

Contested Solidarities: Agency and Victimhood in Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

32nd Annual Conference of the Association for Anglophone
Postcolonial
Studies (Gesellschaft für anglophone postkoloniale Studien /
GAPS)
Goethe University Frankfurt, 26-29 May, 2022

Wednesday 25 May

**7pm, Conference Warm Up, Venue: Zur Sonne, Berger
Str. 312, Frankfurt**

Thursday 26 May

8:30 – 10:00 Conference Office	Conference Registration
9:30 – 10:00 Room 823	Opening Ceremony ENRICO SCHLEIFF, President of Goethe University Frankfurt CECILE SANDTEN, President of GAPS KATHRIN BARTHA-MITCHELL, PAVAN KUMAR MALREDDY, FRANK SCHULZE-ENGLER, Conference Organizers
10:00 – 11:00 Room 823	Geoffrey Davis Memorial Lecture: HARSHANA RAMBUKWELLA (Open University Sri Lanka) Deep Solidarity? Reflections on Post-colonial Solidarities in a Moment of National and Global Crisis Chair: FRANK SCHULZE-ENGLER (Frankfurt)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

Panel 1, Moving the Center: Affect, Implication, and Agency in Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures (I)

11:30 – 13:00, Room: 1.811

Chair: DELPHINE MUNOS (Liège and Ghent)

BASTIEN BOMANS (Liège)	Rhizomatic Reading/Feeling of the Wor(l)d: Unexpected (Queer) Connections in David Chariandy's <i>Soucouyant</i>
CEDRIC VAN DIJCK (Ghent)	Mud-besmeared Hulking Forms: Affect and Agency in Mulk Raj Anand's War Trilogy

Panel 2, Ecological Solidarities, Vulnerabilities and Resistances,

Part I:

Climate Vulnerability

11:30 – 13:00, Room: 823

Chair: Jennifer Leetsch (Bonn)

(15 min. papers)


BALDEEP KAUR (Potsdam)	Wetland Futures: Narratives of Colonialism’s Ruderal Ecologies in the Climate Crisis
ALISA PREUSSER (Potsdam)	“Is It a Climate Change Crisis or Is It a Kinship Crisis?” Environmental In/ Justice and Solidarity in the WasteLands
TRANG DANG (Nottingham Trent)	Indigenous Resistance and Kinship in Cherie Dimaline’s <i>The Marrow Thieves</i>
HANNAH NELSON-TEUTSCH (Würzburg)	Towards a Scrappy Approach to Reading in the Anthropocene

Panel 3, Mobilities and Contested Identities

11:30 – 13:00, Room: 1.801

Chairs: SHEELALIPI SAHANA (Edinburgh) and MICHELLE STORK (Frankfurt)

(15 min. papers)

MARIAN OFORI-AMOAFO (Bayreuth)	Beyond “Victim Diaspora(s)”: Aesthetic Solidarity, Mobility, and Agency in Contemporary Anglophone Immigrant Novels
MICHELLE STORK (Frankfurt)	Constructing Middle-Class Identities and Solidarities via Automobility in Goyal’s Indian Road Novel <i>Colourful Notions</i>
SIGRID THOMSEN (Vienna)	“You no deserve I speak to you in Spanish”: Mechanisms of Linguistic Exclusion and Inclusion in Junot Díaz 
SHEELALIPI SAHANA (Edinburgh)	Negative Agency and Negotiating Power in Indian Women’s Travel Narratives

Panel 4, Implicated Subjects: Theory and Practice

11:30 – 13:00, Room: 1.812

Chair: CECILE SANDTEN (Chemnitz)

ROBERT KUSEK (Krakow)	Unlikely Comrades? South Africa, Poland, and the Solidarity of “Implicated Subjects”
JARULA MI WEGNER (Frankfurt)	The Implicated Object and the Irritating Subject of Power: Michael Rothberg’s <i>The Implicated Subject</i> in dialogue with Hazel Carby’s <i>Imperial Intimacies</i>

13:00 to 14:00 Catered Lunch (pre-order only)

