

WAITING ^{as} CULTURAL PRACTICE

Interdisciplinary
Conference



CALL FOR PAPERS

WAITING AS CULTURAL PRACTICE

An Interdisciplinary Conference
Universität Paderborn – Germany

20 – 22 May 2016

Olaf Berwald (Kennesaw State University)
Christoph Singer (Universität Paderborn)

Little soul [...] climb
the shelf-like branches of the spruce tree;
wait at the top, attentive,
like a sentry or look-out.

LOUISE GLÜCK, "PENELOPE'S SONG"

penelope wartet worauf wartet
wartet Penelope? wartet kalyp
so wartet kirke warten skylla
Charybdis sirenen warten alle

BARBARA KÖHLER, "GEWEBEPROBE: PENELOPE"

Waiting shapes the narratives of individuals and societies alike. Yet, waiting is more than just one realization of the present. Far from being a mere form of intermittent white noise, waiting could be conceptualized as the unravelling of and the reflection on a plurality of possible futures. Waiting simultaneously foregrounds the often paradoxical agency/passivity of the waiting subject as explored, for example, in the narrative of Penelope in Homer's *Odyssey*.

As Harold Schweizer observes: "Waiting is as resistant to description and analysis as time or boredom. Although central to the idea of narrative from Homer to Hollywood, waiting is a temporal region hardly mapped and badly documented."¹ This interdisciplinary conference explores and conceptualizes how "waiting" shapes the narratives of individuals and societies alike and in what shapes and forms these narratives manifest themselves.

Firstly this conference focuses not only on the influence of "waiting" on individual and social narratives, but also on how these are being narrated. The representation of waiting has produced some of the most remarkable narratives, often connected to themes such as return, redemption or revenge. How is waiting represented in different cultural artefacts? How can the simultaneity of possible futures be packaged as superficially linear forms of mediation? What is the cognitive impact of real or fictional waiting? Do "waiting narratives" show a propensity for the allegorical?

Secondly, how is waiting a relevant part of cultural rituals in contexts of intimacy and public spheres (e.g. courting, mourning)? How is waiting related to the experience of mobility and immobility, e.g. in the case of refugees, who are detained in camps for months? How does the continuous endurance of "chronic waiting"² e.g. in the case of unemployed youth in southern Europe, affect and shape whole societies?

Thirdly, this conference aims to discuss the spatiality of waiting. How do spaces such as waiting rooms or bus stops shape the waiting subject's thought processes? How are these spaces representative of the power conditions that construct them? Is the resulting creation of "abstract futures" and the "forthcoming" (Bourdieu) intentional and in what instances of „timepass“ do they result?

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¹ Schweizer, Harold. *On Waiting*. Routledge: Abingdon, 2008. 1.

² Jeffrey, Craig. *Timepass: Youth, Class, and the Politics of Waiting in India*. Stanford: Stanford University Press: 2010.

Thursday, 19 May

8 pm Conference Warming at Restaurant **KITZGAMS**

Friday, 20 May

TIME	PANEL
9.30 - 10	Conference Opening (J4.219), OLAF BERWALD, CHRISTOPH SINGER
10 - 11	<p>PARADIGMS OF WAITING CHAIR: CHRISTOPH SINGER</p> <hr/> <p>Freese, Peter (Universität Paderborn) <i>Waiting for the End: From Apocalypse to Entropy</i></p>
11 - 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 - 12.30	<p>INSTITUTIONS OF WAITING I CHAIR: CORNELIA WÄCHTER</p> <hr/> <p>Puff, Helmut UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN <i>Courtly Waiting/Waiting at Court</i></p> <hr/> <p>Baier, Katharina UNIVERSITÄT KONSTANZ <i>Die verwaltete Zeit. Warten und Wartenlassen als Institutioneneffekte bei Franz Kafka und Thomas Mann</i></p>
12.30 - 1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm	<p>WAITING AND GENDER CHAIR: ELIZABETH GILBERT</p> <hr/> <p>Mildorf, Jarmila UNIVERSITÄT PADERBORN <i>Women Waiting in Christina Rossetti's Poetry</i></p> <hr/> <p>Mar González, Chacón (University of Oviedo) <i>Women in Waiting in Contemporary Irish Theatre: Marina Carr's Penelopes</i></p>
2.30 pm - 3 pm	Coffee Break

