br>Panel Chair: Helene Schöwing  |  |
|                                | Can Çakır (University of Münster):<br>"Workplace Democracy on Screen: The Unionization Struggle in <i>Superstore</i> "   |  |
|                                | Maria Łusakowska (University of Warsaw):<br>"Will looks, age, race matter?': The Promise of a Neoliberal Romantic Utopia in<br>Netflix's <i>Love Is Blind</i> (2020-2022)"   |  |
|                                | Jennifer Howard (University of Freiburg)<br>"The Popular Prophetic: Subversive American Civil Religion in Popular Modes"   |  |
| 12:15 - 13:45                  | Lunch Break (FRIAS Lounge)   |  |
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| Friday, October 25, 2024   |   |
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| 13:45 - 14:45              | PANEL 3: Visualizing the Environment: Regional and Transnational Crises<br>Panel Chair: Anna-Lena Oldehus   |
|                            | Sruthi B Guptha (Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham):<br>"Contesting the (Dis)location of India's Democracy: Discursive Identities and<br>Citizenship in the Visual Texts on Endosulfan Disaster" |
|                            | Stephen Ogheneruro Okpadah (University of Warwick [Online Talk]):<br>"Transnational Spaces in the Eco-film of the Niger Delta"  |
| 14:45 - 15:00              | Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)   |
| 15:00 - 16:00              | PANEL 4: Freedom of Speech? Social Media and Humor<br>Panel Chair: Ryan Plumley   |
|                            | Philipp Raab (Julius-Maximilians-Universität of Würzburg):<br>"Post-migrant Public Spheres on TikTok: Individualized Spaces of Democratic<br>Participation?"                              |
|                            | Tanya Goyal (Jawaharlal Nehru University):<br>"Laughing Through the Crisis: Navigating Freedom of Speech in Stand-up<br>Comedy"   |
| 16:00 - 16:30              | Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)   |
| 16:30 - 17:30              | Keynote by Adam Stock (York St. John University and CAPAS Heidelberg):<br>"Forms of Migration: Liberal Violence and Colonialism in Speculative Fictions"                                  |
| From 18:00                 | Conference Dinner<br>Location: Blauer Fuchs, Metzgerau 4, 79098 Freiburg im Breisgau<br>(15min walk from the conference venue)  |
| Saturday, October 26, 2024 |   |
| 09:00 - 09:30              | Arrival and Coffee (FRIAS Lounge)   |
| 09:30 - 11:00              | PANEL 5: Performing Democracy: Elections and Their Media Narratives<br>Panel Chair: Wolfgang Hochbruck  |
|                            | Erdem Çolak (Middle East Technical University):<br>"Make the spectacle great again! On the cultural appropriation or mockery of the<br>Trump assassination attempt"                       |
|                            | Tatjana Klein (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich):<br>"Successors Success? - Skipping Presidential Primaries as Pathway to the Oval<br>Office"                                       |
|                            | Wendy Weinhold (Coastal Carolina University):<br>"The laugh-out-loud election: Democracy, late-night comedy, and the 2024<br>U.S. presidential election"                                  |
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## Saturday, October 26, 2024 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge) PANEL 6: From Fiction to Future: Hope for Democracy 11:30 - 12:30 Panel Chair: Philomena Wolf Azzeddine Tajjiou (Mohamed I University [Online Talk]): "Hope as a Subversive Democratic Force in Popular African Literature: Reimagining Political Futures" Jessica A. Noriega Palmero (Complutense University of Madrid): "Democratizing the romance': An analysis of Red, White and Royal Blue (2019) by Casey McQuiston" 12:30 - 12:45 Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge) 12:45 - 13:45 Keynote by Maria Sulimma (University of Freiburg): "Political Animals: Pets, Politics, and Reality Television" 13:45 - 14:00 **Closing Remarks** From 14:00 Lunch Reception and Farewell (FRIAS Lounge)