Panel 5, Narrative Agencies (I)

14:00 – 15:30, Room: 1.811

Chair: ULRIKE PIRKER (Düsseldorf)


FELIPE ESPINOZA GARRIDO (Münster)	“Just remember not to believe everything you read”: Variations of Victimhood and the Ambivalence of Agency in Sara Collins’s <i>The Confessions of Frannie Langton</i>
MIRIAM FERNANDEZ SANTIAGO (Granada)	Internal Rifts. M.G. Sánchez’s ‘Postcolonial Crip’ in <i>Gooseman</i> (2020)
DENIZ GUNDOGAN IBRISIM (Sabanci)	Implication as an Aesthetic Paradigm in the Anthropocene: Pakistan Anglophone Literature

**Panel 6, Ecological Solidarities, Vulnerabilities and Resistances,
Part II: Multi-Species Encounters**

14:00 – 15:30, Room: 1.812

Chair: JENNIFER LEETSCH (Bonn)
(15 min. papers)

APALA BHOWMICK (Emory)	Mechanics of Authoritarian Power and Collapsing of Species Boundaries in Ahmadou Kourouma’s <i>Waiting for the Wild Beasts to Vote</i>
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CHRISTINA SLOPEK (Düsseldorf)	“Making Generative Oddkin”? Female Bodies as a Site of Connectivity in Edwidge Danticat’s <i>Claire of the Sea Light</i>
KYLIE CRANE (Rostock)	Cross-Species Imaginaries in the Anthropocene: Tade Thompson’s <i>Wormwood Trilogy</i> and <i>SF-Worlds-Beyond-Us</i>
ARUNIMA BHATTACHARYA (Leeds) 	Island Ecologies and the Indian Nation State: Andaman Islands in <i>Glorious Boy</i> and <i>Latitudes of Longing</i>

Panel 7, Beyond Victimhood in African Literature

14:00 – 15:30, Room: 1.801

Chair: DIETER RIEMENSCHNEIDER (Frankfurt)

ALEX WANJALA (Nairobi)	Agency for the Victims of the Postcolonial Condition in Kenya? Yvonne Owuor’s <i>Dust</i>
SILKE STROH (Münster)	Re-imagining Zimbabwean and Global Crises: Victimhood and Agency in Tendai Huchu’s short fiction
TANAKA CHIDORA (Zimbabwe & Frankfurt)	The Parenticide of NoViolet Bulawayo’s <i>We Need New Names</i> (2013)

Panel 8, Collaborations (I): New Challenges – New Potentials

14:00 – 15:30, Room: 823

Chair: LARS ECKSTEIN (Potsdam)

ANKE BARTELS; JUDITH COFFEY; SÉRGIO COSTA; LARS ECKSTEIN; REGINA RÖMHILD; ANJA SCHWARZ; NICOLE WALLER; DIRK WIEMANN (Potsdam and Berlin)	Rethinking Collaborations
FERNANDO BALDRAIA (FU Berlin); KEITH CAMACHO (UCLA); SATISH PODUVAL (EFLU, Hyderabad); STEPHEN MUECKE (Flinders)	Video Statements

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

Panel 9, Collaborations (II): Limits and Scopes of Transaction

<p>16:00 – 17:30 Room 823</p>	<p>ANKE BARTELS (Potsdam); JUDITH COFFEY (Potsdam); MAX CZOLLEK (Berlin); ENCARNACIÓN GUTIÉRREZ RODRÍGUEZ (Gießen); IRA RAJA (Delhi); REGINA RÖMHILD (Potsdam); ANJA SCHWARZ (Potsdam); DIRK WIEMANN (Potsdam) <i>Chairs:</i> SÉRGIO COSTA, NICOLE WALLER, LARS ECKSTEIN (Potsdam)</p>
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18:00 – 19:00 Reception

<p>19:00 – 20:30 Room 823</p>	<p>Literary Roundtable with Tara June Winch and Sinan Antoon <i>Moderators:</i> KATHRIN BARTHA-MITCHELL (Frankfurt) and NUHA ASKAR (Frankfurt)</p>
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Friday 27 May

