



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento  
di Lettere, Filosofia,  
Comunicazione

## Die Kunst des Tagebuchs: Europäische Literatur in Briefen und Tagebüchern The Art of the Diary: European Diaristic Writing

(Referente prof.ssa Amelia Valtolina)  
Hannah Schlimpen

### Workshop description:

“I won’t give up the diary again. I must hold on here, it is the only place I can,” Kafka noted in his diary on December 16, 1910. What motivates writers to keep diaries? In which ways do they make use of this medium and at what point are diaries (or journals) considered ‘literary’? On the other hand, how do authors employ the structure and techniques of the diary to create fictional narratives? And what functions does the diary have, alongside the letter, in novels such as André Gide’s *Les Faux-Monnayeurs*? These and similar questions will guide the reading of significant English, French, and German language diaries, diary novels and other 20<sup>th</sup> century writings that creatively incorporate the diaristic. Participants will explore the works of Franz Kafka, André Gide, Max Frisch and Doris Lessing, among others, in terms of their (literary) historical, cultural, poetological and aesthetic dimensions from a comparative perspective. They will be familiarized with ‘classical’ and recent theoretical approaches to the diary and the diary novel, discuss terminological and genre-specific aspects (e.g., the relationship of the diary to autobiography, memoirs, and the letter) and apply the established methods of narratological analysis to selected texts.

### Programme:

The workshop sessions will take place on **Fridays at 2pm-6pm** on the following dates:

22.10.2021, 14:00-18:00 CET  
29.10.2021, 14:00-18:00 CET  
05.11.2021, 14:00-18:00 CET  
12.11.2021, 14:00-18:00 CET (missed meeting)  
19.11.2021, 14:00-18:00 CET  
29.11.2021, 14:00-18:00 CET  
03.12.2021, 14:00-18:00 CET  
09.12.2021, 14:00-18:00 CET

### Workload:

All meetings take place via **Zoom** and comprise a total of 30 academic hours. A further 120 hours (on average) will be spent on preparatory readings and the writing of an essay (6-8 pages) to be submitted by email by 24 December 2021.

E-mail address for registration: [schlimpen@uni-trier.de](mailto:schlimpen@uni-trier.de)



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**Zoom link to the first meeting:**

<https://uni-trier.zoom.us/j/87130094665?pwd=R1pGZ0wwbXNoZ0lwbTBiOFdicEZGdz09>

Topic: Laboratorio Internazionale: Die Kunst des Tagebuchs / The Art of the Diary

Time: Oct 15, 2021 02:00 PM Amsterdam, Berlin, Rome, Stockholm, Vienna

Meeting ID: 871 3009 4665

Passcode: Lv3uEvZD