

UNIVERSITÄT  
BIELEFELD  
X Gebäude A2 103

CIAS Conference of the DFG-funded project:  
Mental Illness as Cultural Narrative: Contemporary  
Literature from the Contact Zones between the U.S.,  
Canada, and the Caribbean

June 30-  
July 1, 2023

# Narrating, Representing, Reflecting 'Disability': 21st Century 'American' Perspectives

Reception, food, and music:  
BGHS Lounge June 30,  
6:30pm-8:00pm

Organizers: Prof. Dr. Wilfried Raussert & Sarah-Lena Essifi, M.A.

DFG Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Center for  
InterAmerican  
Studies

## Program

### FRI June 30th, 2023

10:00 to 10:30

**Welcome and Introducton: Narrating, Representing, Reflecting 'Disability'** - Wilfried Raussert & Sarah-Lena Essifi

10:30 to 11:50

**Mental Illness as Cultural Narrative: Dementia, Im/migrant Experience and InterAmerican Entanglements in David Chariandy's Soucouyant (2007)** - Wilfried Raussert

**Much-Needed Rest?: Female Agency and the Rest Cure in Treatments of Depression in Gilman's "The Yellow Wall-Paper" and Otessa Moshfegh's My Year of Rest and Relaxation-** Diana Wagner

11:50 to 12:05- Break

12:05 to 13:35

**Words Unspoken – Thinking about Intersections of Ableism and Speciesism** - Tabea Weber

**"A.F. Hill: A One-Legged Soldier and his Remarkable Peregrinations after the Civil War"** -Kirsten Twelbeck

13:35 to 15:00 - Lunch Break

15:00 to 16:20

**"The Art of Failure:" Disability and Neoliberalism in Life-Writing Narratives"** -Mita Banerjee

**"What the hell happened to Maggie?" Reading Disability Intersectionally in Toni Morrison's "Recitati"** -Julia Roth

16:20 to 16:35- Break

16:35 to 17:55

**"There're two different kinds of psychosis:" Mental Illness as Metaphor in the Worlds of Charlie Kaufman** -Melanie Kreitler

**"A sadness she has felt but can never pin down:" Diasporic Depression in Nicole Dennis-Benn's Patsy (2019)** -Sarah-Lena Essifi

18:30 to 20:00 - Fiar Reception, Food and Music in B2 BGHS Lounge

20:00- **Nacht der Klänge at Bielefeld University**

22:00- **Music Night at Cuties**

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### SAT July 1st, 2023 // Bring your own coffee

10:30 to 12:30

**"When the system fails, and the claims are at stake – how dementia undermines the cultural narrative of the mind"**

-Julia Andres

**Transcending Trauma: Female Healing in the Novels Birdie (2015) by Tracy Lindberg and The Break (2019) by Katharena Vermete-** Atalie Gerhard

**"No more sickness, only bliss:" Extraction, eco-sickness and environmental justice in Imbolo Mbue's How Beautiful We Were** -Lakshmi chithra Dilipkumar

12:30 to 13:30- Lunch Break

13:30 to 14:50

**Cult & Guts & Gender: S for Strength for Sabotage; F for Fuck functionality Or, How Kathy Acker's Body (of Work) Was Pressured to Fit the Narrative** -Mariya Nikolova

**The Abilities of the Body** - Diana Tada Rueda

14:50 to 15:00 - Break

15:00 to 15:30- **Conclusion, Closing Discussion, Farewell**