



# PRESS KIT

**KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR 2019**  
**„RECALCULATING THE ROUTE“**  
**19 – 21 JUNE 2019**

## CONTENTS

1. Press releases Kultursymposium Weimar from 8 May and 12 June 2019
2. Thematic emphases "Recalculating the Route"
3. Selections from the program
4. Selected presenters
5. Perspectives from abroad
6. City map Weimar
7. Basic info
8. Press release Bertelsmann (Blue Sofa)
9. Partners and sponsors

Annette Schäfer | PR-Netzwerk  
T: +49 30 6165 1155, [presse@pr-netzwerk.net](mailto:presse@pr-netzwerk.net)

Dr. Jessica Kraatz Magri  
Press spokeswoman and divisional head of communication department  
Goethe-Institut e.V.  
T: +49 89 15921 249, [Jessica.KraatzMagri@goethe.de](mailto:Jessica.KraatzMagri@goethe.de)

Hannah Cuvalo  
Press officer  
Goethe-Institut Hauptstadtbüro  
T: +40 30 25905 471, [hannah.cuvalo@goethe.de](mailto:hannah.cuvalo@goethe.de)

**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

# PRESS RELEASE

## GOETHE-INSTITUT PRESENTS PROGRAM FOR KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR 2019

**Across the ages and cultures, humankind has been forced to navigate unfamiliar terrain, to master unexpected challenges and to develop responses to new situations. But how can this be successful in an increasingly complex world where technological possibilities seem endless and orientation is more difficult than ever before? In an event entitled Recalculating the Route, Goethe-Institut will pose this question from 19–21 June 2019 at the second Kultursymposium Weimar with around 300 participants from around the world. This year's program was unveiled at a press conference in Weimar on 8 May.**

As Goethe-Institut's Secretary General Johannes Ebert declared at the press conference: "This year's Kultursymposium Weimar takes up social transformations of our period and places them in a cultural, economic, and political context. For three days, current artistic and academic approaches to the future will be discussed in a creative festival atmosphere. Perspectives from abroad are especially central for us at the Goethe-Institut, so I am pleased that numerous experts from our worldwide network will be coming to Weimar to discuss – amongst themselves and with the audience – these urgent issues."

Daniel Göpfert, project director of Kultursymposium Weimar, then offered insights into the program. Japanese artist Mari Matsutoya, who will participate in the Kultursymposium, spoke about her work *Still Be Here*, in which she explores the dynamics between a virtual pop idol and his fans in Japan.

**Over seventy guests** from around the world working in the realms of **culture, economics, the sciences and the humanities, journalism, the media, and politics** will explore the conference's subject from various perspectives that are brought together in an interdisciplinary program of lectures, discussions, participative conversational formats, and artistic interventions. The more than fifty events will take place over three days at eight different locations in Weimar. The **main venue** for Kultursymposium 2019 will be Weimar's **E-Werk**. Perspectives from various cultures were explored in the run-up to the conference at twelve events, organized through the Goethe-Institut's worldwide network.

The program consists of four emphases that will also be the focus of the conference:

**ORIENT//ATION** – How can we avoid losing the overview in an increasingly complex world? **AUTO//NOMY** – How do we remain authors of our lives in the face of rapid technological change? **RE//GRESSION** – World politics in reverse: are we experiencing a radical political transformation? **DIGI//NOMICS** – How will the economy of tomorrow and beyond tick?



**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

KULTUR  
↳ SYMPO  
SIUM ↩  
WEIMAR

8. May 2019

### CONTACT

PR Netzwerk  
Annette Schäfer  
Tel.: +49 30 61651 155  
[presse@pr-netzwerk.net](mailto:presse@pr-netzwerk.net)

Dr. Jessica Kraatz Magri  
press spokeswoman and  
divisional head of  
communication department  
Goethe-Institut e.V.  
Tel. +49 89 15921 249  
[Jessica.KraatzMagri@goethe.de](mailto:Jessica.KraatzMagri@goethe.de)

Hannah Cuvalo  
press officer  
Goethe-Institut Hauptstadtbüro  
Tel.: +49 30 25906 471  
[Hannah.Cuvalo@goethe.de](mailto:Hannah.Cuvalo@goethe.de)



### Keynote and Lectures

The keynote opening the conference will be held by **Anab Jain** from the U.K., a futurist and the founder of the experimental design company Superflux (Weimarhalle, 19 June, 5 pm). Her talk will be followed by a discussion with the Kenyan political scientist **Nanjira Sambuli** and **Immanuel Hermreck**, chief human resources officer of the Bertelsmann media corporation, on the central questions of the conference. The three-day conference will feature many other lectures: **John Huth**, Harvard professor for physics and navigation expert, will speak on the lost art of orientation, while **Toby Walsh**, Australian expert for artificial intelligence, will provide us a glimpse of the year 2062. In her lecture “Disruptive Shocks, Global Platforms, and New Monopolies,” the American economist and writer **Denise Hearn** will explore the economic transformation in the twenty-first century.

### Discussion and Dialogue

At discussion events, the four main themes will be explored from various perspective: For example, the author and writer **Panashe Chigumadzi** (Zimbabwe), **Assaf Gavron** (Israel), **Hao Jingfang** (China) and **Julia von Lucadou** (Germany) will discuss the feeling of being lost in literature (E-Werk, 20 June). On the panel “When States Collect Data,” the expert for e-Government **Katrin Nyman-Metcalf** from Estonia will discuss the issues with legal consultant **Usha Ramanathan** from India and sinologist **Rogier Creemers** from the Netherlands (E-Werk, 20 June). Essayist **Pankaj Mishra** (India) will present a talk entitled “Welcome to the Age of Rage” and will discuss these issues with Turkish constitutional lawyer **Ece Göztepe**. French political scientist **Emile Chabal** will present a lecture entitled “R.I.P. Democracy. How Do Democracies Die?” (Audimax, 20 June). Entrepreneur **Sarah Chen** (USA/Malaysia), the Internet activist **Nanjira Sambuli** (Kenya), the artist **Elena Knox** (Australia) and **Hiltrud Werner** (Germany), member of the board at Volkswagen, will exchange ideas on gender and technology (E-Werk, 20 June). In addition to other discursive events, at **Future Lab**, an open discussion format, visitors attending the conference will have an opportunity to enter into direct dialogue with eight experts from the four major areas.

### Artistic Interventions

A series of art and culture events will round out the program: artist duo **Lotte Effinger** and **Marco Buetikofer** (Germany/Switzerland) and photographer **Julia Steinigeweg** (Germany) will present their current works for the first time at Galerie Eigenheim (opening 18 June, 7pm). The Taiwanese choreographer **Huang Yi** will present a dance performance combining human dancers with a robot (E-Werk, 20 June, 7 pm). The interactive lecture performance *True You (we know how you feel)* by **doublelucky** (Deutschland) will premiere on 21 June at 11:30 am at E-Werk. The artist collective **Most Mechanics Are Crooks** (Greece) will engage in its performative work *Semblance in Post-Digital Times* with self-staging in the digital media. (E-Werk, 19 June, 9 pm).



