

# 'Artpolitical' – Margaret Atwood's Aesthetics

14 – 16 October 2021

ORGANIZERS: DUNJA MOHR (Erfurt) AND KIRSTEN SANDROCK (Goettingen)

## PROGRAMME

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*The event takes place via Zoom. Registration is required (see below).*

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**THURSDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2021**

ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME

- 16.00-16.30**      **Conference opening: Dunja Mohr (Erfurt) and Kirsten Sandrock (Göttingen)**
- Welcome Addresses:**  
**Prof. Dr. Barbara Schaff** (University of Göttingen),  
**Prof. Dr. Brigitte Glaser** (University of Göttingen, President of the Association for Canadian Studies in German-speaking Countries)  
**Prof. Dr. Lauren Rule Maxwell** (The Citadel, President *Margaret Atwood Society*)  
and **Prof. Dr. Karma Waltonen** (University of California, Past-President *Margaret Atwood Society*)
- 16.30-17.30**      **Keynote 1: Wendy Roy (University of Saskatchewan, Canada), “A word after a word after a word is power”: The Politics of Art in Margaret Atwood’s Writings” (Chair: Dunja Mohr)**
- 17.30-18.00**      *Break*
- 18.00-19.30**      **Panel 1 (room 1) Adaptation, Transmedia (Chair: Karma Waltonen)**
- Joyce Goggin (Amsterdam, Netherlands), “*The Handmaid’s Tale* across Platforms”
- Annika McPherson (Augsburg, Germany), “Adaptation as ‘Artpolitical’ Remediation: From *The Handmaid’s Tale* to *The Testaments*”
- Dunja M. Mohr (Erfurt, Germany), “The Art of Storytelling and Adaptation”
- Panel 2 (room 2) Gender Politics I (Chair: Barbara Schaff)**
- Eva-Sabine Zehelein (Bamberg, Germany), “Reproductive justice in *The Handmaid’s Tale* and *The Testaments*”
- Theodore F. Sheckels (Ashland, USA), “The Beginnings of Margaret Atwood’s Political Activism: Revisiting *The Edible Woman* and *Surfacing* after Fifty Years”
- 19.30-20.00**      *Break*
- 20.00-21.00**      **Keynote 2: Lyman Tower Sargent (University of Missouri-St. Louis, USA), “The Importance of Utopian Thinking in Dystopian Times” (Chair: Kirsten Sandrock)**
- 21.00**              ***Online Socializing & Atwood Games Night (Please use the link provided via mail for the socializing & games night; it is not the same as the conference room)***

## FRIDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2021

### 10.00-11.30 Panel 3 (room 1) Resistance and Politics (Chair: Eleanora Rao)

Annika Gonnermann (Mannheim, Germany), "The Totalitarian Face of Neoliberalism: Forms of Critique in Margaret Atwood's *The Heart Goes Last*"

Alessandra Boller (Siegen, Germany), "We lived in the blank white spaces at the edges of print" – Storytelling, the Distribution of the Sensible, and Atwood's Speculative Fiction"

Ayca Berna Görmez (Ankara, Turkey), "Freedom Goes First": The Dilemma of Freedom and Security in *The Heart Goes Last*"

### Panel 4 (room 2) Identity Politics: Nation, Photography, Affect (Chair: Wolfgang Klooß)

Anca Radu (Göttingen, Germany), "*Alias Grace*: Imagining the Nation in the Victorian Age"

Katinka Krausz (Budapest, Hungary), "Fit in without being known': An analysis of a multidimensional photograph in *Lady Oracle*"

Maryam Moosavi Majd (Isfahan, Iran), "The Study of Affect in Margaret Atwood's *Maddaddam* Trilogy"

11.30-12.00 Break

### 12.00-13.00 Panel 5 (room 1) Comparative Approaches I (Chair: Fiona Tolan)

Wolfgang Klooß (Trier, Germany), "Margaret Atwood's Retelling of *The Tempest* in Comparative Perspective"

Eleanora Rao (Salerno, Italy), "Home and Homelessness in Margaret Atwood and Tony Morrison's Poetry"

### Panel 6 (room 2) Politics and Storytelling (Chair: Eva-Sabine Zehelein)

Katarina Labudova (Ruzomberok, Slovakia), "Happy Endings: Margaret Atwood's *The Heart Goes Last* and *The Testaments*"

