

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

**International Conference  
Fribourg, July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

SNF Research Project: Medical Spaces in Literary  
Prose of the Long 20<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Annamarie 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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



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