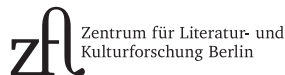


The production of knowledge about the past as well as the future is frequently informed by speculative rehearsals of various possible scenarios. However, while the playful consideration of multiple unrealized possibilities is an operative principle of counterfactual historiography, it can always also render service to revisionism and outright denial. The latter, in particular, seeks to mobilize and coopt ideas of the open-endedness of interpretative processes in order to draw into question or delay the established consensus regarding the reality, in particular, of genocidal events. On the other hand, the future-oriented fields of risk management and crisis governance deploy speculation and possibility not in order to develop utopian visions, but in order to secure a more integrated control of future calamities. Simulation technology and scenario modelling make a point of integrating errors and anomalies in order to enhance response capacities vis-à-vis a constantly shifting horizon of uncertainty. Meanwhile, constructivist approaches propose pragmatic, experimental, or fabulatory spaces in order to generate and realize alternative futures. The conference Possibility Matters brings together different disciplinary perspectives and individual case studies involving speculation and possibility, fact and factuality, the real and reality, provoking a systematic confrontation of the two divergent temporal horizons of contested histories and uncertain futures.

Organized by **Alice von Bieberstein** and **Aurélia Kalisky**

An **ICI Event** in collaboration with the **University of Cambridge**,  
**the Center for Literary and Cultural Research Berlin (ZFL)**, and with generous support of  
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ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry  
Christinenstr. 18/19, Haus 8  
D-10119 Berlin

Tel: +49 30 473 72 91 10  
[www.ici-berlin.org](http://www.ici-berlin.org)  
U-Bhf Senefelder Platz (U2)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

4–  
5  
December  
2015

In English

# Possibility Matters

	<b>Friday</b> <b>4 December 2015</b>
9:30	MORNING COFFEE
10:00	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: <b>Alice von Bieberstein</b> and <b>Aurélia Kalisky</b>
10:15 – 12:30	<b>Thresholds of Time</b> (Chair: <b>Arnd Wedemeyer</b> )  <b>Janet Roitman</b> <i>Anti-Crisis</i> <b>Aurélia Kalisky</b> <i>Normal Men Don't Know That Everything Is Possible: On the Law of Evidence</i> <b>Alain Denault</b> <i>The Denial of Massive Crime Using the Obfuscation of Legal and Financial Technicalities</i>  Discussion and Q&A
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 16:15	<b>THE (UNFULFILLED) PROMISE OF CLOSURE</b> (Chair: <b>Rosa Barotsi</b> )  <b>Başak Ertür</b> <i>On Closure: The Judge and the Historian Revisited</i> <b>Alice von Bieberstein</b> <i>No Virtue in Erring on This Side of Doubt: Denial of the Armenian Genocide</i> <b>Maria José de Abreu</b> <i>The Invasion of the Martians: Radio Drama, Panic and the Third Secret of Fatima</i>  Discussion and Q&A
16:15 – 16:45	COFFEE BREAK
16:45 – 19:00	<b>THE PROMISE OF SCIENCE AND ITS OTHER(S)</b> (Chair: <b>Maria José de Abreu</b> )  <b>James Faubion</b> <i>From Possibility to Plausibility: On the Epistemics of Scenario Planning</i> <b>Carlo Caduff</b> <i>Pandemic Possibilities</i> <b>Cori Hayden</b> <i>Pharmaceutical Equivalences, Commodity Dreams</i>  Discussion and Q&A

	<b>Saturday</b> <b>5 December 2015</b>
9:30	MORNING COFFEE
10:00 – 12:30	<b>AESTHETICS OF ALTER(N)ITY</b> (Chair: <b>Banu Karaca</b> )  <b>Ralph Buchenhorst</b> <i>Generation of Evidence vs. Negation of Evidence: History and Future of the Representation of Genocides Based on Shoah Remembrance</i> <b>Charles Hirschkind</b> <i>Reflections from Granada on the Place of Islam in Europe</i> <b>Matthias Schwartz</b> <i>Alternative Histories of Fascination: The Case of East European Popular Fiction</i>  Discussion and Q&A
12:30 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 – 15:30	<b>ENACTING POSSIBLE REALITIES</b> (Chair: <b>Preciosa de Joya</b> )  <b>Aline Wiame</b> <i>Ecologizing Thought: Latour's Theatre of Negotiations and Speculative (Pre)Enactments</i> <b>Katrin Solhdju</b> <i>When Effects are the Criteria of Truth: Pragmatism and History</i>  Discussion and Q&A
15:30 – 16:00	COFFEE BREAK
16:00 – 17:30	<b>POTENTIALITY OF EVIDENTIARY TRUTH</b> (Chair: <b>James Burton</b> )  <b>Erna Rijdsdijk</b> <i>Does a Poststructuralist Ethics of Researching War Lead us to Fiction?</i> <b>Shela Sheikh</b> <i>Performing the Politics of Memory: Grupa Spomenik, the Bosnian Genocide and the Articulation of Justice</i>  Discussion and Q&A