

# Activist Writing

## The Pamphlet in Practice, History, Media and the Public Sphere

Conference  
24.2. – 26.2.2022

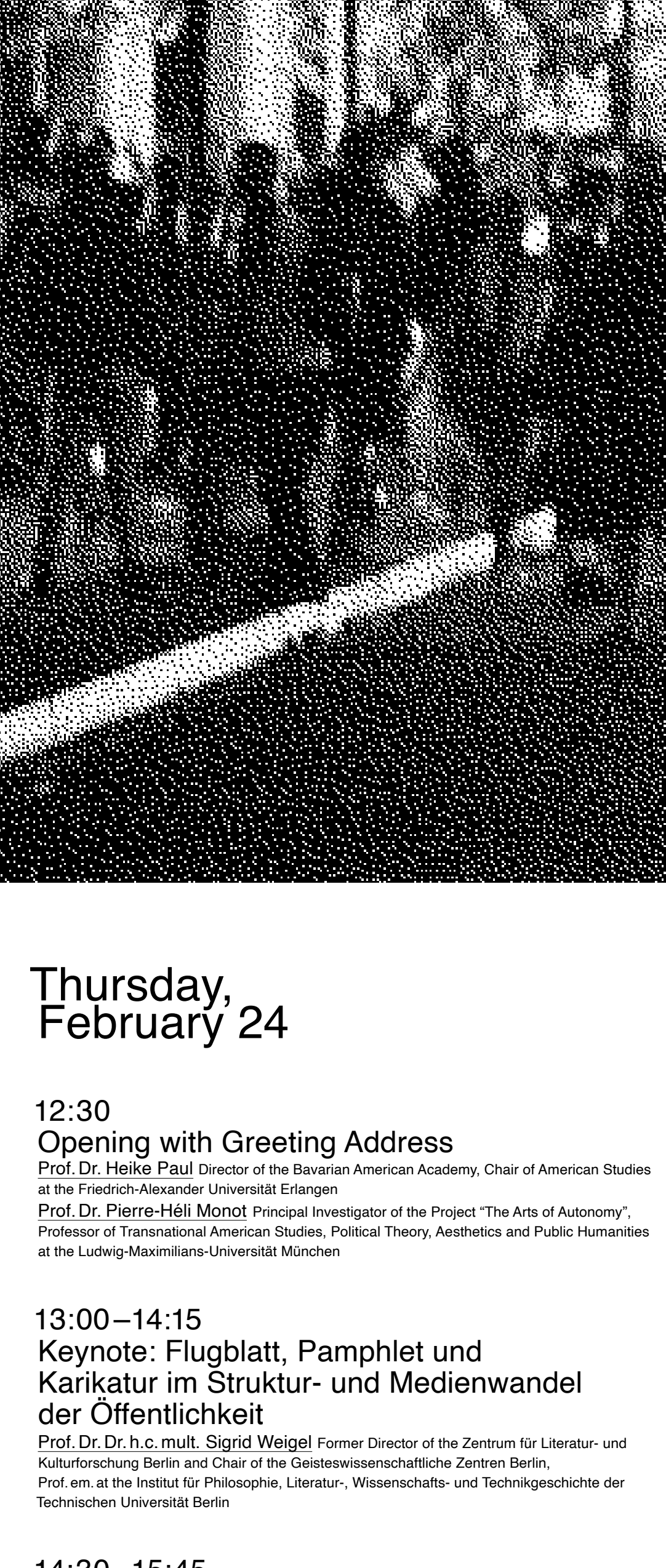
Amerikahaus  
*!now online!*

Registration:  
[artsautonomy.net/conference](http://artsautonomy.net/conference)

Contact:  
[activistwriting2022@imu.de](mailto:activistwriting2022@imu.de)

Pamphlets are everywhere. In recent years, the polemical texts of the #MeToo movement, of Black Lives Matter, of anticapitalist movements, of Brexit, of anti-abortion coalitions, or of digital secessionists have demonstrably affected the normative fabric of Western societies. Pamphletary literature and the responses it elicits are at the core of social history and are drivers of revolutionary events. From disenfranchised groups defending their existence to transnational coalitions advocating for systemic change, pamphlets are both a preeminent medium of political transformation and a massively popular genre of literature.

How does the pamphlet, both in its traditional and digital forms, shape and frame the objectives of contentious politics? What pamphletary impulses lead to political action, and what political actions crystalize as normative change? The international bilingual conference “Activist Writing – The Pamphlet in Practice, History, Media, and the Public Sphere” addresses these questions from an interdisciplinary perspective.



Protests in Catalonia, by Masha Gladkova. Image scaled and grained, license CC BY 2.0.