PROGRAMME

Friday, 20 May

3 pm - 4.30 pm

WAITING AND MIGRATION I

CHAIR: KATHRIN RÖDER

Koch, Jessica
UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD

Waiting for Acceptance, Working for the Future - Migrant Experiences of Waiting in Contemporary English Fiction

Lehner, Christoph
UNIVERSITÄT REGENSBURG

„Lo monte che salendo altrui dismala“ – Dante's Purgatory as Literary Waiting Room and the Poetics of Exile

Fryd, Vivien
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Stefanie Ries: *Waiting to Escape Nazi Germany*

6 - 7 pm

WAITING AND MIGRATION II (AT THE KUNSTVEREIN)

[MEETING POINT TOWN HALL, 5.45 PM]

Olin, Margaret
YALE UNIVERSITY

How long will Handala wait? The Legacy of Cartoonist Naji al-ali's 10-year-old Barefoot Refugee Child on Palestinian Walls

INTRODUCTION: JONATHAN BORDO

Schulze, Stefanie Zofia
ARTIST

A Life Being Put on Hold. Photographic Work About 'Tolerated' Asylum Seekers in the Asylum Camp Lembach

INTERVIEW: KAI-FRIEDRICH NIERMANN & CHRISTOPH SINGER

7 pm

Reception

Saturday, 21 May

TIME	PANEL
9 - 10	<p>POST-COLONIAL WAITING CHAIR: OLAF BERWALD</p> <hr/> <p>Scott, Bede NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY <i>Bureaucratic Style: Postcolonial Literature and the Aesthetics of Waiting</i></p> <hr/> <p>Waugh Lagji, Amanda Ruth UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS <i>Waiting and Creating: Presenting African Futures in The Cry of Winnie Mandela and The Radiance of Tomorrow</i></p>
10 - 10.30	Coffee Break
10.30 - 11.30	<p>WAITING, MYTHOLOGY, AND RELIGION II CHAIR: SHARON CARSON</p> <hr/> <p>Sodeika, Tomas & Vidauskyte, Lina VILNIUS UNIVERSITY & KAUNAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY <i>The Myth of the Eternal Return, or Waiting in Secular Society</i></p> <hr/> <p>Parkinson, Denise UNIVERSITÄT PADERBORN „The Bling-Bling Gospel: Waiting to Be Blessed“</p> <hr/> <p>Markus Wierschem UNIVERSITÄT PADERBORN <i>The Space Itself an Expectation: Cormac McCarthy and American Apocalypticism</i></p>
11.30 - 12.00	Coffee Break
12 - 1 pm	<p>NATIONS IN WAITING CHAIR: JARMILA MILDORF</p> <hr/> <p>Wirth, Robert UNIVERSITÄT PADERBORN <i>The Long Wait for the Nation State: Past and Future Scotlands</i></p> <hr/> <p>Hassan, Naglaa Saad Mohamed FAYOUM UNIVERSITY <i>The Poetics and Politics of Waiting in Recent Egyptian Revolutions: Tahrir Square as both Utopic and Heterotopic Place</i></p>
1 - 2 pm	Lunch Break

PROGRAMME

Saturday, 21 May

2 - 3 pm	<p>Jessica Nietzsche <i>Waiting in Video Art. A Videoscreening of imai Foundation curated by Jessica Nietzsche</i></p>
3 - 3.30 pm	Coffee Break
3.30 - 5 pm	<p>WAITING AS (NON-)EVENT CHAIR: MARKUS WIERSCHEM</p> <hr/> <p>Gilbert, Elizabeth UNIVERSITÄT KÖLN <i>Waiting in Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds</i></p> <hr/> <p>Brault-Dreux, Elise UNIVERSITÉ DE VALENCIENNES <i>Waiting in "The Building" by Philip Larkin: from Boredom to Fear</i></p> <hr/> <p>Howaldt, Kerstin UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT <i>"The Waiting must End": Waiting and Eventfulness in Dave Eggers' A Hologram for the King</i></p>
5. - 5.15 pm	Coffee Break
5.15 - 6.15 pm	<p>INCARCERATION & WAITING FOR THE LAW CHAIR: ROBERT WIRTH</p> <hr/> <p>Wächter, Cornelia UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM <i>Waiting in Solitary Confinement</i></p> <hr/> <p>Hardack, Richard <i>Waiting for the Man: Deferring Legal and Narrative Delay</i></p> <hr/> <p>Schiavo, Veronica UNIVERSITÄT INNSBRUCK <i>Waiting as Creative Process: The Case Study of the 'Compagnia della Fortezza' in the State Prison of Volterra</i></p>
8 pm	Conference Dinner at Il'Postino