## **Kultursymposium Weimar**

Kultursymposium Weimar is an event series of Goethe-Institut in which international representatives of various disciplines explore subjects in an interdisciplinary program of lectures, discussions, participatory formats, and artistic interventions. The first Kultursymposium Weimar was held in 2016 with the title “The Sharing Game – Exchange in Culture and Society.”

### **For more information on Kultursymposium Weimar 2019:**

[www.goethe.de/kultursymposium](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium)

### **Tickets are available at:**

[www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets)

### **The press kit is available for download at:**

[www.goethe.de/pressemappen](http://www.goethe.de/pressemappen)

### **Images are available for download at the “Bilderservice”:**

[www.goethe.de/presse](http://www.goethe.de/presse)

### **Requests for Interviews and press accreditation:**

PR-Netzwerk | Annette Schäfer, [presse@pr-netzwerk.net](mailto:presse@pr-netzwerk.net)

*Kultursymposium Weimar is made possible with the support of the following companies of Goethe-Institut's corporate advisory board: Bertelsmann (premium partner), Volkswagen (mobility partner and sponsor), Lufthansa Group, Siemens AG, TRUMPF and WÜRTH. BMW Group, BASF SE und Continental AG are also supporters of the event; our media partners are 3sat, Deutschlandfunk Kultur and brand eins.*

*Program partners for Kultursymposium Weimar 2019 are Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Deutsche Nationaltheater Weimar, Galerie Eigenheim, Klassik Stiftung Weimar, Lichthaus Kino, Stadtverwaltung Weimar, congress centrum Weimarahalle, and the study program Kulturmanagement, Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt.*

# PRESS RELEASE

## KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR 2019: COMPLETE PROGRAM ONLINE AND AVAILABLE PER APP

Kultursymposium Weimar begins this coming Wednesday, 19 June. Under the title **Recalculating the Route**, Goethe-Institut's second Kultursymposium Weimar lasting until 21 June will be exploring decisive questions about our future. The complete program of the fifty events in three days at eight venues is available online: [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium)

Over **seventy experts** from around the world working in the realms of **culture, economics, the sciences and the humanities, the media, and politics** will be spotlighting the subject of the conference from different perspectives in an interdisciplinary program of lectures, panels, participatory conversational formats, and artistic interventions. The festival center for Kultursymposium Weimar 2019 is **E-Werk**.

**Timothy Snyder**, totalitarianism expert and bestselling author (*The Road to Unfreedom*), will be holding a lecture on democracy, populism, and manipulation (21 June, 11.30 hrs, E-Werk). **Lorena Jaume-Palasi**, **Angie Abdilla**, and **Noel Sharkey** will discuss how algorithms discriminate ("Programmed Prejudices," 20 June, 14.30 hrs, E-Werk). In her lecture "Disruptive Shocks, Global Platforms, and New Monopolies" (June 21, 21 hrs, Studienzentrum HAAB) **Denise Hearn** will be analyzing the economic transformations of the twentieth century. **Toby Walsh**, an expert in artificial intelligence, will provide a look into the future in his talk "The Year 2062" (20 June, 14 hrs, E-Werk).

Tickets for Kultursymposium Weimar in its entirety cost 50 €, reduced admission 25 €. Tickets are available at: [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets).

The opening of the exhibition "**Datafiction | I Think I Saw Her Blink**" at Galerie Eigenheim on 18 June at 19 hrs is free of admission. The exhibition will be open daily from 12–19 hrs until 21 June, for the rest of the month of June during gallery opening hours (Thursday–Saturday 14–19 hrs and by appointment). Several other events are free of charge; prior registration is required. Registration is requested for the opening at Weimarhalle on 19 June at 17 hrs with the keynote address given by the futurist **Anab Jain** and the after-show party with a concert by the **band Steiner und Madlaina** and a **silent disco** with **two DJ sets** at E-Werk. Registration is also requested for the **joint reading event "Das Blaue Sofa"** on 20 June at 19.30 hrs, presenting the authors **Kate Connolly**, **Philipp Hübl**, **Steffen Mau**, and **Jagoda Marinic** at Studienzentrum Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek. Registration for these events at: [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets)

**The app for Kultursymposium Weimar 2019 provides a convenient overview of the entire program with all speakers, artists, and venues. In addition, the app can be used to plan an individualized program with a choice of favorites. The web-app also works offline. Link to the appstore:** [www.lineupr.com/kultursymposium/Weimar/eng](http://www.lineupr.com/kultursymposium/Weimar/eng)



**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

KULTUR  
↳ SYMPO  
SIUM ↪  
WEIMAR

12. June 2019

### PRESS CONTACT

PR Netzwerk  
Annette Schäfer  
Tel.: +49 30 61651 155  
[presse@pr-netzwerk.net](mailto:presse@pr-netzwerk.net)

Dr. Jessica Kraatz Magri  
Press spokeswoman and  
divisional head of  
communication department  
Goethe-Institut e.V.  
Tel. +49 89 15921 249  
[Jessica.KraatzMagri@goethe.de](mailto:Jessica.KraatzMagri@goethe.de)

Hannah Cuvalo  
Press officer  
Goethe-Institut Hauptstadtbüro  
Tel.: +49 30 25906 471  
[Hannah.Cuvalo@goethe.de](mailto:Hannah.Cuvalo@goethe.de)



If you have any questions on press-related matters, please contact:  
PR-Netzwerk | Annette Schäfer, Christine Gückel-Daxer  
Tel: 030-61 65 11 55, [presse@pr-netzwerk.net](mailto:presse@pr-netzwerk.net)

**The press kit is available for download at:**

[www.goethe.de/pressemappen](http://www.goethe.de/pressemappen)

**Press images are available for download at:**

[www.goethe.de/bilderservice](http://www.goethe.de/bilderservice)

**For more information on Kultursymposium Weimar 2019:**

[www.goethe.de/kultursymposium](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium)

*Kultursymposium Weimar is made possible with the support of the following companies of Goethe-Institut's corporate advisory board: Bertelsmann (premium partner), Volkswagen (mobility partner and sponsor), Lufthansa Group, Siemens AG, TRUMPF and WÜRTH. BMW Group, BASF SE and Continental AG are also supporters of the event; our media partners are 3sat, Deutschlandfunk Kultur and brand eins.*

*Program partners for Kultursymposiums Weimar 2019 are Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Deutsche Nationaltheater Weimar, Galerie Eigenheim, Klassik Stiftung Weimar, Lichthaus Kino, Stadtverwaltung Weimar, congress centrum Weimarhalle, and the study program Kulturmanagement, Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt.*

# KUL → TUR SYMPOSIUM WEIMAR ←



## THEMATIC EMPHASES

Kultursymposium Weimar 2019 will focus on four thematic areas. The subjects reflect current and future global challenges that are interrelated in various ways. Kultursymposium Weimar will explore the four emphases from different perspectives, making the links between them visible.

### ORIENT//ATION

Across the ages and cultures, humankind has been forced to navigate unfamiliar terrain, to master unexpected challenges and to develop responses to changing situations. The technological and social possibilities have become greater than ever before. All the same, there is a sense of insecurity regarding the normative foundations that can allow for our successful orientation in future: truths once held to be certain are crumbling, the lines separating fact and fiction are blurring, and we are increasingly overwhelmed by the mere quantity of information streaming towards us every day. How can we avoid losing our way in an increasingly complex world?