9:30 – 10:30 Room 823	SINAN ANTOON Discursive Violence and Dismembered Memories <i>Chair: PAVAN KUMAR MALREDDY (Frankfurt)</i>
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10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

Panel 10, Victims and/or Agents? The Limitations of Empathy in Postcolonial Fiction and Non-Fiction

11:00 – 13:00, Room: 823

Chair: BARBARA SCHMIDT-HABERKAMP (BONN)



JAINÉ CHEMMACHERY (Sorbonne)	Victimhood and Agency in Contexts of Colonisation and Migration: Sunjeev Sahota's <i>Year of the Runaways</i> (2015) and Shailja Patel's <i>Migritude</i> (2010)
CÉDRIC COURTOIS (Université de Lille)	"I am a survivor": The Victimhood and Agency of Boko Haram Abductees and the Poetics/Politics of Empathy
VANESSA GUIGNERY (École Normale Supérieure de Lyon)	Victimhood, Agency, Vulnerability: Portraits of Delhi Manual Workers in Aman Sethi's <i>A Free Man</i> (2011) and Mridula Koshy's <i>Bicycle Dreaming</i> (2016)
FIONA MCCANN (Université de Lille)	Affective Political Agencies in Cauvery Madhavan's <i>The Tainted</i> (2020)

Panel 11, Refugees, Exiles and Border-Crossers

11:00 – 13:00, Room: 1.811

Chair: SILKE STROH (Münster)


DEEPMALA MAHATO and ABANTIKA CHAKRABORTY (Mahishadal Raj College)	Solidarity on the Margins: Corporate Aggression and Indigenous Identity in Ranendra's <i>Lords of the Global Village</i>
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ASIS DE and MAITRAYEE MISRA (Mahishadal Raj College)		“Bastuhara” to “Immigrati”: Resistance and Refugee Solidarity in Amitav Ghosh’s <i>The Hungry Tide</i> and <i>Gun Island</i>
MURSED ALAM (Gour College, Gour Bang)		Ethnocratic Populism in a Postcolony: Lynchings, Barecitizens and the Search for New Solidarities

Panel 12, Beyond Victimology: War Narratives in a Decentred World

11:00 – 13:00, Room: 1.812

Chair: GEOFF RODOREDA (Stuttgart)

LUKAS LAMMERS (FU Berlin)		Triangulating Histories – Contested Solidarities: Anglophone Fictions of World War II in East Africa
VICTORIA HERCHE (Cologne)		“Sometimes it’s better to forget”: Ethnic literature and Literary Ethics in Nam Le’s Short Fiction
ALESSANDRA DI PIETRO (Bern)		Reversing Victimology: Maaza Mengiste’s <i>The Shadow King</i> as a War Narrative of Female Agency
NUHA ASKAR (Frankfurt)		Who is the Enemy? Disassembling Post-colonial Binaries by Self-reflexivity in <i>What Strange Paradise</i> (2021)

Panel 13, Convivial Imaginaries: Resources of Hope in Cultural Production

11:00 – 13:00, Room: 1.802

Chair: KERSTIN KNOPF (Bremen)

JAN RUPP (Heidelberg)		Contested Solidarities and Hospitable Form in World Refugee Life-Writing
ASLI ERGÜN (Frankfurt)		The Italian Restaurant Around the Corner: Convivial Encounters and New Solidarities in Nikita Lalwani’s <i>You People</i>

ELISABETH KNITTELFELDER (Graz)	Reimagining Care, Community, and Activism in Mojisola Adebayo's <i>The Interrogation of Sandra Bland</i> (2017), Yaël Farber's <i>Nirbayah</i> (2012), and the Workshop Play <i>#JustMen</i> (2018)
TATJANA MILOSAVLJEVIĆ MIJUČIĆ (Novi Sad)	Of Friends and Foes: Recovering the Community in Zadie Smith's <i>NW</i> and <i>Swing Time</i>

Panel 14, Moving the Center: Affect, Implication, and Agency in Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures (II)

