

## **JustArts – Just Representation**

**Symposium 4 – 6 June 2026 at Chemnitz University of Technology**

**IdeenReich, Straße der Nationen 33, 09111 Chemnitz**

Insecure human mobility is one of today's key geopolitical challenges. Thousands of migrants die each year en route – often unregistered (IOM Missing Migrants Project) – while billions in public funds are spent on border walls, whether physical or digital (Koslowski, Schulzke 2018). These measures do not stop movement but redirect it, increasing risks and death tolls (Collyer 2005; Koslowski 2011; Crawley, Hagen-Zanker 2019; Idemudia, Boehnke 2020; Williams, Mountz 2018). The relationship between borders, migration policy, insecure human mobility, and the lived experiences and, hence, the (mis)representation of migrants remains, however, poorly understood. Research tends to focus on either the causes or the consequences of migration, leaving a gap in understanding the process itself and the proper representation of those in transit. Decisions are often made on behalf of those labelled “illegal immigrants,” whose voices are silenced and subjected to dominant, often racist, media narratives. Gayatri Spivak's assertion that “the subaltern cannot speak” (Spivak 1994 [1988], 66–111) underscores this silencing, while Stuart Hall's work on representation (cf. 1997) reminds us that the meanings attached to these voices are constructed within hegemonic power structures.

Hearing these voices – in literature, the arts, media, and politics – can challenge dominant narratives and foster more just representation. Our conference seeks to bridge this gap through interdisciplinary dialogue on the (mis)representation of insecure mobility, precarious arrival, and denied human and political rights. Mobility processes are among the most dynamic phenomena of our time, continuously shifting in response to everyday needs and the struggles of people on the move. The arts offer a unique vantage point: they both reflect these rapid transformations and suggest new paths and forms of understanding that may otherwise remain inaccessible. By uniting researchers from diverse domains across Europe and the UK, we will examine the complex interplay between lived experiences and representation within our “JustArts – Just Representation” framework. The event will serve as a conceptual precursor to an interdisciplinary research network aimed at producing academic publications, supporting dissertations, facilitating international collaborations, and raising public awareness around issues of just representation, it is therefore conceived as a highly discursive, exchange-based forum.

<p><b>JustArts – Just Representation</b>  International Conference at Chemnitz University of Technology</p> <p>4 – 6 June 2026</p> <p>IdeenReich, University Library Chemnitz, Straße der Nationen 33, 09111 Chemnitz</p>	
<b>Wednesday, 3 June 2026</b>	
19:00 -	Conference Warming, Turmbrauhaus, Am Markt, 09111 Chemnitz
<b>Thursday, 4 June 2026</b>	
8:30 – 9:30	Registration
9:30–10:00	<p><i>Official Opening and Welcome Address</i></p> <p>Prof. Dr. Matthias Niedobitek, Jean Monnet Professor for European Integration (Chemnitz University of Technology)</p> <p>Welcome and Thematic Introduction: David Herd, Christin Hoene, Claudia Gualtieri, Cecile Sandten</p>
<b>Day 1: Historical and Cultural Contexts of Refugee Narratives</b>	
10:00–11:30	<p><i>Panel 1 – Writing and Solidarity</i></p> <p>David Herd (St Andrews): First Person: Literature and the Voice of Human Rights</p> <p>Cecile Sandten (Chemnitz): Shared Words, Shared Worlds: Collaborative Storytelling in <i>Refugee Tales V</i></p>
11:30–12:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
12:00–12:45	<p>Anna Amelina (Chemnitz) and Friz M. Trzeciak (Göttingen): Post-Socialist Coloniality? How to address the decolonial challenge in migration studies under the post-socialist condition</p> <p>Chair: Mandy Beck (Chemnitz)</p>
12:45–14:00	<i>Lunch Mensa</i>
14:00–15:30	<p><i>Panel 2 – Narrative and Artistic Practices of Justice</i></p> <p>Claudia Gualtieri (Milan) and Lanfranco Vicari, aka Moder: Chasing a fantasy: CISIM's stories</p> <p>Christin Hoene (Maastricht): On the Importance of Decolonial Listening</p>