### AUTO//NOMY

The prospect of artificial intelligence has impacts on our human self-conception. Already today, forms of non-conscious intelligence are being developed to diagnose illnesses, play chess, control weapons, or to drive cars better than human beings can. Artificial intelligence is even making forays into realms supposedly limited to human beings, like the arts. Algorithms are now able to estimate the personality and temperament of a person more precisely than work colleagues, friends, family members, or partners can. It is foreseeable that intelligent algorithms will someday know us better than we know ourselves. But how do we remain the authors of our lives?

### RE//GRESSION

We are currently experiencing a world that has gotten out of control. Politically speaking, the compass is being readjusted. Increasing nationalisms threaten the project of European unity. Identitarian positions are promising a return to the supposedly safe harbors of cultural tradition and homogeneity. Populist politics on both the left to right are achieving success around the globe. These developments have massive impacts on international collaboration, but also on the cultural policy of the countries affected. Are we experiencing a political transformation towards a new age of national self-interest?

### DIGI//NOMICS

The economy around the world is also marked by permanent change and disruption. At an increasing speed, existing business models, products, and services are being altered and displaced. Companies face the challenge of constant renewal and innovation. They not only

**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.





need to respond to changing customer expectations and legal requirements, but also have to fulfill their responsibility to their employees and to society. New corporate forms and workday worlds are presenting themselves. How will the economy operate in the years to come?



# KUL → TUR SYMPOSIUM WEIMAR ←



## **SELECTIONS FROM THE PROGRAM: DISCUSSION PANELS AND LECTURES**

### **OPENING**

**With Klaus-Dieter Lehmann (Germany), Benjamin-Immanuel Hoff (Germany), Anab Jain (India/UK), Immanuel Hermreck (Germany), Nanjira Sambuli (Kenya)**

19 June, starting at 5 pm

Kultursymposium Weimar 2019 will open on 19 June at Weimarhalle. To kick off the conference, the president of the Goethe-Institut Klaus-Dieter Lehmann and Thuringia's minister for culture and European affairs Benjamin-Immanuel Hoff will be welcoming guests and participants. This year's keynote will be held by the British-Indian designer and futurist Anab Jain: How can we react to the challenges and opportunities that future holds ready for our society? And how will it feel to live in the future? Anab Jain imagines and creates scenes of the future so we can experience them in the present. She ultimately comes to the finding that it is worth fighting in the present for a world in which we want to live in future. Following this, Anab Jain will exchange ideas on the great transformations of our time with the head of personnel at the media company Bertelsmann Immanuel Hermreck and Kenyan political scientist Nanjira Sambuli.

A performance of the illuminated DUNDU puppets by the artist and puppet maker Tobias Husemann introduces the second part of the evening and leads through the Weimar city centre to the E-Werk, which serves as festival centre. There, the participants can await an evening programme with a concert and DJs of international renown.

### **ORIENT//ATION**

**Lecture: "Navigating through Life: The Lost Art of Finding our Way"**

**John Huth (US)**

21 June, 11.30-12.00 hrs, Lichthaus Kino 1

American physicist John Huth researches traditional cultural techniques of navigation with the help of the sun, moon, tides, wind, and the horizon. In this lecture, Huth will show how these classical methods can also provide us with orientation in an increasingly digitalized world.

**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

**Panel Discussion: “Feeling lost. Orientation, and lack hereof, in literature”**

**With Panashe Chigumadzi (Zimbabwe), Assaf Gavron (Israel), Hao Jingfang (China), Julia von Lucadou (Germany)**

20 June, 10.00-11.00 hrs, Lichthaus Kino 3

More information, more possibilities, more duties: where does the self locate itself in light of increasing mobility, plurality, and openness of societies, when the limits of the self apparently blur while at the same time the need for self-staging and marketing in the social media is growing? In literature, the search for an identity is a recurring subject. How do literary texts reflect this search in an age of new technological and social possibilities? Can literature, by opening new perspectives, offer the readers tools for orientation? Writers from three continents in conversation.

**Panel Discussion: “The End of Truth? Facts, Fiction and Fake News”**

**With Olga Yurkova (Ukraine), Lina Attalah (Egypt), Timothy Snyder (US)**

21 June, 12.00-13.00 hrs, E-Werk, Maschinensaal

Recent years have seen traditional media losing much trust and impact. A generally valid narrative no longer seems to exist; everyone lives in their own bubble of filtered and at times manipulated messages. What effects does this development have on social discourse? How can real fake news be recognized? How can the spread of false information be constrained and confidence in the media restored? Lina Attalah advocates freedom of information in Egypt, yet has suffered from a state blockade as a journalist because her online newspaper allegedly spreads fake news and supports terrorism. As co-founder of the StopFake.org platform, Olga Yurkova uncovers fake news and fights against its dissemination both in her homeland Ukraine and internationally. American historian Timothy Snyder deals with authoritarian regimes in his most recent book, “The Road to Unfreedom” and explains how individual protagonists influence global politics and elections by targeted distribution of fake news.

**AUTO//NOMY**

**Panel Discussion: “When States Collect Data: Examples from China, Estonia, and India”**

**With: Rogier Creemers (The Netherlands), Katrin Nyman-Metcalf (Estonia), Usha Ramanathan (India)**

20 June, 11.30-13.00 hrs, Lichthaus Kino 3

Today, collecting data is easier than ever. Not only commercial web giants, but governments are also increasingly using user-generated data for their purposes. But a comparative view of the situation in Estonia, China, and India can show how differently data can be used: while the E-Estonia model is intended as a service provider for citizens and the economy and seeks to promote an efficient slimmed-down government, the Chinese social credit system is exemplary for a controlling state that wants to influence the behaviour of its citizens. These developments are not going without criticism, as shown by the Aadhaar system in India. Estonian expert for E-government Katrin Nyman-Metcalf, Dutch Chinese studies scholar Rogier Creemers, and Indian legal consultant Usha Ramanathan will discuss the differences and commonalities in data collection in the three countries.

**Panel discussion: “Tool, buddy, lover, spouse? The future of human-robot relations”**

**With Karen Dolva (Norway), Mari Matsutoya (Japan/UK), Noel Sharkey (UK)**

20 June, 9.30-11.00 hrs, E-Werk, Maschinensaal

In late 2018, Akihiko Kondo from Japan made international headlines because he married the love of his life, the virtual pop idol Hatsune Miku. This artificial figure has long become a superstar in Japan and thanks to the use of the most modern technology can be brought to one's own living room as an animated hologram. The case of Hatsune Miku shows how profound the relationship between humans and artificial beings can now become. In other realms as well, machines are finding their way into our everyday lives: as robot avatars that allow children to participate in school instruction despite illness, or as virtual receptionists in department stores outfitted with artificial intelligence. Where is the relationship between the human being and the robot going, and will machines in future protect us from being alone? Entrepreneur Karen Dolva, artist Mari Matsutoya and robotics expert Noel Sharkey discuss these issues.

