

Prof. Shane Butler  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

# Ghost Machines | Vortrag Reading Soundly | Workshop

18.05.2018

SFB-Villa, Sitzungsraum, Schwendenerstraße 8, 14195 Berlin

Die Veranstaltung findet auf Einladung dreier Teilprojekte des Sonderforschungsbereichs „Episteme in Bewegung. Wissenstransfer von der Alten Welt bis in die Frühe Neuzeit“ statt.

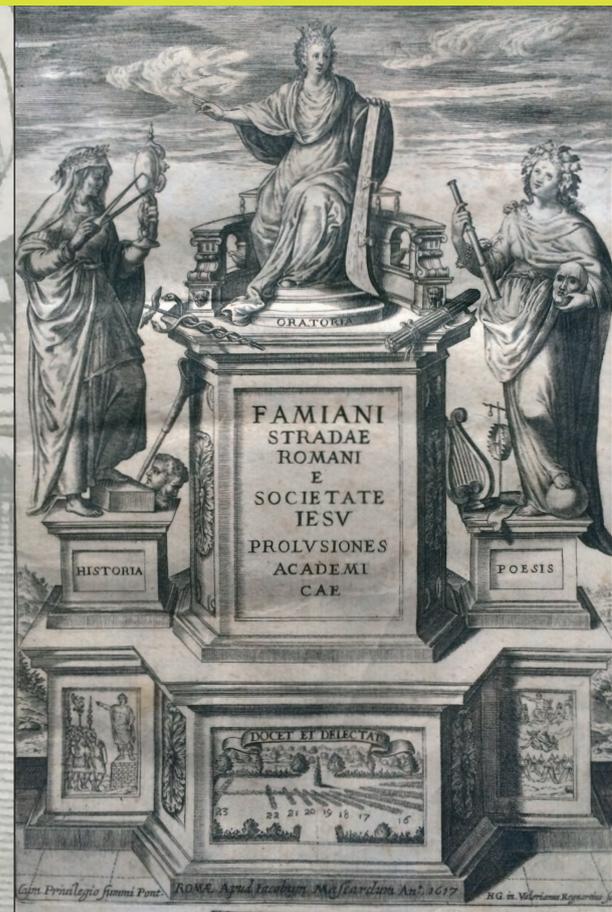
Bo3 „Imaginatio. Imaginatives Sehen und Wissen – Theorien mentaler Bildlichkeit in Philosophie und Theologie des Mittelalters“  
(Leitung: A. Eusterschulte)

Bo7 „Die Anekdote als Medium des Wissenstransfers“  
(Leitung: M. Möller)

Co4 „Epistemische Dissonanzen. Wissensobjekte und Werkzeuge frühneuzeitlicher Akustik“  
(Leitung: V. Tkaczyk)



Sonderforschungsbereich 980  
**EPISTEME IN  
BEWEGUNG**



## “Ghost Machines”

18.05.2018 | 10:00

### Lecture

In a pair of lectures given at the Collegio Romano early in the seventeenth century, Famiano Strada, professor of eloquence, delighted audiences with a fictitious account of a lavish contest a century before. Dressed as their favorite ancient poets, the leading humanists of the day (Pontano, Bembo, Castiglione, etc.) were carried down the Tiber, Strada explains, perched on a floating Parnassus. Each later offered, in the guise and style of his ancient model, a new poem; these, of course, are really Strada’s own virtuosic compositions, and their topics include a remarkably precocious attempt to imagine the electric telegraph. Reconsidering this odd text in order to rethink the workings of classical reception, this paper will argue that beneath the fun lies a startling disruption of the space-time continuum, by which the present, haunted by a past already haunted by another past, suddenly finds itself connected to a dimly seen future.

Due to the limited availability of seats we ask non-SFB-members to register: [info@sfb-episteme.de](mailto:info@sfb-episteme.de).

### Venue:

Conference Room, SFB-Villa, Schwendenerstraße 8, 14195 Berlin

**Shane Butler** is Nancy H. and Robert E. Hall Professor in the Humanities and Professor and Chair of Classics at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

## Reading Soundly

18.05.2018 | 14:00 – 16:00

Workshop with Prof. Shane Butler,  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

The Workshop will discuss three articles that are forthcoming or in progress:

The first, “Principles of Sound Reading,” which will appear in *Sound and the Ancient Senses* (edd. Shane Butler and Sara Nooter), due out later this year, offers a close reading of the famous storm scene at the start of Vergil’s *Aeneid*, with particular focus on a single, richly sonorous line. Adducing parallels from elsewhere in Vergil, as well as from Homer, Aratus, Pacuvius, Lucretius, and Cicero, and exploiting the insights of recent theorists of sound, I look for answers to an ancient question: What is the relationship between the sound of poetry and the sounds represented in and by poetry?

The second, “Is the Voice a Myth? A Re-Reading of Ovid,” forthcoming in *A Voice as Something More* (edd. Martha Feldman and Judith Zeitlin), explores the tragic and violent story of Philomela in order to mount a critique of the Lacanian understanding of voice presented by Mladen Dolar in *A Voice and Nothing More*.

The third is a short, speculative piece about a letter in which Cicero asks about the “chatter” of the young daughter of his friend and frequent correspondent, Atticus. I use the exchange to consider how much our own philological instincts and desires really depend, in the end, on “words.”

If you are planning to participate, please contact Birgitta v. Mallinckrodt: [officeacoustics@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:officeacoustics@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de)

### Venue:

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