

Mobile Akademie Berlin, Licence No. 14
**Market for Useful Knowledge
and Non-Knowledge**

River Without Banks

On the flow velocity and regulation
of water, bodies and ideas

90
Experts

190
one-on-one
conversations

1€
per
conversation

Saturday, 03 February 2024, 6 - 11 pm
Stadthalle Mülheim an der Ruhr
Free admission

Check-In Information



Counter 1

Waste Water → Abwasser
Activism → Aktivismus
Biodiversity → Biodiversität
Film → Film
Stream of Ideas → Gedankenfluss
Borders → Grenzen
Ground Water → Grundwasser

Counter 2

Healing → Heilung
Infrastructure → Infrastruktur
Disaster → Katastrophe
Climate → Klima
Bodily Fluids → Körperflüssigkeiten
Landscape → Landschaft
Literature → Literatur

Counter 3

Logistics → Logistik
The Sea → Meer
Migration → Migration
Music → Musik
Mythology → Mythologie
Places & Cities → Orte & Städte
Philosophy → Philosophie
Religion → Religion

Counter 4

Rescue → Rettung
Sport → Sport
Urban Development → Stadtentwicklung
Transformation → Transformation
Drinking Water → Trinkwasser
Underwater → Unterwasser
Perception → Wahrnehmung
Practical Exercise → Praktische Übung

Languages

ARA Arabic
BAV Bavarian
BEN Bengali
ENG English
FRA French
GER German
ITA Italian
KUR Kurdish
LIN Lingala
MAN Mandarin
POL Polish
POR Portuguese
SER Serer
SPA Spanish
SUA Swahili
TUR Turkish
WOL Wolof
DGS German Sign Language with simultaneous translation into Spoken German

River Without Banks

**On the flow velocity
and regulation of water, bodies and ideas**

Rivers are mythical places of transition and change.
They have always held a strong attraction for people -
shaping trade routes,
drawing settlements to their banks.

The Mülheim 'Market for Useful Knowledge and Non-Knowledge'
brings together 90 experts who will share their knowledge on a range of
themes connected with the Ruhr, Rhine and Emscher, global water cycles,
climate change and ecology in 190 one-on-one conversations.

Under the title 'River Without Banks', the Market will also recall
stories and mythologies in which the river symbolises
moments of transition and constant change.

**90 experts conduct
190 one-on-one conversations.**

Check-In

The conversations take place in six 30-minute rounds.
You will continuously have the option of booking in
for the next round of conversations. Our check-in desk
will open for the first round of conversations at 6 pm.
Each 30-minute conversation costs € 1.

Market Radio

You can follow a selection of the conversations
over eight channels of the Market Radio.
Headphones can be borrowed in the foyer.

Open continuously from 7 to 11 pm

Saturday, 03 February 2024

Check-In from 6 pm

Stadthalle Mülheim an der Ruhr

Free admission



**EN
CYCLO
PAE
DIA**

Virtual Water

Our daily life consumes vast quantities of water. Virtual water is a term for water consumption, including pollution and evaporation, that occurs in the manufacture of goods or food production. Miriam Schmalhaus from RWW Rheinisch-Westfälische Wasserwerksgesellschaft mbH explains our individual water footprints and the difference between green, blue and grey water.

» GER

Drinking Water and Diseases

Cholera, typhoid, hepatitis – before the early modern age it seemed unimaginable that diseases could be spread by contaminated drinking water. Only once the microscope had been invented were bacteria recognised as pathogens. Christian Schulze is a historian of medicine and an expert on how our awareness of how diseases are spread has developed through history. Even today, the lack of clean drinking water represents a significant health risk in many parts of the world.

» GER

A History of Waste Water in the Ruhr Region

The Emscher is the river essential to the fate of the region. As the North of the Ruhr was developed with coal mines, large-scale industries and residential areas, the Emscher increasingly turned into a conduit for waste water. With a Regulatory Law and the foundation of the Emschergenossenschaft in 1899, the decision was made to remodel the river as a waste water treatment system, in order – among other things – to prevent the regular flooding from toxic cesspools in winter. As an economic and technological historian whose research focuses on the history of energy, the environment and water, Dietmar Bleidick knows more than anyone else about the historical development of the Emscher in the context of the planning and development of the Ruhr region as a whole.

» GER

Waste Water as a Source of Information

Up to 1.000 man-made substances can be detected in German rivers. Water chemist, Ruhr Prize-winner and Chair of the Zentrum für Wasser- und Umweltforschung Torsten C. Schmidt knows what waste water can reveal about human beings and how their lives are changing. Not all substances are necessarily harmful, but they contain interesting information about the humans and other living creatures who live where the water has been sampled.

» GER / ENG

Imaging the Sewer

The artist Alina Schmuck has spent several months exploring the Emschergenossenschaft's picture archive. She has been interested in the photographs of the Emscher that were made to document and maintain the sewer system. While old photos present a classic visual aesthetic from a technical and engineering perspective, now images from inspection robots are correlated digitally with a wide range of data sets. Hyperrealistic 3D-models are generated, linked to images that can be checked for cracks or other damage to the sewer system.

» GER / ENG

Transformations of a Stream

The Gillbach epitomises the transformations that have taken place in the brown coal region by the Rhine. Its original source, Bethlehem Wald, was excavated a long time ago. Now the stream is fed by cooling water from Niederaussem coal-fired power station. If the phasing out of coal in NRW is completed by 2030 and the power station shuts down, the stream will no longer carry any water. Curator and cultural historian Nada Schroer uses the past and future of the Gillback to illustrate the local and global aspects of water cycles, and the concept of hydrofeminism.

