

Files, Forms, Fictions

Literary Lives of Bureaucracy

from Ledgers to Algorithms

International Symposium

Thursday, October 16 _ Lecture Hall (Ground Floor)

09:15	Registration & Welcome
09:45	Opening Remarks
10:00 – 11:30	(Panel 1) Bureaucratic Affects, Institutional Madness Moderator: Burkhardt Wolf
10:00 – 10:20	– Dullness – Bureaucracy’s Double-Edged Sword
10:20 – 10:40	– Totalitarianism as a Total Institution in Goffman, Bettelheim, and Blanchot
10:40 – 11:00	– ‘The Effort to Drive the Other Person Crazy’
11:00 – 11:30	– Q&A / Discussion
11:30 – 11:50	Coffee Break
11:50 – 12:50	(Panel 2) Bureaucratic Literacy: Public Service in the Public Eye Moderator: Alexandra Irimia
11:50 – 12:10	– Familiarising and Defamiliarising State Bureaucracy in Victorian and Modernist British Fiction
12:10 – 12:30	– Conspicuous Contradiction: Bureaucracy in the Social Imaginary
12:30 – 12:50	– Q&A / Discussion
12:50 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	(Panel 3) Latin American Office Literature Moderator: Tanja Kapp
14:00 – 14:20	– Latin American Office Literature in Retrospect The Research Project “Kleine Souveränität” (2022–2025, University of Kassel)
14:20 – 14:40	– “The Second Sex” feat. the Bureau: Female Workers in Latin American Office Literature
14:40 – 15:00	– Q&A / Discussion
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee Break
15:20 – 16:20	(Panel 4) Governmediality: Literary–Technological Infrastructures Moderator: Daniel Jenkin-Smith
15:20 – 15:40	– KafKaDare – The File on Everything
15:40 – 16:00	– In-Between; a bit of Shannon: Disciplinary Files, Control Punching, <i>Amtsinstructionen</i> , Heart Stitches & the World Law of Bureaucracy
16:00 – 16:20	– Q&A / Discussion
16:20 – 16:40	Coffee Break
16:40 – 17:40	(Panel 5) Vanishing Media Ecologies: Critical Junctures in Austrian Paperscapes Moderator: Alexandra Müller
16:40 – 17:00	– A Vanishing Kind in the Eyes of the Media: Francis Joseph as the Last Paper King
17:00 – 17:20	– The File and the Fluid: Fiction, Bureaucracy, and the Wild Waters of Memory in the Destruction of Socialist Libraries in 1934 Austria
17:20 – 17:40	– Q&A / Discussion
18:30	Dinner

16/17.10

2025

University of Bonn
IMPULSE – House for Intellectual
Innovation and Creativity
Adenauerallee 131, 53113 Bonn

_Livia KLEINWÄCHTER

_Sandra JANßEN
_Ben KAFKA

_Jonathan FOSTER
_Daniel JENKIN-SMITH

_Karolin SCHÄFER &
Fernanda MELCHOR AUDIRAC

_Karolin SCHÄFER

_Benno WAGNER

_Peter PLENER

_Peter BECKER

_Christian WIMPLINGER

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Friday, October 17 _ Workshop Room (1st Floor)

09:30

Welcome & Coffee

10:00 – 11:00

(Panel 6) Mixed-Media Bureaucracy: Text/Image Hybridities

Moderator: Karolin Schäfer

10:00 – 10:20

– Bodies on/as Paper: State Bureaucracies and the Violence of Administrative Authorship in Comics of Refugee and Displacement Experience

10:20 – 10:40

– Blank Forms, Defaced Records and Redacted Documents: Aesthetics of Bureaucracy in Contemporary Visual Arts

10:40 – 11:00

– Q&A / Discussion

11:00 – 11:20

Coffee Break

11:20 – 12:20

(Panel 7) Mixed-Media Bureaucracy: Office Work on Screen

Moderator: Jonathan Foster

11:20 – 11:40

– ‘Welcome to a Day in the Average Office’: The Portrayal of Bureaucracy on British Television Screens

11:40 – 12:00

– Media Nostalgia in the Office

12:00 – 12:20

– Q&A / Discussion

12:20 – 13:00

Lunch

13:00 – 15:00

**Guided Tour through Bonn's Former Administrative District
(Regierungsviertel)**

14:00 – 15:00

(Panel 8)

Généalogie et mythologie: médiations symboliques de l'administration

Moderator: Laura Marin

15:00 – 15:20

– Entre mémoire et administration : les documents d'archives dans le récit de filiation contemporain

15:20 – 15:40

– De Kālī à Kafka : mythologies du passage bureaucratique dans l'œuvre de Shumona Sinha

15:40 – 16:00

– (online) Le troisième corps du roi : une histoire politique de l'administration dans l'Europe de la première modernité

16:00 – 16:30

– Q&A / Discussion

16:30 – 17:00

Closing Remarks

16/17.10

2025

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_Tanja KAPP

_Alexandra MÜLLER

_Nicola BISHOP

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_Laura MARIN

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