

HORIZONS

10th Anniversary Networking Conference of the Society for Cultural Studies

University of Regensburg | September 18-20, 2025

With this conference that marks the 10th anniversary of the Society for Cultural Studies, we would like to celebrate the diversity of cultural studies research in German-speaking countries and beyond. On this occasion, we look back on the rich research, diverse events, and fruitful cooperation within the Society, sections, and working groups. We are also directing our gaze into the future and want to explore new opportunities for the cultural sciences by utilising the concept of “Horizons” for this special conference.

In this respect, we raise the question: How can and will cultural studies research contribute to societal debates, in dealing with important social issues and paradigms and in shaping the future? The term “Horizon” stands for the breadth and range of the imagination. At the same time, it also refers to the unexplored and the yet-to-be-discovered that lies beyond. For this conference, we are using this concept (and its broader semantic field) to invite approaches with which researchers embrace diverse challenges that define the current time and our idea of the future. This conference, therefore, not only marks the Society's anniversary but also serves as an invitation to reflect on the conditions under which Cultural Studies research takes place in the current political, social and cultural climate together.

We invite Cultural Studies scholars to present their research and approaches and discuss them. The goal of this conference is to bring together the wide-reaching and diverse potential of our field and strengthen existing networks.

Possible topics could include but are not limited to:

- How do technological innovation, global challenges, or crises expand/displace/limit horizons and ideas of the future? What role do notions like “progress,” “crisis” or “transformation” play?
- To what extent can horizons serve as projection surfaces for utopias? How are hopes and fears processed in this concept? What future scenarios do they open up or close off?
- Which representations of the “horizon” in literature, art, film, and media shape individual and collective ideas of the future?
- In which ways do networks and innovative formats of cultural studies research and collaboration expand methodological and academic horizons?
- What challenges do we face in teaching cultural studies? How can we teach social diversity and learn about it in better ways?
- How can we make our research and the role of cultural studies more visible?

There will be separate slots for the meetings of the KWG sections within the program (please also note the separate announcements of the sections here: <https://kwg-ev.org/sektionen-und-netzwerke/>). A student section is also planned within this annual conference.

Organizing Team:

Tatiana Klepikova, University of Regensburg (tatiana.klepikova@ur.de)

Stefanie Mallon, University of Göttingen (stefanie.mallon@uni-goettingen.de)

Minerva Peinador, University of Regensburg (Minerva.Peinador-Perez@ur.de)

Information Regarding Submissions:

No membership in the Society for Cultural Studies (KWG, <https://kwg-ev.org/>) is required to apply for and participate in the conference. We explicitly welcome applications from students and researchers at all career stages who are not yet members of the KWG, in addition to those from our existing members.

Applications can be submitted in German or English to the organizers by the deadline of **May 30, 2025** to the following email address: kwg.horizonte@gmail.com.

Each application (for a presentation, panel, etc.) must be sent in as one PDF file (Name_KWG_Tagung) and include the following information:

- **For individual contributions:** an abstract of max. 250 words, a short bio
- **For panels and other collective formats:** max. 200 words per individual contribution or up to 400 words in total (for formats that do not include individual contributions) and a short bio of each participant.

Please include up to **5 keywords** for all submissions.

In your submissions, we invite you to try out innovative formats for research, collaboration, and communication. We also encourage you to send in or bring your research topics and present them at this network conference in various formats, which can, for example, give rise to research networks.

You can expect a response to your application in June 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact the organizing team. Travel and hotel costs for this conference cannot be covered by the organizers. A small conference fee will be charged to provide drinks and snacks during the conference.