» GER / ENG

Fluid Gender Identities

Trans activist, adviser and educator Rani Daniel Reschke is Chair of 1001plateau e.V. and runs the Transformations-Café in Duisburg and Düsseldorf. This is a meeting point for people with gender dysphoria – a mismatch between the gender they have been ascribed and the gender they feel themselves – and also for queer people. With the aid of drag elements, a space is created at the Transformations-Café that enables gender to be experienced while also facilitating experimentation with other roles.

» GER / ENG

Women in Mining

Coltan is required for technological devices such as mobile phones, screens and game consoles, as well as car and plane engines. This rare mineral columbite-tantalite has been mined since the 90s in South Kivu in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where it is estimated that 50.000 people now live from coltan mining. The activist and lawyer Olande Byamungu grew up in Congo and is an activist for the rights of women who work directly in and around the coltan mines. Many women carry sacks of rock from tunnels to rivers, where they knock the coltan off the rocks it is attached to and wash it out in the river water.

» GER / FRA / SUA / LIN

Investigating the Crime Scene

Running waters in Germany, the EU and around the world are severely endangered. For this reason, regular checks have to be made on the state of biodiversity in rivers. Biologist and nature photographer Robin Schütz uses a new DNA monitoring process to do this. From a one litre sample of river water, he is able to extract biological information and determine which living creatures have been present in the water. In this way it has been possible to detect pike, stoneflies, deer and diatoms. Almost as exciting as a detective story.

» GER / ENG

What's Left of Biodiversity

Even if individual species are returning, only approx. 20-30% of the animals remain in and along the Ruhr who once had their habitat here. We are unable to return to the nature that existed in pre-industrial times. Christa Schragmann works as an environmental educator at Haus Ruhrnatur and knows how we can imagine the situation in Mülheim around a thousand years ago: the river ran through a primary forest that had been here for thousands of years. What will the river look like in future?

» GER

Parasites Reflect a River's Condition

Sebastian Prati is an ecologist who studies parasites in running water. Which animal species are affected and what effects do parasites have on these animals' health? Do the parasites have a simple or complex life cycle – do they infect just one or several different animal species? His research allows some interesting conclusions to be reached about the diversity of species in rivers, as parasites reflect the biodiversity and numerous other processes that take place in the water.

» GER / ENG / FRA / ITA

Film → Film

From Acid Rain to Blue Skies

What narratives about ecological influences reach the public arena? In an intensive research process the artist Franziska Pierwoss has examined the influences of coal mining and industry on the health of local residents and nature. Beginning with air pollution in the 1960s, she traces public perceptions of environmental pollution to local water cycles in the Ruhr region.

» GER / ENG

Water and Coltan

For his series *landscapes and bodies*, documentary film and theatre maker Daniel Kötter has studied the effects of coal mining in Germany and in the global south. For the filmic promenade performance *Water & Coltan* he has examined water management as the burden inherited from coal mining in the Ruhr region and coltan mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The two case studies are linked by the myth of Tantalus, after which coltan was called columbite-tantalite. The Gods punish the King Tantalus, who stands in clear water in Hades, suffering from hunger and thirst. However, as soon as he lowers his bead to drink, the water disappears and Tantalus is left standing on dusty, black sand.

» GER / ENG

Water Birds on the Ruhr and Emscher

Biogeographer Tobias Rautenberg keeps an eye on the fluctuations in bird populations for the Biological Station of the Western Ruhr Region. He has personally been able to observe over 260 different bird species in the Ruhr region. The wetlands along the Ruhr are visited by more than 100 species every year. The popular favourite is of course the kingfisher in the Saarn-Mendener Ruhraue Nature Reserve.

» GER

Europe and the Ruhr

The Water Framework Directive is a powerful lever to protect and reconstruct natural habitats along Europe's waterways. Stefanie Krohn, an education officer from Haus Ruhrnatur, knows how much influence European law has had on nature conservation along the Ruhr. She demonstrates the effects that European and German national water policies have had on conservation on our own doorstep.

» GER

Biodiversity and Cryptic Species

Molecular ecologist Kamil Hupaló uses DNA-based research methods to investigate the biodiversity in bodies of freshwater. He has been able to observe that two animals that look almost identical actually belong to different species with unique genetic codes. These species, which are similar in form but genetically different, are called cryptic species. Scientists all over the world use DNA-based tools to discover these species and thus help us gain a better understanding of the evolution and incredible variety of life on earth.

» ENG / POL

Particular Waters: the Importance of Water to the Taiwanese Semi-Conductor Industry

Artist and film maker Su Yu Hsin conducts extensive field studies and research for her film works. This is also true for 'Particular Waters'. The film concerns the ecological and geopolitical effects of chip manufacturing in Taiwan, whose immense water consumption is the cause of local conflicts.

» ENG / MAN

Creating an Overflow of Thinking Together

A bankless river - a boundless idea. After a flood, the riverbank will change shape. As a dramaturg, one of the skills of Johanna-Yasirra Kluhs is sharing initially unfocussed or hazy ideas in joint conversations in order to create remarkable experiences. Alternating between listening and speaking, the river-lover Kluhs enters into a dialogue about blocked, dried up, diverted or flooded watercourses.

» GER / ENG / FRA

I am Made of Water

„Wenn ich fließe bin ich zu etwas nütze; bleibe ich stehen, werde ich eine Pfütze.“ All-round artist Peter-T. Schulz (Petoschu) cultivates conversation. In that conversation, ideas are collaboratively made to flow. Both parties have to fizz for a river to be created – and that river takes desire with it and carries it out to sea.