11:00 – 13:00, Room: 1.801

Chair: DELPHINE MUNOS (Liège and Ghent)

JENNIFER LEETSCH (Bonn)	'The Power to be Affected': Love, Desire and other Sticky Feelings in Postcolonial Literature
CAROLINE KÖGLER (Münster)	Implicated Affect, or: Traumatic Attachments – Historical Perspectives
BÉNÉDICTE LEDENT (Liège)	Liberating structures of feeling in Caryl Phillips's <i>Cambridge</i> and <i>A Distant Shore</i>

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch in the University Canteen (Self-pay)

Panel 15, Moving the Center: Affect, Implication, and Agency in Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures (III)

14:00 – 15:30, Room: 823

Chair: TIMO MÜLLER (Konstanz)

DELPHINE MUNOS (Liège and Ghent)	This is Not Postcolonial Literature: Happiness, Ambivalence, and Sentimentality in Chick-Lit of the Global South (on Anita Heiss' <i>Not Meeting Mr. Right</i> , Anuja Chauhan's <i>The Zoya Factor</i> , and Cynthia Jele's <i>Happiness is a Four-Letter Word</i>)
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MARIE HERBILLON (Liège)	Dancing for Salvation: Performance and the Transformative Power of Affect in J.M. Coetzee's <i>The Death of Jesus</i>
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Panel 16, The Poetics and Politics of Agency

14:00 – 15:30, Room: 1.801

Chair: GIGI ADAIR (Bielefeld)

HANNAH PARDEY (Hannover)	A Poetics of Digital Agency: Adichie, Braithwaite, Nwaubani
CLARE KELLY (Dublin)	Authorial Agency and the Postcolonial Literary Archive: The Sale of Amos Tutuola's Manuscripts to the Harry Ransom Centre
MIRIAM HINZ (Düsseldorf)	"The trump card that God has wedged in between their legs": Solidarity and Agency in Chika Unigwe's <i>On Black Sisters' Street</i>

Panel 17, Moving Solidarities and Affective Alliances in Contemporary Afro-diasporic Literature and Performance

14:00 – 15:30, Room: 1.812


Chair: ELLEN GRÜNKEMEIER (Bielefeld)

EMILIA MARÍA DURÁN ALMARZA (Oviedo)	Gestures of Contested Solidarities in Contemporary Afro-diasporic Collective Theatre
ELENA IGARTUBURU (Oviedo)	Moving Bodies, Moving Words: Dance, Grief, and Redaction in Dionne Brand and Edwige Danticat
ÁNGELA SUÁREZ RODRÍGUEZ (Oviedo)	Hopeful Solidarities and Resistance in the Contemporary African Novel

Panel 18, Narrative Agencies (II)

14:00 – 15:30, Room: 1.811

Chair: JAN RUPP (Heidelberg)

EVA ULRIKE PIRKER, TASUN TIDORCHIBE (Düsseldorf)	The Agency of Words: Rereading Ama Ata Aidoo's Works of Fiction through a New Formalist Lens
SILVIA ANASTASIJEVIC  (Frankfurt)	Beyond the Victim-Perpetrator Paradigm: Overcoming 'Single Stories' through Humor
LAURA A. ZANDER (Münster)	Cautious Hope and Broken Promise – Haunted Imaginaries in Recent South African Fiction

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:15	Goethe University Westend Campus Tour
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17:30 – 19:00 Room 823	<p>Roundtable with Michael Rothberg MICHAEL ROTHBERG (UCLA), Theses on Differentiated Solidarity and the Implicated Subject <i>Panelists:</i> LALIV MELAMED (Groningen) , HARSHANA RAMBUKWELLA (Open University Sri Lanka), TANAKA CHIDORA (Zimbabwe/Frankfurt) <i>Chair:</i> PAVAN KUMAR MALREDDY (Frankfurt)</p>
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19:15 Conference Dinner (pre-order only)

Saturday 28 May

Panel 19, Colonial and Postcolonial Memories

9:30 – 11:00, Room: 1.811

Chair: JARULA WEGNER (Frankfurt)