Carla Scarano D'Antonio (Reading, UK), "An Intertextual reading of the politics of storytelling in Margaret Atwood's work"

13.00-14.30 Break

14.30-15.30 **Keynote 3: Brigitte Glaser** (Göttingen, Germany), "**Margaret Atwood's Venture into Graphic Novels: (Aesthetic) Form and (Political) Function of the *Angel Catbird* Trilogy and the *War Bears* Series**" (Chair: Pilar Somacarrera)

### 15.30-16.30 Panel 7 (room 1) Politics and Ethics in Atwood's Speculative Fiction (Chair: Sylvia Mieszkowski)

Manuel J. Sousa Oliveira (Porto, Portugal), "Both Fox and Cat: The Politics of Ambiguity in *The Handmaid's Tale* and *The Testaments*"

Tatiana Konrad (Vienna, Austria), "Veganism, Ecoethics, and Climate Change in Margaret Atwood's MaddAddam Trilogy"

**Panel 8 (room 2) Comparative Approaches II (Chair: Joyce Goggin)**

Ewelina Feldman-Kołodziejuk (Białystok, Poland), "When the Real Meets the Imagined: A Comparative Analysis of Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Herta Müller's Essays"

Tom Friedman (Kamloops, Canada), "Margaret Atwood's *Bodily Harm* and Joan Didion's *A Book of Common Prayer*"

16.30-17.00 Break

**17.00-18.00 Keynote 4: Karma Waltonen (University of California, USA), "Beyond Didacticism: The Relationship between the Personal and the Political in *Oryx and Crake*" (Chair: Crispin Sartwell)**

**18.00-18.30 Announcement of the winner and runner-ups of the "Best Conference Paper Margaret Atwood Society Award" (Moderators: Lauren Maxwell, Dunja Mohr, Kirsten Sandrock)**

18:30-20.00 Break

**20.00 Margaret Atwood Reading (Special Recording for Conference)**

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**SATURDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2021**

14:00-15.30 **Panel 9 (room 1) Gender and Politics II (Chair: Anca Radu)**

Jayde Martin and Katherine Parsons (Birmingham, UK), "Re-reading *Oryx's* Narrative: The Exploitation of Women of Colour Under Corporate Capitalism in Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*"

Chiara Feddeck (Aachen, Germany), "'Just because there's a silence it doesn't mean that nothing is going on.' – Objectification, Gendered Trauma, and Identity in Selected Novels by Margaret Atwood"

Gabriella Colombo Machado (Montréal, Canada), "Care-giving as Rebellion in Atwood's *Gilead*"

**Panel 10 (room 2) Ecocriticism, Post- und Nonhuman (Chair: Chloe Carroll)**

Danette Dimarco (Pennsylvania, USA), "Avian Aesthetics and Paratextual Practices in Atwood's Bird Narratives"

Loredana Filip (Munich, Germany), "Literary Synesthesia and Human-Nonhuman Interactions in Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam* Trilogy"

Shraddha A. Singh (New Delhi, India), "Prostibots and the Capitalocene: Feminism's Posthuman Turn in Margaret Atwood's *The Heart Goes Last*"

15.30-16.00 Break

16.00-17.30

**Panel 11 (room 1) Feminisms, Fiction, and In\_Visibility (Chair: Annika McPherson)**

Fiona Tolan (Liverpool John Moores, UK), "Twenty-first Century Gileads: Feminist Dystopian Fiction after Atwood"

Chloe Carroll (Limerick, Ireland), "Transmedia Resistance, Fourth wave Feminism, and *The Handmaid's Tale*"

Sylvia Mieszkowski (Vienna, Austria), "Tags, wings & uniforms: Ambivalent In\_Visibilisations in Hulu's *The Handmaid's Tale*"

17.30-18.00

Break

18.00-19.00

**Keynote 5: Pilar Somacarrera (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), "Power and the Posthuman: Atwood's Recent Dystopias as Read in the (Post-)Pandemic Era" (Chair: Brigitte Glaser)**

19.00-19.30

**Closing Remarks: Dunja Mohr and Kirsten Sandrock**



For further information and registration, please visit our website:

<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/%e2%80%98artpolitical%e2%80%99+%e2%80%93+margaret+atwood%27s+aesthetics%09/647228.html>

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