

Medical Spaces in Cultural Studies, Architecture, Literature: Transdisciplinary Perspectives

**International Conference
Fribourg, July 4th and 5th, 2025**

SNF Research Project: Medical Spaces in Literary
Prose of the Long 20th Century

<https://projects.unifr.ch/medikale-raeume/?lang=en>

Organisers:

Martina King, Mona Baie, Benjamin Specht

Friday, 4 July

Section 1

Medical spaces
across time

9:15 **Martina King** *Welcome and Introduction*

10:00–10:45

Sam Cohn *Pandemics and the re-shaping of cities*
(Chair: Hubert Steinke)

10:45–11:30

Astrid Köhler *The medicalization of the spa in the 19th century*
(Chair: Hubert Steinke)

11:30–12:00 Coffee

12:00–12:45

Monika Ankele *The concept of «humanization» in the context
of architecture and reform in 19th and 20th century psychiatry*
(Chair: Cornelius Borck)

12:45–14:15 Lunch

Section 2

The history and future
of the modern hospital

14:15–15:15 **Keynote Lecture 1**

Annmarie Adams *Medicine by design: the architect and the
modern hospital, 1893-1943* (Chair: Flurin Condrau)

15:15–16:00

Victoria Bates *Feeling blue: colour and the modern British
hospital* (Chair: Hubert Steinke)

16:00–16:30 Coffee

16:30–17:30 **Keynote Lecture 2**

Magnus Nickl *Healing Architecture – next generation*
(Chair: Martina King)

19:00 Dinner

Saturday, 5 July

Section 3

The modern hospital
and technicalisation

9:30–10:15

Flurin Condrau *Patients, doctors and technology: towards
a history of intensive care units in Switzerland and the UK*
(Chair: Cornelius Borck)

10:15–11:00

Gina Rauschtenberger *Computer architecture and new forms
of organization. On the building history of Aachen University
Hospital as a technical object 1960-1980* (Chair: Cornelius Borck)

11:00–11:30 Coffee

Section 4

Literary representations
of medical spaces

11:30–12:15

Alina Boy *Spa Culture. Spaces of Healing in 20th Century
German Literature* (Chair: Angela Gencarelli)

12:15–13:45 Lunch

13:45–14:45 **Keynote Lecture 3**

Katrin Dennerlein *Narrating medical space in literature:
Thomas Mann, the Chicago 'Billings Hospital' and «The Genesis
of Doctor Faustus» (1949)* (Chair: Tom Kindt)

14:45–15:30

Mona Baie *Beyond heterotopia: on the semantics of clinical
spaces in autopathographical prose of the 20th and 21st centuries*
(Chair: Tom Kindt)

15:30–16:00 Coffee

16:00–16:45

Marc Keller *Spaces of assisted dying in contemporary
German- and French-language literature and film*
(Chair: Angela Gencarelli)

16:45–17:30 *Final discussion*



Contact

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Location

Fribourg University, Pavillon Vert
(Botanic Garden, Campus Pérolles)
Ch. du Musée 10, 1700 Fribourg, Switzerland



**Swiss National
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