



DAS SENTIMENTALE
IN LITERATUR, KULTUR
UND POLITIK

Conference: **Sentimental Futures**

22-24 April 2026, Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach

Program

Wednesday, 22.04.2026

2 pm: Opening Remarks by Heike Paul, Speaker of the Research Training Group

2.30 pm – 3.30 pm: **Panel 1 Environmental Futures**

Jacob Hovde (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): A Sentimental Matter? Werner Herzog's *The Fire Within* as Cinema for the Anthropocene

Charles Wong (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): Lacking Feeling, Feeling Lacking: Towards a Poetics of Creaturely Life in *Emergency*

Chair: Axelle Germanaz & Ege Özbek (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

3.30-4.30 pm: Coffee Break

4.30-6 pm: Guided Tour of the German Archive for Literature

6-8 pm: Reception

Thursday, 23.04.2026

9.30-11.00 am: **Panel 2 Theorizing Sentimental Futures**

Natàlia Cantó-Milà (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya) and Swen Seebach (Universitat Abat Oliba): Sentimental Futures: Temporalities, Imagination, and Emotions in Envisioning the Future

Simon Schleusener (FU Berlin): Precarious Temporalities: Affective Dissonance and Sentimental Futures in *The Flight Attendant*

Chair: Sarah Pritz (TU Berlin)

11-11.30 am: Coffee Break

11.30 am -12.30 noon: **Panel 3 War Memorialization and National Futures**

Jana Aresin (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): "I will Live my Life to the Fullest in the Precious Future you Wished For": Sentimentality and Historical Revisionism in Representations of Suicide Pilots in Japanese Popular Culture

Anne Bertram (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): Of Past, Uncertain Futures and 'Lost Causism': The Politics of Civil War Reenactments in Sentimental Southern Gothic Visual Culture

Chair: Zeyu Du & Marc Matten (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

12.30-2 pm: Lunch

2-3.30 pm: **Panel 4 Narratives of Hope**

Isabelle Brandis (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): Nostalgic Childhoods and Progressive Futures in Modern Screen Adaptations of *Little Women* (1868/69) & *Anne of Green Gables* (1908)

Charlotte Hunsicker (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): Hope, Warmth, Reassurance: Sentimentalizing the Future of Live-in Care

Vanessa Hardinger (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): After the End: How Sentimental Horror Imagines the Future in Endings

Chair: Charleena Schweda & Luiza Sydorova (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

3.30-4 pm: Coffee Break

4-5.30 pm: Optional Visit of the Museum of Modern Literature

7 pm: Conference Dinner at Schillers Blick (Schillerhöhe 12, Marbach)

Friday, 24.04.2026

9-10 am: **Keynote** Eileen Hunt (University of Notre Dame): Sentimentalism and Virtual Reality: The Futuristic Legacies of Mary Shelley's *The Last Man*

10-10.30 am: David Armitage (Harvard University): Mary Wollstonecraft and the Invention of the Future

Chair: Christian Krug (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

10.30-11 am: Coffee Break

11 am -12 noon: **Panel 5 Social Transitions**

Ronja Steiner (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): Where Past and Future meet: The Estate as Site of Sentimental Futurity in *Downton Abbey*

Zixiong Lin (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg): Lost in Transition: Utopian Vision and Ambivalent Sentimentality Among Capitalists Under the Maoist Regime

Chair: Eva Hausteiner & Yuling Shi (FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg)

12 noon - 1 pm: Closing Remarks