

## Narrating Responsibility

The international workshop “Narrating Responsibility” at the University of Bonn discusses how new materialisms and other relational, more than human approaches challenge conventional notions of responsibility, how responsibility can be reconceptualized, and how narratives can shape new ethical frameworks in this context.

The aim of the workshop is to examine both the "new narratives" of the theoretical landscape and narrativity in the narrower sense regarding its role in a new conception of responsibility.

On the one hand, it is assumed that narratives can play a central role for a new ethics of responsibility because they open up relationality, bridge the immediacy of one's own experience, and make connections and contexts visible or even create them. At the same time, however, it is also important to consider arguments critical of new materialisms, which are repeatedly accused of being too apolitical and not sensitive to power relations. In addition, there are important open questions about the possibilities of non-anthropocentric storytelling that need to be explored: How do the concerns and narratives of the more than human world reach us?

## Programme

### Monday 09 – 30 – 2024

01:00 p.m. *Arrival, coffee*

01:15 p.m. Welcome and Opening

02:00 – 03:45 p.m. Working session 1:

#### **Discourse, Critique, and Problems**

*Dana Bönisch, Alexandra Palkowitsch*

In this section, we ask about the status of the discussion on new materialism and related theorems from our perspectives. What potential is seen for working with these approaches, and what criticisms, and challenges have they faced? We are particularly interested in the question of responsibility and how it can be conceived and narrated in the Anthropocene and beyond.

03:45 – 04:15 p.m. *Coffee break*

04:15 – 07:00 p.m. Working session 2:

#### **New Concepts and Stories**

*Marco Caracciolo, Andreas Krebs, Astrid Schrader*

Here we would like to rethink the relationship between narrative, ethics and the concept of responsibility, and look at concepts that can provide us with suggestions and impulses for further reflection and the redefinition of responsibility for more-than-human worlds.

07:30 p.m. *Dinner*

### Tuesday 10 – 01 – 2024

09:00 – 11:30 a.m. Working session 3:

#### **How to proceed? Implications for how we do science**

*Eva Axer, Ulrik Nissen, Franklin Ginn*

Finally, we would like to look at what the new approaches in the relationship between humans and the more-than-human world mean for our work. What kind of knowledge are we producing? What new and perhaps creative forms of work and scientific communication are needed? How can we listen to the more-than-human world and enable its participation? What does it mean to do science with controversial matters of concern?

11:30 – 11:45 a.m. *Coffee break*

11:45 – 01:15 p.m.

#### **Impulses from the workshop observers and final discussion**

*Iwona Janicka, Simon Reiners*

As our event is designed as a workshop and laboratory, it is crucial that it is accompanied by in-depth conference observation. In the closing session, the conference observers will have their own panel. Their summary of outcomes, discrepancies, conflicts, etc. can facilitate the final discussion.

01:30 p.m. *Lunch and Departure*

## Organisation

University of Bonn:

Dr. Dana Bönisch, Comparative Literature Studies, University of Bonn, [dboen1@uni-bonn.de](mailto:dboen1@uni-bonn.de)

JProf. Dr. Anna Maria Riedl, Christian Social Ethics and Sustainability Studies, University of Bonn, [amriedl@uni-bonn.de](mailto:amriedl@uni-bonn.de)

## Speakers

Dr. Eva Axer, Leibniz-Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin

Dr. Dana Bönisch, Comparative Literature Studies, University of Bonn

Prof. Dr. Marco Caracciolo, English and Literary Theory, Ghent University

Dr. Franklin Ginn, Cultural Geography, Cabot Institute for The Environment, University of Bristol

Dr. Iwona Janicka, Center for Environmental and Technology Ethics, Prague

Prof. Dr. Andreas Krebs, Department of Old Catholic Studies, University of Bonn

Alexandra Palkowitsch, Christian Social Ethics and Sustainability Studies, University of Bonn

Simon Reiners M.A., Oswald von Nell-Breuning-Institut, Frankfurt am Main

Dr. Astrid Schrader, Sociology and Philosophy, University of Exeter

Prof. Dr. Ulrik Nissen, Systematic Theology, Aarhus University

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# WORKSHOP NARRATING RESPONSIBILITY

SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 1, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF BONN

## Conference venue

University of Bonn  
Adenauerallee 131  
53113 Bonn

If you are interested in participating,  
please contact us at [cse@uni-bonn.de](mailto:cse@uni-bonn.de)