## Thursday, February 24

12:30

### Opening with Greeting Address

Prof. Dr. Heike Paul Director of the Bavarian American Academy, Chair of American Studies at the Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen

Prof. Dr. Pierre-Héli Monot Principal Investigator of the Project “The Arts of Autonomy”, Professor of Transnational American Studies, Political Theory, Aesthetics and Public Humanities at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

13:00–14:15

### Keynote: Flugblatt, Pamphlet und Karikatur im Struktur- und Medienwandel der Öffentlichkeit

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Sigrid Weigel Former Director of the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Berlin and Chair of the Geisteswissenschaftliche Zentren Berlin, Prof. em. at the Institut für Philosophie, Literatur-, Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte der Technischen Universität Berlin

14:30–15:45

### Panel 1: Claiming the Public Sphere – Pamphleteering on the Way to Modernity

Wiebke Voigt (TU Dresden) *Activist Writing in the Name of God: Reformation Pamphlets and the Emergence of the Public Sphere during the Early Reformation Period*

Dr. Christoph Streb (LMU München) *Enter the Author: Ultra-Personal Polemical Writing in Late 18th-Century Pamphlets and its Ambivalent Democratic Function*

16:00–17:30

### Panel 2: Politics in the 1920s – Agitation and Action in Italian Fascism and the German Communist Party

Dr. Manlio Della Marca (LMU München) “Ideas Going into Action”: Ezra Pound and Trans-media Pamphleteering in Fascist Italy

Daphne Weber (HU Berlin) *The Means of Agitation: Pamphleteering as Production of Small Forms Organizing Crowds and Cadre in 1920s’ German KPD Agitprop Publications*

17:30–18:30 Break

18:30–20:00

### Keynote: Erobren oder Verzichten? Politisches Fordern im Neoliberalismus

Prof. Dr. Robert Pfaller Professor for Philosophy and Cultural Studies at the University of Art and Design Linz and at the Technische Universität Wien

## Friday, February 25

10:00–11:30

### Keynote (Lecture and Discussion): Revolution für das Leben

Dr. Eva von Redecker Marie-Sklodowska-Curie-Fellow at the University of Verona, Centre for Politics and Theories of Sexuality (PoliTeSse)

11:45–13:00

### Panel 3: Agents of Change: Practices of the Pamphlet

Prof. Dr. Juliane Prade-Weiss (LMU München), Prof. Dr. Dominik Markl (Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome), Dr. Vladimir Petrović (Institute for Contemporary History, Belgrade) *Appeals to Historical Authority Justifying Mass Violence in Pamphlets*

Sakina Shakil Gröppmaier (LMU München, Project Member, “The Arts of Autonomy”) *From Text to Event ... to Text: Pamphletary Appeals for Sovereignty in the Digital Public Sphere*

13:00–14:00 Break

14:00–15:30

### Keynote (Discussion): Between Financialization and Digitalization: Transformations of the Public in Hyper-Modern Capitalism

Prof. Dr. Philipp Staab Professor for Sociology of the Future of Work at Humboldt-Universität Berlin

Grace Blakeley Economist, Commentator, Author, and Activist (“Stolen. How to Save the World from Financialisation” 2019, “The Corona Crash. How the Pandemic will Change Capitalism” 2020)

15:45–17:00

### Panel 4: Pamphlets and Factuality: Information and Disinformation in Public Discourse

Dr. Nils C. Kumkar (Universität Bremen) *Outsmarting Reality: Alternative Facts as the Opportunistic Lubricant of Public Discourse*

Dr. David Bebnowski (LMU München, Project Member, “The Arts of Autonomy”) *Voicing Reality: The Pamphlet as a Medium of Partisan Truths*

17:30–18:30 Break

18:00–20:00

### Keynote (Lecture and Discussion): Dirtbag

Amber A’Lee Frost Co-Host of the Podcast “Chapo Trap House”, author, activist (“Dirtbag” forthcoming)

## Saturday, February 26

10:00–11:15

### Panel 5: Pamphletary Practice in Manifestos

Prof. Dr. Carsten Junker (TU Dresden) *The Manifesto as Form: Queering the Subject of Polemical Writing?*

Stefanie Kremmel (Universität Wien) *Translation as Pamphletary Practice: Insight Into the Translation History of the Communist Manifesto*

11:30–12:45

### Panel 6: Re-Forming and Re-Cycling Pamphlets by African American Pamphleteers

Prof. Dr. Dustin Breitenwischer (Universität Hamburg) *Frederick Douglass and the Pamphlet as Re/Form*

PD. Dr. Florian Sedlmaier (FU Berlin) *Ida B. Wells Barnett’s Pamphlets: Re-Cycling, Media Monitoring, and Racial Leadership*

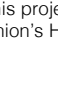
13:15–14:00 Concluding Discussion

## Registration

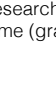
The conference will be hosted online. To register for the conference, please use the following link:  
[www.artsautonomy.net/conference](http://www.artsautonomy.net/conference)

## Conference Organizers

Prof. Dr. Pierre-Héli Monot  
Dr. David Bebnowski  
Sakina Shakil Gröppmaier



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