

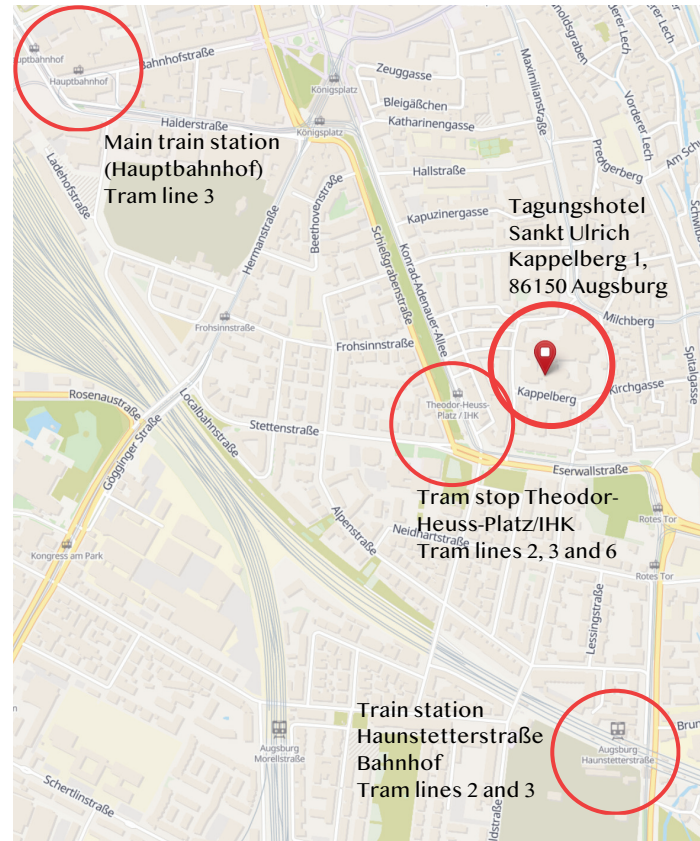
At a time of profound social, political, and environmental challenges and crises, calls for various types of transformations have become increasingly urgent. This conference—“Transformations in Critical Times. Perspectives from the Environmental Humanities”—focuses on the socio-environmental dimensions of the crises and explores the theoretical implications and practical meanings that scientists, politicians, activists, and other publics associate with transformation.

The conference situates recent developments within their respective historical contexts, tracing how current transformations unfold on global, regional, and local levels, how they are connected to past experiences, and how they intersect with culturally specific visions of possible futures.

“Transformations in Critical Times” features five thematically distinct workshops that explore the challenges of implementing the socio-ecological transition in meaningful and new ways. The conference brings together case studies about land transformations and government policies, explores the transformative potential of cultural artefacts, examines the power of intervening voices, discusses the practical implications of living in a digital age, and highlights the role of agency and community as prerequisites for building a sustainable future.

Two prominent keynote speakers will set the tone of the conference and enrich the multi-disciplinary conversation:

- **Martin Puchner** (Harvard University):
“Literature for a Changing Planet”
- **Julia Steinberger** (Université de Lausanne):
“Science, Advocacy and Activism.”



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TRANSFORMATIONS IN CRITICAL TIMES

Perspectives from the Environmental Humanities

November 6 – 7, 2025

Tagungshotel Sankt Ulrich, Augsburg

Conference of the
International Doctorate Program

UMWELTDENKEN



Thursday, November 6, 2025

Kleiner Saal | Tagungshotel Haus Sankt Ulrich | Augsburg

08:30 - 08:45 Opening

08:45 - 10:30 Land Transformations

Bruno Notteboom | Recollecting Landscapes.
Imagining Socio-Environmental
Transformations in Flanders

Dritan Rustja | Fragmented Futures:
Post-Socialist Urbanism and Socio-
Environmental Transformation in Albania

Olivia Arigbo-Stiles | The Transformation of
Virgin Landscapes: Agrarian Extractivism on
Bolivia's Amazonian Frontier (1952-Present)

Martyna Miernecka | Messy Methods for
Environmental History:
Reading Queer Literature as Fieldwork

10:30 - 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 - 12:30 Policies and Imaginaries

Monique Palma | Medicine, Zoonoses, and Socio-
Environmental Transformations
in 19th-Century Portugal

Miryam Danielsson | From Jaws to Ecological
Crisis: The 1970s Disaster Imagination
and the Limits of Socio-Environmental
Transformation

Yifei Li | Lie-Flat Environmentalism in a
Burning World: Ecological Civilization and
its Discontents in Contemporary China

Nassima Abdelghafour | The Afforestation of
Grassy Ecosystems: Opportunity for
Mitigating Climate Change or Ecological
Threat? Geopolitics of Forest-Related Science
and Conflicting Valuations of Ecosystems

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch | Restaurant Sankt Ulrich

13:30 - 14:00 City Stroll

14:00 - 15:45 Intervening Voices and Practices

Kaya Herron | Plotting Transformation:
Local Ripples and Global Logics in
Socio-Environmental Governance

Miriam Bartelmann | Imagining Biocultural
Futures: Insights from the Paraná Delta
Wetlands, Argentina

María Montalvo-Senior | Transformative Ecologies
of Care: Sikuani Women's Embodied Practices
for Territorial and Environmental Governance

Juliane Egerer | Transformative Powers of
Indigenous Arts

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:20 Digital Transformations

Samuel Ramapuram | Reimagining Indigenous
Ecologies through Social Media Networks:
Digital Animism

Johanna Grosche | From Ecosystem to
Datasystem: The Imaginaries of Urban
Nature in the Age of Digital Twins

Maximilian Pieper | Conceptualizing the
AI Transformation and the Digital Fantasy
of Immateriality

17:20 - 18:50 Keynote:

Martin Puchner | Literature for a Changing
Planet

19:15 Conference Dinner | Emmi's Kitchen

Friday, November 7, 2025

Kleiner Saal | Tagungshotel Haus Sankt Ulrich | Augsburg

08:30 - 10:15 Agency, Community, Disagreement

Senayon Olaoluma | Ecologies of Awareness and
Transformation: Female Youth Agency
in Ngugi's The Perfect Nine and Okri's Every
Leaf a Hallelujah

Bruno Amadei | Vegetal Deviations in a Brazilian
Urban Park: Notes on Care, Ecologies and
Landscape Transformations

Sarah Elton | A Multispecies Problem Calls for
Multispecies Answers: Involving Plants
as Social Actors in Transformative Change

Chase Niesner | Species of Passionate Interest:
Theorizing Biocultural Conservation
and Ecosocial Transformation Together

10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30 - 12:05 Keynote:

Julia Steinberger | Science, Advocacy
and Activism

12:05 - 12:15 Concluding remarks

