



“DISTANCE  
AND DIVERSITY  
IN TIMES  
OF CRISIS:  
LITERARY  
EXPRESSIONS  
AND ARTISTIC  
RESPONSES”

October 15 - 17, 2020  
on-line & on-site  
Please register here:  
[www.amerikanistik.uni-saarland.de/uds-asgf2020](http://www.amerikanistik.uni-saarland.de/uds-asgf2020)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Susanne Hamscha  
(Fulbright | Diversity)

Phillip Ayoub  
(Occidental College)

Takeo Rivera  
(Boston University)

proudly sponsored by



**DISTANCE AND DIVERSITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS:  
Literary Expressions and Artistic Responses**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**Thursday, October 15**

**Live on Zoom**

12:30 – 13:00                   **Conference Opening and Welcome Address**

13:00 – 14:30                   **Panel 1: Discourses of Distance & Diversity**  
**Chair: Daniel Riesco**

Astrid M. Fellner (Saarland University): “Distance and Diversity: Corona Art in the U.S.”

Eva Nossem (Saarland University): “Linguistic Othering and Scapegoating in Pandemic Times: Blame Games in the U.S. and Europe”

Somayah Amin (Saarland University): “Another Layer of Pain; Exclusion of Immigrants in Times of a Pandemic; A Comparison between the United States and Germany”

14:30 – 15:00                   **Virtual Coffee Break**

15:00 – 16:30                   **Panel 2: Distance & Diversity & Identity**  
**Chair: Renée Tuschong**

Oksana Starshova (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University): “Where Diversity Ends: U.S. Comedian Kevin Hart, Joanne Rowling and a Ukrainian Boy”

Svitlana Kot (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University): “‘Perimeters of our lives’: exploring the relationship between space and body in times of crises in L. Erdrich’s *Future Home of the Living God* and M. Atwood’s *Handmaid’s Tale*”

Yuliya Stodolinska (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University): “Distance in the American University Discourse in the Times of COVID-19 Pandemic”

16:30 – 17:00                   **Virtual Coffee Break**

17:00 – 18:30                   **Keynote**

Takeo Rivera (Boston University)

**“The Raced Interface: Tao Lin, Tan Lin, and the Racialization of Affective Distance”**

**Chair: Astrid M. Fellner**

**DISTANCE AND DIVERSITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS:  
Literary Expressions and Artistic Responses**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**Friday, October 16**

**Venue: Live on Zoom**

10:45 – 11:00                   **Virtual Warm-up**

11:00 – 13:00                   **Panel 3: Distance & Diversity in Artistic Productions**  
**Chair: Magdalena Pfalzgraf**

Ulla Stackmann (Catholic University of Eichstätt): “[...] A Good Way to Reach the Movement’: The Sonic Community of the *Dial-A-Poem* Project”

Alina Mozolevska (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University): “Music and Covid-19: The Potential of American and European Popular Music’s Articulation in Times of Crisis”

Natalya Dorfmann (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University): “‘Social-distancing’ as a chance to revise the paradoxes of humanistic philosophy: personality vs. identity in on-line artistic practices of the pandemic”

Bärbel Schlimbach (Saarland University): “Space, Distance and Loneliness in Recent American Cultural Productions in the Light of the Current Covid-19 Crisis”

13:00 – 15:00                   **Virtual Coffee Break**

**Venue: Uni Campus; bldg. C 5 3; room 3.26**

15:00 – 16:30                   **Keynote**  
Phillip M. Ayoub (Occidental College)  
**“When States Come Out:  
Movements & the Diffusion of LGBTI Rights in Europe and North America”**  
**Chair: Eva Nossem**

16.30 – 16.45                   **Closing Remarks**

16.45 – 17.30                   **Covid Break**

17:30 – 18:30                   **Award Ceremony: Prizes for Best Final Theses in American Studies**

**DISTANCE AND DIVERSITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS:  
Literary Expressions and Artistic Responses**  
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**Saturday, October 17**  
**Live on Zoom**

09:45 – 10:00           **Virtual Warm-up**

10:00 – 12:00           **Panel 4: Gendered Distancing**  
**Chair: Shahrzad Tajeddini**

Oleksandra Filonenko (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University): “Aestheticizing the Pandemic: Quarantine ‘Fashion’ by Tatiana and Vladimir Bakhtov”

Lisa Johnson (University of Trier, Saarland University): “Transnational Jamaican Grannies in the United States: Keeping a Distance in Times of Covid-19”

Tetyana Ostapchuk (Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University): “Vibes of Art in Times of Covid-19: The Case of Neon in the U.S.”

Atalie Gerhard (Saarland University): “Dismantling Distance or Commodifying Crisis? Women Depicting Diversity and Social Issues in VR Experiences from the U.S.”

12:00 – 13:00           **Virtual Coffee Break**

13:00 – 14:30           **Keynote**  
Susanne Hamscha (Fulbright Europe)  
**“From A Distance: Feminist and Disability Reflections on the COVID-19 Pandemic”**  
**Chair: Bärbel Schlimbach**

14:30 – 15:00           **Closing Remarks**

#ASGF2020

#distanceanddiversity

amerikanistik.uni-saarland.de | facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmerikanistikSaar/borderstudies.org> | twitter @UniGR\_CBS | facebook: Cultural Border Studies  
[www.bordertextures.org](http://www.bordertextures.org) | [cultural.borderstudies.org](http://cultural.borderstudies.org) | [master.borderstudies.org](http://master.borderstudies.org)