

**EXC »Temporal Communities«**

# **Affects and Community-Formation in the Petrarchan World**

**Workshop  
11.-12.03.2021**

Image: Staats- und Stadtbibliothek  
Augsburg, 2. Phil 57

**TEMPORAL  
COMMUNITIES**

DOING LITERATURE IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE  
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

**italien|zentrum**

**Freie Universität Berlin**



The workshop concentrates on the function that affective bonds have for Petrarch's formation of intellectual and social communities. Affects, or emotions, are omnipresent in Petrarch's writings. Love, anger, compassion, grief – all repeatedly come up in his works and underlie his interactions with friends, patrons, favorite authors, and readers. Indeed, it would not be an exaggeration to say that affective bonds were a decisive feature in Petrarch's revival of antiquity, occupying a crucial role in his formation of a devout community of friends dedicated to his humanistic cause. The aim of the workshop will be to offer an in-depth analysis of the role of the affects in Petrarch's community-formation and by extension in his humanism as a whole. Looking at both his Latin and vernacular works, we will explore how Petrarch utilized the affects in his interactions with friends and patrons, how his understanding and representation of emotions departed from those of other »emotional communities« of his day, and the tensions between his Stoic mistrust of emotions on the one hand and deeply affective tendencies on the other. Particular attention will be given to a comparative analysis of the role

of the affects in Petrarch's Latin and vernacular works: in opposition to the scholarly tendency to regard these two corpora as distinct entities, we will look for the entanglements and overlaps between them, especially as they relate to affective bonds. These tensions and overlaps resonated with humanist readers of Petrarch's writings, and the workshop will also examine how his writings fostered this broader community of readers in the Renaissance, who in turn often became authors themselves and produced petrarchistic texts to create communities.

**Organisation:** Bernhard Huss, Research Area 1: »Competing Communities«, Prof. Timothy Kircher (Guilford College) and Prof. Gur Zak (Hebrew University of Jerusalem).

**A collaboration of:** Cluster of Excellence 2020 »Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective« (FU Berlin); Italienzentrum (FU Berlin)

The workshop will be held on the platform Webex. Please register by email (bernhard.huss@fu-berlin.de) until Wednesday, March 9. This event will be held in English.

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**11.03.2021**

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**16:00**

**Welcome address and introduction**

Bernhard Huss (EXC 2020)

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**16:15**

**Petrarch and the Vaucluse: Building a virtual community through place attachment**

Hannah C. Wojciehowski (University of Texas at Austin)

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**16:45** discussion

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**17:05** break

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**17:15**

**Petrarch's poetic conscience: Time, truth, and community**

Timothy Kircher (Guilford College)

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**17:45** discussion

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**18:05** break

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**18:15**

**Affectivities of Reason, reasoning of affects: Strategies of community-formation in Petrarch's *De remediis***

Bernhard Huss (EXC 2020)

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**18:45** discussion

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**19:05** break

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**19:15**

**Psicomachie petrarchesche: Il disordine degli affetti tra *Secretum* e *De remediis***

Romana Brovia (Università degli Studi di Torino)

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**19:45** discussion

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**12.03.2021**

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**16:00**

**Linking the ancients to posterity: Petrarch's ideal readership in the *De vita solitaria***

Igor Candido (Trinity College Dublin)

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**16:30** discussion

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**16:50** break

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**17:00**

**Sharing in common: Petrarchan humanism and the history of compassion**

Gur Zak (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

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**17:30** discussion

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**17:50** break

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**18:00**

**Gendered Mourning in the epistolary collections of Petrarch and Isotta Nogarola**

Aileen A. Feng (The University of Arizona)

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**18:30** discussion

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**18:50** break

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**19:00**

**>Comune dolor< or dolore unico? Petrarch, mourning, and community**

Jennifer Rushworth (University College London)

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**19:30** discussion

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**19:50** conclusion