» GER

Grenzen ← **Borders****Flowing Borders**

The Benue in Nigeria and the Rhine in Germany are rivers that mark a range of borders. Both rivers can be used to illustrate and explain linguistic, state, ethnic and cultural borderlines, both now and as they have developed through history. The specialist in English linguistics Bridget Fonkeu refers to the cultural geography of both rivers to develop a reflection of this liquifying boundary.

» ENG / FRA / GER

Fear of the River

The best falafels in Mülheim an der Ruhr are at Isi Baba. The place is run by the gastronome Isi Omari. In his free time, he likes going for walks along the Ruhr. For him, rivers mean both life and danger. Because crossing a river or a sea can be very dangerous. There are many Kurdish songs that sing of the dangers of crossing from one bank to the other.

» GER / ARA / KUR

Grundwasser ← **Ground Water****Soils, Earth and Waters**

In his performance *Nobody's Soil - O chão de ninguém* the theatre-maker Gabriel Carneiro makes past, present and future connections between mining in his home region Minas Gerais in Brazil and the Ruhr region. Starting from the perspective and the knowledge of Brazil's indigenous peoples, in his works Carneiro gives a sensual and political voice to the soils and establishes a flowing movement of ideas between South America and North Rhine-Westphalia.

» GER / POR

Pit Water and Ground Water

Are we soon going to be walking around the Ruhr region in rubber boots? While continuous pumping keeps the water in the pits under the level of the water table, there are mining regions where old shafts and tunnels are gradually being flooded. Geoscientist and chemist Bastian Reker has made an intensive study of various approaches to pit water internationally – in particular in F out of water rance, Great Britain and Spain – and analysed and evaluated their experiences. He outlines various scenarios and possibilities of how and under which geological conditions pit and ground water can influence each other, including raising water tables and saturation and polder formation at surface level.

» GER / ENG

Heilung ← **Healing****Water as a Cure**

Saltwater baths, treading water and inhalations: water plays a significant role in medicine. But not all water is necessarily the same. Thermal and mineral waters can be used for different therapies according to their constitution, and a fizzing tablet dissolved in water works faster than swallowing a pill. Why this is the case, and why water can have a healing effect is something the pharmacist Katharina El Fezazi knows.

» GER

Infrastruktur ← **Infrastructure****Infrastructure in and on the Water**

Joachim Exner, Works Director for the city's businesses knows how important the Ruhr is to Mülheim. The Rhein-Ruhr Docks in Mülheim employs 6.500 people. The Weiße Flotte attracts over 65.000 visitors per year and, with the right water conditions, the Raffelberg hydroelectric plant produces green electricity. But how can this infrastructure also be maintained for the future? What challenges and prospects are there for the water location Mülheim an der Ruhr?

» GER

Locks, Weirs and Pump Works

As a mechanical engineer, Lars Bickmann is responsible on behalf of *Wasserstraßen- und Schifffahrtsamt Westdeutsche Kanäle* for the machinery of the waterway network and for building its own water transport fleet. He is in charge of the maintenance and upkeep of locks, weirs and pump houses on the Rhine-Herne Canal and along the length of the Ruhr from its mouth to Mülheim Docks. Bickmann is currently supervising the maintenance of the lower gates at Gelsenkirchen lock and will be happy to explain technical details of the machinery and how it operates.

» GER

“Reason for Discharge: Drowned during Disaster”

In the wartime night of 16 to 17 May 1943 the Möhne dam was breached by a bomb attack. A destructive flood wave rolled through the Möhne valley. At its confluence with the Ruhr in Arnsberg-Neheim, a camp with ten wooden barracks was situated on the riverbank. This was where 1.000 forced labourers lived from the Donetsk region in what is now Ukraine. Over 700 of these women drowned because they were unable to escape from barracks that were surrounded with barbed wire. The artist Astrid Breuer discovered 17 old personnel files in Arnsberg City Archive with passport photos of the women who drowned. In a project with 17 school students she then initiated an artistic encounter with the forgotten dead.

» GER

Climate → Klima

Living with rather than against the river

Bangladesh is formed by three giant rivers: the Brahmaputra, the Ganges and the Meghna. It is part of the people of Bangladesh's cultural practice to live with the constantly changing river flows, floods and islands of alluvial land. Climate change is now making weather events more erratic, which is an existential threat to the people in Bangladesh, but at the same time leads to new strategies of climate resilience, as cultural scholar and board member of the association Netz Bangladesch Juliane Rytz explains.

» GER / ENG

Warning of Extreme Weather

The forecasts of weather services and local agencies for heavy rains and floods are often imprecise. Along with his team, Markus Quirmbach, Professor of Hydrology at the University in Mülheim an der Ruhr, is developing dynamic, AI-based forecasting techniques. So that, in future, people and emergency services should receive faster warnings and how floods are handled should improve in the long term.

» GER

Bodily Fluids → Körperflüssigkeiten

All Humours in Balance

Blood, phlegm, yellow and black bile: the theory of the humours was a generally acknowledged science of human health for more than 2.000 years. Assuming the four bodily fluids are harmoniously balanced in a healthy state, diseases were regarded as a mismatch and imbalance of fluids. The historian of medicine Christian Schulze explains what radical shifts of thinking about medical knowledge were needed for the circulation of fluids in the human body to be recognised.

» GER

Landscape → Landschaft

The Calm and Power of the River

Gerd Kampf is a passionate canoeist. He has undertaken river tours lasting several days – not only on the Ruhr but also on many other German rivers. When a devastating wave of flooding swept through the Ahr valley in July 2021, Mülheim Canoe Club established a flood relief organisation. Gerd Kampf did not hesitate and spent a total of three weeks working as a volunteer flood relief worker in the Ahr valley.

