

NEW FORM(AT)S FOR THE HUMANITIES

Tracing Collective Practices in the Humanities (Prof. Julika Griem, University of Duisburg-Essen)

Forms of collaboration and cooperation go back a long way in both aesthetic practice and scholarship. Within this longue durée the myth of singularised individual authorship can be seen as a rather specific case emerging in the 18th century. Towards the end of the 20th century poststructuralist thinking questioned this model while dynamically evolving digital technologies paved the way for an ongoing reconfiguration of creative and academic work. So far, much attention has been dedicated to artistic collective practices deviating from ideals of singlehanded creation. My presentation will therefore address changing constellations of collectivity in humanities research. Here, the black boxes of tacit knowledge and deeply inscribed ways of doing things require a sustained reflection of the contexts, conditions, procedures, constraints, motivations and conflicts of collectivity. It seems to be about time to meet the ghosts accompanying our reading, writing and publishing.

Open Assembly: How Can the Humanities Build for the Future in a Time of Crisis and Collapse? (Prof. Dino Felluga, Purdue University)

Given the current dire situation for the humanities, it's hard to imagine how one might begin to build a viable alternative. Most books about the crisis of the humanities critique the current system or diagnose its collapse, rarely proposing ways to support our scholarship outside current structures. In this talk, I wish rather to help academics think about how best to establish a new system. How does one begin to build something better that is unconstrained by now-ingrained ways of doing?

Prof. Griem was Vice President of the DFG from 2016 to 2023. Since 2018, she has been Professor of English Literature at the University of Duisburg-Essen and Director of the KWI in Essen. Since 2023, she has acted as Founding Director of the College for Social Sciences and Humanities at the University Alliance Ruhr.

Prof. Felluga has been involved in initiatives such as North American Victorian Studies Association; Britain, Representation, and Nineteenth-Century History; and COVE: Collaborative Organization for Virtual Education. In addition to his monographs, he co-authored *Novel-Poetry: The Shape of the Real and the Problem of Form* (Oxford University Press). He is now working on a companion book, *Open Assembly: Building for the Future after the Collapse of the Humanities*.

Friday, 14 November 2025, 14:00-19:00
Warburg Haus, Hamburg

This workshop, which will run primarily in English, is sponsored by the DFG-funded research network, **Form in Dialogue**. Please contact PD Dr. Natalie Roxburgh (Natalie.Roxburgh@uni-hamburg.de) to register for this event.

