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**Dimensions  
of Europe**  
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**Field of Excellence**  
University of Graz



## **Call for Papers**

### ***Versions of Home:***

### ***Adapting – Rewriting – Referencing in the Arts***

**March 26–28, 2025**

*So it is with your banishment from the country you consider your home: For by nature there is no home, just as there is no house, no field, no smithy [...] or doctor's surgery. Rather, each of these is made into one, is given a name and is named after its owner and user. For man is, as Plato says, "not an earthly or immovable plant, but a heavenly one".*

**Plutarch, *On Exile* (600 E)**

For centuries, different concepts of home are and have been negotiated in diverse art forms (such as literature, music, theater, visual arts, performance arts, and film). The organizers of the interdisciplinary conference “Versions of Home: Adapting – Rewriting – Referencing in the Arts” invite researchers from various fields who **investigate how multiple versions of home have developed and changed across the arts.**

The idea for this conference is derived from a 2023 workshop on “Writing Home(s): Aesthetic Strategies from Antiquity to the Present Day.” In this workshop, members of the research cluster “European Literatures and Their Interactions,” which is part of the **field of excellence “Dimensions of Europe” at the University of Graz (Austria)**, discussed approaches and research trajectories of their fields. Broadly put, cluster members and visiting fellows from various disciplines explore the manifold intricate relations between literature and the arts from diachronic and comparative perspectives (<https://dimensions-of-europe.uni-graz.at/en/clusters/cluster-europaeische-literaturen-und-ihre-wechselbeziehungen/>). As the research group includes members working in literary studies (Slavic, German, American, Ancient Greek, Latin), Jewish studies, musicology, digital humanities, intermediality studies, the possibilities inherent in cross-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary concerns were a common theme of the workshop.

For the 2025 conference, we are particularly interested in papers that address topics such as:

- **Competing conceptualizations of home:** Which terms are used in which language? What are the implications of each term? Why do some languages and cultures have a bouquet of terms that cover different segments of the concept? How is this multiplicity of terms embedded in sociohistorical events?
- Recurring **topoi of home** and how they are expressed in different art forms and media
- The **transposition of concepts of home** between different genres (e.g., epic, historiography, lyrical poetry, epigram) that are associated with different aesthetic, generic, formal, and other prerequisites, affordances, and generic practices
- **Processes of aesthetic change and of reception** in different art forms and across different art forms
- Strategic uses of **intertextuality** in representations of home
- **Processes and results of adapting, rewriting, varying, versioning** the canonized versions of myths or other grand narratives concerning home, home-coming, nostos, return-stories, and the like. How are these well-known narratives adapted to the needs and requirements of a different timeframe, location, and of innovative discursive formations? Examples might be: literary conceptualizations of home in different literary traditions and genres, film versions in different time periods, adaptations of novels into spoken drama, music theatre, graphic novel, video, or film as well as evocations of home through music and other sonic features
- **Transmedial inquiries** into a poetics of home across arts and/or media

In sum, we are interested in contributions that examine how aesthetic concepts connected to home (and factors that constitute a sense of home and belonging) have played out at specific points in time, have evolved over time, and how they have been adjusted to different historical, geographical, and sociopolitical contexts. At the same time, the conference papers will, ideally, cover a broad range of media-comparative research.

We thus invite **proposals for papers (max. 20 min)** on the topic “Versions of Home: Adapting – Rewriting – Referencing in the Arts.” The conference is intended to promote critical scholarly exchange among various disciplines such as the ones already represented by cluster members but also beyond these fields. Interdisciplinary approaches are particularly encouraged. **Confirmed keynote speakers are Naomi Waltham-Smith (University of Oxford) and Stijn Vervaet (University of Oslo).**

The conference language will be English. Selected papers will be considered for publication in peer-reviewed conference proceedings.

Proposals should include an **abstract of the proposed paper (up to 400 words)**, **contact details** (including name, email-address, and affiliation) and a **short bio (up to 150 words)**.

The organizers are seeking funding. Thus, travel and accommodation expenses will be covered according to available resources. Independent scholars without an affiliation to a university or other research institution as well as early career researchers will be given priority for financial support.

**Proposals should be submitted by August 31, 2024 via email to [interarts@uni-graz.at](mailto:interarts@uni-graz.at).** Decisions will be communicated until the end of October 2024.

**For further information** on the conference please contact Olaf Terpitz ([olaf.terpitz@uni-graz.at](mailto:olaf.terpitz@uni-graz.at)) or Ingeborg Zechner ([ingeborg.zechner@uni-graz.at](mailto:ingeborg.zechner@uni-graz.at)).

### **Conference Board**

Nassim Balestrini (Department of American Studies; Centre for Intermediality Studies in Graz)

Renate Hansen-Kokoruš (Department of Slavic Studies)

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