

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	Registration (FRIAS Lounge)
16:00 - 16:30	Opening Remarks
16:30 - 17:30	Welcome Address FRIAS Director Ralf von den Hoff Keynote by Wendy Weinhold (Coastal Carolina University):  "Popular Culture to the Rescue: Advancing Democratic Ideals through Feminist 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 Panel Chair: Sonia García de Alba Lobeira
	Brenda Cuellar Marines (National Autonomous University of Mexico): "Are They Really So Lame? A Closer Look at Superhero Movies: <i>Captain America</i> : <i>The Winter Soldier</i> vs. the State Monopoly on Violence"
	Andrin Albrecht (Friedrich Schiller University Jena): "Romantic Democracy and the Problem of the Awed Gaze in Kentaro Miura's Berserk"
	Esther-Marie Schilling (University of Rostock): "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 Panel Chair: Helene Schöwing
	Can Çakır (University of Münster): "Workplace Democracy on Screen: The Unionization Struggle in <i>Superstore</i> "
	Maria Łusakowska (University of Warsaw): "Will looks, age, race matter?': The Promise of a Neoliberal Romantic Utopia in Netflix's <i>Love Is Blind</i> (2020-2022)"
	Jennifer Howard (University of Freiburg) "The Popular Prophetic: Subversive American Civil Religion in Popular Modes"
12:15 - 13:45	Lunch Break (FRIAS Lounge)



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13:45 - 14:45	PANEL 3: Visualizing the Environment: Regional and Transnational Crises Panel Chair: Anna-Lena Oldehus
	Sruthi B Guptha (Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham): "Contesting the (Dis)location of India's Democracy: Discursive Identities and Citizenship in the Visual Texts on Endosulfan Disaster"
	Stephen Ogheneruro Okpadah (University of Warwick [Online Talk]): "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 Panel Chair: Ryan Plumley
	Philipp Raab (Julius-Maximilians-Universität of Würzburg): "Post-migrant Public Spheres on TikTok: Individualized Spaces of Democratic Participation?"
	Tanya Goyal (Jawaharlal Nehru University): "Laughing Through the Crisis: Navigating Freedom of Speech in Stand-up Comedy"
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)
16:30 - 17:30	Keynote by Adam Stock (York St. John University and CAPAS Heidelberg): "Forms of Migration: Liberal Violence and Colonialism in Speculative Fictions"
From 18:00	Conference Dinner Location: Blauer Fuchs, Metzgerau 4, 79098 Freiburg im Breisgau (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 Panel Chair: Wolfgang Hochbruck
	Erdem Çolak (Middle East Technical University): "Make the spectacle great again! On the cultural appropriation or mockery of the Trump assassination attempt"
	Tatjana Klein (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich): "Successors Success? - Skipping Presidential Primaries as Pathway to the Oval Office"
	Wendy Weinhold (Coastal Carolina University): "The laugh-out-loud election: Democracy, late-night comedy, and the 2024 U.S. presidential election"



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Saturday, October 26, 2024	4
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break (FRIAS Lounge)
11:30 - 12:30	PANEL 6: From Fiction to Future: Hope for Democracy 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 <i>Red, White and Royal Blue</i> (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)