RITA MARICOCCHI (Münster)	(Trans)national Memory and Implication in Priya Basil's Video Essay "Locked In and Out"
SAYAN CHATTOPADHYAY (IIT, Kanpur)	Neoliberalism, International Charity, and the Premodern: A Reading of Anuradha Roy's <i>Sleeping on Jupiter</i>
OLUWADUNNI TALABI (Bremen)	Recipes for Colonial Undoing: Reading New Narratives of Africa-centred (Un)Gendered Realities in Akwaeke Emezi's <i>Freshwater</i>

Panel 20, Arab Anglophone Interventions

9:30 – 11:00, Room: 1.802



Chair: NADIA BUTT (Gießen)


SALEH CHAOUI (Debrecen)	Ensouling Agential Praxis in a Secular World: A Sufi Spiritual Turn in Leila Aboulela's <i>The Kindness of Enemies</i>
AYA CHELLOUL (Szeged)	Wealth, Loss, and Islamic Faith in Leila Aboulela's novel <i>Minaret</i> .

Panel 21, Canons and Counter-Canons

9:30 – 11:00, Room: 1.812

Chair: KATHRIN BARTHA-MITCHELL (Frankfurt)


MRIDULA SHARMA (Delhi)	 Colonial Currencies of Nationalism in the Postcolonial State: Questions of Nationality and Citizenship
THAYEE KRISHNA (Delhi)	 The Poetics and Politics of Postcolonial Shakespeares

IVAN STACY (Beijing)	 Subversion Subverted: 2016 and the Reactionary Appropriation of the Carnavalesque
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Panel 22, Under Construction (I)

9:30 – 11:00, Room: 1.801

Chair: JANA GOHRISCH (Hannover)

NNAEMEKA EZEMA (Ibadan)	 Sociopolitical Nightmare and Nativist Longing: The Ambivalence of the Ver- nacular Cosmopolitan in Noviolet Bula- wayo's <i>We Need New Names</i>
SAAMBAVIY SIVAJI (Frankfurt)	Memory, Agency, and Solidarity in the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA) Sri Lanka
VAHID AGHAEI (Münster)	An Exploration of Michael Rothberg's Concept of the "Implicated Subject" in Ian McEwan's <i>Saturday</i> and Edward Ball's <i>Life of a Klansman: A Family History in White Supremacy</i>

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

Panel 23, Indigenous Agency

11:30 – 13:00, Room: 1.801


Chair: KATJA SARKOWSKY (Augsburg)

ANNIKA BEER (Frankfurt)	Breaking Binaries: Exploring Queer Indigenous Identities in Contemporary Anglophone Literatures
ANGELA BENKHADDA (Bonn)	Survivance and Sovereignty in Native American Historical Fiction
ANGELA KÖLLING (Mainz)	Uneasy Linkages: German Anti-Covid19 Measures Protesters Performing the Maori Haka

Panel 24, Violence and Survivance

11:30 – 13:00, Room: 1.802


Chair: ROMAN BARTOSCH (Cologne)

PERI SIPAHI (Münster)		“not yet / under water” – Rejecting Victimhood and Negotiating the Implicated Subject in Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner’s Ecocritical Poetry
SANGHAMITRA DALAL (MARA, Malaysia)		Locating “We”: The Implicated Readers in Tash Aw’s “We, The Survivors”
ZOË MILLER (Manchester)		‘A black devil kissing her sad mouth. Like you kissed mine’: Sexual and Colonial Violences in Jean Rhys’ <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>

Panel 25, Intimate Enemies: ‘Traitors’ in Contemporary Anglophone Literatures and Cultures

11:30 – 13:00, Room: 1.811


Chair: JULIA HOYDIS (Cologne)

LEONIE JOHN (Cologne)		“[H]ow dare it be his people”? Family, Agency, Terrorism and Victimhood in Kamila Shamsie’s <i>Home Fire</i>
DURBA MUKHERJEE (IIT, Kanpur)		Dom Moraes: A ‘Traitor’ who ‘Fractured’ India, or an Empathizer who Felt with the Marginalized?
KRISTIN AUBEL (Dortmund)		We Are Doing This to Her – Victims and Villains in Helen Oyeyemi’s <i>Boy, Snow, Bird</i>

Panel 26, Archives, Nations and Invisible Communities

11:30 – 13:00, Room: 1.812

Chair: N.N.

