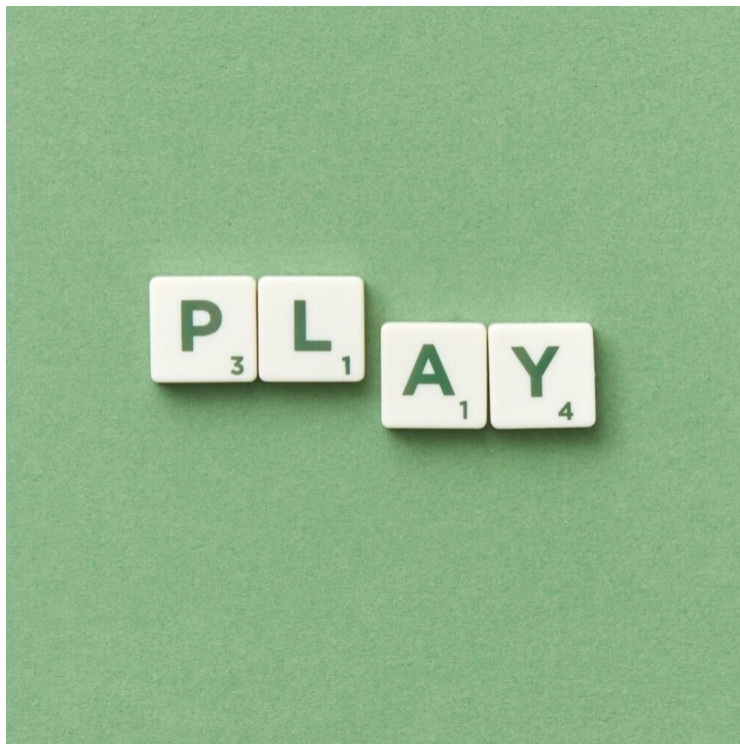


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Scenes of play in German literature from 1750

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10 Sep 2026 - 12 Sep 2026	See programme	SG1, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, CB3 9DP
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Description	Programme	Speakers
Thursday 10 September 2026		
17:00 - 18:30	Keynote Ben Angell Booking for this event	
Friday 11 September 2026		
8:30 - 9:00	Registration and refreshments	
09:00 - 09:15	Welcome & introduction	
09:15 - 10:45	Panel 1: Theories of play	

	Chair: László V. Szabó ▪ Stefan Uhlig 'The faultlines of aesthetic play' ▪ John Guthrie 'Types of Play in Schiller's Early Dramas: The experiment of <i>Die Räuber</i>' ▪ Elliot Sturdy 'Tragic play and post-dramatic theatre'
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee / Discussion break
11:15 - 12:45	Panel 2: Play, politics & society Chair: John Guthrie Julian Bockius 'A Player within the Play. Performative Philosophy and the Aesthetics of Tragedy in Friedrich Schiller's <i>Die Verschwörung des Fiesco zu Genua</i> (1783)' René Waßmer 'Play and observation. Scenes from German metropolitan literature around 1800' Mia Zeko Panic (remote) 'Playing with Fire: Ludic Subversion of Identity in 'Fireface' by Marius von Mayenburg'
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch break
13:45 - 15:15	Panel 3: Games of chance Chair: Elizabeth Ramsey Isabell A. Meske (remote) "'If only a lucky throw were still in play, if the cards did not turn completely, if only..." game semantics in Lessing's 'Minna von Barnhelm': Role economy and figural identity in the New Comedy' Svetlana Maliavina and Jose Luis Miras Orozco 'Motif of Card Playing in Hoffmann and Pushkin' Anne Beate Maurseth 'E.T.A. Hoffmann's <i>Gambler's luck: Repetition as a literary clue</i>'
15:15 - 16:15	Coffee / Discussion break
16:15 - 17:45	Keynote

	Patricia Simpson 'The Invention of Play in German Romanticism'
Saturday 12 September 2026	
8:30	Coffee and Tea and arrival
09:00 - 10:30	Panel 4: Childhood & material play Chair: Patricia Simpson ▪ Iris Shaefer 'Analysing the playing field of dreams in German children's literature' ▪ Hans-Georg von Arburg 'Home Play: Children's toys for a new living in modern literature and architecture' ▪ Nisrine Rahal (remote) 'Children's Play and Performing a new Future: The Fröbelian Kindergarten in the revolutionary 1840s'
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee / Discussion break
11:00 - 12:30	Panel 5: Literature & play Chair: Syamala Roberts Nina Doejen 'Choose your own adventure! Role play and autofiction in Saša Stanišić's 'Herkunft' (2019)' Karsten Klein 'Playing for Escape and Agency: Gaming in the coming-of-age novel 'Echtzeitalter'' Małgorzata Fabrycy (remote) 'Writing as a Playful Experiment: Robert Walser's 'Microscripts' through the prism of Gaston Bachelard's theories'
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30	Panel 6: Theatre & media Chair: Joseph Prestwich Anna Axtner-Borsutzky 'Theatre as Play: Ludic self-reflection in Goethe's 'Triumph der Empfindsamkeit'' Elias Veit 'Early Cinema on Stage: Reflections on film as play in modern drama' Svenja Frank 'Play or non-play of the play in Dorothee Elmiger's 'Die Holländerinnen' (2025)'
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee / Discussion break
16:00 – 17:30	Keynote Catriona Macleod 'Playing with Paper: The cut and the blot in Romanticism'
17:30 – 17:45	Conclusion

Upcoming Events





10 Sep 2026 - 12 Sep 2026

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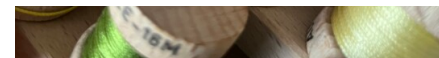
18 Sep 2026 - 19 Sep 2026

Affective Encounters:
Making Space for
Disturbance – A
symposium for reflections
and response



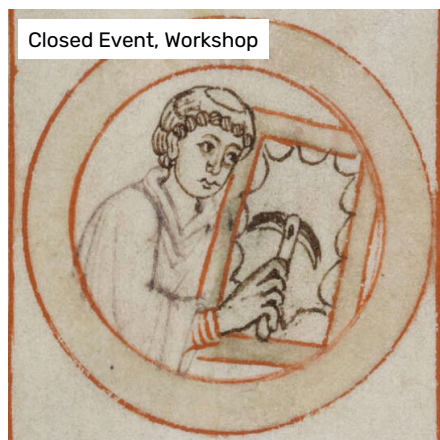
21 Sep 2026

The politics of rare books



28 Sep 2026 - 2 Oct 2026

Tender Whispers from the
Heart: An exhibition of
embroidered poetry



29 Sep 2026 - 1 Oct 2026

From Skin to Script: A
practical workshop in
traditional parchment-
making



29 Sep 2026

Language, Craft and
Community: In
conversation with Clare
Hunter and Ekta Kaul



22 Oct 2026

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Lecture: Questions for the
next ten years



5 Nov 2026 - 7 Nov 2026

'The Battle of Algiers' at 60