

**Programme**  
**International Graduate Student Conference**  
**Memory—Between Experience, Culture, and Transculturality**  
**July 2-4, 2026**

**Conference venue:**

Tink Tank Coworking Landfried  
Bergheimer Str. 147, F-Section Ground Floor (opposite Tati Restaurant)

**Keynote lecture:**

Center for Asian and Transcultural Studies (CATS)  
Vossstr. 2, Building 4010, Auditorium

**Concert:**

Interkulturelles Zentrum  
Bergheimer Str. 147 (around the corner of Tink Tank)

**Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> (9am-2pm)**  
**Tink Tank**

**9am** Welcome and introduction

**Panel 1 (9.15-10.45am; 20mins presentation / 10mins discussion)**

Chair: Petra Thiel (Heidelberg)

**Haunting, Mourning, and the Governance of Grief**

*This panel asks how memory claims authority: as trauma, as grief, as knowledge, or as institutional category. It brings together literary, psychiatric, and epistemological approaches to the fragile boundary between remembering, knowing, mourning, and being governed by the past.*

1. **Letting the Dead Rest: Ungrievable Lives, and the Limits of Literary Mourning in Mo Yan's *Frog***  
*Angelika Mengyu Sun, Heidelberg*
2. **Pathologizing Remembrance: Prolonged Grief Disorder and the Institutional Management of Memory**

*Junlong Chen, Shanghai*

**3. The Reliability of Episodic Memory: A Multimodal Defense**

*Shufan Chen, Shanghai*

**10.45-11.15am** Coffee Break

**Panel 2 (11.15am-12.45pm; 20mins presentation / 10mins discussion)**

Chair: Takuma Melber (Heidelberg)

**Contested Public Memories: Justice, War, and Invisible Histories**

*This panel addresses memories shaped by conflict, silence, and public contestation. It asks how legal institutions, museums, digital discourse, and regimes of visibility determine which pasts become speakable, commemorated, fragmented, or withheld.*

**1. From Jerusalem to Phnom Penh: Brother 2 and the Limits of Cosmopolitan Justice**

*Katherine W. Zhang, Heidelberg*

**2. Images of Kamikaze Pilots in Contemporary Japanese World War II Remembrance: Problematizing the Myth of the Noble Sacrifice for the Nation**

*Elena Magdalena Agent, Shanghai*

**3. Queer Memory and Communicative Absence: Circulating Invisible Histories Across Russia and China**

*Kirill Kravtsov, Shanghai*

**8pm Keynote Lecture by Prof. Dr. Aleida Assmann, CATS Auditorium**

***History and Memory – Changing Time Regimes between 1945 and the Present***

*The lecture will address changing frames of temporality over the last 80 years. In this case Aleida Assmann will draw on her biographical experience and the evidence that she observed, registered and theorized in her own life-span. She will describe how the concept memory first evolved as a partner and then as a rival to the concept of history, and how these dynamics have affected historical work and thinking until today.*

**Friday, July 3 (9am-2pm)**  
**Tink Tank**

**9am** Recap

**Panel 3 (9.15-10.45am; 20mins presentation / 10mins discussion)**

Chair: Zhao Yiran (Shanghai)

**Mediated Memories: Images, Archives, and Transcultural Afterlives**

*This panel focuses on the media and practices through which memory travels: film, video collage, education, cultivation, and embodied care. It highlights how memory is transformed when it crosses borders, genres, generations, and cultural contexts.*

1. **Mediating Memory: Documentary Film and the Transcultural Construction of Home Among Hong Kong Migrants**  
*Matilda Hei Ching Chan, Heidelberg*
2. **Memory as a Site of Encounter: Video Collage in the Work of Marcel Odenbach**  
*Marcel Wälde, Heidelberg*
3. **Planting the Rose of Anne Frank: Memory Work in a Form of Peace and Human Rights Education Activity**  
*Hikari Bun, Heidelberg*

**10.45-11.15am** Coffee Break

**Panel 4 (11.15am-12.45pm; 20mins presentation / 10mins discussion)**

Chair: Lena Henningsen (Heidelberg)

**Sites of Memory: Landscape, Locality, and Cultural Transmission**

*This panel explores how memory becomes anchored in place: bridges, regions, towns, museums, landscapes, and ritual practices. The papers examine how local memories are stabilized, aestheticized, reconstructed, and transmitted across moments of rupture.*

1. **Producing Memory: Wang Shizhen and the Aestheticization of Dynastic Loss at Yangzhou's Red Bridge**  
*Domenico Basile, Shanghai*
2. **Lu Xun's "Three Years in the Yue Region" from the Spaces of Memory Perspective**  
*Qingru Zhu, Shanghai*
3. **Narratives of Recovery: Symbolic Sites and Living Memories in the Japanese Whaling Town Ayukawa post-2011**  
*Stephanie Naomi Zimmermann, Heidelberg*

**12.45pm** Announcement of the winner of the "Sheng Sheng Best Student Paper Award"

**8pm** Concert at Interkulturelles Zentrum / Intercultural Center (around the corner of Tink Tank)

***Silk Road Reflections – German Connections: A Musical Dialogue in Search of Home***

With: Chanyuan Zhao & Benjamin Leuschner (Duo SeidenStrasse)  
Serkan Yavuz & Emrecan Erol (Orientalische Musikakademie Mannheim)  
Audrey Wozniak (University of Cambridge und Orient-Institut Istanbul)

**Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**CATS**

**11am**

**CATS Library Tour** with CATS Librarian Hanno Lecher (for SJTU students)

**4pm** (*optional*)

**Lin Hierse: *Das Verschwinden der Welt***

Lecture and Talk with author and journalist Lin Hierse and Petra Thiel (German language)  
feeLit International Literature Festival, halle02 Clubraum

More information [here](#).