**Lecture: “The Year 2062: A World Shaped by Artificial Intelligence”**

**With Toby Walsh**

20 June, 14.00-14.30 hrs, E-Werk, Maschinensaal

Accompanied by Toby Walsh, we take a peek at 2062: The Australian professor of artificial intelligence is convinced that machines will be as intelligent as humans by then, or indeed even sooner. In his lecture, he explains what makes him so certain about this and addresses the impact it will have on our everyday routines, the world of work and society.

## **RE//GRESSION**

### **Lecture: “Welcome to the Age of Anger”**

**Pankaj Mishra (India/UK)**

20 June, 16.15-16.45 hrs, Bauhaus-Universität, Audimax

We live in an age of anger, this at least is the analysis of Pankaj Mishra, one of the most important intellectuals in India today. In search for reasons for the rise of hate, dissatisfaction, and the so-called “angry citizen,” he looks back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and meets over and over winners and losers of processes of modernization that have lost the belief in progress. This drives them directly into the arms of demagogues.

### **Panel discussion: “R.I.P. Democracy. How Do Democracies Die?”**

**With: Emile Chabal (UK), Ece Göztepe (Turkey), Pankaj Mishra (India/UK)**

20 June, 16.45-17.45 hrs, Bauhaus-Universität, Audimax

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the victorious march of democracy seemed unstoppable. Thirty years later, disillusionment and a sense of helplessness dominates among the believers in democracy. In an increasing number of countries, angry citizens are taking to the streets or voting in governments that promote autocratic structures covertly or overtly. Are we experiencing the end of democracy? On the panel, the Turkish-German constitutional law expert Ece Göztepe, British historian Emile Chabal, and Indian writer Pankaj Mishra will discuss the causes and mechanisms of this new policy and ask about new strategies for saving open, liberal societies.

## **DIGI//NOMICS**

### **Panel discussion: “Gender & Tech: New Ideas for a Diverse Future”**

**With Sarah Chen (US/Malaysia), Elena Knox (Australia), Nanjira Sambuli (Kenya), Hiltrud Werner (Germany)**

20 June, 9.30-10.30 hrs, Lichthaus Kino 1

Diversity is one of the key words of the future: the more diverse a team is behind a product, the more the end result corresponds to the requirements of a wide group of people. This is also true for the technology and the digital sector. And yet, the proportion of women in information science is still very small, the reasons for this are varied. Sarah Chen, a start-up

founder from the U.S., Nanjira Sambuli, a Kenyan Internet activist, the Australian artist Elena Knox and Hiltrud Werner, member of the board at Volkswagen, speak on the possibilities of changing this state of affairs and present concrete projects and goals.

**Lecture: “Estonia’s Recipe for Success, or Why the Pope Has a Virtual Residency in Tallinn”  
Katrin Nyman-Metcalf (Estonia)**

20 June, 14.00-14.30 hrs, Lichthaus Kino 3

As a model digital country, Estonia is considered a pioneer of E-governance around the world. In 2014, it was one of the first countries in the world to introduce so-called E-Residency. This virtual residency makes it possible to found a company in Estonia, to manage and administer it, without ever entering the country. More than 50,000 people from 168 countries have registered, even the Pope, Shinzō Abe und Angela Merkel have access. Is this the future of a worldwide networked, non-local digital economy or just a model for tech nerds and digital nomads? What gaps does the system offer for criminal money dealings and money laundering? These are the questions that the Estonian legal and digital expert Katrin Nyman-Metcalf will explore in her lecture.

**The complete program and program app will be available as of early June 2019  
at [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium).**

# KUL → TUR SYMPOSIUM WEIMAR ←



## SELECTIONS FROM THE PROGRAM: EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

### Dance performance: HUANG YI & KUKA

20 June, 7:30 pm, E-Werk Weimar

As a child, he dreamed of having his own robot, as an adult he asks a robot for a dance. In this prize-winning performance, the Taiwanese choreographer and dancer **Huang Yi** combines the science of technological precision with the art of dance. His dancing partner is **KUKA**, an industrial robot that Huang Yi chose for its fluid design and human-like motions and programmed him accordingly. The poetic interaction of human being and machine that drives Huang Yi's artistic work opens space for emotional and aesthetic reflections. The dancing couple is accompanied by the dancer **Lin Jou-Wen** and the actor and choreographer **Hu Chien**.

*HUANG YI & KUKA is a production of Huang Yi Studio+, developed at 3LD Art & Technology Center in collaboration with Sozo Artists, commissioned by Quanta Arts Foundation. The performance in Weimar is made possible with the support of Goethe-Institut Taipei.*

### Exhibition: DATAFICTION | I THINK I SAW HER BLINK

**Marco Buetikofer** and **Lotte Meret Effinger** | **Julia Steinigeweg**

Opening, 18 June, 7 pm, Galerie Eigenheim Weimar (in German)

Tour, 20 June, 4:15 pm, Galerie Eigenheim Weimar (in English)

The artists will be present at both events.

For Kultursymposium Weimar, the artist duo **Marco Buetikofer** and **Lotte Meret Effinger** have developed the installation Datafiction, which reflects the influence of technologies, such as surveillance systems, on everyday practices and modes of social behavior and reveals the fictional potential of collected data.

In the framework of a computer game, the visitors can control the media elements of a narrative (video, audio, text, animation), allowing for a physical, haptic, and visual experience and a play with their own physical presence within a projected digital space. The artist duo Buetikoper and Effinger work across and between the disciplines; their collaborations include video productions, installations, and performances. Their artistic practice focuses on the analysis of digital technologies, their economic dynamics and their impacts on society. In the encounter between mechanical and biological life, the artists explore the limits separating the digital and the physical environment.

**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.



*Datafiction has been made possible as part of the artist in residence program, Goethe-Institut Beijing. The exhibition in Weimar is made possible with the support of Goethe-Institut Beijing.*

In her series of photographs *I Think I Saw Her Blink* the artist **Julia Steinigeweg** explores the future impossibility of distinguishing between reality and simulated reality and researching forms of artificial intelligence. Her photographs focus on dystopian stagings of locations, people, moments and the city state of Singapore, which only reveal their fictionality on second glance: the wooden snake, the LED lights, or the hyper-realistic robot copy of its creator Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann are masterpieces of deception. The photographs are complemented by selections from a conversation about photography. This conversation was held by the artist with an app that imitates the speech behavior of its conversational partner and thus allows the borders between dialogue and monologue, between reality and its simulation to blur.

*The production and exhibition of the photo series I Think I Saw Her Blink was made possible with the support of Goethe-Institut Singapore. Both works were created especially for Kultursymposium Weimar.*

### **Lecture/Performance: TRUE YOU (WE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL)**

21 June, 11:30 am, E-Werk Weimar, premiere

New machines not only want to know where we are, what we purchase, and how many steps we take a day, but also how we feel. When we are emotional, we are focused entirely on ourselves: in our affects, our true selves are revealed. Voice analysis, microexpression analysis, visualizing brain waves are valid methods of so-called “affective computing” to read the truth from the body, making the latest software operate like lie detectors. In their lecture performance, the artist collective **doublelucky productions** explores this development of artistic intelligence in the tradition of polygraphs back to medieval divine judgment and looks into a future in which everyone carries a smart truth-finding machine in their trouser pocket.

