

Following the vegetal turn in the humanities, our conference aims to explore the literary, cultural, and philosophical implications of flowers. Flowers are far less innocent than bridal bouquets and Mother's Day kitsch might suggest. For Alice Walker, the elaborate floral arrangements that her mother used to adorn even the shabbiest houses with symbolize not only comfort and hope despite poverty, but the creative potential of a generation of Black women who were denied other access to art, culture, and self-realization. Culturally and historically, flower picking is connoted with human power over nature, yet it also glosses over sexual violence, colonial fantasies of discovery, and anthropocentric delusions of grandeur. In ancient myths, girls are abducted and raped while gathering flowers; the symbolically charged breaking of flowers anticipates defloration. Most recently, the fact that Goethe's folk poem "Heidenröslein" identifies a rape victim with a broken rose came under literal attack in the wake of a #MeToo-inspired campaign when the art collective Frankfurter Hauptschule threw toilet paper at the Goethe House in Weimar in the summer of 2019 to denounce the flowery euphemism. On colonial expeditions, botanists collected important plant knowledge, but the exotic objects unknown in Europe were also exported, classified, and monetized; this imperialist gesture still resonates in the term



"plant hunter." The poetry of symbolism, impressionism, and modernity seized the fascination for orchids, lilies, and azaleas. However, even today, tropical flowers are still a status symbol, as evidenced by the "PlantParenting" trend on social media platforms. Neo-baroque, floral book formats – anthologies, florilegia, herbaria – enjoy renewed popularity in times of climate crisis: in contemporary artistic plant collections, the need for order and explanation meets subversive critique of Western, anthropocentric exploitation of nature, while voices in philosophy, literary, and cultural studies aspire to re-establish the herbarium as a text genre for the humanities that meets critical and posthumanist demands more effectively than the individualistic monograph.

We look forward to an interdisciplinary dialogue between literary and cultural studies, with research from collaborative fields such as gender studies, ecocriticism, ecofeminism, postcolonial/ decolonial studies, critical plant studies, posthumanities, and environmental humanities.

Thursday, May 11, 2023

12:00–1:00 pm Registration	Philologicum
1:00–1:30 pm Welcoming Remarks	Philologicum
1:30–3:30 pm Theorizing the Vegetal Turn in the Humanities	Philologicum
Joela Jacobs (Tucson): Masturbating Magnolias: Flower Sex and Phytopoetic Power	
Caesy Stuck (Duisburg-Essen): Die Pflanze als <i>non-human narrator</i> : Einordnung von Pflanzen in den Kontext von <i>non-human narration</i> in kognitiver Narratologie	
Lukasz Kraj (Kraków): Blooming Machines: Floral Inspiration in Polish Avant-Garde Poetry of the Interwar Period	
Anna Orinsky (Florence): The Beautiful Abortifacient. Blooming Flowers in German-Colonial Botany	
4:00–5:30 pm Flowers & Violence	Philologicum
Ana Carolina Carmona Ribeiro (São Paulo): A "National Flower": the <i>Victoria amazonica</i> between imperialism and Brazilianness	
Sonakshi Srivastava (Sonapat): Flo/Real Em/bodiment. Subjectivity, Silence, and Vegetal Future in <i>The Vegetarian</i>	
Anne Feiter (La Réunion): Furchtbar blühende Normalität. Zur Wahrnehmung von Pflanzen und Blumen in Zeugnissen Überlebender des Tutsizids in Ruanda	
5:30–6:30 pm Dinner (details tba)	
7 pm Keynote 1 (open to the public)	Philologicum
Isabel Kranz (Vienna): Fünf Thesen zum „Zeitalter der Blumen“	

