

THE PoP QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER #8

10|2024

Poetry Off the Page: Literary History and the Spoken Word, 1965-2020 (ERC/FWF)

Dear PoP community,

the leaves are changing colour, temperatures are dropping, and students are returning to classes: Somehow, autumn once again snuck up on us. We hope that you have had a wonderful summer, with some time to relax and recuperate, and can now start into the winter term refreshed and hungry for some poetry. As always, if you want to get in touch, contact us at pop.anglistik@univie.ac.at for all poetry-related inquiries (or just to say 'hi!').

Past Research Activities:

Over the last few months, we at Poetry Off the Page have been quite busy! This is just a quick digest of what's happened since the last newsletter in February – for more up-to-date information, you can follow us on X (formerly Twitter) at @PoetryOff_Page, on Instagram (@poetry_offthe_page), or on Facebook (Poetry Off the Page).

These past few months, our team members have been to conferences far and wide: Doctoral researcher **Claire Palzer** presented at “[Re-Reading British and Irish Landscapes in the 21st Century](#)” at the University of Mannheim in June 2024. Together with doctoral researcher **Shefali Banerji** and PI **Julia Lajta-Novak**, she also presented at [AAUTE](#), the annual conference of the Austrian Association of University Teachers of English. Beside this, Claire has been working on several publications as well as on her PhD thesis.

It's been a rather travel-intensive year for doctoral researcher **Shefali Banerji**: They went to this year's [IFTR](#) conference (Federation for Theatre Research) in Manila, to the [German Society for Contemporary Theatre and Drama in English](#) (CDE) 2024 conference in Innsbruck, and to this year's Edinburgh Fringe festival to conduct on-site research for their PhD thesis. They have been hard at work on their thesis as well as many articles for journals and special collections, among them the special issue arising out of Poetry Off the Page's second project conference **All Borders Blur** which is co-edited by **Dr. Helen Thomas** and will be published with OLH.

Postdoctoral researcher **Rachel Bolle-Debessay** visited the 2024 “[European Society for the Study of English](#)” (ESSE) conference in Lausanne, Switzerland. She further presented at “[Poetry, Music and Sound Art](#)”, which was organised by our friends and fellow poetry buffs from the project Poetry in the Digital Age, based at the University of Hamburg, and also attended by our PI **Julia Lajta-Novak**.

Helen Thomas, senior researcher, spent the summer months speaking at various conferences in the UK, including “[Talking Back](#)” in Nottingham and “[Analysing Discourses on Motherhood](#)” at the London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research. She has also been interviewing poets far and wide, with the likes of **Joelle Taylor**, **Marsha Prescod**, **Anthony Joseph**, **Jackie Kay** and many more donating their valuable time to our project to think back over their careers and contribute to an oral history of spoken word poetry.

Julia Lajta-Novak, our principal investigator, also gave several talks and presentations. She spoke about Anthony Joseph’s auto/biographical work at the University of Reykjavik for the [International Auto/Biography Association](#) (IABA) and presented at a workshop by **Poetry in the Digital Age**, on the occasion of the publication of their book series ‘Poetry in the Digital Age,’ for which she also serves on the editorial board. Furthermore, she gave a keynote lecture on reading live poetry as a performative act at the [Jazz&Poetry](#) conference, jointly organized by the University of Vienna and the Kunsthhaus Mürz.

In the meantime, Julia’s article “Performing the Poet, Reading (to) the Audience: Some Thoughts on Live Poetry as Literary Communication,” which originally appeared in the *Journal of Literary Theory* 6.2, has been [republished in German](#) in *Audioliterale Lyrik zwischen Performance und Mediatisierung* (De Gruyter), edited by Marc Matter, Henrik Wehmeier, and Clara Cosima Wolff of Poetry in the Digital Age.

For anyone who would like to take a trip down memory lane, we suggest the **conference report** from our last project conference, titled “All Borders Blur,” which took place in November 2023. The report, which was authored by our administrator and research assistant **Marie Krebs**, can be accessed via the [All Borders Blur website](#).

Finally, we have a general team update: We would like to say goodbye to our senior researcher **Martina Pfeiler**, who left the team in June of 2024 for a new position. Martina has been a vital member of the team since the very beginning, and we will miss her dearly – however, luckily, she will not be far: In addition to her 50% professorship in Linz, Martina has re-joined the department as a postdoctoral researcher with the American Studies team at the **University of Vienna**, so she will only be one corridor away!

Upcoming Research Activities:

We expect that 2025 will be no less exciting than 2024! Here is a short list of what Poetry Off the Page has in store for the rest of 2024 and the beginning of 2025:

Our third and final project conference, titled “**Poetry Off the Page, Around the Globe: Advances in Poetry Performance Research**,” will take place on **13th-14th June 2025** at the **University of Vienna** and the **Literaturhaus Wien**. We have attached the Call for Papers to this message and cordially invite you to submit a proposal, join us for the conference day, and celebrate four years of Poetry Off the Page with us next year! For more information, you can also consult the [conference website](#) or e-mail the conference

organisers directly at popconf2025@univie.ac.at. This event will feature keynote lectures by Dr. **Cornelia Gräbner** of Lancaster University and **Shantanu Anand**, poet and co-founder of **Airplane Poetry Movement** in India. We can't wait to see you there!

Our **podcast** (team-internally also dubbed 'PoPcast') is currently in production for its third and fourth episodes, by **Helen Thomas** and **Rachel Bolle-Debessay** respectively. The two inaugural episodes by doctoral researchers **Shefali Banerji** and **Claire Palzer** are already online (on Spotify and our [project website](#), so if you would like to hear more about their fascinating research projects, give these episodes a listen!

Rachel Bolle-Debessay has taken on the responsibility of managing our PoP blog, which focusses on poetry performance theory and methodology and we are always welcoming submissions, so if you have an idea lying around, don't hesitate to get in touch at pop.anglistik@univie.ac.at! New blog posts are to follow soon – including a fascinating piece by **Franziska Klein** about queer theory and the spoken word – so stay tuned!

Thank you so much for being part of our PoP community!

All the best,
the PoP team

Feel free to pass on the sign-up for our Newsletter [here](#) | Follow us on [Twitter](#) | E-Mail us at pop.anglistik@univie.ac.at