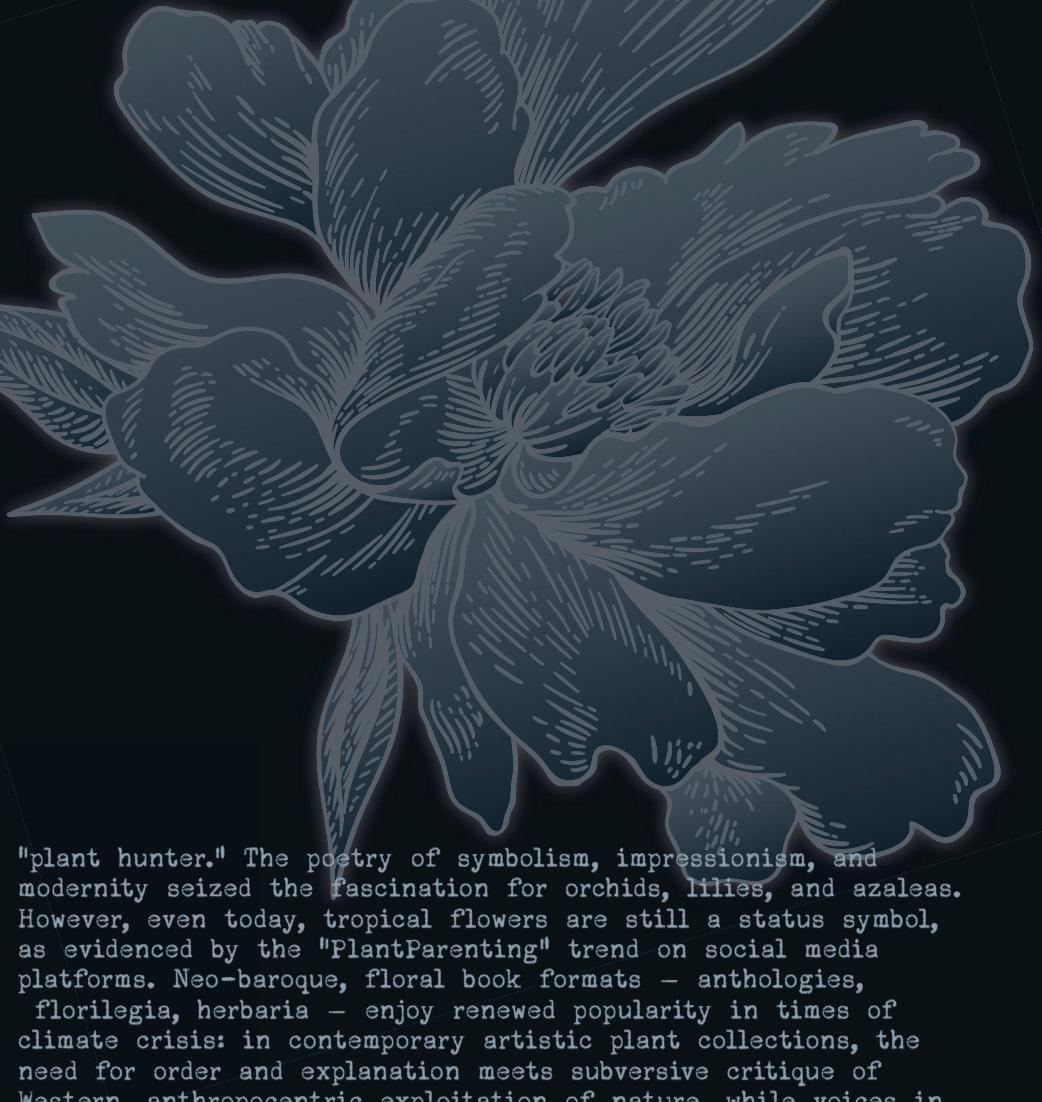


Following the vegetal turn in the humanities, our conference aims to explore the literary, cultural, and philosophical implications of flowers. Flowers are far less innocent than bridal bouquets and Mother's Day kitsch might suggest. For Alice Walker, the elaborate floral arrangements that her mother used to adorn even the shabbiest houses with symbolize not only comfort and hope despite poverty, but the creative potential of a generation of Black women who were denied other access to art, culture, and self-realization. Culturally and historically, flower picking is conned with human power over nature, yet it also glosses over sexual violence, colonial fantasies of discovery, and anthropocentric delusions of grandeur. In ancient myths, girls are abducted and raped while gathering flowers; the symbolically charged breaking of flowers anticipates defloration. Most recently, the fact that Goethe's folk poem "Heidenröslein" identifies a rape victim with a broken rose came under literal attack in the wake of a #MeToo-inspired campaign when the art collective Frankfurter Hauptschule threw toilet paper at the Goethe House in Weimar in the summer of 2019 to denounce the flowery euphemism. On colonial expeditions, botanists collected important plant knowledge, but the exotic objects unknown in Europe were also exported, classified, and monetized; this imperialist gesture still resonates in the term