Friday, May 12, 2023

11:00–12:30 pm Visit to the Bavarian State Collection for Botany	Bavarian State Collection for Botany
12:30–2:00 pm Lunch Break	
2:00–4:00 pm Collecting Flowers	Philologicum
Anna Svensson (Uppsala): In Memoriam: Collecting an Urban Herbarium of Loss	
Nikoleta Perić (Debrecen): Blumen der Melancholie	
Sören Göplich (Halle-Wittenberg): Unheilvolle Faszination ‚Pflanzliche Lebensform‘ – anthropologisches Experiment und Grenzen der Exzentrik in Joris-Karl Huysmans' Roman <i>À rebours</i> (1884)	
Çağlanur Gençer (Tübingen): Der Blumensammler: Verführte Frauen und verwelkte Blumen in Halid Ziya Uşaklıgil's <i>Verbotene Lieben</i>	
4:30–6:00 pm Plucking, Drawing, Arranging – Doing Things with Plants	Philologicum
Henriette Hufgard (Berlin): Fremde Pflanzenkörper, europäische Blicke: Die kolonialen Stilleben des Albert Eckhout	
Alida Vettorelli (Salzburg): <i>Ich pflücke Blumen am Rande des Existenzminimums</i> : Walter Benjamins Blumenbilder zwischen Prostitution, Genie und „Entfaltung“	
Anna Zappatini: "Voi e i Fiori": A Look at Women and Flower Arrangement in Italy, 1900–1960	
7:30 pm Keynote 2 (open to the public)	Philologicum
Thassilo Franke (Munich): Blumen ordnen mit System – wie Linnés „Species Plantarum“ die Welt veränderte	

Saturday, May 13, 2023

10:00–12:00 pm Flowers in Medieval and Early Modern Literature	Philologicum
Miriam Strieder: Die Blumenmädchen in Pfaffe Lamprechts Alexanderroman – Symbole am Ende der bekannten Welt	
Esther Preis (Berlin): Vieldeutigkeit und Legitimation: Blumen als poetologische Metaphern in der Frühen Neuzeit	
Clara Kahn (Berlin): Die erblühende Seite. Wissen und Macht im <i>Stundenbuch</i> der Anne de Bretagne	
Felicity Sheehy (Princeton): 'A Plant in God's House': Female Subjectivity and Botanical Metaphors in Early Modern Poetry	
12:00–1:00 pm Lunch Break	
1:00–2:30 pm Folklore, Songs, and Fairy Tales	Philologicum
Zuzana Wrana (Brno): Flower and Fruit Variation in Magical Fairy Tales Type 408 ATU (<i>Three Lemons</i>) across Europe	
Sven Limbeck (Wolfenbüttel): Blumenhochzeiten. Von der Motivgeschichte zur kulturellen Semantik	
Marta Ramona Vartolomei (London): Flowers in <i>The Snow Queen</i>	
3:00–5:00 pm Poetry	Philologicum
Laura Reiling (Essen): „they hurt me [...] they are subtle.“ Tulpen bei Virginia Woolf, Deborah Moggach und Sylvia Plath	
Dipayan Dutta (Kolkata): Cultural Power of Floral Poetics. A Comparative Study of Flower Connotations	

Alexander Lin (Berkeley): Unbegreifbare Blumen. Übersetzungen weiblicher Lyrik von Tatsuo Hori und Rainer Maria Rilke	
Tina Werner-Werhahn (Munich): „Nur darum ist Rose-Sein Lust, weil sie absoluter Schlaf ist“. Rilkes Rosen bei Käte Hamburger	
5:00–5:30 pm Closing remarks	Philologicum
7:00 pm Keynote 3 (open to the public)	LMU Main Building
Jan Haft (Munich / Isental): Die Flora in Film und Naturbetrachtung	

Sunday, May 14, 2023

Optional activity for everyone who is interested – visit to the exhibition <i>Flowers Forever. Flowers in Art and Culture</i> (details tba)	Kunsthalle
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Addresses

Philologicum Ludwigstraße 25 / Schellingstraße 1 (Ground Floor)	Bavarian State Collection for Botany Menzinger Str. 67	LMU Main Building Geschw.-Scholl-Pl. 1 (D) – D 209	Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung Theatinerstraße 8
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11. – 13. MAY 2023
LMU MÜNCHEN



