



Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg  
Institute for Advanced Study

Workshop

# Pandemic Meets Fiction

Online, March 10–11, 2022

**Organizers:**

Martin Butler, University of Oldenburg

Sina Farzin, Universität der Bundeswehr München

Michael Fuchs, University of Oldenburg

Fabian Hempel, Universität der Bundeswehr München

**Venue:**

Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg  
Institute for Advanced Study

Lemkuhlenbusch 4

27753 Delmenhorst

Germany

[www.h-w-k.de](http://www.h-w-k.de)

Program

## Thursday, March 10, 2022 (all times CET)

10.45am–11am	<b>Opening</b>
11am–12 noon	<b>Epi-/Pandemics as Method: Between Material Causes and Figurative/Ideological Interpretations</b> <i>Małgorzata Sugiera (Jagiellonian University)</i>
12 noon–1.30pm	<i>BREAK</i>
1.30pm–2.15pm	<b>Depicting SARS-CoV-2: A Weird Icon of the Anthropocene (?)</b> <i>Martin Butler &amp; Michael Fuchs (University of Oldenburg)</i>
2.15pm–3pm	<b>Scientific Breakthrough Narratives and the Public Reporting of Coronavirus Research</b> <i>Anton Kirchhofer (University of Oldenburg)</i>
3pm–3.15pm	<i>BREAK</i>
3.15pm–4pm	<b>Fiction as Tool to Imagine the Pandemic: Insights from German, British, and American Print Media</b> <i>Sina Farzin &amp; Fabian Hempel (Universität der Bundeswehr München)</i>
4pm–4.45pm	<b>Corona Fictions Anthologies: On the Compilation of Hispanophone and Francophone Corona Fictions in the First Lockdown</b> <i>Yvonne Völkl (University of Technology Graz)</i>
6pm	<b>Filming the Covid-19 Pandemic</b> <i>feat. Mareike Müller &amp; Carl Gierstorfer, writer/director team of the documentary series Charité Intensiv: Station 43 (2021)</i>  <i>stream Charité Intensiv: Station 43 (4 episodes, 30–34 mins, German, with English subtitles, no geo-blocking) via the <a href="#">ARD Mediathek</a></i>

## Friday, March 11, 2022 (all times CET)

- 9.30am–10.15am **Contagious Economic Failure? Discourses around “Zombie Firms” in Covid-19-Ridden Germany and Italy**  
*Till Hilmar, Rocco Paolillo, and Patrick Sachweh (University of Bremen)*
- 10.15am–11am **Donald Trump’s Viral Narratives and Shifting Pandemic Communication: A Search for Playful Affordances (2014-2021)**  
*Sara Polak (Leiden University)*
- 11am–11.15am *BREAK*
- 11.15am–12 noon **“People ought to help each other, especially when the world was ending”: Confronting and Assuaging Pandemic Anxieties through Christina Henry’s *The Girl in Red***  
*Alena Cicholewski (University of Oldenburg)*
- 12 noon–12.45pm **Fiction as Medicine? Post-Pandemic Survival in Emily St. John Mandel’s *Station Eleven***  
*Mohammed Muharram (University of Bremen)*
- 12.45pm–2.15pm *BREAK*
- 2.15pm–3pm **Viral Commemoration**  
*Ingrid Gessner (Vorarlberg University of Education)*
- 3pm–3.45pm **Imagining the Post-Pandemic: Coronavirus Narratives, Environment and Histories of the Future**  
*Martin Willis, Keir Waddington, and Jim Scown (Cardiff University)*
- 3.45pm–4pm *BREAK*
- 4pm–4.45pm **Surviving Agency: Starving at the Edge of Humanity in *Pathologic 2***  
*Justin Keever (University of California-Irvine)*
- 4.45pm **Closing**

*FORMAT:*

Contributions will be circulated ahead of the Workshop. At the workshop, the contributions will be summarized briefly and discussed.

If you'd like to get access to the contributions and participate in the discussions, please contact Michael Fuchs at [michael.fuchs@uol.de](mailto:michael.fuchs@uol.de).