» GER

How can we do something?

This was the first question the writer Kathrin Röggla asked when she wrote her play *Das Wasser*. In it we learn about dealing with flood disasters, the worst droughts of the century, gluts and stifling bureaucracy as a result of extensive research on the banks of the Elbe, Rhine and other rivers. And that our life will change because rivers change. But how we be told stories about water that carry us away on a stream of events? What narratives are required to do this? And what is a disaster?

» GER / ENG

Currents and Climate

Michael Schmitt is a physical chemist who is active with *Scientists for Future*. Part of his research is devoted to currents of ultra-cold gases and atmospheric changes. Such changes can have a massive influence on systems in the atmosphere (such as the jetstream) and in the world's seas (gulf stream, el niño) with enormous effects on the climate and weather events around the world.

» GER / ENG / SPA

The River is Energy

With the increasing effects of climate change, water and the river are becoming more important for Mülheim an der Ruhr and its people. With new technologies, the Ruhr could potentially be used to generate energy and warmth that is free from emissions with water-source heat pumps. Water plays a significant role in climate adaptation, in heavy rainfall and flooding events, but also in periods of hot weather. However, as Head of the Climate Protection and Climate Adaptation Unit, Ulrike Marx knows what each individual citizen can do.

» GER

Equable Living Conditions

Social planning works to create living conditions that demonstrate fairness and equality of opportunity. Incontinence is one subject that is taboo. People who suffer from incontinence (a weak bladder) are in danger of unacknowledged social isolation due to a lack of participation. It is important to break down barriers in all areas of society and to make the city and our society more inclusive; and in particular to raise awareness of issues that are associated with shame. Social planner Jörg Marx invites you to discuss these “taboo subjects” with him.

» GER

The Ruhr, a Region of Legend

The ruined castle of Hardenstein that lies on the Ruhr in Witten-Herbede, is a place of legend. The dwarf king Goldemar once laid a curse on the castle that persists to this day. The Doctor of Theology and author Dirk Sondermann knows how this came about. The “High Priest of Ruhr sagas” (WAZ) has spent decades collecting, localising and publishing mystic stories about the region.

» GER

Raqqa on the Rhine

Writer, curator and archaeologist Jabbar Abdullah grew up on the bank of the Euphrates in Raqqa, Syria. The flow of water, its sounds and noises, swimming in the river, fish and food: when he was a child, everything relied on the presence of the Euphrates. In his novel *Raqqa on the Rhine*, he describes how Syria changed as a result of Al-Assad's dictatorship and how he made his way to Germany.

» GER / ARA

Anapolitan Stories The literary and cultural scholar Nesrin Tanç has made an intensive study of the literature of so-called Turkish "guest workers" in the Ruhr region from the 60s to the 90s. With the aid of literary maps, she has constructed narrative geographies on which rivers and roads are overlaid with fictional and true stories from literary descriptions of social realities. Starting with the story collection *Im Zug nach Duisburg* (On the Train to Duisburg) by Fakir Baykurt and Turkish language songs from the period, Tanç recounts traces and memories of Anatolia along the banks of the Rhine.

» GER / TÜR / ENG

The River as a Mirror

The River Barada in Damascus was a paradise in the heart of the city up until the 70s. Barada can be translated as "river of paradise", or, in ancient Greek, "river of gold." However, since the Al-Assad dictatorship, the river has been blocked off with concrete, filled with rubbish and polluted by unfiltered water from factories. Today the river symbolises the state of Syrian society under the dictatorship. The poet Lina Atfah talks about the meaning of water and rivers in her own poems and in Arabic literature: here water represents illusion: a fata morgana in which one's own life is reflected.

» GER / ENG / ARA

Rowing on the Thames: An Historical Grassroots Sport Movement

In the mid-19th century rowing emerged as a new grassroots sport movement in England. The publication of the Jerome K. Jerome's book *Three Men in a Boat* in 1889 then popularised the sport beyond the English-speaking world. The Mülheim boat dealer Ralf-Peter Stumme has rowed on the Thames himself and followed the story of the novel.

» GER

Go as a River

The Mülheim bookseller Petra Büse-Leringer could list many books in which rivers play a significant role or the language flows like a river. However, she particularly enjoys talking about *Go as a River* (In German: *So weit der Fluss uns trägt*). Shelley Read's novel is set at the foot of the Colorado mountains. Here the Gunnison River flows, on whose bank the protagonist Victoria is living in the 1940s. A courageous woman with a strong affinity for nature.

» GER

Emscher Stories

"Rivers play such an important role for the Ruhr region but they are absent in how it is perceived." The author Sarah Meyer-Dietrich grew up by the Emscher herself. As well as writing about the river in her biography and her own works, she also spent five years running the fiction project *FlussLandStadt. Eure Heimat – euer Roman* in countless writing workshops with a total of 460 young people, gathering stories about all aspects of the Emscher.

» GER / ENG

Timber Rafting on the Rhine

The peak period for timber rafting on the Rhine began in pre-industrial times in the 17th century, still during the so-called Age of Wood. In those days, gigantic rafts with crews of up to 500 men would take timber from the Vosges and the Black Forest as far as Holland. The historian and former Director of the Siebengebirgsmuseum in Königswinter am Rhein Elmar Scheuren has researched how these rafts – the only ones of their kind in the world – came to be built on the Rhine.

