



**ST PETER'S
COLLEGE**
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



AGS

Association for
German Studies
in Great Britain
and Ireland

Hoffmann at 250

'E. T. A. Hoffmann and Other Bodies'

Thursday 16th - Friday 17th July 2026

Taylorian Institute, University of Oxford
St Giles', Oxford, OX1 3NA

[directions](#)

THURSDAY 16TH JULY

Registration from 9.00 onwards

- 9.30** Opening and Welcome: Dr Joanna Neilly (University of Oxford) and Dr Eleoma Bodammer (University of Edinburgh)
- 9.45** Prof. Dr. Bettina Wagner, President of the E. T. A. Hoffmann-Gesellschaft, Bamberg, 'The E. T. A. Hoffmann-Gesellschaft in 2026'

10.00-11.30 Panel 1: Automata and Artificial Intelligence

Chair: Dr Joanna Neilly (University of Oxford)

Rainer Lewandowski (former artistic director of the E. T. A. Hoffmann Theatre, Bamberg), 'E. T. A. Hoffmann. Automaten, Puppen und Getier: Phantasie und Technik'

Dr Şebnem Sunar (Istanbul University), 'Subversion des Menschlichen: Automaten, Puppen und die Politik des Körpers in E. T. A. Hoffmanns Werk'

Dr Sahib Kapoor (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi), "'Olimpia und Ich?'" Hoffmann's Olimpia and her Representation in Visual Arts'

BREAK

11.45-1.15 Panel 2: Childhood Development and Embodied Learning

Chair: Dr Eleoma Bodammer (University of Edinburgh)

Prof. Holly Blackford Humes (Rutgers University), 'Childhood Toys: Embodiment in Media and Performing Objects'

Dr Elizabeth Ramsey (University of Cambridge), "[N]ichtsnütziges Zeug": Hoffmann's "Das fremde Kind" and the Robotic Body as the Site of Anxiety about Education and the Human'

Dr Joanna Neilly (University of Oxford) and Dr Polly Dickson (Durham University), 'Early Infancy and the Maternal Body in Hoffmann's Stories'

LUNCH

2.30-3.30 Panel 3: The Petrified Corpse, in History and in Fiction

Chair: Dr Joanna Raisbeck (University College London)

Prof. Ritchie Robertson (University of Oxford), 'From Fet-Matts to Elis Fröbom: The Mummified Body in "Die Bergwerke zu Falun"'

Dr Stephanie Großmann (Universität Passau), 'Vom Erzählen zur Bühne: Alchemie und Verkörperung in "Die Bergwerke zu Falun" (Hoffmann 1819; Hofmannsthal 1899; Wieler 2021)'

BREAK

3.45-4.45 Panel 4: Animal Bodies, Animal Magnetism

Chair: Prof. Ritchie Robertson (University of Oxford)

Prof. Christopher Clason (Oakland University), 'Hoffmann's *Kater Murr* and the Visual/Verbal Body'

Prof. Jürgen Barkhoff (Trinity College Dublin), 'Animal Magnetism in *Kater Murr*'

5.00 'The Hoffmann Experience—Embodied Storytelling in Virtual Environments'. Led by Svenja Hahn (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) and Prof. Dr. Anja Ballis (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

Followed by: Drinks reception, sponsored by the English Goethe Society.

FRIDAY 17TH JULY

9.45-11.15 Panel 5: Aesthetics of the Body: Intermediality and Form

Chair: Dr Eleoma Bodammer (University of Edinburgh)

Prof. Ricarda Schmidt (University of Exeter), 'Hoffmanns Körperdarstellungen, Commedia dell'arte und Raffael'

Agathe Duperron (Universität Heidelberg), 'Körper zwischen Literatur und bildender Kunst in der Erzählung "Die Abenteuer der Sylvester-Nacht"'

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kinzel (Universität Kiel), 'Carnival of Bodies: Hoffmann's *Die Elixiere des Teufels*'

BREAK

11.30-1.00 Panel 6: Disability and Artistic Practice

Chair: Dr Polly Dickson (Durham University)

Dr Eleoma Bodammer (University of Edinburgh), 'The Disabled Gaze and Creative Rehabilitation in Hoffmann's "Des Veters Eckfenster"'

Dr Jasmin Köhler (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena), 'The Poetics of a "Dis/ability to See" in Hoffmann's "Des Veters Eckfenster"'

Dr. Dr. Bernd Hesse and Jörg Petzel, 'Die Körperlichkeit der Titelfigur "Klein Zaches genannt Zinnober"'

LUNCH

2.00-3.00 Panel 7: Marginalised Bodies

Chair: Dr Joanna Neilly (University of Oxford)

Bogdan Burghilea (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin), 'Heavenly Body: Queerness and Otherness in Hoffmann's Fairytale "Das fremde Kind"'

Prof. Ute Weidenhiller (Roma Tre University), 'The Cravings of Pregnant Women.'

BREAK

3.15-4.15 Panel 8: Mental Health and the Body

Chair: Prof. Jürgen Barkhoff (Trinity College Dublin)

Prof. Dr. Barbara Neymeyr (Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt), 'Phantastische Körper als Signum der Identitätsauflösung: Zum Verlust von Schatten und Spiegelbild in E. T. A. Hoffmanns Werk "Die Abenteuer der Sylvester-Nacht"'

Prof. Christa Spreizer (Queens College, CUNY), 'The Imperfectly Embodied Present of "The Sandman"'

CLOSE

The organisers would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following:

University of Oxford John Fell Fund

St Peter's College Oxford John O'Connor Fund

University of Oxford Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages

The Modern Humanities Research Association

The E. T. A. Hoffmann-Gesellschaft

The English Goethe Society

Association for German Studies in Great Britain and Ireland