

CALL FOR PAPERS

Hydrotemporalities: Situating the spatial and temporal presence of water in historical, contemporary, and future perspectives

The 'Hydro' in Hydrotemporalities draws from the Blue Humanities, a term coined by Steve Mentz in 2024, and more specifically from Astrida Neimanis' notion of Hydrofeminism and the collection *Thinking with Water* (eds. Astrida Neimanis, Cecilia Chen, and Janine MacLeod). As such, the 'Hydro' means to evoke and underline the ever growing importance of watery topics and posthumanism in the academic discourse, and is specifically indicative of the intersectional approach of the conference: As Mentz and Neimanis remind us, water is what connects all the world, water facilitates movement, growth, thinking, and loving, and water acts as a planetary archive. Further, we use 'Hydro' to mean water-based fluids of all kinds, in all its states, because we are interested in the different forms and meanings that it can take. It encompasses all bodies of water both artificial and natural, the polar caps, fog, rain, and even sewage.

Temporalities refer to chronology; future, past, history, speculative time, and more. It can come to mean the temporal levels of a narrative, the way the past informs the present, the speculative presence of the future, scientific advancements and historical processes. Further, temporality necessitates a negotiation of place and space, seeing as the temporal must be situated within the spatial, in the tradition of Bakhtin's chronotopos. The spatial is not limited to physical places, but includes fictional/unreal and social/cultural spaces.

In combining these two, we wish to uncover the role water and fluids play in the literary, historical, futuristic, scientific, and artistic chronologies and spaces of humanity, especially in regards to our current era of the Anthropocene and the changing climate. 'Hydro' situates itself in every aspect of the world. Our aim is to facilitate a productive exchange between different disciplines and give early career researchers the opportunity to build a supportive network.

Disciplines and Topics can include but are not limited to:

- cultural and literary studies
- linguistics
- historical and archaeological perspectives
- art and art history
- natural sciences, such as biology, geology, ecology, and more
- philosophy, sociology, and political science
- geography
- narrative structures/cyclical narratives
- materiality and representation of water
- reconsidering the legacy of slavery/discussions of the middle passage
- water in all its states (steam/ice/fluid)
- ecocritical readings
- the polar caps/arctic imaginaries
- climate change/climate fiction
- the Anthropocene/posthumanism

We welcome submissions from all kinds of early career researchers at **BA, MA, and early PhD level**. All disciplines are encouraged, as long as your idea fits the topic. The conference will be held in **English**. You may submit abstracts to present a paper you've already written or a paper in progress, but you can also send in concepts of a workshop, or any kind of creative presentation, such as fiction, art, movies, or music. If you're unsure about your idea or have any questions, **don't hesitate to contact Helena Kreuzmann** at kreuzmann@anglistik.uni-kiel.de. We will do our best to support you. The abstract should be between *250 and 400 words* long. Please include a bio-note of around *100 to 150 words*. The presentations will be 20 minutes long.

The deadline for submitting your abstracts is 20.12.2026. Please send your abstracts to Mina Hesse at hesse@anglistik.uni-kiel.de. We will contact you by early February to let you know whether you have been accepted. The conference will take place **02. - 03.04.2027** in **Kiel**. If you are not able to make the trip, participation over Zoom is possible.

Selected Bibliography:

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