» GER / FRA

Aesthetics of a Logistics Hub

The Ruhr region has lived through one structural change after another, at increasingly short intervals: from coal mining to the car industry and on to logistics hubs for DHL and Amazon. What will logistics look like in future? In their multimedia installation *in the flood* the artists Lex Rütten and Jana Kerima Stolzer look at the future of logistics, transport robots, the merging of workers and machines, swarms and the sensual manifestation of logistics hubs.

» GER / ENG

Everything in a Flow of Goods?

Global logistics companies advertise with the illusion of being able to manage space and time. Here supply chains are a ballet of objects conducted with ease and panache in which actual infrastructures, geographical obstacles and the working conditions of much of their labour force are invisible. The dramaturg and choreographer Moritz Frischkorn has conducted an intensive examination of advertising images for global logistics. In addition to the images that companies

present of themselves, he also talks about the trade that sends second-hand goods to Gambia and Ghana. As an artistic interaction by the African Terminal through geheimagentur in Hamburg, subversive interventions were made in the workings of logistics through informal networks.

» GER / ENG

Stories of Shipping on the Ruhr

Mülheim an der Ruhr remains an active port to this day. After the river was made navigable, the first Ruhr aak laden with hard coal passed through Mülheim lock on 5 June 1780. During the 19th century the Ruhr rapidly developed into the principal transport route for this emergent industrial region. The historian Olaf Schmidt-Rutsch tells of the rise and fall of shipping on the Ruhr in the context of decisions on transport policy, territorial wrangling and investments along the river.

» GER / ENG

Artery of the Ruhr Region

The construction and development of the Rhine-Herne Canal was determined and shaped by industrial development in the Ruhr region. Olaf Schmidt-Rutsch lives in Herne and has studied the history of the canal as a historian. One of its spiritual fathers was the Irish industrialist William Thomas Mulvany. As early as the second half of the 19th century, he wanted to use a canal to connect his two productive mines the Hibernia in Gelsenkirchen and the Shamrock in Herne to an efficient transport network.

» GER / ENG

Mülheim by the Sea – A City Writes a Play

In 2008, to mark the 200th anniversary of the City of Mülheim an der Ruhr, a play was to be created from the history and stories of Mülheim. Blue letter boxes were set up all over the city, in which people could leave stories they had written down and a café was opened in a shop to which all Mülheimer residents were invited to come and share stories or old photos and diaries. Listening to them was the author and dramaturg Gabriele Gillen. She gathered, sorted and archived this stream of memories.

» GER

Musicality Flows Through the Body

Deniz means sea in Turkish and music flows through the artist Deniz Czempik like water through her body. The motion of a conveyor belt at the port in Duisburg or noises from other industrial factories might set the rhythm. The artist is constantly on the look out for compelling rhythms that will establish suspense for her DJ sets. Because music has the potential to alter states and to transition from a wild, driving moment into relief: like a torrential stream that ultimately flows into the sea.

» GER / TÜR

Migration → Migration

About the Migration of Plants

Buddleias, Himalayan balsam and acanthus – along the Emscher and other industrially-formed landscapes, non-native plants often feel particularly at home. These plants come from other parts of the world and were spread directly or indirectly, consciously or unconsciously by human beings. Descriptions of these plants often veer between outright opposition and exaggerated claims that they are the solution when “invasive species” defy climate change or clean polluted soils. The artists Lex Rütten and Jana Kerima Stolzer are interested in all aspects of how these particular plant species are perceived.

» GER / ENG

Music → Musik

Songs of the Nile or How Does One Mourn the Loss of a River?

The Aswan High Dam in Upper Egypt is one of the largest embankment dams in the world. In order to dam the Nile, many Nubian communities were expelled and robbed of their livelihoods, living on and with the river. The Nubians sing many songs describing the loss they have suffered of the cultural and spiritual practices that were closely associated with the river. Cultural historian Alia Mossallam is researching these songs, which offer unique insights into the communities of the Nubian river peoples.

» ARA / ENG

The Sound of the Ruhr

Einar Fehrholz is a musician and sound designer. During the pandemic he spent six months conducting artistic research into the Ruhr together with the British artist duo *Studio Above&Below*. From its source in the Rothaar mountains to its mouth in Duisburg, he has made underwater recordings of the Ruhr as well as using other multimedia techniques to gather a variety of materials. From this research he has created the short film *Aquateque*, the futuristic and speculative portrait of a river.

» GER / ENG

Sea Woman's Twine

Out of every 100 ships that arrive at the port of Hamburg, on average only one has a female Captain. For over 10 years the Hamburg-based artists' collective geheimagentur has conducted an intensive study of ports, cruises and overseas transport with their patriarchal and mostly sexist employment structures. In particular the few women who are Captains, activists or academics, campaign for equal access within ports and the transport industry across the world's oceans, for sea rescue and social working conditions at sea. geheimagentur presents international activists, researchers and seafarers who have come into contact with each other in their project *Women of the Seven Seas*.

» GER / ENG

It Flows to the Sea

While his father lay dying, the actor voice artist and former Artistic Director in Duisburg Rupert Seidl set off on his bike and rode down the bank of the Rhine as far as Freiburg, where he arrived at his father's house 10 days later. Along the way, he called him every day to tell him about the landscape, places and people he had met. He can still remember many of the places he stopped today.

» GER / BAV / ENG / FRA

The Essentiality of Nature

The children's book author Petra Postert spent many years working on her 2023 novel *Flussabwärts nach Amerika* (Downstream to America). The story is set at the end of the 18th century and tells of the journey of Jacob, who sets off down river from a village in the Oberrhein heading for America. The author allows her readers to immerse themselves in historical riverscapes, gives the Rhine its own voice and presents impressives descriptions of the stories of the people who then lived on the banks of the river.

