

Ambiguity and Belonging in Times of Social Media

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

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

Program

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1ST

02:00 PM Opening and Welcome

PANEL 1: VARIETIES OF STRATEGIC AMBIGUITY AND AMBIGUITY TOLERANCE

02:15 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**

Wolfgang Ullrich (Leipzig)

AI-Generated Images and Their Ambiguities

08:00 PM *Joint Dinner*

THURSDAY, JULY 2ND

09:00 AM Opening and Welcome

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
- 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
- 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**
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 3RD

- 10:00 AM Opening and Welcome

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