

CONTEMPORARY

LITERATURE

DFG RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP 2291

CRI

/ crisis, *noun* ['kraɪsɪs]

# CRISIS, TEMPORALITY, AND ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGES FOR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

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Workshop of the DFG-Research Training Group 2291  
*Contemporary/Literature. Historical, Theoretical, and Praxeological  
Perspectives on the Relationship between Literature and the Present*

📅 May 23, 2019

🕒 10 a.m.—15 p.m.

📍 R. 2.008 (Genscherallee 3)

Probing the currently omnipresent concept of ‘crisis,’ this workshop will explore how ‘crisis’ is interlaced with experiences of time. The term ‘crisis’ can denote choice, decision, judgment or critique; it can mark a turning point or a permanent state without prospect of resolution. Experiences of ‘crisis’ can involve disorientation or a collapsing of linear temporality. But crisis can also function as a chronic framework of living that contracts the future. Since the universalization of capitalism in the 1990s, many thinkers diagnose a “slow cancellation” of the future as a general condition, producing a “frozen present” without alternatives – an experience exacerbated by the threat of environmental disaster. In this context, ‘crisis rhetoric’ is often mobilized as an instrument of rule, legitimizing states of emergency. Crisis, however, can also yield a heightened awareness of the present or a haunted temporality (in line with Jacques Derrida’s practice of hauntology), triggering alternative accounts of history, the present, and futurity. We will thus also explore the fate of utopianism today and test literature’s potential to provide alternative narrativizations of ‘crisis’ or ‘noncrisis’—narratives that disavow crisis rhetoric and shape other visions of the present and future.

The workshop is free of charge, but the number of participants is limited.  
To register, please email [gegenwart\\_literatur@uni-bonn.de](mailto:gegenwart_literatur@uni-bonn.de).

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