» GER

Electronic Music is Based on Flowing Transitions

For 13 years DSCHIRI has organised raves at uninhabited locations close to the Ruhr or the Rhine. Everything for a big party is set up in secret on the river bank: generators are brought in, sound systems and lights installed. Then, when the DJs play surrounded by nature and the electronic music really begins to flow, the ravers dance all through the night and then swim in the river at dawn.

» GER / ENG

In the End it's Got to Flow

Musician and composer Christoph Clöser knows that the river can also flow very slowly. With the dark jazz band he founded in Mülheim an der Ruhr in 1988, *Bohren & der Club of Gore*, he often gets close to stasis – without ever crossing the line. Clöser tells of the pitfalls of composition and the dramaturgy of a thick-flowing music that stretches time and space and is so slow that during a concert we descend to the bottom of another world while all waiting for the next note to be played.

» GER / FRA

Many More Secrets Lie Hidden on the Bank of the Ruhr

As a child, the writer and dramaturg Dorothea Renckhoff frequently spend her holidays with her grandparents in Mülheim an der Ruhr. She wrote the libretto for the Ruhr opera *Das Hexenfloss* for RUHR.2010 – European Capital of Culture. The opera remained unperformed due to financial reasons. However, her research into the myths, stories and sagas entwined around the Ruhr and its banks is so rich that she has a lot to tell about them.

» GER

Sacred River Goddesses

The businessman Jaydeb Kurma Sadhu originally comes from Bangladesh and has made an extensive study of Hindu mythology. In India, rivers are not only sacred, they are the personified, living watery forms of the goddesses Ganga, Yamuna and Narmada, that live in the river. Now many of these sacred rivers are irredeemably polluted. The traditional practice of bathing in the river as a form of spiritual purification is carried on nevertheless.

» ENG / BEN

Aleppo and Mülheim an der Ruhr

Cultural manager Omar Mohamad uses maps to tell of the similarities and differences between the two cities. The Queiq River (also called the Aleppo River) was diverted for an irrigation project in Turkey, so the river bed in Syria completely dried out. Now water from the Euphrates has been diverted into the Queiq Canal in Aleppo. Omar Mohamad traces connections through the transcultural societies in Aleppo and Mülheim to refreshing walks in the green spaces along the Ruhr.

» GER / ARA / TÜR / ENG

Situations on the Bank

Riverbanks are special places. As a curator, Marijke Lukowicz is in charge of positioning and contextualising artworks along the Emscherkunstweg (Emscher Art Trail) from the source to the mouth of the river. As well as the transformation of this former sewer, she is also currently working in connection with the sources in Paderborn city centre and the situation of the Pader as Germany's shortest river.

» GER / ENG

Bridge Stories from the Ruhr

In Mülheim there used to be a ford that enabled you to cross the river perfectly well without a bridge. Around 1830 there were countless ferries but just 20 fixed bridges across the Ruhr. Now there are some 160 bridges along the 200-odd kilometres from the source to the mouth. The passionate local historian Peter Bankmann can use many of the bridges to tell of the social and economic changes that have taken place along the river; whether it is the oldest remaining bridge over the Mühlengraben in Kettwig, the artfully constructed chain bridge from 1844 as a forgotten landmark of Mülheim or the Ruhrtal Bridge built in 1966 that inspired Gerhard Richter. The mighty railway viaducts in Herdecke and Witten also continue to shape the Ruhr valley to this day.

» GER

Immutable Process

The insight that everything is in a state of flux is fundamentally at odds with the human need for stability, security and control. Starting with the intellectual traditions of the Frankfurt School, dramaturg and Artistic Director Helmut Schäfer explains his own ways of thinking about human beings' inner streams of language and thought.

» GER / ENG

Is Everything Really Flowing and Everything Bankless?

The philosopher Peter Leitzen is the founder and organiser of the philosophical Evening Café in Mülheim an der Ruhr. He is interested in the philosophical dimension of the image of a "river without banks" and the ideas associated with it about the possibilities and boundaries of our knowledge: is everything really flowing and everything bankless? Perhaps it is possible to span an arc from the pre-Socratics to present day theories?

» GER

Dipping Into Biblical River Landscapes

Water as an idyllic image of the fullness of life in the desert, the river as a threatening obstacle on the way to the promised land, or the riverbank as a place that exiles pine for: Matthias Göttert, an Evangelical priest from Mülheim an der Ruhr who himself grew up in the Ahr valley, associates rivers with numerous images and events from the Bible, which can stimulate and guide the flow of conversation.

» GER / ENG

Rescue → Rettung

Nothing But Water in Every Direction

The Mediterranean is one of the most dangerous borders in the world. In 2023 alone, more than 2,500 refugees drowned attempting to cross the Mediterranean. There are practically no state-run sea rescue services, so NGOs often take on this role. Doctor Verena Würz has already undertaken three Sea Watch missions in the Mediterranean. She knows the hopelessness and desperation people feel when there is nothing but sea in every direction and no land in sight.

» GER

Fire Brigade Water Missions

When the fire brigade in Mülheim an der Ruhr is called out to an incident on water, it is highly likely that Björn Roller, chief fire fighter (HBMz) and senior diving instructor, will be there. In addition to rescue and fire call outs, he also takes part in numerous missions in and on the water. The range of incidents is very wide and includes rescuing and recovering people from the water to freeing waterfowl that are stuck on anglers' hooks and securing rowing boats that are adrift on the Ruhr.

