

Contemporary Reading Cultures

January 29-30, 2026 – IBZ, Emil-Figge-Str. 59

Thursday, January 29

09.30: Arrival and Coffee Break

10.00: Conference Opening

10.30: Panel I

Chair: Burak Sezer

Yagmur Su Kolsal	“My Good Friend Jonathan Harker”: The Case of “Dracula Daily” and Fan Engagement with Digital Serialized Fiction
Swara Shukla	Periods of “Eager Idleness”: Serialisation and the Anticipatory Reader on Wattpad
Kübra Aksay	“Playing Bookishness”: Literary Culture in Ludic Spaces

Noon: Lunch Break

13.30: Panel II

Chair: Sascha Pöhlmann

Marzia Dessi	#Dark Academia: Bridges and Barriers to the Classics
Maxi Zarah Laumann	Strong Feelings, Weak Value? The Formation and Interpretation of Literary Value
Nadine Ellinger	Diversity Beyond the Hashtag? Popular African Diasporic Fiction and Digital Diaspora Formation

15.00: Coffee Break

15.15: Panel III

Chair: Katrin Röder

Johanna Kluger	Soulmates and Scent Matches: Sexual Autonomy in Alternate Universe Erotic Romance Fiction
Cyprian Piskurek	Reading From Below: British Cultural Studies and the Democratisation of Reading

18.00: Conference Dinner at *Schönes Leben*, Liebigstr. 23, 44139 Dortmund (Registration required)

Friday, January 30

9.30: Arrival and Coffee Break

10.00: Panel IV

Chair: Iris-Aya Laemmerhirt

Alexander Starre	Reflexive Readership in Reese’s Book Club
Susanne Reichl	“REAL that book made me want to die actually”: Imitation, Emotion, and the Networked Intimacy of BookTok
Günter Leypoldt	Guilty Pleasures, Or Reading on the Public Square

Noon: Lunch Break

13.30: Panel V	
Chair: Christina Slopek-Hauff	
Carolina Falcão	Devotional Resonances: Digital Culture, Publishing Market, and Gender Performativity in Brazil's Evangelical Turn
Nayantara Srinivasan	Positioning the Contemporary Literary Fiction Debut
Rachel Marie Davis	Extreme Epitexts: Interpretive Cues from the Digital Environment

15:00: Closing

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International Conference
 29-30 January, 2026
 TU Dortmund, IBZ
 Emil-Figge-Straße 59

QR code