

Living with Kafka Conference, Wadham College, Oxford

Tuesday, 1 September 2026

08.45–09.15 Registration and coffee (Atrium, Lee Shau Kee Building)

09.15–09.30 Welcome and opening remarks

NB: All panel sessions will take place in the Dr Lee Shau Kee Scholars' Seminar Room

09.30–11.00 Panel A: Work, Life, and Writing in Kafka's Worlds (*Chair: Ian Ellison*)

Dirk Oschmann — The Idea of Work in Kafka's *The Missing Person* (*Der Verschollene*)

Clemens Dirmhirn + Alice Stasková — Leben und Lebenswelten in den „Paralleltagebüchern“
Franz Kafkas und Max Brods

Peter Zusi — Equilibrium: Kafka and Richard Weiner Performing Modernism

11.00–11.30 Coffee break (Atrium)

11.30–13.00 Panel B: Spaces, Things, and Technics in Kafka's Worlds (*Chair: Barry Murnane*)

Eva Haude — Kafka in Hellerau

Hendrik Blumentrath — Tragische Haushaltung. Kafkas *Die Verwandlung*

Rolf Goebel — Kafka: Artificial Intelligence and the Metaphysics of Aesthetic Truth

13.00–14.00 Lunch (William Doo Undergraduate Centre)

14.00–15.30 Panel C: Care, Lived Experience, and Life Lessons 1 (*Chair: Carolin Duttlinger*)

Isak Winkel Holm — One Must Intervene: Caring and Hosting in *The Castle*

Conor Brennan — Du mußt deine Ernährung ändern: Kafka's Iconic Vegetarianism

Emily Troscianko — Kafka as Methodological Ally: What 'Ein Hungerkünstler' Lets us Ask
About Experience

15.30–16.00 Tea break (Atrium)

16.00–17.30 Panel D: Care, Lived Experience, and Life Lessons 2 (*Chair: Katrin Kohl*)

Valentín Díaz — Saeculum Kafka. Theoretical Life and Survival

Lennart Bentler — Identifying Kafka? Kafka's Cultural Legacy in German Secondary Schools

Lawrence Ratna — Kafka's Brain: Reading Kafka Neurodivergently

19.00 Refectory Dinner* (Refectory)

Wednesday, 2 September 2026

09.00–10.30 Panel E: Tradition, Time, and History (*Chair: Carolin Duttlinger*)

Wolf Kittler — The Tower of Babel

Seong-Sook Mok — Die endlose Schwelle der modernen Zeitlichkeit: Chronos, Aion und aufgeschobener Kairos bei Kafka

Klaus Mladek — Living with Ghosts: Hyperobjects, Anxiety and the Rot of History in ‘The Warden of the Tomb’

10.30–11.00 Coffee break (Atrium)

11.00–12.30 Panel F: Environments and Ecologies (*Chair: Meindert Peters*)

Elliot Sturdy — Kafka’s Non-Consolatory Ecologies

Caroline Torra-Mattenklott — Temperaturen in Kafkas Roman *Das Schloss*

12.30–13.30 Lunch (William Doo Undergraduate Centre)

13.30–15.00 Panel G: Forms of Intimacy and Irritation (*Chair: Juliane Blank*)

Kata Gellen — Living Without: Bachelor Writing in Kafka from *Betrachtung* to ‘Der Bau’

Kiyoko Myojo & Yoshiki Tajiri — Kafka’s Pseudocouples: Rethinking ‘Blumfeld, an Elderly Bachelor’

Elizabeth Ramsey — The ‘allzuhohe Spiel’: Play and resistance in Kafka’s narratives

15.00–15.30 Tea break (Atrium)

15.30–17.00 Panel H: Kafka after Kafka (*Chair: Ian Ellison*)

Corinna Sauter — Living and Writing with Kafka: On Ozan Zakariya Keskinelic’s Novel *Hundesohn*

Kyunghwa Lee — Precarity, Guilt, and Environmental Violence in Huh Su-gyeong’s *Kafka Weather*

Sushree Routray — Cruel Optimism and the Kafkaesque Ordinary: Exhausted Attachments, Bodily Attrition, and Motherwork in *Burnt Sugar* and *A Life’s Work*

17.00–18.00 Panel I: Translation, Reception, Survival (*Chair: Syamala Roberts*)

Susanne Cadera — Franz Kafka’s Reception through Translation in Spain: The Case of *Die Verwandlung*

Evelyn Beck — Art Keeps Hope Alive: Survival Strategies of Kafka and Kahlo

18.45 Drinks Reception* (Ante Chapel)

19.15 Formal Dinner in Hall* (Dining Hall)

Thursday, 3 September 2026

10.00–11.00 Panel J: Performance, Voice, and Sound 1 (*Chair: Andrew Webber*)

Meindert Peters — Kafka's Physical 'Failures': The Ballets Russes, Adaptation, and Queer Performance

Dasha Baryshnikova — The Vanishing Voice: Habit, Effort, and Collective Attention in Kafka's Josephine the Singer

11.00–11.30 Coffee break (Atrium)

11.30–12.30 Panel K: Performance, Voice, and Sound 2 (*Chair: Kata Gellen*)

Berenike Herrmann, Emilie Sitter — Oneiric Soundscapes? On the Creative Potential of the Auditive Modality in Franz Kafka's Prose

Samantha Heinle — Kafka on Murakami's Playlist

12.30 – 13.00 Closing remarks

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

**The dinners and drinks reception are not included for day-rate delegates unless they have been booked and paid for in advance.*