» GER

Sport → Sport

Unremitting: Art & Fitness

Without Banks – on the water this means: unremitting, incessant, neverending. Fanti Baum is an artist and world champion canoeist. But what is the relationship between art and fitness? How does she do it: keep moving or get tough? – Whether she is on the water or in the art world? She is great at talking shop (or arm wrestling): about anaerobic thresholds and unbounded activities, trials of strength and exhaustion, hope and disappointment or, along with Kathy Acker recognising: *nothing but failure*.

» GER

No River Journey is the Same Twice

Ralf-Peter Stumme is a boat dealer and the only gondolier on the Ruhr. As long as the weather and water conditions permit, he will set out on the river in one of his boats. A meditative practice, in which the movements and reflections of the water appear different every day.

» GER

Urban Development → Stadtentwicklung

The River Makes the City Worth Living In

Mülheim born and bred, Ann-Kathrin Allekotte was part of the theatre collective Ruhrorter, is a party and faction member of Bündnis 90/DIE GRÜNEN and for the last three years has been Deputy Mayor of the city of Mülheim an der Ruhr. She appreciates the river as a recreation area and place of calm. As well as improving the quality of life, the Ruhr also offers opportunities for activities for numerous rowing, canoeing and sport clubs who play an important role building communities within the city. The Ruhr is also a significant factor for tourism and the economy in the city.

» GER / ENG

City History Along the Ruhr

For the State Garden Show in Mülheim a lengthy strip of landscape running alongside the Ruhr was dedicated to nature and leisure. Important buildings run the length of the site that tell of the city's history: from Kloster Saarn via Schloss Broich and the Ringlokschuppen to the Wasserturm and Schloss Styrum. As a tourist guide and board member of Mülheim an der Ruhr Historical Association, Beate Fischer knows many stories and anecdotes about the eventful past of these historic buildings.

» GER

City on and in the River

The historian and former Head of Mülheim an der Ruhr's City Archive Kai Rawe knows how influential the river has been in the city's history. Historically, the Ruhr separates and links four distinct spheres of interest: the Kirchenhügel, Broich, Saarn and Styrum. It is not only the city's industrial history that cannot be told without the Ruhr, but also how society in the city originated and developed.

» GER / ENG

Reconciling the City with the River

The Ruhr is the favourite place of the people in Mülheim. In no other city in the region is the river such a bold presence in the cityscape as it is here. However, this could not be taken for granted. How it came about, with the completion of the MÜGa, the establishment of the Aquarius Wassermuseum and the Haus Ruhrnatur, the Ruhr valley cycle way and the strategic development project Ruhrbania, is something Former Mayor Dagmar Mühlenfeld can explain.

» GER

Change is the Ruhr region's DNA

Der Rauch verbindet die Städte nicht mehr is the title of the journalist and long-time culture correspondent for the Frankfurter Allgemeine Andreas Rossmann's book about the Ruhr region. He gathers together twenty years of reporting (1991-2011) and moulds this into a portrait of the region that has been exposed to profound structural change over recent decades. The losses and dislocation have been substantial, however, scope has also been created for new uses and developments. The reconstruction of the Emscher, Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord and Zeche Zollverein are examples of sites for this fluid transformation.

» GER / ENG / ITA

From the Textile to the Leather Industry

For a long time, Troost's cotton mill was the biggest employer in Mülheim an der Ruhr. After the textile business declined in the middle of the 19th century, industrial tannery emerged as the most important branch of the economy. Ursula Hilberath chairs Mülheim an der Ruhr Historical Association and can tell us how the city's economic development depended on its position on the river and its numerous streams.

» GER

The Future of the Emscher

Separating waste water and river water, the reconstruction of the Emscher has been complete since 2022: The flowing waters are free of sewage, and further revitalisation will take place along the main watercourse and the side rivers in years to come. As the overall co-ordinator of these transformation processes, the sociologist and social planning expert Stephan Treuke works on issues connected with the river's future: appropriate flood defences, further ecological improvements to the water and bank areas to protect biodiversity, as well as supplying sewage treatment and pump works with regenerative energy.

» GER / ENG / POR

How Does Water Arrive in the Tap?

The fact that drinking water comes out of taps is something we take for granted. Over 5 million people in the Ruhr region are supplied with river water from the Ruhr. Miriam Schmalhaus from RWW Rheinisch-Westfälische Wasserwerksgesellschaft mbH explains how drinking water is treated using the Mülheim process and how it is transported into your home.

» GER

Tap Water is Drinking Water

The initiative *a tip: tap* advocates the advantages of tap water: it's cheap, it's healthy and it's good for the environment! By drinking tap water, we can all make savings on plastic waste, CO2, money and transport. As a communications manager, Anne Fetscher reports on the "NRWasserwende", which isn't just happening in Mülheim-Styrum.

» GER / ENG

How is Tainted Water Made Clean Again?

Microbiologist and chemist Beate Krok has a special interest in small organisms that have big effects on chemical processes. Together with her colleagues she has discovered that iron oxides are very helpful in removing residues from waste water. In this way, water may be cleaned directly in ground water without needing complex arrangements for pumping it to the surface.

» GER / ENG

The Ruhr is a Lunar Landscape

For Luca Schöneich, lead firefighter (OBM) and a diver with Mülheim fire brigade, when he is diving, the Ruhr looks like a lunar landscape. Usually it is only possible to see one arm's length ahead as the water is so cloudy. However, ships and other noises can be heard very clearly. How people or animals can be rescued from the water under such conditions is something he will have to tell you himself.

