Saturday, 21 November 2026

9:00	**Panel 4: Populist Affect and Aesthetics** Leyla Rommel (University of Bremen): “Soft Hierarchies: Aestheticized Power Structures and the Affective Life of Populism in Tradwife Content” Caroline Kögler (FU Berlin): “Against Sexy Fascism” Mir Ali Hosseini (University of Regensburg): “Hope Lies in the Proles? Orwell’s Populist Elitism and Its Cultural Afterlives”
10:30	**Coffee Break**
11:00	**Panel 5: Digital Populisms** Philipp Raab und Elke Wagner (JMU Würzburg): “Appropriation from Above: The Cycle of Populism & Digital Media Culture” Zaffar Manzoor (Riphah International University Islamabad, online): “A Discourse Analysis of Digital Religious Populism as a Communication Strategy and its Impact on Digital Citizens in Pakistan”
12:00	**Short Break**
12:15	**Cultural Studies Colloquium: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Populism**
13:15	**Concluding Remarks**
13:30	**End of Conference**
15:00	**Guided Tour of Würzburger Residenz (optional; registered participants only)**

In cooperation with:

DAG Deutsch-Amerikanische Gesellschaft Würzburg e.V.

BritCult

ENG LIT CULT

American Studies Würzburg

SLAVISTIK JMU Würzburg

Schelling-Forum Würzburg **Das Spitäle**

Online Book of Abstracts

Keynote Speakers

Juha Herkman
University of Helsinki

Melanie Schiller
Radboud University

Venues

Schelling-Forum Würzburg
Klinikstraße 3,
97070 Würzburg

Das Spitäle
Zeller Str. 1,
97082 Würzburg

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Programme

All times are Central European Time (CET)

Thursday, 19 November 2026

12:30	**Board Meeting BritCult (Venue 1: Schelling-Forum: Bibliothek)**
14:00-17:00	**Registration (Venue 1: Schelling-Forum)**
14:30	**Postgraduate Forum (Venue 1: Schelling-Forum)** Theresa Stampfer (Magdeburg): Hypnotic Apparatuses: Cybernetic Mesmerism and Medi(c)al Technology in Mid-20th-Century Britain Mona Rosenberg (Potsdam): Celebrity/Fat: Affective Body Politics in the Post-Body Positivity Regime
15:30	**Coffee Break**
16:00	**Postgraduate Forum (Venue 1: Schelling-Forum)** Natalie Zwätz (Konstanz): Reading the Anthropocene in Early Modern British Literature: Protest, Terror, Sustainability Jacqueline Koshorst (Kassel): Mermaids at the End of the World: An Eco-Critical Approach to Kinship and Nature in 21st Century Queer Literature
17:00	**Break & Walk to Spitäle (Venue 2)**
18:30	**Conference Opening (Venue 2: Spitäle)** Thomas Baier (Dean, JMU Würzburg): Welcome Address Lena Steveker (BritCult President): Opening Words Zeno Ackermann, Gesine Drews-Sylla, MaryAnn Snyder-Körber, Kirsten Sandrock (Würzburg): Populism and Cultural Studies
19:00	**Keynote 1 (Spitäle): Juha Herkman (University of Helsinki), "The Unholy Union Between Populism and Cultural Studies – Questions of Normativity"**
20:00	**Reception (Venue 2: Spitäle)**

Friday, 20 November 2026

8:30	**Registration**
9:00	**Panel 1: Approaching Current Forms of Populism** **Sebastian Berg (Ruhr University Bochum): "The Good, the Bad,** and the Ugly? Comparing the Populisms of Three 'Populists'" Christina Flotmann-Scholz and Merle Tönnies (University of Paderborn): "Populist Structures under Scrutiny: Technocratic Populism and Meta-Linguistic Theatre" Raphael Zähringer (University of Tübingen): "Constructing Existential Emergency: Populism and Crisis Narratology"
10:30	**Coffee Break**
11:00	**Panel 2: Populist Temporalities** Naemi Victoria Dehde (University of Konstanz): "(Re)Presenting the National: Restorative Nostalgia and Working-Class Community in The Full Monty (2023)" Heike Raphael-Hernandez (JMU Würzburg): "When the World Was Still Good: Nostalgic Memories, Popular Songs, and Populism in the Trump Era"
12:00	**Lunch Break / JSBC board meeting (Schelling-Forum: Bibliothek)**
14:00	**Panel 3: The Politics of Populism** Elena Dück (JMU Würzburg): "Populism as a Strategy of the Far-Right: The Re-Ordering of Political Space in Europe" Judith Neder (TU Dresden): "'We'll tell you exactly how bad it is': Conspiratorial Populism in The Liz Truss Show (2025–)" Pēteris Plakans (Riga Stradiņš University): "Populism and/in Parliamentary Speeches: Comparing Latvia and the UK"
15:30	**Coffee Break**
16:00	**Keynote 2: Melanie Schiller (Radboud University): "Between Irony and Ideology – Music and the Popification of Far-Right Politics"**
17:15	**Members' Assembly: German Association for the Study of British Cultures**
19:45	**Conference Dinner (Bürgerspital, Theaterstr. 19, 97070 Würzburg)**