

**Call for Applications:
Interdisciplinary Summer School
for advanced students and early career researchers on
“Approaching Theatre Performance from Literary Studies and Linguistics”
4–7 July 2025, Wiesbaden**

Organised by Heidi Lucja Liedke (Goethe-University Frankfurt) and
Daniela Landert (Heidelberg University)

Description:

This 3-day summer school is devoted to the interdisciplinary study of theatre performance. Literary studies and linguistics have a rich history of studying drama based on written play texts, especially in the German academic context. However, the analysis of performed theatre has played a very marginal role in both disciplines so far. The aim of the summer school is to provide advanced students and early career researchers with the tools that are needed to carry out research projects on performed data. We will cover data collection, the analysis of multimodal theatre performance, as well as theoretical topics that are relevant in the field. By combining both qualitative and quantitative methods, as well as methods from the research traditions of literary studies and linguistics, the workshop will offer a multi-faceted perspective on the study of theatre performance but also equip participants with the necessary tools for the study of cultural texts more generally.

Who is it for?

Applications are welcome from advanced students (MA) and early career researchers (PhD, PostDoc) working in the fields of literary studies and/or linguistics. The workshop will focus on theatre performances in English, but participants who work in other languages are equally welcome. The workshop language is English.

Preliminary Programme:

Friday, 4 July 2025, 14.00–18.00: Methods

Practical introduction into linguistic and literary research methods to study performed theatre: Participants will learn about research methods and they will be able to apply them directly on the basis of video recordings of theatre performances that are provided to them. These methods include: the transfer of traditional close reading to multimodal video data, the multimodal analysis of verbal and non-verbal interaction, the quantitative analysis of language patterns with the help of classifications and basic corpus linguistic queries and the use of netnography for the study of audience responses to performance on social media.

Saturday, 5 July 2025, 9.00–13.00: Theory

Introduction to different types of performed theatre: In this block, participants will be introduced to different types of theatre performance, including live performance of scripted theatre, improvised theatre, and hybrid theatre forms, such as livecasting and Zoom theatre. The discussion will centre around the implications of the performance mode for analysis.

Saturday, 14.30–18.00, Practical exploration

Hands-on workshop with Isabel Schmier (Mannheim) who uses methods from theatre pedagogy, language design and improv theatre in her educational work

Sunday, 6 July 2025, 9.00–12.00: Peer-feedback from PhD Life: How to turn an idea into a research project

Workshop with Sarah Busch (Cologne) whose PhD project uses qualitative audience research to analyse theatre performance. She will guide students through the process of developing a project and use peer-feedback to comment on students' project ideas and possible progress.

In addition the programme will include the option of attending a theatre performance in Wiesbaden or Frankfurt (tba) on Friday or Saturday night.

Date and location:

The summer school is taking place from 4 to 7 July 2025 at Wilhelm-Kempff-Haus in Wiesbaden. Participants are responsible for their own travel arrangements to and from Wiesbaden.

Fees:

There are **no fees** for participation, accommodation (3 nights) and meals.

All remaining costs, including travel from and to Wiesbaden, have to be covered by participants themselves.

Deadline and application:

Send us your application by 15 January 2025 to linguistik@as.uni-heidelberg.de

Please include the following information:

- Your field of study and/or research
- Degrees (ongoing and completed)
- If applicable: A short summary of your ongoing or planned research project
- A brief motivational statement (ca. 350 words) on why you would like to attend the workshop
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For any queries regarding the summer school, please get in touch with us at liedke@em.uni-frankfurt.de and daniela.landert@as.uni-heidelberg.de

About the organisers and instructors

Heidi Lucja Liedke, co-organiser and instructor: Heidi Lucja Liedke is Professor of English Literature at Goethe University Frankfurt. Her research focuses on contemporary British performance, theatre and media and in particular queer performance. Current projects evolve around the notion of care in

(post)COVID theatre and theatre in the digital age. She is the author of the monograph *Livecasting in Twenty-First Century British Theatre: NT Live and the Aesthetics of Spectacle, Materiality and Engagement* (Bloomsbury, 2023). More information: https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/136371678/Heidi_Liedke

Daniela Landert, co-organiser and instructor: Daniela Landert is Professor of English Linguistics at Heidelberg University. Her research interests include pragmatics of fiction and corpus pragmatics. In an ongoing research project, she studies the language of improvised theatre (<https://impro.study>). She has recently co-authored a short monograph *Fiction and Pragmatics* (with Miriam A. Locher, Andreas H. Jucker, and Thomas C. Messerli, Cambridge, 2023), as well as various articles on linguistic aspects of fictional texts. More information: <https://www.as.uni-heidelberg.de/personen/landert/>

Isabel Schmier, M.A., instructor: Isabel Schmier is a voice teacher and performer based in Mannheim. In her artistic practice, she is interested in making classical texts accessible and enjoyable to a wide audience. As a voice coach, she mainly works with pedagogy students at Alanus Hochschule Mannheim, and with opera singers at HfMDK Frankfurt.

Sarah Busch, M.A., instructor: Sarah Busch is a PhD student at the University of Freiburg with a teaching degree in English and Spanish Philology. She teaches queer-feminist literature, drama and performance at the University of Cologne. In 2022 she did fieldwork for her PhD project in collaboration with University College Dublin, conducting post-performance interviews with audience members. Recent publications have appeared in *JCDE* and *Anglistik*.