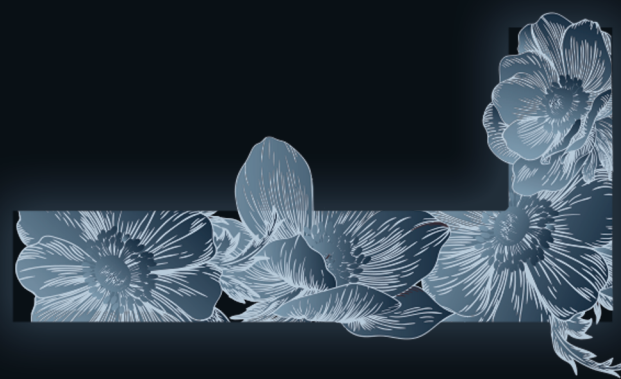
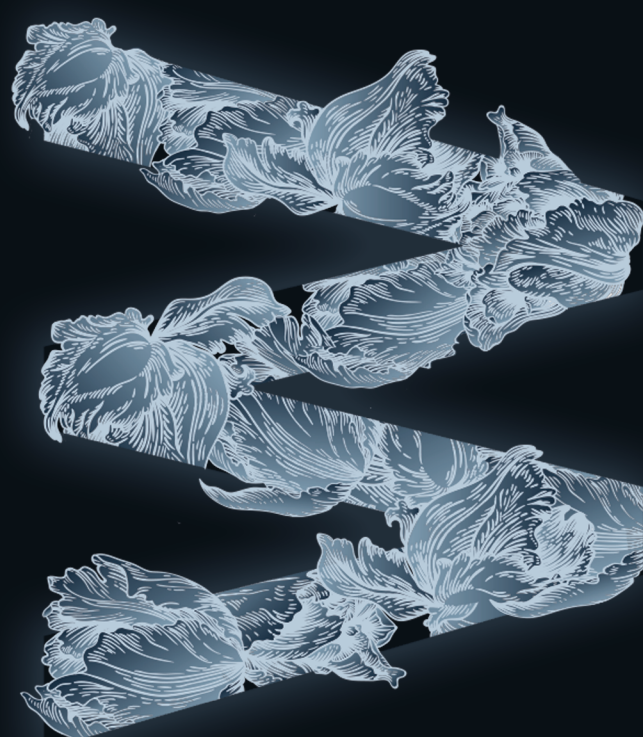
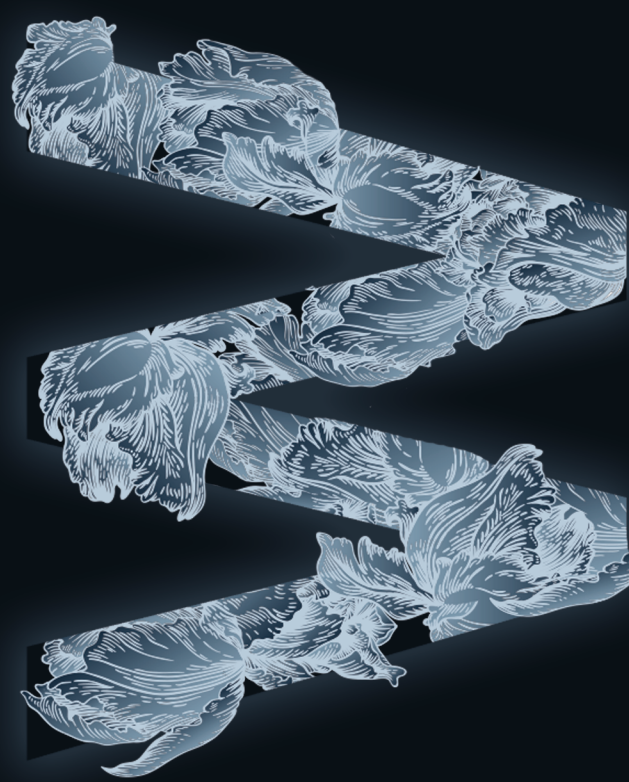
BLOSSOMS AND PETALS
BETWEEN BEAUTY,
CLASSIFICATION, AND
DOMINANCE





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MÜNCHEN

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Organizers:
Qingyu Cai, Manuel Fingado, Martin Marius Kuhn,
Carole Martin, Angelina Maslennikova, Hannes Mittermaier,
Sophie Emilia Seidler

More information online:

