“Within a literary context, ‘being global’ basically amounts to ‘being entangled’.”

The Excellence Strategy aims to strengthen cutting-edge university research in Germany. The German federal and state governments launched this programme to provide long-term support for top-quality research groups – so-called Clusters of Excellence – and high-performance universities. Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective is one of seven Clusters situated in Berlin. In 2018, it was granted an initial seven years of funding.

Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective
Cluster of Excellence

A New Concept of Literature across the Boundaries of Periods, Cultures and Media

The cluster Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective aims to radically rethink the concept of literature in a global perspective. This entails overcoming traditional categories of literary history such as ‘nation’ and ‘period’. In a global perspective, literature is perceived as a phenomenon that reaches out through time, thus calling into question traditional cultural and linguistic boundaries.

Website temporal-communities.de
As a global phenomenon, literature displays a remarkable degree of complexity and fluidity as it engages in constant exchange with other arts and cultural practices. Literary studies can therefore no longer be concerned with traditional notions such as the ‘great poet’ and his ‘works’. Consequently, the cluster investigates literature’s capacity for establishing communities across time that undermine the concept of the literary as developed within modern Western societies.