

Textual Ecologies

Media, Materials, Environments

15–17 July 2026, University of Passau

Organised by
Katharina Boehm (Passau)
Luisa Calè (Birkbeck)
Orietta Da Rold (Cambridge)
Victoria Mills (Birkbeck)



Dianna Frid, from *How to Peer Through a Wormhole* (2019). Bookworm-eaten copy of *Malleus Maleficarum* published in 1584.

Location: St. Nikola Abbey, University of Passau (Kleiner Exerzierplatz 15, 94032 Passau), Seminar Room 401

Wednesday, 15 July

10:00-10:30 Welcome

10:30-13:00 **Codex Materialities**

Hannah Ryley (University of Oxford), 'Skin, Galls, & Salts: The Extractive Ecologies of Medieval Manuscripts'

Hazel Wilkinson (University of Birmingham), 'Xylographic Printing Post-1600: Printing Surfaces and the Textual Imagination'

Miranda Burgess (University of British Columbia), 'Paper Among the Trees: Media History at Yuquot'

13:00-14:00 Coffee Break

14:00-15:45 **Decomposition and Despoiling**

Polly Dickson (Durham University), 'Justinus Kerner's Scenes of Decomposition' [Zoom]

Vicky Mills (Birkbeck), "'And so they spin out and toil their own cocoon": Nineteenth-Century Ecologies of the Bookworm'

15:45-16:15 Coffee Break

16:15-18:00 **Collecting Fragments, Computation, Remixing**

Devani Singh (University of Geneva), 'Collecting Chaucer's Fragments: Caroline Spurgeon's Archive of Allusions' [Zoom, followed by Q &A]

Comfort break

Kari Kraus (University of Maryland), 'Against Incantation: Towards a Gallery of Entropic Word Objects' [talk + workshop]

Thursday, 16 July

10:00-11:30 **Session at the Staatliche Bibliothek Passau**

A guided exploration of highlights from the library's remarkable holdings, including medieval manuscripts, incunabula, and other rare printed materials.

12:00-12:45 Coffee Break

12:45-15:15 **Indigenous Bibliographies and Biocultural Conservation**

Amy Gore (North Dakota State University), 'The Spatial Justice of Indigenous Paper'

Tania Aguila-Way (University of Toronto), 'Understanding the Media Ecologies of Seed Conservation through the Work of Contemporary Haudenosaunee Seedkeepers'

Caroline Edwards (Birkbeck), 'Elemental Utopianism' [Zoom]

15:15-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-18:00 **Apocalyptic Textuality and Speculative Preservation**

Martin Eve (Birkbeck), 'The Archive at the End of the World: Speculative Preservation and the Politics of Loss' [Zoom]

Elaine Treharne (Stanford University), 'The Infrastructural Instability of Textual Production' [Zoom]

Matthew Kirschenbaum (University of Maryland), 'Textpocalypse Now: AI and the New Political Economy of Writing'

Friday, 17 July

10:00-12:30 **Oceanic Mediations**

Martin Foys (University of Wisconsin, Madison), 'Elementalities: Water and Whale in Early Medieval England'

Matt Kerr (University of Southampton), 'Stevenson's South Sea Writing'

Tim Shao-Hung Teng (The Chinese University of Hong Kong), 'Ceatacean Media of Inscription: Toward an Anthropocene Close Reading'

12:30-13:30 Coffee Break

13:30-15:15 **Textual Communities**

Alex da Costa (University of Cambridge), 'Communities under Threat'

Susanna Sacks (Howard University), 'Tracing Community Memory Beyond Print: The Legacy of Zambia's Chikwakwa Theatre'

15:15-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:00 **Screening and Workshop: William Kentridge's *Waiting for the Sibyl*: Book, Page, Stage, Screen**

Introduced and led by Luisa Calè (Birkbeck)