



Workshop: “The (Transmedial) Poetics of Risk Fiction”
May 4, 2018 | K 5, GW 1
DFG project “Contemporary North American Risk Fiction”

Risk, whether in a factual or fictional context, demands narrative expression. Risk in fiction is not merely a theme, but fundamentally shapes the aesthetics, poetics, and ethics of the specific act of storytelling itself. Risk fiction across media is a phenomenon connected through and characterized by a particular set of narrative practices and strategies. The discussions in this workshop, which is the last one in a series of events in the context of the DFG project “Contemporary North American Risk Fiction,” will put special emphasis on the issue of “poetics.” Central will be questions like the following ones:

1. How does risk – inherently both speculative and real at the same time – impact fiction and how does fiction contribute to the “making” of risk?
2. Is there a poetics that characterizes fictional risk narratives in specific media (e.g. novel, graphic novel, film, television series)?
3. Is there a transmedial poetics that characterizes fictional risk narratives “regardless” of the medium in which they come?
4. To what effect do fictional risk scenarios, communicated in whatever medium, rely on traditional narrative modes (such as irony or the tragic), and what new, innovative means do they develop that succeed, for instance, in conveying the global dimension of particular risks as shared risks?
5. What is the relationship between a poetics of fictional risk narratives and a poetics of non-fictional risk narratives?
6. What role do different “risk realities,” emerging from culturally specific perceptions and assessments play in the poetics of fictional risk narratives?

Program

9:30-9:45	Opening Remarks , Sylvia Mayer (UBT)
9:45 – 11:00	Alexa Weik von Mossner (Universität Klagenfurt) “Affective Ecology and a Transmedial Poetics of Risk Narratives”
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:30	Sylvia Mayer (UBT): “Narrative Configurations of Risk Knowledge: The Poetics of the North American climate change novel”
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:30	Jeanne Cortiel (UBT) “ <i>Singularity 7: Uncertainty, Narrative and Performance in Comics</i> ”
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee break
15:00 – 16:30	Roundtable discussion “Towards a (Transmedial) Poetics of Risk Fiction” Presenters and audience