

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

### Program (February 2026)

#### Organizers:

Anne Rüggemeier & Sophia Philomena Wolf

### Wednesday, April 15, 2026

13:00 - 13:30 Registration (FRIAS Lounge)

13:30 - 14:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks (FRIAS Seminar room)  
Welcome Address FRIAS Director Ralf von den Hoff

14:00 - 15:15 Keynote I  
Kate McLoughlin (Oxford): Stargazing: On Literary Silences

**15:15 - 15:45** Coffee break (FRIAS Lounge)

15:45 - 17:45 Panel 1: Silence in Contemporary Literature  
Jessica Bundschuh (Stuttgart): The Mediation of Silence in the Irish Poetic Sequence  
Sarah Heinz (Vienna): Quiet Homes, Loud Thoughts: Internalized Silencing and the Challenge to Home as Sanctuary in the British Lockdown Novel  
Kelly Schmidt (Freiburg): Silence and Movement in the Contemporary Scottish Novel  
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

9:00 - 10:15 Keynote II  
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 Panel 2: Silence, Power, and Marginalized Voices  
Corinna Assmann (Heidelberg) and Miriam Neuhausen (Heidelberg): Internalizing the Closet: Embodied Silence  
Alexandra Effe (Oslo): The Narrative Voice of Silence: Free Indirect Discourse and Listening through the Mute Protagonist of Alexis Wright's *Swan Book* (2013)  
Christina Slopek-Hauff (Dortmund): Experiencing Dementia and Mental Distress: Queer Secrets and Oppressive Silences in Jacqueline Roy  
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	<u>Silence and Psychology</u> Stefan Schmidt (Freiburg): "Guard the silence and the silence will guard you": Silence in Psychology and Mindfulness Practice
14:30 - 15:00	<u>Guided Mindfulness Exercise</u> Henrik Röhr (Freiburg)
15:00 - 16:15	<u>Keynote III</u> Barbara Postema (Groningen): (Silent) Comics and Depictions of Silence
16:15 - 17:00	<u>Coffee break (FRIAS Lounge) / Mindfulness Walk</u> <u>Grab a coffee-to-go and join us for a walk to Freiburg's Old Cemetery</u>
17:00 - 18:30	<u>Panel 3: Silence and Media</u>  Katrín 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' <i>Radioactive: Marie &amp; Pierre Curie, a Tale of Love and Fallout</i> (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	<u>Conference Dinner</u> Location: Restaurant "Blauer Fuchs" (Metzgerau 4, 79098 Freiburg)

### Friday, April 17, 2026

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