

## FRIAS Conference Hush! Practicing Silence in Literature and Culture

Program (February 2026)

Organizers:

Anne Rügemeier & Sophia Philomena Wolf

### Wednesday, April 15, 2026

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| 13:00 - 13:30 | Registration (FRIAS Lounge)  |
| 13:30 - 14:00 | Welcome and Opening Remarks (FRIAS Seminar room)<br>Welcome Address FRIAS Director Ralf von den Hoff   |
| 14:00 - 15:15 | <u>Keynote I</u><br>Kate McLoughlin (Oxford): Stargazing: On Literary Silences   |
| 15:15 - 15:45 | Coffee break (FRIAS Lounge)  |
| 15:45 - 17:45 | <u>Panel 1: Silence in Contemporary Literature</u><br><br>Jessica Bundschuh (Stuttgart): The Mediation of Silence in the Irish Poetic Sequence<br><br>Sarah Heinz (Vienna): Quiet Homes, Loud Thoughts: Internalized Silencing and the Challenge to Home as Sanctuary in the British Lockdown Novel<br><br>Kelly Schmidt (Freiburg): Silence and Movement in the Contemporary Scottish Novel<br><br>Emily Hogg (Southern Denmark): Attending to Thought in Mindfulness Practices and in the Contemporary Novel |
| 18:00 - 20:00 | Welcome Reception (FRIAS Lounge)   |

### Thursday, April 16, 2026

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| 9:00 - 10:15  | <u>Keynote II</u><br>Nathalie Aghoro (LMU Munich): Quiet Expressions: On the Politics and Poetics of Silence   |
| 10:15 - 10:45 | Coffee break (FRIAS Lounge)  |
| 10:45 - 12:45 | <u>Panel 2: Silence, Power, and Marginalized Voices</u><br><br>Corinna Assmann (Heidelberg) and Miriam Neuhausen (Heidelberg): Internalizing the Closet: Embodied Silence<br><br>Alexandra Effe (Oslo): The Narrative Voice of Silence: Free Indirect Discourse and Listening through the Mute Protagonist of Alexis Wright's <i>Swan Book</i> (2013)<br><br>Christina Slopek-Hauff (Dortmund): Experiencing Dementia and Mental Distress: Queer Secrets and Oppressive Silences in Jacqueline Roy<br><br>Amy Leshinsky (Curry College) and Rachel McCormack (Roger Williams University of Bristol): Teaching the Unspoken: Educator Perceptions of Teacher Responsibility to Teach Frequently Censored Topics in U.S. K-12 Classrooms |
| 12:45 - 14:00 | Lunch break (FRIAS Lounge)   |

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### Thursday, April 16, 2026

- 14:00 - 14:30     Silence and Psychology  
Stefan Schmidt (Freiburg): "Guard the silence and the silence will guard you": Silence in Psychology and Mindfulness Practice
- 14:30 - 15:00     Guided Mindfulness Exercise  
Henrik Röhr (Freiburg)
- 15:00 - 16:15     Keynote III  
Barbara Postema (Groningen): (Silent) Comics and Depictions of Silence
- 16:15 - 17:00     Coffee break (FRIAS Lounge) / Mindfulness Walk  
Grab a coffee-to-go and join us for a walk to Freiburg's Old Cemetery
- 17:00 - 18:30     Panel 3: Silence and Media  
  
Katrin Röder (Dortmund): The Affective Force of Silences in Contemporary British Deaf Poetry and Performance  
  
Kalina Kupczynska (Lodz): Muted Surfaces – Depicting the (Silenced) Discourses of Radioactivity in Lauren Redniss' *Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie, a Tale of Love and Fallout* (2010)  
  
Monja Schünemann (Magdeburg): As Quiet as the Rustling of Leaves? The Soundscape of Hospital Rooms from 1800 to 2025 and the Question of Whether Silence is Healing
- 19:00             Conference Dinner  
Location: Restaurant "Blauer Fuchs" (Metzgerau 4, 79098 Freiburg)

### Friday, April 17, 2026

- 9:00 - 10:15     Keynote IV  
Anne Koch (Freiburg): Empty Sound, Quiet Mind, and Ecological Listening: Performances of Silence in Contemporary Religion
- 10:15 - 10:45     Coffee break (FRIAS Lounge)
- 10:45 - 12:15     Panel 4: Performing Silence  
  
Katie Harling-Lee (Edinburgh): Quiet Literary Listening: Quaker Silence in *The Deepening Stream* by Dorothy Canfield Fisher (1879–1958)  
  
Lara Stich (LMU Munich): Ambiguous Endings: Isabella's Silence in *Measure for Measure* and Its Performance Histories  
  
Danielle Drees (Emerson College): Change the World Overnight: Silence and Sleep as Feminist Performance Strategies
- 12:15 - 13:15     Lunch break (FRIAS Lounge)
- 13:15 - 14:00     Roundtable  
Letting Mute Walls Speak: Evaluation of the Silent Discussion
- 14:00 - 14:15     Final Remarks