

## The PoP Quarterly Newsletter #11

12/2025

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

Dear PoP community,

Season's greetings from the PoP offices in Vienna! 2025 has passed in a blur, and we're quickly approaching the final year of Poetry Off the Page – but we've got quite a lot planned for 2026. We hope you're all keeping well and having a great December!

It has been quite a while since we last sent out our newsletter, so there's quite a lot to update our community on.

First of all, we would like to introduce one new addition to our team: **Magdalena Korecka**, who previously worked with the fantastic "Poetry in the Digital Age" project at the University of Hamburg, is joining us for a brief stint at her alma mater. Magdalena is a doctoral researcher whose thesis investigates the phenomenon of 'instapoetry' through a multimodal post-digital ethnographic methodology. In her PoP work, Magdalena has not only been working on some fantastic pieces for our **PoP Blog** and the **Podcast**, she's also taken on the important role of social media coordinator. So, if you've recently noticed us cropping up on your feed more than we used to, it's because of her tireless efforts to increase our presence. Welcome, Magdalena!

Let us also take this opportunity to remind you that if you haven't yet done so, please follow us on Instagram (@poetry\_offthe\_page), Bluesky (@poetryoffthepage.bsky.social), and Facebook (Poetry Off the Page) to stay up-to-date with CfPs, new publications, and general poetry shenanigans!

### Research Activities

The next few months are shaping up to be quite fascinating for the PoP Team. The **edited collection** 'Poetry Off the Page: International Advances in Poetry Performance Research,' which is co-edited by our PI **Julia Lajta-Novak**, PhD researcher **Shefali Banerji**, and postdoctoral researcher **Rachel Bolle-Debessay**, will come out in 2026 – the editors are currently hard at work reviewing submissions, and we're excited to see how the special collection turns out!

As always, our team has also been travelling far and wide to talk about PoP and their own projects. **Shefali** recently visited the University of Zurich and the Université Paris-Est-Créteil for a workshop and a conference respectively, while PhD researcher **Claire Palzer**

went to Dublin to visit the National Library of Ireland for research and to discuss the digitization of the interviews she has conducted throughout her time on the project. **Rachel** presented at the 'Anglistiktag 2025', held at the University of Duisburg-Essen, in front of an interdisciplinary audience of international English Studies scholars.

Together, **Shefali**, **Claire**, and **Rachel** also introduced Poetry Off the Page at 'Fleeting Voices: Preserving Acoustic Heritage in the Archives and the Arts,' a conference organized at the University of Applied Arts Vienna (1-3 October 2025). They spoke not just about their individual research but also about the thread that ties all of our projects together, starting many fascinating discussions with peers from various fields.

Also, as a brief reminder about an upcoming event: Our PI **Julia** will deliver a [keynote lecture](#) titled "Memoirs in Sound: 'Reading' Anthony Joseph's Auto/Biographical Jazz Poetry" at the conference *Sounds of a Lifetime: Exploring Life Writing in Audio Media* in Brussels. The event sounds fantastic, and registration is still possible!

We have also been fortunate to host several amazing visitors: On 2 November, **Claudia Benthien** visited Vienna to give a lecture together with our PI **Julia Lajta-Novak**. It was titled 'Poetry / Publics / Politics: The Uses of Poetry in Public Spaces.'

**Deirdre Osborne** also visited **Julia's** class 'Poetry Off the Page' to deliver a lecture on 'The Art of Studied Spontaneity,' where she critically reflected on David Antin's "talk poetry."

We're always grateful to host our international colleagues and receive their valuable input – so thank you to both **Claudia Benthien** and **Deirdre Osborne** for making the trip down to Vienna!

## Publications

Our team members have also been very busy publishing fantastic work:

- **Rachel Bolle-Debessay's** piece on "[Music and Literary Imagination: The Creative Impulse of Sonic Vibrations in Dub Poetry](#)" was just published in [Poetry, Music, and Sound Art: Recent Medial Correlations](#) (edited by Rebecka Dürr, Kira Henkel, and Vadim Keylin).
- **Julia Lajta-Novak** and **Magdalena Korecka** published articles in the fantastic new [Poetry in the Digital Age Handbook](#) (edited by Claudia Benthien, Vadim Keylin, and Henrik Wehmeier).
- **Julia Lajta-Novak** also published a German-language piece in Der Standard, titled "[Wenn das 'lyrische Ich' öffentlich aufschreit](#)" (transl. "When the 'lyrical I' cries out publicly").

Our conference **Poetry Off the Page, Around the Globe** in June 2025 was a great success – we were pleased to welcome 27 presenters from 18 different countries and hear about their exciting research. The [conference report](#) authored by Shefali Banerji and Rachel Bolle-Debessay is now available for anyone who would like to take a walk down memory lane.

We would also like to draw your attention to four new articles available via our **blog**:

- PhD researcher **Christina Mattson** explores the humorous elements of poetry performance in “[Stand-up Poetry, Spoken Word Comedy: Exploring Humour in Poetry Performance Through a Stand-up Lens.](#)”
- [Part two](#) of **Claire Palzer**’s series on the Poetry Off the Page interview guide is finally out. Read up on part one [here](#)!
- **Shefali Banerji** introduces readers to “[Spoken Word Poetry and the Wonder of the Archive,](#)” detailing the different types of archives and their significance to poetry performance studies.
- PoP administrator and PhD student **Marie Krebs** discusses the potential to approach spoken word poetry through Derridean deconstruction in “[Deconstruction and the Spoken Word, or: Embracing Différ\( \)nce.](#)”

If you don’t have time for a lot of reading, you can also access the **Poetry Off the Page Podcast** via our [website](#) or [Spotify](#) – the latest episode, titled “Dub Poetry and the Power of Bass,” was written and recorded by **Rachel Bolle-Debessay** and provides fascinating insight into her research on low frequencies.

For more listening material, we would also recommend the [project archive](#) we are in the process of building. We have uploaded over 35 interviews already, with fantastic poets like Allen Fisher, Roger Robinson, Rose Condo, or Carly Brown, and many more are on their way – so if you are interested in the history of UK spoken word, we highly encourage perusing the fascinating materials we have collected so far from our generous interviewees. We also can’t say it often enough: We’re incredibly grateful for the time and energy that our interviewees donate to the project!

Again, we wish you happy holidays and a joyful end of 2025. We hope this year has been as exciting for you as it has been for us. We’ll see you in 2026!

All the best,  
the PoP team

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