Sunday, 22 May

TIME	PANEL
9.30 - 10.30 am	<p>THE TEMPORALITIES OF MEDICAL HEALTH CARE I CHAIR: OLAF BERWALD</p> <hr/> <p>Singer, Christoph UNIVERSITÄT PADERBORN <i>The Great Vocation of the Dispossessed: Paul Graham's Waiting Room Photography</i></p> <hr/> <p>Punzi, Elisabeth; Brygger, Karin UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG <i>A Narrative Needs a Listener. Waiting as a Crucial Component in Mental Healthcare.</i></p>
10.30 - 10.45	Coffee Break
10.45 - 11.45	<p>THE TEMPORALITIES OF MEDICAL HEALTH CARE II CHAIR: OLAF BERWALD</p> <hr/> <p>Erlandsson, Soly & Dauman, Nicolas UNIVERSITY WEST & UNIVERSITÉ DE POITIERS <i>Waiting for Silence: The Narratives of Tinnitus Sufferers</i></p> <hr/> <p>Katrin Röder UNIVERSITÄT POTSDAM <i>Waiting and Creativity: Virginia Woolf's On Being Ill as an Example of Pathography</i></p>
11.45 - 12.15	Coffee Break
12.15 - 1.15 pm	<p>PARADIGMATIC WAITING II CHAIR: CHRISTOPH SINGER</p> <hr/> <p>Söder, Hans-Peter LMU MÜNCHEN <i>In Defense of Boredom: Philosophical Perspectives on Wasting Time</i></p> <hr/> <p>Bordo, Jonathan TRENT UNIVERSITY <i>In the 'Wartesaal'</i></p>
1.15 - 1.45 pm	Roundtable/Publication/Waiting for the Future
t.b.a. (late afternoon)	City Tour & Dinner