» GER

The Comeback of the Emscher Bullhead

In the upper reaches of the Boye, an inflow of the Emscher in Bottrop and Gelsenkirchen, a tiny fish, the Emscher bullhead, has survived. While the Emscher was an open sewer that was biologically dead for over 150 years, various species of fish are now returning or have been deliberately resettled there. Landscape ecologist Gunnar Jacobs reports how diverse habitation of the river is progressing thanks to aquatic ecological measures.

» GER

Opting Out of the Everyday Flow

Locuratolo (abbreviated to: Locu) deliberately opts out of the everyday flow as a person and as an artist to explore the question: how can a person withdraw from the flood of stimuli in everyday life in order to experience a life at peace with themselves and their environment? This artistic research focuses on activating the body's own healing processes, positioning and deconstructing concepts. With lengthy durational performances, the acceptance of various gender identities, fasting, meditation and standing still, Locu's artistic practices are inseparable from life.

GER / ENG

Can Fog Make Particles Visible That Can't Otherwise be Seen?

The works of sculptor Marcel Große have names like *Snapshot in Time*, *Black Box* and *Sinus*. He has already collaborated on many occasions with DESY, the German Electron Synchrotron, a research centre for pure scientific research based in Hamburg. Here he has discovered a fog chamber that has led him to the question: what is moving in fog?

GER

On the Way to New Banks on the Ruhr

On cycle tours along the Ruhr from Duisburg to Mülheim there are numerous art works in public spaces. These encourage the viewer to reassess their own perceptions of the environment and the everyday and to look at the river, nature and our lives differently. The author, photographer and art lover Peter E. Rytz reports on altered perceptions and new ways of seeing.

» GER

Watery Hearing and Fluid Communication

Julia Klunker is a master goldsmith, special needs educator and, from birth, hearing impaired bordering on deafness. When she is swimming, it is possible for her to perceive sounds – because water communicates sound differently. She is also intensively engaged with how German Sign Language (DGS) can be better integrated into teaching and everyday life, in order to make fluent communication easier for deaf people.

» German Sign Language (DGS) with simultaneous translation into spoken German

The Language of Rivers

In November 2023 the six-part radio drama series *Die Konferenz der Flüsse* was broadcast by Deutschlandfunk and won the award for "Radio Play of the Month". For the first time, the world's rivers are taking part in a collective meeting. The reason is the situation the earth is in, with man-made climate change and its severe effects on rivers. However, how can rivers be dramatised and what language do they speak? The translator and director Leopold von Verschuer has adapted the text, directed the piece and created a multi-lingual listening experience.

» GER / FRA / ENG

Water as Lifestyle

You are what you drink. There is water from the tap, from the discount store in PET bottles or water in designer glass bottles that promise a lifestyle of your own through a range of advertising methods. Museum educator Beate te Kloot from RWW Rheinisch-Westfälische Wasserwerksgesellschaft mbH regularly conducts a variety of water tastings. Here you can find the water that tastes best to you and discover the difference between drinking, mineral, healing and table waters.

» GER

Colonial Continuities

Lac Retba (pink lake) is a saltwater lake North East of the Senegalese capital Dakar. The salts recovered from the lake are therapeutic and are used in creams, facemasks and footbaths. Adviser on political development, diversity coach and holder of the ONE WORLD medal Gilberte Raymonde Mandel-Driesen invites you to take a footbath with salt from the pink lake. While she does so, she reflects on which colonial continuities can still be felt in Senegal today with regard to resources, water and rivers.

» GER / FRA / WOL / SER

Making Invisible Data Streams Visible

Why is it still worthwhile organising a *Market for Useful Knowledge and Non-Knowledge* these days when you can just ask ChatGPT or some other AI? Hasan M Hera works in IT. It fascinates him how data networks operate and how we are constantly connected to them. But how can these data streams be made visible?

» GER / ENG / BEN

The *Market for Useful Knowledge and Non-Knowledge* is a dialogue project that regards disagreement as an important form of topical speech – provided both partners in the dialogue conduct any conflict respectfully. Should any expert or client require support or advice during a conversation at the Mülheim Market, Ella Steinmann can be called to the table as a mediator. Her advice can only be booked directly at the table. Please make a hand signal to your arena host/ess.

Ella Steinmann is a diversity manager working on discriminatory-critical working practices in the field of art and culture.

Curation: Anna Bründl, Jonas Leifert
Curatorial Advisory Board: Paulina Abufhele
Meza, Hasan M Hera, Karola Szabó
Production Manager: Susanne Berthold
Set Design: Cordula Körber
Technical Director: Julius Kindermann
Production Assistance: Melissa Müller
Technicians: Pascal Gehrke, Ronja Große, Torben
Kummerfeld, Timo Löffler, Henning Pszczola
Make-Up: Suzana Schönwald
Graphic Design: Malte Jehmlich - sputnic visual arts
Translation: David Tushingham
Photos: Björn Stork
Licensee: vier.ruhr - Die Mülheimer Theaterallianz
Licensor: Hannah Hurtzig - Mobile Akademie Berlin

Arena

Manager: Philipp Hochleichter
Host*esses: Silvia Ehnis, Dzenny Samardzic,
Sarah Wessels, Anna-Luella Zahner
Runners: Elisa Marschall

Client Check-In

Time management: Melissa Müller
Host*esses: Anna-Júlia Amaral, Philipp Hohmann, Laron Janus, Rika Sakalak
Announcer: Marie Schulte-Werning
Info & Complaints: Judith Altmeyer
Market-Radio counter: Annie Ramroth, Fabian Wüst

Expert Check-In

Host*esses: Pascal Jung, Claudia Link

The title of the Mülheim Market has been taken from the trilogy of novels by Hans Henny Jahn *Fluss ohne Ufer* (River Without Banks)



