



Traveling Bodies Exposed Vulnerability, Embodied Experience, and Travel Literature

International Conference at Ghent University, Belgium

Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Blandijnberg 2, 9000 Gent

Faculty Board Room (Faculteitsraadzaal, 05.03.110.009, first floor, directly above the main entrance)

A Cooperation of

BOCULT – Centre for Research for Body Cultures in Motion (Belgium)

Koblenz Research Unit: Body • Travel • Literature (Germany)

Organizers:

Andreas Niehaus (Ghent University; Research Center BOCULT: Body Cultures in Motion)

Nicole Maruo-Schröder (University of Koblenz; Koblenz Research Unit: Body • Travel • Literature)

Uta Schaffers (University of Koblenz; Koblenz Research Unit: Body • Travel • Literature)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2026

2.00 pm	Registration open
2.45 pm	Welcome Notes
3:00-4:00 pm	Keynote: Johannes Görbert (University of Fribourg, Switzerland) Nothing Ventured: Disability, Vulnerability, and the Traveling Body between Guidebook and Testimony (Chair: Uta Schaffers)
4.00-4.30 pm	Coffee break (30 mins)
4.30-5.30 pm	Panel 1: Fragile Bodies? Mobility and Modalities (2 papers à 20 min., Chair: Cedric Van Dijck) Barbara Korte (University of Freiburg, Germany) The Travelling Body Under Stress: Isabella Bird's <i>The Yangtze Valley and Beyond</i> (1899) Anne-Florence Quaireau (University of Angers, France) Narrated and Narrative (In)vulnerability in Travel Writing by Mothers Travelling with their Children
5:30 pm	Walking Dinner

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2026

- 9.00-10.00 am** **Keynote: Zoë Kinsley** (Liverpool Hope University, UK)
"Upon entering this solemn shade": Radcliffe's Travels and Vicarious Vulnerability
(Chair: Andreas Niehaus)
- 10.00-11.00 am** **Panel 1: Knowledge-Making at Risk: Medicine and Geology**
(2 papers à 20 min., Chair: Uta Schaffers)
- Stephanie M. Hilger (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA)
Eighteenth-Century Vulnerability: Mary Wortley Montagu's Travels to the Ottoman Empire
- Alison E. Martin (J. Gutenberg-University Mainz/Germersheim, Germany)
Knowledge-Making and Vulnerability in 19th-Century Geological Travel Writing
- 11.00-11.15 am** **Coffee break** (15 mins)
- 11.15-12.45 am** **Panel 2: Vulnerable Bodies Aloft: Mountaineering**
(3 papers à 20 min., Chair: Dúnlaith Bird)
- Mireia Vives Martínez (University of València, Spain)
Vulnerability in the Heights: 19th-Century Female Travellers in the Pyrenees
- Ricardo Bloch (University of Koblenz, Germany)
Ascending to Continuity: Vulnerability, Affect and the Remaking of Self in John Muir's *Mountains of California*
- Hannah Schwehm (J. Gutenberg-University Mainz / Germersheim, Germany)
Between Agency and Precarity: Vulnerability in Freda Du Faur's *The Conquest of Mount Cook and Other Climbs* (1915)
- 1 pm** **Lunch Break** (1 h)
- 2.00-3.30 pm** **Panel 3: Postcolonial Perspectives: Travelers and Travelees**
(3 papers à 20 min., Chair: Nicole Maruo-Schröder)
- Marc Prieue (University of Stuttgart, Germany)
Extreme Travel and the Concealment of Indigenous Vulnerability in Mary Rowlandson's *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God* (1682)
- Haoying Zhang (Free University of Berlin, Germany)
Vulnerable Bodies and Colonial Encounters: Georg Forster's Negotiation of Ambivalences in *A Voyage Round the World* (1777)
- Steffen Wöll (Leipzig University, Germany)
Fragile Explorers, Indigenous Bodies: Mobility and Vulnerability in Alaskan Travel Narratives
- 3.30-3.45 pm** **Coffee Break** (15 mins)

3.45-4.45 pm Panel 4: The Politics of Vulnerability

(3 papers à 20 min., Chair: Florian Deroo)

Anne-Marie Millim (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)

Reviewers of Travel Writing as Mediators of Vulnerability in the Early Athenaeum

Catherine Mullier (University of Warwick, UK)

Slippery Bodies: Socialist Physicality and Bodies of/in Water in Soviet Travelogues after 1953

Nihan Kadioglu (University of Göttingen, Germany)

Narrating Posthuman Vulnerability in Contemporary Travel Writing

4.45 pm Break (15 mins)

5.00-6.30 pm Panel 5: Traveling to the Past: Fragile Bodies

(2 papers à 20 min., Chair: Nicole Maruo-Schröder)

Christian Wilken (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany)

Travelling Out of Time: Antiquarian Vision, Vulnerable Embodiment, and Lovecraft's *Quebeck*

Lauren Bruce (Nottingham Trent University, UK)

Bodies, Birds, and Boundaries: Travels of Mummified Remains

6.30 pm Closing Remarks

7.00 pm Conference Dinner (self-paid, pre-registration)

DAY 3, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2026 (INTERNAL MEETING OF THE RESEARCH GROUP)

9 am -1 pm Final Discussion of the members of BOCULT and Koblenz Research Unit: Body • Travel • Literature (including further cooperations, funding and activities)

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