

Campus
Adolf-Reichwein-
Straße



Adolf-Reichwein-Campus
Gebäudeteil X (ZIMT)
Raum AR-X104

Travel information by coach:

From BEST WESTERN Park Hotel (bus stop “Siegen P+R Siegerlandhalle”) to Siegen ZOB (= Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof, right opposite Siegen main station): coaches R22, C100, C101
From Siegen ZOB to Adolf-Reichwein-Campus/ Gebäudeteil ZIMT: coach C111 (get off at “Robert-Schumann-Str.”, the stop marked “H” in the above map, located south of building X)

For travel information by car, visit:

inkluplan.uni-siegen.de/directions/index.html.en

The Life of Birds in Literature

Of all the animals big and small that make their appearance in literature, birds hold a special appeal for scholars. For the orniphile, there is much to admire about birds, including the beautiful plumage of many species and the unfailing sense of orientation and physical stamina of migratory birds, but it is the melodious sequences of sounds emitted by songbirds that align them with poets.

Poets have therefore invoked them as their muses, appealing also to their flight capacity to take them above the human world on “the viewless wings of poesy” (Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale”). Birds have served as allegorical figures (Chaucer, *The Parliament of Fowls*) and symbols (dove, eagle). Beyond rhetorical uses, they themselves have been the subjects of poetry from John Clare to Gerard Manley Hopkins and Ted Hughes. In recent years, as the (near-)extinction of several avian species is felt by many to be the most apparent loss of biodiversity on this planet, birds have begun to feature prominently also in fiction (Jonathan Franzen, *Freedom*).

This conference brings together scholars from the fields of literary and cultural studies as well as ornithologists to engage with literary and real-world figurations of birds from a variety of critical angles.

The Life of Birds in Literature

University of Siegen, 23-24 May 2014

Adolf-Reichwein-Campus (AR)
Gebäudeteil X (ZIMT)
Raum AR-X104



Conference Programme

Thursday, 22 May 2014

19.30 **Conference Warming at 9bar**
(Markt 27, 57072 Siegen, 0271/31 39 169)

Friday, 23 May 2014

14.00-14.15 **Opening Address and Introduction**
(Marie-Luise Egbert, Siegen)

14.15-15.15 **Panel I: Poetic Figurations of Birds:
Romantic to Victorian**
Burkhard Niederhoff (Bochum):
“Wordsworth’s ‘To the Cuckoo’ and the
Metonymic Imagination”
Ulrike Zimmermann (Freiburg):
“‘The Bird of Paradise I seek, I find not
anywhere’: Birds in Late Victorian and
Post-Darwinian Poetry”

15.15-15.30 **Coffee Break**

15.30-16.30 **Panel II: Funny Birds**
Larissa Budde (Siegen):
“‘Not many good parts in literature
for albatrosses’: Reading the Albatross
in Coleridge’s ‘Rime of the Ancient
Mariner’ and Hunt Emerson’s Comic
Book Adaptation”
Franziska Burstyn (Siegen):
“Flornithology for Beginners: A Bird’s
Eye View of Nonsense Literature”

16.30-16.45 **Coffee Break**

16.45-17.45 **Panel III: Poetic Figurations of Birds:
The Twentieth Century**
Soelve Curdts (Düsseldorf):
“‘Inviolable Voice’: Romantic Conceits of
Modernity”
Tim Hancock (U of Ulster/Coleraine):
“‘A migrant solitude’: Seamus Heaney’s
Release from ‘Domestic Obligation’ in
‘Sweeney Redivivus’”

18.00-18.30 **Guided Tour of the Siegen Biology Lab:**
Nina Kniel (Siegen):
“Does Mate-Choice Copying Support
the Evolution of New Male Traits in
the Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata
castanotis?*”

20.00 **Dinner**

Saturday, 24 May 2014

6.00 **Guided Bird-Watching Tour
around Haardter Berg (AR Campus)**

9.00-10.30 **Panel IV: Ecocritical Perspectives on
Bird Life**
Pia Florence Masurczak (Freiburg):
“‘Nature Gone Awry’: The Representation
of the ‘Natural’ in *The Birds*”
Julia Franzkoch (Siegen):
“The Mockingjay as a Dystopian Bird in
The Hunger Games”

Cezara Nicola (Freiburg):
“Reversed Cultural Ecology:
Opportunistic Avian Species in Literature
of the Remote and Recent Past”

10.30-11.00 **Coffee Break**

11.00-12.00 **Panel V: The Real Life of Birds:
Ornithological Perspectives**
Klaudia Witte (Siegen):
“How Climate Change Affects the
Migratory Behaviour of Birds”
Arndt Wellbrock (Siegen):
“Life on the Wing: The Common Swift
Project of the Siegen Biology Section”

12.00-12.30 **Final Discussion**

13.00 **Lunch and Departure**

If you would like to attend the conference as a guest, kindly register for participation by sending an e-mail message to egbert@anglistik.uni-siegen.de.

Conference organizer:
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Conference website:
www.uni-siegen.de/phil/anglistik/birds/