15:30–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–17:00	Touhid Ahmed Chowdhury (Chemnitz, Cottbus): Refugee Narrative: Representing Precarious Arrival and Lived Experiences Across Borders  Lisa Gärtitz (Chemnitz): Speaking from the Margins? Migration, Memory, and the Question of Representation in a Selection of Contemporary German Novels  Chair: Yolanda López García
	<b><i>Poetry and Music Performances</i></b>
17:00–18:00	Moder (Ravenna) “Perela’s Code”, “Poco dopo mezzanotte” Chair: Claudia Gualtieri (Milan)
	<i>Wine Reception and Buffet</i>
19:00–21:00	Thaer Ayoub (Syria, Berlin) and Valérie Suty (France, Chemnitz) “Julia, weil die Musik weiblich ist“ (Julia, because the music is female) Poetry and Music Chair: Cecile Sandten (Chemnitz)
<b>Friday, 5 June 2026</b>	
	<b>Day 2: Migration, Diaspora, and Social Justice</b>
8:30–9:30	Registration
9:30–11:00	<i>Panel 3 – Refugee Rights and Law</i>  Natasha Saunders (St Andrews): Slow Resistance: Resisting the Slow Violence of Asylum  Maurizio Veglio (Turin): Introducing Myself: How I Exhaled the Bad Air  Chair: Claudia Gualtieri (Milan)
11:00–11:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:30–13:00	<i>Panel 4 – Diaspora, Nationalism, and Social Media</i>  Yolanda López García (Chemnitz): Between POV and Storytime: Content Creators’ Narratives of Migration, Diversity, and Otherness in Social Media  Chandrani Sanyal (Bhilai): Reinterpreting Camp Life: Representations of Liminality in Maria M. Litwa’s Photo Essay <i>Welcome to Geneva Camp</i>  Chair: David Herd (St Andrews)

13:00–14:30	<i>Lunch (Mensa)</i> <i>Library Tour</i>
14:30–16:00	<i>Panel 5 – Migration, Representational Justice, and Responsibility</i>  Edward Morgan-Jones (Kent): Long-Distance Nationalism and Peace Settlement Preferences – How should we represent views of diasporas about peace?  Helga Ramsey-Kurz (Innsbruck): Beyond Empathy: “This vicarious responsibility for things we have not done”
16:00–16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:30–17:00	Book Presentations (new publications) Birgit Glorius (Chemnitz): Glorius, Birgit: <i>Flucht, Ankommen und sozialer Wandel: Perspektiven für Geflüchtete in der deutschen Aufnahmegesellschaft</i> . Bielefeld: transcript, 2025.  Harald Pittel (Leipzig): Sloan, Peter: <i>From Rupture to Refuge: The Coordinates of Contemporary Refugee Narratives</i> . Liverpool UP, 2025.  Chair: Christin Hoene
17:00–18:00	<b><i>Walking Keynote</i></b> Birgit Glorius (Chemnitz), Hanne Schneider (Chemnitz): Approaching Just Representation by Migration History Walks – The project “Ortstermine”  Chair: Cecile Sandten
19:00–21:00	<i>Conference Dinner at the Syrian Restaurant “Malula”</i>
<b>Saturday, 6 June 2026</b>	
<b>Day 3: Representation and Justice</b>	
09:30–11:00	<i>Panel 6 – Forms of Reception</i>  Giuseppina Raggi (Lisbon): Making Portugal and the Artistic Experience of Lisbon’s Margem Sul: The Case of the Higher School of Amora  Ivana Trajanoska (Skopje): Framing the Unwelcome: Literary Representations of Migration as Tools of Othering  Chair: Indrani Karmakar
11:00–11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30–12:30	<b><i>Round Table Discussion</i></b> – Just Representation in 2026: Next Steps? Chair: Mandy Beck (Chemnitz)

12:30–13:30	<i>Lunch: “Jasmin” Syrian Restaurant or smac “Café Julius im smac”</i>
13:30–16:00	Literary Walk Through Chemnitz (Cecile Sandten) (meeting at the Stefan-Heym-Platz (smac)) <i>Farewell</i>