SUKLA CHATTERJEE (Bremen)		The Politics of Erasure: Hunger and the Decolonial State in the Short Stories of Mahasweta Debi
HOLLY WIELECHOWSKI (Wayne State)		Alternative Archives: “The 1619 Project” and the Battle for a National Narrative

MARGARIDA PEREIRA MARTINS (Lisbon)	The Archaeology of Absence in Kamila Shamsie's <i>A God in Every Stone</i>
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13:00 – 14:00 Catered Lunch (pre-order only)

14:00 – 17:00 Room 1.801	GAPS Annual Members' Meeting
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14:00 – 17:00	Guided Tour of Frankfurt for non-members
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18:00 – 19:30 Room 823	Reception & Award Ceremony for GAPS Graduate Award and GAPS Dissertation Award
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20:00 – 21:30 Room 823	<p>The ZIAF Night of African Literature: YVONNE ADHIAMBO OWUOR, ABUBAKAR ADAM IBRAHIM, BLESSING OBADA</p> <p>Chairs: MAGDALENA PFALZGRAF (Saarbrücken) and FRANK SCHULZE-ENGLER (Frankfurt)</p>
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Sunday 29 May

9:00 – 10:00 Room 823	JOHANNES RIQUET (University of Tampere) “Circumpolar Solidarities, Collaborative Geographies and Indigenous Spatialities: Mediating the 21st-Century Arctic” <i>Chair: KYLIE CRANE (Rostock)</i>
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10:00 – 10:30 Coffee Break

Panel 27, Contested Borders: Agency and Victimhood in Arab Anglophone Travel Literature

10:30 – 12:00, Room: 1.811
Chair: JULIA WURR (Oldenburg)

NADIA BUTT (Giessen)	Forms of Self-Assertion in Leila Ahmed's Memoir <i>A Border Passage: From Cairo to America – A Woman's Journey</i> (1999)
HODA ELHADARY (British University in Egypt) 	The Burden of (Mis)representation in Jamal Mahjoub's <i>The Fugitives</i>
NOHA HANAFY (British University in Egypt)	The Freedom and Confinement of the Journey in Hisham Matar's <i>The Return</i>

Panel 28, Under Construction (II)

10:30 – 12:00, Room: 1.801



Chair: FRANK SCHULZE-ENGLER (Frankfurt)

NNEOMA OTUEGBE (Wolverhampton)	Recalling Trauma: The Legacy of Slavery and Colonialism in Contemporary Black Women's Fiction
MAHTAB DADKHAH (Erfurt)	Role of Fictional Narratives in Commonwealth Migration and Identification: A Phenomenological Study of Indian and African Academic Migrants in Germany
SANIA HASHMI (Michigan)	Managing Minorities in Majoritarian Democracies: A Necropolitical Reading of Arjun Appadurai's <i>Fear of Small Numbers</i>

Panel 29, Trauma, Gender and Agency

10:30 – 12:00, Room: 1.812

Chair: N.N.

DIRK VAN RENS (Eastern Finland)	 Fire and Water: Trauma in Yaa Gyasi's <i>Homegoing</i>
SOURAV KUMAR NAG (Bankura)	 Playing the Victim? Miya Poetry and Politics of Victimhood
JULIA WURR (Oldenburg)	Reproductive Agency and Victimhood: Visible Absences in Fictional Representations of Commercial Surrogacy

12:15 – 13:00 Room 823	Final Roundtable MARK STEIN (Münster), STEFANIE KEMMERER (Frankfurt), ALEX WANJALA (Nairobi), N.N. <i>Chair:</i> FRANK SCHULZE-ENGLER (Frankfurt)
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13:00 – 13:30 Catered Lunch (pre-order only)

Conference Ends