

Aufhören. Können Enabling. Endings

10–12 June 2026

ifk Internationales Forschungszentrum
Kulturwissenschaften
Reichsratsstraße 17, 1010 Vienna

ifk

University of Arts
Linz

Conference

Aufhören. Können

Enabling. Endings

As part of the ifk's focus on »The Last Things Before the Last,« the conference will address the difficulties and joys of quitting. In 1989, Hans Magnus Enzensberger hoped for more recognition for »heroes of retreat,« whom he saw embodied in figures such as Mikhail Gorbachev. The current political personnel, however, often cultivates male decisionism and sitting things out instead of a well-timed exit. In other areas of society, too, it is difficult to simply stop: for example, to end a carbon-based, extractive form of energy production. Although there is no shortage of scientific evidence that if we simply continue with our way of life, many systems will collapse, renunciation and abstinence for the sake of avoiding collapse are unpopular in many places. It therefore seems timely to take a closer look at the cultivation of practices of ending things in the horizon of Anthropocene – historical trajectories, archives and repertoires of knowledge, technologies of the self, and the interdependencies between theoretical considerations and every-day life will be discussed. What do practices of quitting look like, on a larger and smaller scale? What does it take to learn and practice them—and, in turn, to unlearn others? Last but not least, ending is not only a civilizational technique, but sometimes also an art.

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HYBRID.

To participate via Zoom, you need to register for the meeting with your name and email address.

You can find the links on our website in the calendar entry for the event:
www.ifk.ac.at



Wednesday,
10 June
2026

ifk Arkade
Reichsratsstraße 17
1010 Vienna
and
ifk@Zoom

15:00 **Welcome and Introduction**

Karin Harrasser and Heike Paul

15:30 **Julika Griem**

War's das? Schwellenangst und Schwellenkunst am
akademischen Karriereende

16:30 **Thomas Macho**

Ein Koffer für die letzte Reise.
Von Erinnerungen, Ausstellungen und Romanen

17:30 **Break**

18:00 **John von Düffel**

Das Wenige und das Wesentliche
Lesung und Gespräch

Thursday,
11 June
2026

ifk Arkade
Reichsratsstraße 17
1010 Vienna
and
ifk@Zoom

- 10:00 **Sophia Birchinger and Sait MattyJaw**
Enabling Endings? Perspectives on Rupture, Transition, and
New Beginnings in The Gambia
- 11:00 **Ulrich Brand and Fernando Jaramillo**
Is There an End to Extractivism? The Colombian Case
(Conversation in Spanish with English simultaneous translation)
- 12:00 **Ani Diesselmann und Karin Harrasser**
Aufhören können im kolumbianischen (Post)konflikt
- 13:00 **Lunch Break**
- 14:30 **Andrea Vetter & Muerbe u. Droege**
Angewandte Ver-/Entzauberung. Degrowth in Theorie und Praxis
- 16:00 **Break**
- 16:30 **Isabel Kalous**
›Stop Having Kids!‹? Kultur- und literaturwissenschaftliche
Perspektiven auf Nicht-Mutterschaft (EN)
- 17:30 **Andreas Gehrlach (Abgesagt)**
Die Axt ins Meer schmeißen
- 18:30 **Break**
- 19:00 **Magdalena Schrefel und Anouschka Trocker**
Das Blaue vom Himmel
Leseperformance mit Sound

Friday,
12 June
2026

ifk Arkade
Reichsratsstraße 17
1010 Vienna
and
ifk@Zoom

10:00 **Jan-Philipp Reemtsma**
Die Kunst aufzuhören

11:00 **Elisabeth Bronfen**
Was es heißt, aufzuhören – Laut Shakespeare

12:00 **Roundup**

Concept: Karin Harrasser (ifk Wien/Kunstuniversität Linz), Heike Paul (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg/ifk Wien)

Participants: Sophia Birchinger (PRIF – Leibniz-Institut für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung, Frankfurt a. M.), Ulrich Brand (Universität Wien), Elisabeth Bronfen (Zürich), Ani Diesselmann (Kolumbien), John von Düffel (Podsdam), Andreas Gehrlach (ifk Wien), Fernando Jaramillo (Kolumbien), Julika Griem (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen), Sait Matty Jaw (Center for Resear and Policy Development, Gambia), Isabel Kalous (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg), Thomas Macho (Berlin/Wien), Muerbe u. Droegge (Künstler*innenkollektiv), Jan-Philipp Reemtsma (Wien), Magdalena Schrefel (Berlin/ifk Wien), Anouschka Trocker (Berlin), Andrea Vetter (Brandenburg),

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