

**Friday, June 19**

- 9:00 Ahmadreza Tavasoli** (Paris VIII University): The Role of Punctuation in *Gravity's Rainbow*: Hyphen, Em Dash, Quotation Marks
- 9:30 Irina Torde** (Belgrade): Reimagining the Trickster Archetype: Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow* in Dialogue with L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
- 10:00 Vitor Melo Gonsales** (São Paulo): The Fiction of Thought: Narrative Form as a Cognitive Apparatus in *Gravity's Rainbow*

coffee break

- 11:00 Dominika Bugno-Narecka** (Lublin): From Tropic to Topic: Bananas as the Uncanny Commodity in Pynchon's Fiction
- 11:30 Justin St. Clair** (University of South Alabama): Pynchon's Super Balls
- 12:00 Tore Rye Andersen** (Aarhus): The City Paranoiac: The True Story behind Gwenthidwy's "Gradient of Wretchedness"

19:00 free concert @ domicil, Hansastrasse 7-11 (more info on the right)

**Conference venue:**

Internationales Begegnungszentrum (IBZ)  
TU Dortmund University  
Emil-Figge-Straße 59  
44227 Dortmund

**Organizers:**

Burak Sezer (burak.sezer@tu-dortmund.de)  
Sascha Pöhlmann (sascha.poehlmann@tu-dortmund.de)

There is no conference fee. All are welcome!

[www.internationalpynchonweek.org](http://www.internationalpynchonweek.org)



International Pynchon Week 2026 concludes with a free concert at Dortmund's most venerable music venue, domicil, keeping it real since 1969. We are proud to present **Visit** (Tyler Burba, Christian Hänggi, Simon Truog, Dario Meier), who will perform Pynchonian songs from their album „Now Everybody-“ as well as new material.

Our special guest is Jack Campbell (@jack.m.campbell) on violin.

Support by Ariana Sheikhi (@ariyaamusic) and Lisa Schnickmann (@liesel\_official).

Doors and cash bar open at 19:00. You need a ticket to enter. Please contact the conference organizers to get one!



<https://now-everybody.party>  
<https://www.existentiahymns.net>  
<https://domicil-dortmund.de/>



International Pynchon Week  
TU Dortmund 2026  
Conference Program

Monday, June 15

12:00 coffee break, registration open  
13:30 welcome

14:00 Hanjo Berressem (Cologne): Pynchon’s Light  
14:30 Inger H. Dalsgaard (Aarhus): Authorial Grace and Readerly Charity: Reading Pynchon with Compassion  
15:00 Gary Thompson (Saginaw Valley State University): Reading Pynchon in a Time of Conspiracy Theories

coffee break

16:00 Magda Majewska (Frankfurt): Thomas Pynchon, Critical Theorist: Rereading *Gravity’s Rainbow* as Prophetic Fiction  
16:30 Ron S. Judy (National Chung Hsing University): The Long, Long Goodbye: Pynchon, Lethem, and the Slow Demise of the American Left  
17:00 Andrin Albrecht (Jena): Thomas Blue Bear? Walter Moers and the German Pynchonesque

17:30 reception

Tuesday, June 16

9:00 Eric Sandberg (City University of Hong Kong): Crime Fiction and Thomas Pynchon’s Two Americas  
9:30 Sanita Delić (Sarajevo): Chaos, Conspiracy, and the Limits of Control in *Shadow Ticket*  
10:00 Kostas Kaltsas (Athens): ‘Borders less easy to cross’: *Shadow Ticket* between *Against the Day* and *Gravity’s Rainbow* or, Pynchon’s 20th Century Revisited

coffee break

11:00 Shreyas Casturi (Wright State University): Out of Nowhere: Object Teleportation in Thomas Pynchon’s Novels  
11:30 Jeff Severs (UBC Vancouver): The Disappearing Weapons of *Shadow Ticket*: Firearms, the Occult, and Pynchon’s Career-Long Critique of Violence  
12:00 Umberto Rossi (Sapienza University of Rome): Fiume, the Shadow City: Impermanence and Transitionality in *Shadow Ticket*

lunch break

Tuesday continued

14:00 Paolo Simonetti (Sapienza University of Rome): “‘Real’ Means Dead”: Pynchon’s Post-Truth Realism  
14:30 Ben Brown (Edinburgh): Fraternal Relations and the Subversion of Doubling in *Against the Day*  
15:00 Erik Ketzan, Manal Altammami, Xiaorui Yu (King’s College London): Toward the Thomas Pynchon Online Bibliography 1.5: Mandarin Chinese and Arabic Sources, and the Open Pynchon Reception Corpus

coffee break

16:00 Jack Campbell (Basel): “A Music Not Without Majesty”: A Compositional Adaptation of The Poisson Distribution in *Gravity’s Rainbow*  
16:30 Michael Lozano (Prague): Patience & Paranoia  
17:00 Samia Saad (San Diego): Misguide to *Gravity’s Rainbow*

19:00 reservations at Hövels Hausbrauerei, Hoher Wall 5-7

Wednesday, June 17

9:00 María-Ángeles Martínez (Alcalá): The Foregrounding of Characters and Events in Pynchon’s “Under the Rose” Rewritten in V.  
9:30 Keita Hatooka (Hosei University): Doubly Refracted Representations of Japanese People in Thomas Pynchon’s Novels  
10:00 Cormac Chester (Strasbourg): “Like a side of beef”: Blackness in *The Man in the High Castle* and *Gravity’s Rainbow*

coffee break

11:00 Gyöngyvér Jenei (Budapest): Pynchon in Hungary: The Translation of *Against the Day*  
11:30 Ali Dehdarirad (Sapienza University of Rome): Pynchon in Persian: “What It Really Was, Might Not Really’ve Been”  
12:00 Nina Muždeka (Leiden): Navigating Psychedelic Noir: Challenges and Techniques in Translating Thomas Pynchon’s *Inherent Vice* into Serbian

14:00 bus trip to Zeche Zollverein (Essen) & Hattingen

Thursday, June 18

9:00 Sergej Macura (Belgrade): The Balkans from a Native Perspective: Adjustments of the Imaginary Viewpoint  
9:30 David Leupold (Humboldt University, Berlin): From Spatial Periphery to Temporal Prism: Central Asia in Pynchon’s Prewar Eschatology  
10:00 Katie Heslop (Durham): Traversing the Mexican-American Border in Thomas Pynchon’s *Against the Day*

coffee break

11:00 Terry Reilly (University of Alaska): *Vineland*: Psychometrics and the Vineland Scales  
11:30 Sean Carswell (California State University Channel Islands): Nixonian Repression and Contemporary Authoritarianism in *Vineland* and *One Battle After Another*  
12:00 Abe Walker (Fayetteville State University): “Folded and Unfolded and Hundred Times”: Toward a Pynchonian Topology

lunch break

14:00 Rebecca Schönsee (Vienna): A Fool’s Bet on Crypto: Pynchon’s Hieronymus-Wheel Crossing Cypherpunk-Dreams  
14:30 Mariano Falzone (Lincoln, UK): Between Coded and Codeless: *Bleeding Edge* and the Digital Sublime  
15:00 Zofia Kolbuszewska (Wrocław): Crossing a Divide between Embodied Vulnerability and Post-Apocalyptic Moral Promise: Entrapment, Compassion and Thomas Pynchon’s Imaginary Machines

coffee break

16:00-17:30 Joanna Freer (Exeter) & Sam Thomas (Durham): Plenary discussion on teaching Pynchon