

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

#### Spokespersons

Prof. Dr. Andrew James Johnston and Prof. Dr. Anita Traninger (Freie Universität Berlin)

#### Host university

Freie Universität Berlin

#### International partners

Bibliotheca Hertziana, Rome

Columbia University, New York

Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi

King's College, London

The University of California, Berkeley

The University of Tokyo

#### Berlin partners network

Akademie der Künste, Berlin, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin – Museum für Gegenwart Berlin

Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI), Lettrétage – Das junge

Literaturhaus, Literarisches Colloquium Berlin, international literature festival berlin (ilb)

Schaubühne, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Preußischer Kulturbesitz

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.



With the Berlin University Alliance, Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin want to overcome boundaries and create a unique regionally and internationally integrated research environment.



**TEMPORAL  
COMMUNITIES**  
DOING LITERATURE IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



# 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](http://temporal-communities.de)

# Temporal Communities

►► 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.

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