**Christiane Kühn** and **Chris Kondak** (text, performance), **Kim Albrecht** (IT), **Hannes Strobl** (music) and **Philipp Hohenwarter** (video)

**The complete program and program app will be available in early June 2019 at [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium)**

**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.



# KUL → TUR SYMPOSIUM WEIMAR ←



## SELECTED PRESENTERS

Around **seventy artists and experts** from the realms of culture, business, science, the humanities, journalism, and politics will be attending Kultursymposium Weimar 2019, including:

### ANGIE ABDILLA (AUSTRALIA)

Angie Abdilla is a member of the Tasmanian Trawlwoolway Clan. She has published works on indigenous knowledge systems, robotics, and artificial intelligence. At Old Ways, New Angie Abdilla leads a team of advisors in promoting the development of new technologies based on indigenous knowledge and skills. She is the co-editor of the book *Decolonising the Digital: Technology as Cultural Practice*.

### ANTÔNIO ARAÚJO (BRAZIL)

Antonio Araújo is artistic director of Teatro da Vertigem and professor for performing arts at Universidade de São Paulo. At the Prague Quadriennale 2011, he was awarded a Gold Medal in the category Best Realization of a Production for *BR-3*. In the run up to the Brazilian presidential elections in 2018, he campaigned against the later victor Jair Bolsonaro.

### CHINMAYI ARUN (INDIA/US)

Chinmayi Arun is a fellow of the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard University. She taught law in India from 2010 onwards, and was founding Director of the Centre for Communication Governance at National Law University Delhi. She is a member of UNESCO India's inaugural Media Freedom Advisory Group and has been consultant to the Indian Law Commission.

### LINA ATTALAH (EGYPT)

Lina Attalah is an Egyptian journalist and the co-founder of and contributor to *Mada Masr*, an independent online newspaper in Egypt. Before that, she was managing editor at *Egypt Independent* before the newspaper was closed in 2013 under government pressure. She has campaigned in the struggle against restrictions on freedom of the press and was named "muckraker of the Arab world" by *Time* magazine in 2017.

### DANIEL BENMERGUI (ARGENTINA)

Daniel Benmergui is a freelance game developer from Buenos Aires and has worked for many years on the interactive narration of stories. In 2013, he released *Storyteller*, a puzzle-video game that was awarded the Nuovo Award at the Independent Game Developer Conference in San Francisco.

### SARAH CHEN (US/MALAYSIA)

Sarah Chen comes from Malaysia and has hosted her own TV show for nine years now. Today, she is chief strategy officer for the start-up Bloxed and lives in Washington, D.C. In



October 2018, she co-founded the organization The Billion Dollar Fund for Women to fund projects led by women.

#### **PANASHE CHIGUMADZI (ZIMBABWE)**

Panashe Chigumadzi was born in Zimbabwe and grew up in South Africa. Her debut novel *Sweet Medicine* (2015) won the K. Sello Duiker Literary Award. Her second book *These Bones Will Rise Again*, a reflection on Robert Mugabe's death, was published in June 2018. She is a columnist for the *New York Times* and a contributor to the *Johannesburg Review of Books* and a doctoral student at the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University.

#### **KAREN DOLVA (NORWAY)**

Karen Dolva is an expert for UX-design. In 2015, she founded the start up No Isolation together with Matias Doyle and Marius Aabel with the goal of using technology for those who need it most. No Isolation develops communication aids that are intended to reduce involuntary loneliness and social isolation in society. In 2018, she was awarded the EU Prize for Women Innovators.

#### **PIERRE FAUTREL (FRANCE)**

Pierre Fautrel is part of the artist collection Obvious, which he founded together with friends from his youth Hugo Caselles-Dupré and Gauthier Vernier. Obvious makes art using artificial intelligence and explores the place of the artist in the emergence of an artwork and the creativity of algorithms. The portrait *Edmond de Belamy*, painted by a computer that Fautrel fed with data, was sold by the auction house Christie's in New York for 400,000 dollars, forty times the expected price.

#### **ECE GÖZTEPE ÇELEBI (TURKEY)**

Ece Göztepe Çelebi is professor for constitutional law at Bilkent Üniversitesi in Ankara. One of her fields of research is state of emergency law. In her research, she engages with a comparison of Turkish and German constitutional law and the way in which constitutional law is applied.

#### **DENISE HEARN (US)**

Denise Hearn writes, presents, and consults on system changes, economies and networking. She is the co-author of *The Myth of Capitalism: Monopolies and the Death of Competition* (2018), which was named one of the best books on economics in 2018. Denise Hearn's latest position was head of business development at Variant Perception, a global company for macroeconomic research and investment strategies.

#### **JOHN HUTH (USA)**

John Huth is a professor for natural sciences at Harvard University with a focus on particle physics. He also studies the cultures and historical practices of navigation, like the practice of tidal navigation in the Marshall Islands. In 2015, he published the book *The Lost Art of Finding Our Way*.

**ANAB JAIN (INDIA/UK)**

Anab Jain is a designer, filmmaker, and cofounder of Superflux, an experimental design company. Anab Jain imagines and creates future scenarios to forge new ways of seeing, being, and acting for the present. She suggests questioning decisions taken today always critically and with an eye on their impact on the world of tomorrow.

**CESY LEONARD (GERMANY)**

Cesy Leonard is an artist, filmmaker, and head of planning at Zentrum für Politische Schönheit. Born in Stuttgart, she began her artistic career as a graffiti artist before working as an actor and director. She directs the film department at Zentrum für Politische Schönheit and is part of the creative core team.

**MARI MATSUTOYA (JAPAN/UK)**

Mari Matsutoya studied fine arts and sound studies at Berlin's Universität der Künste. Her focus is placed on language as a mirror of reality and the voice as a means of expression and a social instrument. For the transmediale and CTM Festival in 2016, she initiated the art project *Still Be Here*, which explores the dynamics between the Japanese digital pop-idol Hatsune Miku and his fans.

**STEFFEN MAU (GERMANY)**

Steffen Mau is a professor for macrosociology at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He completed his doctorate at the European University Institute in Florence and is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften. His most recent work *Das metrische Wir: Über die Quantifizierung des Sozialen* (The Metric We: On Quantifying the Social, 2017) deals with the role of data in our society.

**PANKAJ MISHRA (INDIA)**

Pankaj Mishra is an essayist, literary critic, and writer. In 2017, his book *The Age of Anger: A History of the Present* was published, in which he tries to explain the origins of hate in our modern societies, from Donald Trump to the Islamic State. He lives in London and in India.

**KATRIN NYMAN-METCALF (ESTONIA)**

Katrin Nyman-Metcalf completed her doctorate on space law at Uppsala Universitet in Sweden. She is today programme director at the Estonian Academy for E-Government and teaches and consults on law and technology in Tallinn. International decisions and the implementation of human rights and the rule of law are her focus.

