FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12TH, 2021

9.00-10.00 EST SOCIAL HOUR ON GATHER.TOWN

10.00-11.45 KEYNOTE: CALEB SMITH (Yale University), Other Attention
Economies, Moderator: Almut Slizyk

12.15-13.15 PRESENTATION PANEL: COSMIC DUST, Moderator: Antonia Groussdanidou
- Rachel Hill (Goldsmiths, U London), “With Terrifying, Surreal Speed”: The Distractions of Martian Dust in Science and Fiction
- Phill Cabeen (U Chicago), Defying Pop Expectations: Distraction and the Neue Deutsche Welle
- David Shipko (JHU), Cybernetic Distractions, Capitalist Realism, and Glitched Reality in Cyberpunk 2077
- Sumantra Baral and Aryama Bej (Amity U Kolkata), “… there the dance is”: Revisiting War and Crisis in Akram Khan’s Dust

13.30-14.45 PRESENTATION PANEL: TIMELY DISTRACTIONS, Moderator: Bidyum Medhi
- Tim Schmidt (SUNY Binghamton) From Dust till Dawn: On the Possible Role of Photography in Literature by the Example of W.G. Sebald’s Emigrants
- Tina Tahir (U Michigan), The Distracted Image in W.G. Sebald’s Austerlitz
- Joseph Kebe-Ngouema (Sorbonne U), East-German Youth Literature Becoming Dust
- Elisabeth Fertig (U Michigan), Notes on Dust: Art, Vision and Memory in W.G. Sebald’s “Max Aurach”

15-16.15 WORKSHOP 1, Moderator: Josh Todarello
- Daniel Glanzner (Otto-Friedrich U Bamberg), Dreams and Thanatos. Distraction in Life and Prose of Klaus Mann After 1933
- Anatol Heller (HU Berlin) „Staubwerden“: Boredom, Distraction, and Dissolution in Karl Philipp Moritz
- Tianyi Shou (Cornell U) Phantasmagoria on Exhibition: Cosmopolitan Imag(ing) in Walter Benjamin’s Expo and Jia Zhangke’s The World
- Sara Walker (U Vienna), Time and Distraction in Günther Anders’ Postwar Diaries

16.30-18.15 KEYNOTE: NATALIE PHILLIPS (Michigan State University)
Distraction as Noise: Modes of Creative Cognition, Moderator: Almut Slizyk

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13TH, 2021

9.00-10.00 EST SOCIAL HOUR ON GATHER.TOWN

10.00-11.45 KEYNOTE: MICHAEL MARDER (University of the Basque Country), Dust Words & Worlds, Moderator: Josh Todarello

12.15-13.15 PRESENTATION PANEL: GRANARY DISTRACTIONS, Moderator: Glen Gray
- Jan Sinning (U Kassel), Ludwig Loos, the Protagonist of Siegfried Kracauer’s Novella Die Gnade (1913), Between Depression and Distraction
- Vanessa Barrera (U of Iowa), Metaphors on Distraction: Brakhage with Benjamin
- Luca Arens (Columbia U), Granular History: Kluge, Richter, Dezember
- Fanti Baum (U Frankfurt), Aesthetics of Dust and Distraction in Bertolt Brecht’s Messingkauf

- Monica Preuss (TU Dortmund), Dust, Distraction and Discourse. (De)constructing Point of Views in Der Mann, der das Glück bringt by Catalin Dorian Florescu (2016)
- Aida Alagić (U Zagreb), Postmodern Trauma in the Form of Distraction in B. Schlink’s Der Vorleser
- David Brehm (Philippus U Marburg), Poetics and Politics of Distraction in Marius Goldhorn’s Park
- Manuela Ruckdeschel (NYU), Jumping out of the Fighting Line: Zerstreuung and the Gap of Thinking in Hannah Arendt’s Reading of Kafka

15-16.15 WORKSHOP 2, Moderator: Bradley Harmon
- Jente Azou (Ghent U), Photography as a Medium of Distraction in Esther Kinsky’s Novel Hain
- Kathleen Ibe (U Minnesota CLA), Ash as an Agent of Distraction and Stillness in Gertrud Leutenegger’s Panischer Frühling
- Samragni Roy (Jadavpur U Kolkata), Purposeful Distraction: Analyzing the Significance of Staub and Zerstreuung in The Alchemist and Brida
- Monica Yadav (JNU Delhi), From Deception to Object: Dust and Theatricality

15-16.15 WORKSHOP 3, Moderator: Josh Todarello
- Xavier Oliver (JHU), Sighting a Kosmos in the Grass: Seeing Overlooked Likenesses Through Whitman’s ‘I’s
- Aritra Basu (U Delhi), The Distracted Ego: The Infant, the Image and Identification
- Umar Nizarudeen (JNU Delhi) HOW ATOMS USE MUSIC: Nuclear Distractions, Dissonant Music and Documentary Making in Kerala
- Mahmoud Farhadimahalli (IRIB Iran), Reproducing Distraction in the Media: Marxist and Frankfurt School Approaches for Studying Iranian Audiences on Social Media and Television

16.30-17.30 SOCIAL HOUR ON GATHER.TOWN

Sponsored by Alexander Grass Humanities Institute, Philological Society, and Department of Modern Languages and Literatures