

## Ambiguity and Belonging in Times of Social Media

International Conference of the Research Institute Social Cohesion (RISC), Section Konstanz

Moderated by Anne Ganzert (University of Marburg)

July 1<sup>st</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026. Kulturzentrum am Münster, Wolkensteinsaal, Wessenbergstr. 43, 78462 Konstanz

### Program

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>

02:00 PM                      Opening and Welcome by Isabell Otto (RISC, Section Konstanz)  
and Steffen Krämer (RISC, Section Konstanz)

#### PANEL 1: VARIETIES OF STRATEGIC AMBIGUITY AND AMBIGUITY TOLERANCE

02:20 PM – 02:30 PM      Panel Introduction by Ines Grau (RISC, Section Konstanz)

02:30 PM – 03:20 PM      Melanie May (University of Reading)  
**Beating Ambiguity with Its Own Weapons**

03:20 PM – 03:50 PM      *Coffee Break*

03:50 PM – 04:40 PM      Albrecht Koschorke (RISC, Section Konstanz)  
**Shades of Ambiguity. Cohesion, Confusion, Conflict**

04:40 PM – 05:30 PM      Alexander Yendell (RISC, Section Leipzig)  
**Ambiguity Tolerance and Authoritarianism: Revisiting a Psychoanalytic Concept**

05:30 PM – 06:30 PM      *Break*

06:30 PM – 08:00 PM      **PUBLIC KEYNOTE** – Introduction by Kathrin Leipold (RISC, Section Konstanz)  
Wolfgang Ullrich (Leipzig)  
**AI-Generated Images and Their Ambiguities**

08:00 PM                      *Joint Dinner*

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#### THURSDAY, JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>

09:00 AM                      Welcome and Panel Introduction by Meike Hein (RISC, Section Konstanz)

#### PANEL 2: INFLUENCER PUBLICS AND AMBIGUOUS ADDRESS

09:10 AM – 10:00 AM      Laura Haddad (Georg-August-University Göttingen)  
**Hijabi Fashion Influencers in Germany – On Multilayered Formations of Ambiguity**

10:00 AM – 10:50 AM      Samuel Uwem Umoh (University of Hradec Kralove)  
& Aluko Opeyemi Idowu (Ajayi Crowther University of Oyo)  
**Content Creators' Intentional Ambiguity; Cultural Resource and Indigenous South African Language  
Use in Response to Algorithmic Resistance**

10:50 AM – 11:20 AM      *Coffee Break*

### PANEL 3: TEXTUAL AMBIGUITY AND DISTANT READING

- 11:20 AM – 11:30 AM Panel Introduction by Isabell Otto (RISC, Section Konstanz)
- 11:30 AM – 12:20 PM Gregor Wiedemann (RISC, Section Hamburg)  
**Soldiers as Influencers: Recruiting and Identity Offerings for the Federal Armed Forces on TikTok**
- 12:20 PM – 01:10 PM David Garcia (University of Konstanz)  
**Memetic Noise and Silence on Social Media**
- 01:10 PM – 02:40 PM *Lunch Break*

### PANEL 4: IMAGINARIES AND TEMPORAL FORMS

- 02:40 PM – 02:50 PM Panel Introduction by Marko Jevtic (RISC, Section Konstanz)
- 02:50 PM – 03:40 PM Taylan Yildiz (RISC, Section Frankfurt am Main)  
**The 'Deep State': On Authoritarian Language Games and Narratives**
- 03:40 PM – 04:30 PM Katarina Ristic (RISC, Section Leipzig)  
**Kekistan: Imaginary Spaces and Multiple Belongings**
- 04:30 PM – 05:00 PM *Coffee Break*
- 05:00 PM – 05:50 PM Achim Landwehr (University of Konstanz)  
& Irmtraud Huber (University of Konstanz)  
**Day by Day: Historical Ambiguities of Calendrical Time-Keeping**
- 05:50 PM – 06:30 PM *Break*
- 06:30 PM – 08:00 PM **PUBLIC KEYNOTE** – Introduction by Meike Hein (RISC, Section Konstanz)  
Whitney Phillips (University of Oregon)  
**Beneficiary, Not Cause: Three Dynamics of Ambiguity in Trump's Second Term**
- 08:00 PM *Joint Dinner*
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### FRIDAY, JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>

- 10:00 AM Welcome and Panel Introduction by Kathrin Leipold (RISC, Section Konstanz)

### PANEL 5: DIS/AMBIGUATION IN DIGITAL COMMUNITIES

- 10:10 AM – 11:00 AM Jordan Rothschild (University of Oxford)  
**Strategies of Community Building and Boundary-Making Across Ambiguous Audiences: German, British, and American Jewish Content Creators on Instagram**
- 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM Julia Willms (University of Cologne)  
**Ambiguous Liveness: Shared Infrastructures and Divergent Modes of Belonging on Twitch**
- 11:50 AM – 12:20 PM *Coffee Break*
- 12:20 PM – 01:00 PM Wrap-Up and Closing of the Conference