**JUAN CARLOS RINCÓN (COLOMBIA)**

Juan Carlos Rincón completed a law degree before starting work as a journalist. He is currently head of the opinions page of the Colombian daily *El Espectador* where he pursues various digital projects, including the prize-winning YouTube channel *La Pulla*. Rincón teaches editorial journalism at Universidad Javeriana de Bogotá.

**NANJIRA SAMBULI (KENYA)**

Nanjira Sambuli is a political scientist and senior policy manager of the World Wide Web Foundation. She directs projects promoting digital equality and the Women's Rights Online network. She previously worked at iHub in Nairobi, where she developed strategic guidelines for the growth of technological innovation research in East Africa.

**NOEL SHARKEY (UK)**

Noel Sharkey is professor emeritus for artificial intelligence and robotics at the University of Sheffield. He is best known for his television appearances as an expert of robotic science, including the BBC series *Robot Wars* and *Techno Games*. He is co-founder and co-director of the Foundation for Responsible Robotics.

**TIMOTHY SNYDER (US)**

Timothy Snyder is a historian and professor at Yale University. His research focuses on the history of Eastern Europe and the Holocaust. Since 2008, he has been a permanent fellow at the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM) in Vienna and directs the research group "Vereintes Europa-Geteilte Geschichte." In his latest book *The Road to Unfreedom*, Snyder discusses authoritarian regimes and explains how individual agents can influence politics and elections with the targeted spreading of fake news.

**ANNA SZILÁGYI (HUNGARY)**

Anna Szilágyi is an adjunct professor of communication at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Hong Kong. She explores the discourse of propaganda and discrimination. Her writings have appeared in international academic books and journals, including *The Journal of Language Aggression and Conflict* and *Advances in the History of Rhetoric*. Her global educational program, "Words Break Bones" provides media workers with crucial linguistic skills to detect and avoid misleading and discriminatory communication practices.

**TOBY WALSH (AUSTRALIA)**

Toby Walsh is professor for artificial intelligence at the University of New South Wales and one of the leading experts in this area. He is Fellow at the Association for the Advancement of AI and his contributions have been awarded several prizes, included the Humboldt-Forschungspreis. He is the author of *It's Alive: Artificial Intelligence from the Logic Piano to Killer Robots* (2018) and *2062: The World that AI Made* (2019).

# KUL → TUR SYMPOSIUM WEIMAR ←



## PERSPECTIVES FROM ABROAD

In the run up to this event, **twelve Goethe-Institutes** abroad explored the issues posed by this year's conference against the backdrop of their respective cultures. The **preparatory events** provided not just insight into academic, social, and artistic approaches and initiatives, but enrich the symposium by adding international perspectives.

### Riga

In Riga, in October 2018 media experts explored in a round of conversation with the title "On the Internet, Nobody Knows You're A Dog" the phenomenon of the post-factual and the resulting responsibility of each individual. A brief performance by Ģertrūdes ielas teātris took an artistic look at the issue.

### Bogotá

Together with the international journal for literary culture ARCADIA and Instituto Distrital de las Artes – Idartes, Goethe-Institut in Bogotá held a so-called "Hacktividad" in November last year. Under the title "Digital Mutants: Democracy in the Digital Age" it dealt with the influence of digital developments on democracy and civic participation.

### Dakar

While information is traditionally transmitted orally in Senegal, young people are now using the social media as their primary means of communication. But problems involved in the new media are not discussed, neither at school nor at home. Together with the association of German language instructors APAS, the Goethe-Institut organized workshops at schools in February to sensitize schoolchildren to critically approach fake news and the digital media.

### Ramallah

Goethe-Institut-Ramallah set off in search of parallels to New Objectivity and the New Architecture in the Palestinian territories. At issue was the central question: how can the architectural heritage in Ramallah be rediscovered and reanimated in a way that looks toward the future? In exchange with Palestinian architects, experts, and scholars, in February questions on the architectural legacy have been discussed and made available to experience

### London

Under direction of digital specialist Emma McFarland, Goethe-Institut London invited experts at the end of March like the author, social critic, and psychoanalyst Susie Orbach to development new perspectives on Brexit. Brief mini-lectures drew links between the relationship of Brexit to feminism, technology, psychology, or the environment.

**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.



### **Athens**

In Greece, the artists and curator group Most Mechanics Are Crooks transformed Goethe-Institut in Athens this March into a laboratory of post-digital art. With the title “Weasel Dance: Imitation in Postdigital Contingency” the visitors were able to learn about the various ways in which artists engage with self-representation in the digital media. In Weimar, Most Mechanics Are Crooks will continue their project with a lecture performance.

### **Sydney**

The cultural framing conditions for the development of artificial intelligence were the focus at Goethe-Institut Sydney this past March. In The Relevance of Culture in the Age of AI, discussants included the artificial intelligence expert Toby Walsh and the start-up founder Angie Abdilla on the question of what influence cultural context has on the development of intelligent algorithms and vice-versa. Both Tony Walsh and Angie Abdilla will be sharing their expertise at Kultursymposium Weimar.

### **Washington**

Lost your way? With the title “WANDER”, Goethe-Institut Washington invited participants in early April to a performative walk through the city, where the feeling of disorientation was to be the focus. Afterwards, the audience discussed their experiences on the tour together with experts.

### **Amsterdam**

Jointly organized by Goethe-Institut Amsterdam and Debattenzentrum De Balie, in April the Dutch writer Connie Palmen and the German author Simon Strauß met for a conversation. As a representative of two different generations, they took a look at romanticism in Europe. Are histories of romanticism feeding anti-liberal movements? Or can romanticism in turbulent times offer solutions for Europe?