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LINE 4 &
LINE 9

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BUSSTATION
„RATHAUSPLATZ“

KUNSTVEREIN PADE

RESTAURANT „IL POSTINO“

TRAINSTATION & BUSSTATION
„HAUPTBAHNHOF“

BUS
UNI-LINIE

PADERBORN

RESTAURANT „KITZGAMS“

BUSSTATION
„KASSELER TOR“

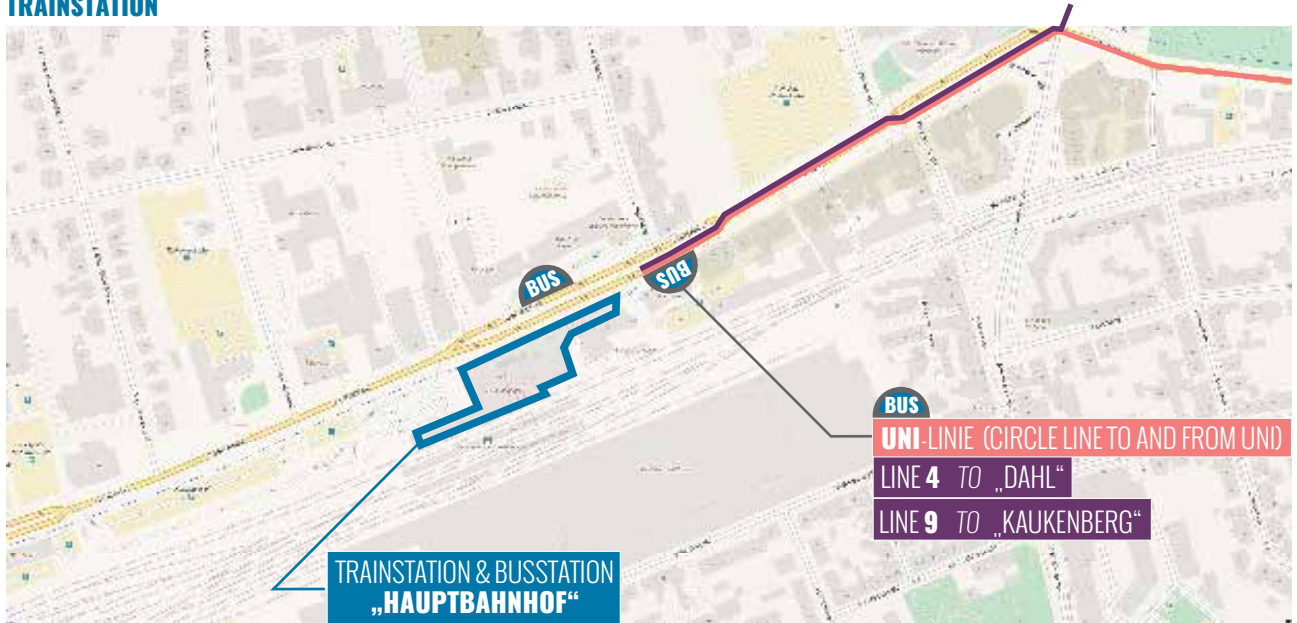
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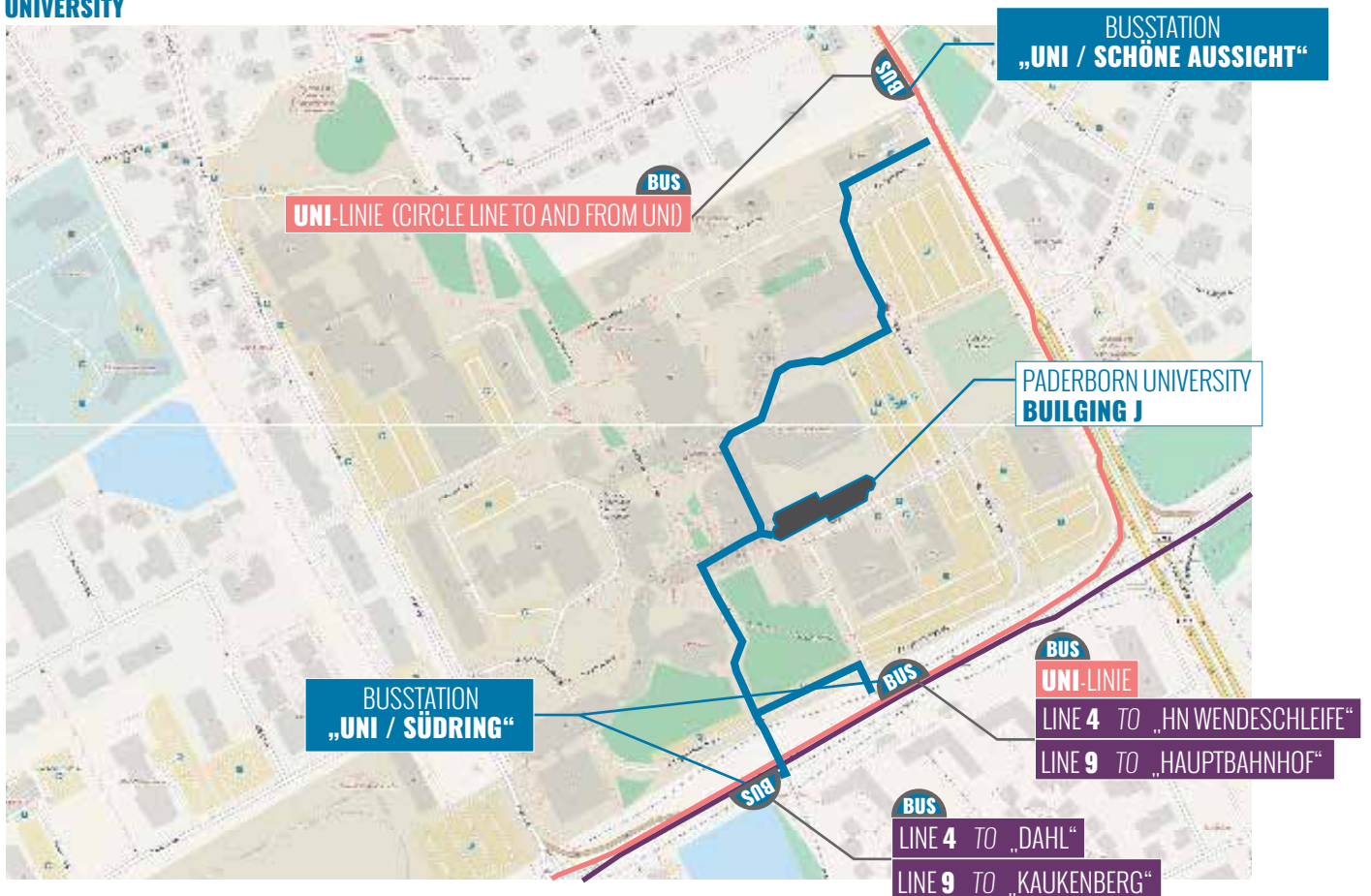
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