"plant hunter." The poetry of symbolism, impressionism, and modernity seized the fascination for orchids, lilies, and azaleas. However, even today, tropical flowers are still a status symbol, as evidenced by the "PlantParenting" trend on social media platforms. Neo-baroque, floral book formats – anthologies, florilegia, herbaria – enjoy renewed popularity in times of climate crisis: in contemporary artistic plant collections, the need for order and explanation meets subversive critique of Western, anthropocentric exploitation of nature, while voices in philosophy, literary, and cultural studies aspire to re-establish the herbarium as a text genre for the humanities that meets critical and posthumanist demands more effectively than the individualistic monograph.

We look forward to an interdisciplinary dialogue between literary and cultural studies, with research from collaborative fields such as gender studies, ecocriticism, ecofeminism, postcolonial/ decolonial studies, critical plant studies, posthumanities, and environmental humanities.

Thursday, May 11, 2023

12:00–1:00 pm	Registration	Philologicum
1:00–1:30 pm	Welcoming Remarks	Philologicum
1:30–3:30 pm	Theorizing the Vegetal Turn in the Humanities	Philologicum
	Joela Jacobs (Tucson): Masturbating Magnolias: Flower Sex and Phytopoetic Power	
	Gaesy Stuck (Duisburg-Essen): Die Pflanze als <i>non-human narratior</i> : Einordnung von Pflanzen in den Kontext von <i>non-human narration</i> in kognitiver Narratologie	

3:30–4:00 pm	Lukasz Kraj (Kraków): Blooming Machines: Floral Inspiration in Polish Avant-Garde Poetry of the Interwar Period	
4:00–5:30 pm	Anna Orinsky (Florence): The Beautiful Abortifacient. Blooming Flowers in German-Colonial Botany	Philologicum
5:30–6:30 pm	Ana Carolina Carmona Ribeiro (São Paulo): A "National Flower": the <i>Victoria amazonica</i> between Imperialism and Brazilianness	
7 pm	Sonakshi Srivastava (Sonipat): Flo/Real Em/bodiment. Subjectivity, Silence, and Vegetal Future in <i>The Vegetarian</i>	

7 pm	Keynote 1 (open to the public)	Philologicum
	Isabel Kranz (Vienna): Fünf Thesen zum „Zeitalter der Blumen“	
10:00–12:00 pm	Flowers in Medieval and Early Modern Literature	Philologicum
	Miriam Strieder: Die Blumenmädchen in Pfaffe Lamprechts Alexanderroman – Symbole am Ende der bekannten Welt	
	Esther Preis (Berlin): Vieldeutigkeit und Legitimation: Blumen als poetologische Metaphern in der Frühen Neuzeit	
	Clara Kahn (Berlin): Die erblühende Seite. Wissen und Macht im <i>Stundenbuch</i> der Anne de Bretagne	
	Felicity Sheehy (Princeton): 'A Plant in God's House': Female Subjectivity and Botanical Metaphors in Early Modern Poetry	
12:00–1:00 pm	Lunch Break	
1:00–2:30 pm	Folklore, Songs, and Fairy Tales	Philologicum
	Zuzana Wrana (Brno): Flower and Fruit Variation in Magical Fairy Tales Type 408 ATU (<i>Three Lemons</i>) across Europe	
	Sven Limbeck (Wolfenbüttel): Blumenhochzeiten. Von der Motivgeschichte zur kulturellen Semantik	
	Marta Ramona Vartolomei (London): Flowers in <i>The Snow Queen</i>	
3:00–5:00 pm	Poetry	Philologicum
	Laura Reiling (Essen): „they hurt me [...] they are subtle.“ Tulpen bei Virginia Woolf, Deborah Moggach und Sylvia Plath	
	Dipayan Dutta (Kolkata): Cultural Power of Floral Poetics. A Comparative Study of Flower Connotations	

Friday, May 12, 2023

11:00–12:30 pm	Visit to the Bavarian State Collection for Botany	Bavarian State Collection for Botany
12:30–2:00 pm	Lunch Break	
2:00–4:00 pm	Collecting Flowers	Philologicum
	Anna Svensson (Uppsala): In Memoriam: Collecting an Urban Herbarium of Loss	

Nikoleta Perić (Debrecen): Blumen der Melancholie	Philologicum	
Sören Görlich (Halle-Wittenberg): Urheilvolle Faszination „Pflanzliche Lebensform“ – anthropologisches Experiment und Grenzen der Exzentrik in Joris-Karl Huysmans' Roman <i>À rebours</i> (1884)		
Cağlanur Gencer (Tübingen): Der Blumensammler: Verführte Frauen und verwelkte Blumen in Halid Ziya Uşaklıgil's <i>Verbotene Lieben</i>		
4:30–6:00 pm	Plucking, Drawing, Arranging – Doing Things with Plants	Philologicum