### **Beijing/Seoul**

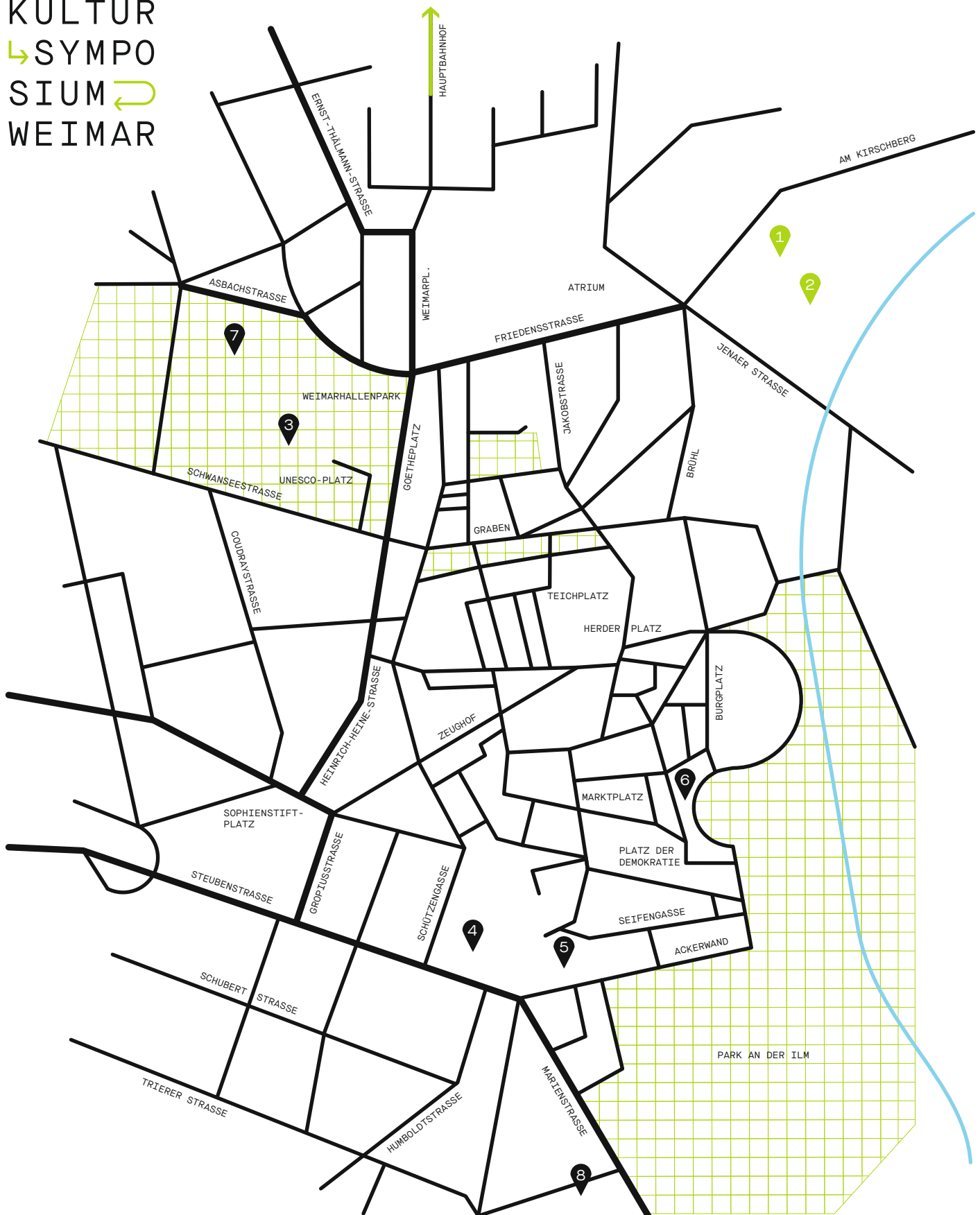
In their event series “Staging the Digital Age” this April, Goethe-Institut Beijing and Goethe-Institut Seoul brought together German, Chinese, and Korean directors, performers, and gaming experts to engage in dialogue and performative exchange on the potential of combining theatre and technology. At Kultursymposium Weimar, performers and directors from all three countries will explore this subject.

### **Johannesburg**

In May, Goethe-Institut Johannesburg together with African and European artists and cultural producers explored the role of European cultural institutions and the power relationships that emerge in intercultural collaboration.



# KULTUR SYMPO SIUM WEIMAR



## Veranstaltungsorte

1. **E-Werk | Festivalzentrum**  
Maschinensaal, Kesselsaal | Am Kirschberg 4
2. **Lichthauskino | Festivalzentrum**  
Kino 1, Kino 3 | Am Kirschberg 4
3. **Weimarahalle**  
UNESCO-Platz 1
4. **Bauhaus-Universität**  
Audimax | Steubenstraße 6-8
5. **Goethe-Nationalmuseum**  
Frauenplan 1
6. **Studienzentrum der Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek**  
Platz der Demokratie 1
7. **Galerie Eigenheim**  
Asbachstraße 1
8. **Oberlichtsaal, Bauhaus-Universität**  
Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 8



# KUL → TUR SYMPOSIUM WEIMAR ←



## BASIC INFO

### KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR

KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR is a series of events in which experts, intellectuals, and artists from the Goethe-Institut network around the world discuss global social issues. The first Kultursymposium Weimar was held in 2016 with the title “The Sharing Game – Exchange in Culture and Society” The second is titled “Recalculating the Route” and is made possible by the support of the following corporations, including several members of Goethe-Institut’s economic advisory board: Bertelsmann (premium partner), Volkswagen (mobility partner and sponsor), as well as Lufthansa Group, Siemens AG, Trumpf and Würth. The event is also supported by BMW Group, BASF SE, and Continental AG. Media partners are 3sat, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, and Brand Eins. Program partners for Kultursymposium Weimar 2019 are Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar, Galerie Eigenheim, Klassik Stiftung Weimar, Lichthaus Kino, the Weimar city government, congress centrum Weimarhalle, and the cultural management studies program at Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt.

### Dates

Wednesday, 19 June–Friday, 21 June 2019

### Participants

ca. 300-400 participants from 50 countries

### Events

ca. 50 events, 8 venues

(E-Werk, Lichthaus Kino, congress centrum Weimarhalle, Galerie Eigenheim, Bauhaus-Universität Audimax, Bauhaus-Museum Weimar, Goethe-Nationalmuseum, Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek der Klassik Stiftung Weimar)

### Program

The complete program is available on the attached flyer, online at [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium), and in the program app.

### Language

All lectures and panels at the conference will be held in German and English with simultaneous translation in both directions via headphones.

### Project Team, Kultursymposium Weimar 2019

Daniel Göpfert (director), Markus Köcher, Filistin Younes, Sarah Pützer, Annette Kraft, Georgia Haubrok, Marie Golenia, and Carolin Nüser.

**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

**Public relations**

Annette Schäfer, PR-Netzwerk, mobil: +49 (0)179 45 45 719

Christine Gückel-Daxer, PR-Netzwerk, mobil: +49 (0)157 53 57 84 72

Dr. Jessica Kraatz Magri, Pressesprecherin des Goethe-Instituts, +49 (0)151 262 75 331

Hannah Cuvalo, Pressereferentin des Goethe-Instituts, mobil: +49 (0)160 96 99 09 95

**Press Desk at Festival Centre**

Lichthaus Café (Am Kirschberg 4, 99423 Weimar)

Opening hours:

Wednesday, 19 June 2019, 15-17 hrs at Weimarhalle

Wednesday, 19 June 2019, 19-21 hrs at Lichthaus Café

Thursday, 20 June 2019, 9-19 hrs at Lichthaus Café

Friday, 21 June 2019, 9-15 hrs at Lichthaus Café

**App**

The Kultursymposium Weimar 2019 app offers a convenient overview of the entire program, all speakers and artists, and venues. In addition, participants can assemble their own program by choosing their favourites. The web-app also works off line and the home screen can be stored as an app icon.

**Tickets**

Tickets are available at [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets)

**Visitor Registration:**

Registration is required at [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/tickets). Participation fee is 50 € for three days (reduced price: 25 €), without VE. Some events are free of charge.

