

Call for Papers

Transnational Romanticism

23-26 July 2025 | University of Göttingen, Germany



Ceramic art by Lilach Naishtat

In September 1798, Samuel Taylor Coleridge went on his first-ever voyage outside England, together with William and Dorothy Wordsworth. Coleridge's time in Göttingen, Germany, initiated him as a central agent in the dissemination of German literature and thought in England. However, his deep involvement in foreign languages and cultures goes beyond German and Anglo-centric spaces. Through his reading of Greek, Latin, German, Italian, Sanskrit, and Hebrew texts, Coleridge plumbed strata of meaning and attained original insights, which he adopted in his own poetry, criticism, and philosophy. As an obsessive translator, he produced more than one hundred translations and developed theoretical insights and perceived the act of translation itself as an interlinguistic creative practice.

The conference will focus not only on Coleridge but also more broadly on Romantic transactions with foreign languages and cultures including but not limited to Western European and Anglo-centric spheres and paradigms.

The conference will be hosted in the historic Library where Coleridge worked at Göttingen, and will include an excursion to the beautiful Harz Mountains, following in the footsteps of Coleridge and many Romantic tourists.

Scholars, translators, artists, teachers and students are invited to send proposals. Contributions may focus on but are not limited to:

- Traveling translations and cultural transmissions
- Multidisciplinary and intercultural dialog in the Romantic era
- Romantic inter- and intra-cultural exchanges
- World literature and national literatures
- Translations of Romantic poetry and prose into foreign languages
- Innovative digital modes of exploring transnational Romanticism
- Illustration and visualization and their roles in Romantic transmissions
- Contemporary rewritings and alternative forms of translation
- Pedagogical innovations
- The role and use of libraries and archives
- Print culture, manuscripts and other forms of cultural circulation
- Creative responses to the conference themes

Keynote speakers: James Engell (Harvard) | Ralf Haekel (Leipzig) | Diego Saglia (Parma)

Timeline

Deadline: 13 October 2024

Confirmation of acceptance: Early 2025

Organizing committee:

Barbara Schaff, Gregory Leadbetter

Maximiliaan van Woudenberg, Lilach Naishtat

Please submit abstracts of 300 words for contributions of 20 minutes, together with a short biographical note of up to 100 words, to:

Transnational.romanticism@uni-goettingen.de