

Poetry Off the Page, Around the Globe: Advances in Poetry Performance Research

(13-14 June 2025, Vienna, Austria)



“Poetry Off the Page, Around the Globe” (PoPAG) is a two-day academic conference organised by the research project “[Poetry Off the Page](#)” (ERC/FWF), based at the University of Vienna, and Literaturhaus Wien. It will be a forum for new research on contemporary poetry performance and spoken word poetry from around the globe. The aim of “PoPAG” is to bring together international scholars, well-established and emerging, to discuss new developments in the continuously growing discipline of poetry performance studies. Two keynote speakers – Shantanu Anand and Cornelia Gräbner – and 27 presenters from 18 different countries will demonstrate the diversity of poetry performance and its research. Attending to local and national practices as well as transnational movements, the conference will shed new light on the aesthetics, theory, recent history, and politics of spoken poetry. “PoPAG” also features an online conference gallery, in which additional presenters will discuss their work in poster, video, audio or blog form. The artistic programme on Friday night consists of an open mic, with headliner performances by Shantanu Anand (IN), Liz Breslin (NZ), Raphael D’Abdon (ZA), und Katharina Wenty (AT). Attendance is free; remote attendance possible. For details and registration, see <https://popconf2025.univie.ac.at>.

Day 1 (13 June 2025) at Literaturhaus Wien

09:00	Registration Opens	
09:30	Welcome & Conference Opening	Poetry Off the Page team
10:00	Panel I: Poetry Community: Behind the Scenes	May, Will (University of Southampton, GB) and Joanna Nissel (University of Southampton / Bath Spa University, GB): “Performing the Mentor” Izdrăilă, Diana Maria Talida (University of Bucharest, RO): “Community Performance in Romanian Spoken Word Poetry: Collective Meaning-Making in Poethree Collective” Breslin, Liz (University of Otago, NZ): “Performing Bodies for Funding Bodies: A Performance Review”
11:30	Coffee Break	Snacks, coffee, and tea provided on-site
11:50	Panel II: Technology and the Digital in Performance	English, Lucy (Bath Spa University, GB): “Cancer Alley: The Impact of an Immersive Spoken Word Poetry Film Project” Wehmeier, Henrik (invited speaker; Universität Hamburg, DE): “Digital Corporealities: Perceiving Poetry Slam Recordings” Dasseleer, Camille (Université Catholique de Louvain, BE): “Globalising the Ephemeral: The Paradoxes of Spoken Word in the Digital Age”



13:20	Lunch Break	Lunch provided on-site
14:20	Pane I III: Poetics of Resistance in Performance	MacArthur, Marit J. (invited speaker; independent researcher, US): “Listening to Black Women Poets in Mainly White and Mainly Black Rooms” Osborne, Deirdre (invited speaker; Goldsmiths, University of London / Open University, GB): “‘it sounds like glass. our hearts breaking. but we are stronger than that / we always rise us mob.’ (Ali Cobby Eckermann): Memory, Country, Connection in the Visual Poetics of Ali Cobby Eckermann and Tony Birch” Freitas, Daniela (Universidade Federal de Alfenas, BR): “Beyond Binaries: A Counter-Colonial Perspective of Slam Poetry”
15:50	Keynote I	Shantanu Anand (poet, co-founder of Airplane Poetry Movement, IN): “Spoken Word Poetry In India: Witnessing the Rise, One Word at a Time”
16:40	Reception & Snacks	Drinks and snacks provided on-site
18:30	Evening Programme	Open mic night with 4 headliner performances by Shantanu Anand (IN), Liz Breslin (NZ), Raphael D’Abdon (ZA), Katharina Wenty (AT)
20:00	Conference Dinner	This is not covered by the conference organisers; attendees are asked to pay for their own meals. Separate registration via Eventbrite from 18 March 2025 – 20 April 2025

Day 2 (14 June 2025) at University of Vienna, Department of English and American Studies

08:30	Registration	
09:00	Keynote II	Cornelia Gräbner (Lancaster University, GB): “Pluralities of an Emerging Field: The Social and Public Poetics of Poetry-in-Performance”
10:00	Panel IV (SR 3): Anthologising Sound Panel V (HRS): Sign Language and Orality	Antonic, Thomas (Archive for Contemporary Arts at Danube University, AT): “Introducing the Research Project ‘Complete Works Critical Hybrid Edition of ruth weiss”” Lee, Eunice (Harvard University, US): “Anthologizing Voices: The 1980 Before Columbus Foundation Poetry Reading and Institutional Multiculturalism” (online) Wójcik, Bartosz (Marie Curie Skłodowska University, PL): “Interventions in Signs, Interventions in Sound: Raymond Antrobus as an <i>Audio</i> Writer” Wolff, Clara Cosima (Universität Hamburg, DE): “Literature of the Body: The Interplay of Performance Style and Publication Format in Sign Language Poetry”
11:00	Coffee Break	Snacks, coffee, and tea provided on-site

11:15	<p>Panel VI (SR 3): (Non-)Translation and Multilinguality</p> <p>Panel VII (HRS): Poetics of Resistance in Performance II</p>	<p>Ruud, Sonia Faaren (KU Leuven, BE): “Lost and Found: Multilingual Poetry Performance and (Non)Translation in Brussels”</p> <p>Byrne, Deirdre and Raphael D’Abdon (both University of South Africa, ZA): “Translanguaging in School Learners’ Poetry Performance”</p> <p>Fisco, Eleonora (University of L’Aquila / University of Lausanne; IT/CH): “One Poetic Voice: Translation Through Performance”</p> <p>Hoffman, Tyler (invited speaker; Rutgers University, US): “Louise Bennett and Linton Kwesi Johnson in Concert”</p> <p>Ow, Cara (Oxford University, GB): “Lost for Words (No More!): Contemporary Spoken Word as Method for Creole Language Revitalisation”</p> <p>Konstantinopolou, Kalliopi (independent researcher, GR): “The Dead Speak: María Rivera’s Los Muertos (The Dead) as a Performance of Memory and Resistance</p>
12:45	Lunch Break	Lunch provided on-site
13:30	<p>Panel VIII (SR 3): Performance Community, from Sacred to Secular Spaces</p> <p>Panel IX (HRS): Staging Women in Poetry Performance</p>	<p>Howarth, Peter (invited speaker; Queen Mary University of London, GB): “Poetry Off the Page Transnational”</p> <p>Callison, Jamie (University of Agder, NO): “Performing the Sacred: Live Reading Between Circuit and Synagogue in the Long 1960s”</p> <p>Simecek, Karen (University of Warwick, GB): “Creating Community Through Performance Poetry”</p> <p>Baharudin, Sheena (University of Nottingham, MY): “Reimagining Folklore in Performance: Pontianak and the Evolution of Malaysian Spoken Word Poetry</p> <p>Zhai, Yueqin (Shanghai Theatre Academy, CN): “From Text to Theater: Cross-Border Experiments in Contemporary Women’s Poetry”</p> <p>Collins, Lucy (invited speaker; University College Dublin, IE): “<i>Certain Individual Women: Julie Morrissy’s Variations on Performance</i>”</p>
15:00	Conference Closing	Poetry Off the Page team
16:00	Workshop (Optional)	Marit J. MacArthur workshop: “Doing Digital Voice Studies: A New Open-Source Tool and Method”