**For more information:**

[www.goethe.de/kultursymposium](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium)

PRESS RELEASE

## Bertelsmann Brings Blue Sofa to Weimar for Goethe-Institut's Cultural Symposium

- Authors Kate Connolly, Philip Hübl, Jagoda Marinic, and Steffen Mau talk about their books and the key topics of the symposium.
- Bertelsmann Chief HR Officer Immanuel Hermreck highlights opportunities and challenges of the digital working world

Weimar, May 8, 2019 – When the Goethe-Institut once again hosts its cultural symposium on global social issues in Weimar from June 19 to 21, 2019, Bertelsmann as the main sponsor of the event will provide input from the actual business world, as well as a cultural highlight. The international media, services, and education company is bringing its successful Blue Sofa literature format to Weimar for a compelling evening of authors discussing their books and the symposium's key topics.

The Goethe-Institut's three-day *Kultursymposium Weimar 2019* event will be held under the heading “**Recalculating the Route**” and will focus in particular on the topics of orientation, autonomy, regression and diginomics. Some 300 guests from the fields of culture, business, science, media, and politics are expected, from more than 50 countries. At the opening event on June 19, Bertelsmann CHRO Immanuel Hermreck and other panelists will discuss how people can confidently shape their lives in the face of rapid technological change. He will focus on the opportunities and challenges of the digital working world.

The Blue Sofa event will take place at the Duchess Anna Amalia Library study center in Weimar on the evening of June 20, 2019. Like the opening ceremony, this event doesn't require the purchase of a ticket to the *Kultursymposium*. For 20 minutes each, the British Germany correspondent Kate Connolly, the philosopher Philip Hübl, the columnist Jagoda Marinic, and the sociologist Steffen Mau will present their latest books on the Blue Sofa. They will also discuss questions such as: How do you stay on top of things in a complex, global world? How can you remain autonomous and self-sufficient in this world? How are populists changing politics and society? How do digitalization and globalization influence the economy and our society? – with the moderators Daniel Fiedler, Vivian Perkovic, and Marie Sagenschneider. This makes the literary format initiated by Bertelsmann, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, ZDF, and 3Sat a good fit with the Cultural Symposium's festival concept, which focuses on presenting lectures, concerts, panel discussions, exhibitions, and performances.

## About the authors and their books

In “Exit Brexit” (Hanser), **Kate Connolly**, Germany correspondent of “The Guardian,” tells the history of Brexit from her point of view, describes the identity crises of many Britons since the referendum, and explains why she herself has now acquired German citizenship.

**Philipp Hübl’s** “*Die aufgeregte Gesellschaft*” (“The Agitated Society”; C. Bertelsmann) addresses the question of how emotions shape moral identity and thus political preferences. The philosopher writes: “Using our moral emotions helps to better understand not only the shift to the right, but also why city dwellers and young people long for freedom, diversity, and openness, and why the elderly and rural dwellers long for structure and tradition. In short: why the world is polarized.”

In “Sheroes” (S. Fischer), **Jagoda Marinic** creates new role models in the immigration country of Germany. She provides food for thought for reevaluating gender relations, identities, and power relations and explains why women should “definitely bring men on board,” especially after the #MeToo debate.

**Steffen Mau** devotes his study “*Das metrische Wir*” (“The Metric We”; Suhrkamp) to the increasing collection and comparison of data through ratings of products and services, states, occupational groups, etc. The growing quantification of our society is neither values-neutral nor harmless, he argues. Instead, it leads to the standardization of people and systems and serves economic interests above all. He says the mania for data collection is displacing solidarity in society and is exacerbating and cementing social inequalities.

## The Blue Sofa at the Goethe Institut’s Kultursymposium Weimar

Thursday, June 20 2019, 7:30 p.m.  
Study Center at the Duchess Anna Amalia Library  
Platz der Demokratie 4  
99423 Weimar  
Tel.: +49 (0) 3643 545400

Admission to the event is free of charge, but registration is required by June 19, 2019 at [www.goethe.de/weimar/tickets](http://www.goethe.de/weimar/tickets)

More information:

[www.goethe.de/weimar](http://www.goethe.de/weimar)

<https://www.bertelsmann.com/news-and-media/specials/das-blaue-sofa/einstiegsseite.jsp#st-1>

### **About Bertelsmann**

Bertelsmann is a media, services and education company that operates in about 50 countries around the world. It includes the broadcaster RTL Group, the trade book publisher Penguin Random House, the magazine publisher Gruner + Jahr, the music company BMG, the service provider Arvato, the Bertelsmann Printing Group, the Bertelsmann Education Group and Bertelsmann Investments, an international network of funds. The company has 117,000 employees and generated revenues of €17.7 billion in the 2018 financial year. Bertelsmann stands for creativity and entrepreneurship. This combination promotes first-class media content and innovative service solutions that inspire customers around the world.

Bertelsmann engages in a variety of cultural initiatives both in Germany and internationally. The Group's "Culture@Bertelsmann" activities comprise exhibitions, readings and concerts, the "Blue Sofa" literary format jointly created with partners, as well as a commitment to preserving Europe's cultural heritage. For instance, Bertelsmann owns the Archivio Storico Ricordi in Milan, a music archive that contains a wealth of unique testimonies to Italian opera history. Bertelsmann is indexing the archival holdings to meet the latest standards and making the cultural treasures accessible for a wide audience. As a company with a long history in filmmaking, Bertelsmann also supports and sponsors the restoration, digitization and screening of major silent films.

### **About the Blue Sofa**

The Blue Sofa is the author forum jointly hosted by Bertelsmann, ZDF, Deutschlandfunk Kultur and 3sat. It has become a fixture at the book fairs in Frankfurt and Leipzig. The Blue Sofa Berlin celebrated its premiere in 2005. In 2011, Frankfurt's Open Books reading festival opened with a Blue Sofa author's gala for the first time. Since the 2000 Leipzig Book Fair, 2,752 discussions with 1,687 authors have taken place on the Blue Sofa, including with Nobel Prize laureates Svetlana Alexievich, Mikhail Gorbachev, Günter Grass, Herta Müller, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, Orhan Pamuk, Joseph Stiglitz, Mario Vargas Llosa, and Mo Yan.

### **About the Goethe-Institut**

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. With 159 institutes in 98 countries, it promotes knowledge of German abroad, encourages international cultural exchange and conveys an image of contemporary Germany. The Goethe-Institut's ties with partner institutions in many other places give it about 1,000 points of contact around the world.

### **Follow us on**



For further questions, please contact:

### **Bertelsmann SE & Co. KGaA**

Andreas Grafemeyer  
Senior Vice President Media Relations  
Phone: +49 5241 80-2466  
[andreas.grafemeyer@bertelsmann.de](mailto:andreas.grafemeyer@bertelsmann.de)

## Partners

Kultursymposium Weimar 2019 is made possible with the support of the following (including members of Goethe-Institut's Economic Advisory Board).

Premium partner

**BERTELSMANN**

Mobility partner and sponsor

**VOLKSWAGEN**  
AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Sponsors

**LUFTHANSA GROUP**

**SIEMENS**  
*Ingenuity for life*



 **WÜRTH**

With the generous support of

**BMW Group, BASF SE und Continental AG**

Media partners



 **Deutschlandfunk Kultur**

**brandeins**

Program partners

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar | Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar  
Galerie Eigenheim | Klassik Stiftung Weimar | Lichthaus Kino  
Stadtverwaltung Weimar | congress centrum Weimarhalle  
Studiengang Kulturmanagement der Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt