

# Scandal!

## Exploring the Scandalous: Scandal as a Catalyst of Progress?

24-26 September 2025

### Programme

**Wednesday, 24 September 2025**

at Alte Kapelle (Courtyard 2.8)

17:30-18:00	Pre-registration: get your name tags
18:00-19:30	Keynote lecture Sharon Marcus (Columbia University)
19:30	Conference warming (Event location "Omar")

**Thursday, 25 September 2025**

at the Department (Courtyard 8.3)

	<b>Helene-Richter-Saal (HRS)</b>
9:30-10:00	Registration
<b>PANEL ONE</b>	<b>Justice and the Law</b> Chair: Barbara Straumann
10:00-10:20	<i>Criticism of the Judicial System and Scandalization: Ferdinand Bruckner's Die Verbrecher (1928)</i> Stephanie Blum (Saarland University, Germany)
10:20-10:40	<i>Servitude, Seduction, and Scandal: Nancy Van Haun v. Silas E. Burrows (1833)</i> Jolene Zigarovich (University of Northern Iowa, USA; Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study)
10:40-11:00	Discussion
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
<b>PANEL TWO</b>	<b>Theatre and Performance</b> Chair: Sandra Mayer
11:30-11:50	<i>Scandalous Orient: Kurdish Princess Leila Bederkhan, Exoticism, and the Threat of Performance</i> Bilal Akar (University of Milan, Italy)
11:50-12:10	<i>The Insulted Country: The Scandalization of Thomas Bernhard's (In)Famous Stage Play Heldenplatz in Austrian Media and Politics</i> Barbara Tumfart (Austrian Academy of Sciences) and Silvia Waltl (Austrian Academy of Sciences)

12:10-12:30	Discussion
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
<b>PANEL THREE</b>	<b>Negotiating Moral Norms</b> Chair: Sarah Frühwirth
14:00-14:20	<i>The Scandal of the 'Odd Woman': Frances Power Cobbe and the Emergence of the Victorian Feminist Celibacy Movement</i> Paul Fagan (LMU Munich, Germany)
14:20-14:40	<i>Sex, Drugs and Censorship: Beat Literature and the Last American Censorship Trials</i> Jonas Faust (Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Germany)
14:40-15:00	<i>On Scandalously Effective Marketing: The Terrifier Franchise, Horror Reception, and Public Morals</i> Marie Krebs (University of Vienna, Austria)
15:00-15:30	Discussion
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
<b>PANEL FOUR</b>	<b>Abuse of Power</b> Chair: Ann Heilmann
16:00-16:20	<i>"Can Prince Albert or others imprison people without trial in England?": Madness, Wrongful Confinement, and the Case of Louis Edward Peithman, 1840-54</i> Rachel Peacock (Queen's University, Canada)
16:20-16:40	<i>A Double Scandal: The Congo Atrocities, King Leopold's Secret Propaganda War in the United States, and the Global Dimensions of American Progressivism</i> Jonas Anderson (University of the Bundeswehr Munich, Germany)
16:40-17:00	Discussion
19:00	Conference Dinner (Wine tavern "10er Marie")

**Friday, 26 September 2025**

at the Department (Courtyard 8.3)

	<b>Helene-Richter-Saal (HRS)</b>
9:30-10:00	Registration
<b>PANEL FIVE</b>	<b>Scandalous Artists and Aesthetics</b> Chair: Paul Fagan
10:00-10:20	<i>Scandal and Sexsation: Neo-Victorian Biographilia and the Ruskin Affair</i> Ann Heilmann (Cardiff University, UK)
10:20-10:40	<i>The Zenobia Scandal – and the Scandalous Woman Artist</i>

	Katrin Horn (University of Greifswald, Germany)
10:40-11:00	<i>Copy, Paste, Scandal!: Quoting as Polemical Practice within the Austrian Literary Field</i> Daniel Milkovits (Austrian Academy of Sciences)
11:00-11:30	Discussion
11:30-12:00	Coffee break
<b>PANEL SIX</b>	<b>Harassment and Social Media</b> Chair: Sylvia Mieszkowski
12:00-12:20	<i>Fun and Games and Harassment Campaigns: A Retrospective on Gamergate and Its Consequences</i> Lukas Daniel Klausner (St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences, Austria) and Tobias Unterhuber (University of Innsbruck, Austria)
12:20-12:40	<i>Scripting Scandal: #MeToo, Digital Media, and Cultural Negotiation in the Ongoing Lively-Baldoni Legal Case</i> Lilli von Stengel (University of Gießen)
12:40-13:00	Discussion
13:00-14:30	Lunch break
<b>PANEL SEVEN</b>	<b>Xenophobia and Political Mismanagement</b> Chair: Gizem Doğrul
14:30-14:50	<i>Brexit, Immigration, and the Politics of Exclusion in Ali Smith's Seasonal Quartet</i> Attila Dósa (University of Miskolc, Hungary)
14:50-15:10	<i>Scandal, Truth, and Power: The Discursive Battle Over the Windrush Affair</i> Esther Zitterl (University of St Andrews, UK)
15:10-15:30	Discussion
15:30-17:30	Snacks / Free time
17:30-18:30	Panel discussion (HRS) – Tony Warner, Nina Krebs, Sharon Marcus and TBA
	Joint walk to the cinema (Votivkino)
20:00	Film screening <i>She Said</i> (2022, dir. Maria Schrader) (129 min.)