Henriette Hufgard (Berlin): Fremde Pflanzenkörper, europäische Blicke: Die kolonialen Stillleben des Albert Eckhout	Philologicum
Alida Vettorelli (Salzburg): Ich pflücke Blumen am Rande des Existenzminimales: Walter Benjamins Blumenbilder zwischen Prostitution, Genie und „Entfaltung“	
Anna Zappatini: "Voi e i Fiori": A Look at Women and Flower Arrangement in Italy, 1900–1960	
4:30 pm Keynote 2 (open to the public)	Philologicum

Thassilo Franke (Munich): Blumen ordnen mit System – wie Linné's „Species Plantarum“ die Welt veränderte	Philologicum
5:00–5:30 pm Closing remarks	Philologicum
7:00 pm Keynote 3 (open to the public)	LMU Main Building
Jan Haft (Munich / Isental): Die Flora in Film und Naturbetrachtung	

Saturday, May 13, 2023

10:00–12:00 pm	Flowers in Medieval and Early Modern Literature	Philologicum
	Miriam Strieder: Die Blumenmädchen in Pfaffe Lamprechts Alexanderroman – Symbole am Ende der bekannten Welt	
	Esther Preis (Berlin): Vieldeutigkeit und Legitimation: Blumen als poetologische Metaphern in der Frühen Neuzeit	
	Clara Kahn (Berlin): Die erblühende Seite. Wissen und Macht im <i>Stundenbuch</i> der Anne de Bretagne	

1:00–2:30 pm	Folklore, Songs, and Fairy Tales	Philologicum
	Zuzana Wrana (Brno): Flower and Fruit Variation in Magical Fairy Tales Type 408 ATU (<i>Three Lemons</i>) across Europe	
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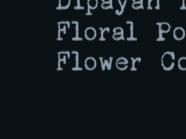
3:00–5:00 pm	Poetry	Philologicum
	Laura Reiling (Essen): „they hurt me [...] they are subtle.“ Tulpen bei Virginia Woolf, Deborah Moggach und Sylvia Plath	
	Dipayan Dutta (Kolkata): Cultural Power of Floral Poetics. A Comparative Study of Flower Connotations	
	3:00 pm Keynote 4 (open to the public)	Philologicum

Sunday, May 14, 2023

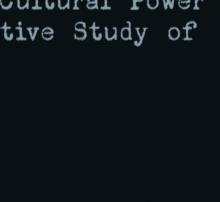
Optional activity for everyone who is interested – visit to the exhibition <i>Flowers Forever. Flowers in Art and Culture</i> (details tba)	Kunsthalle
7:00 pm Keynote 5 (open to the public)	LMU Main Building
Jan Haft (Munich / Isental): Die Flora in Film und Naturbetrachtung	
7:30 pm Closing remarks	Philologicum

Addresses

Philologicum Ludwigstraße 25 / Schellingstrasse 1 (Ground Floor)	Bavarian State Collection for Botany Botany Menzinger Str. 67	LMU Main Building Geschwabachstrasse 1 Str. 67	Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung Theatinerstraße 8
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LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN



11. – 13. MAY 2023
LMU MÜNCHEN



BLOSSOMS AND PETALS
BETWEEN BEAUTY,
CLASSIFICATION, AND
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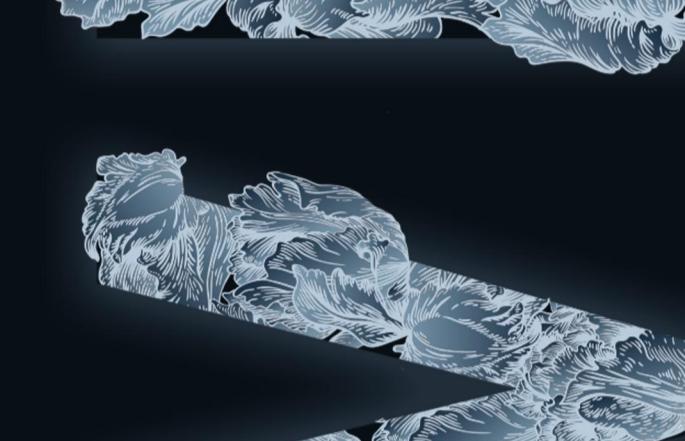
Graduate Center LMU





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Organizers:
Qingyu Gai, Manuel Fingado, Martin Marius Kuhn,
Carole Martin, Angelina Maslennikova, Hannes Mittermaier,
Sophie Emilia Seidler

More information online:

