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## Call for Papers

Workshop at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect (gd:c)

### **In/tangible connections:**

### **material, embodied and sensory stories of global dis:connection**

Munich, 18–19 June, 2026

Convened by Kate Stevens (University of Waikato, Fellow gd:c) and Erika Zerwes (Fellow gd:c)

Deadline for Proposals: 25 March, 2026

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Globalisation requires interaction – not only among ideas, but also among people, animals, and things. Various frameworks have described such interactions as rhizomes (Deleuze and Guattari, 1980), as clusters of actors in a network (Latour, 2005), or as bundles of connections (Wenzlhuemer, 2025). Yet whatever the model, interacting parts create meanings, experiences and exchanges that are simultaneously semiotic and material. Global interactions are therefore also sensory and embodied experiences. The investigations of the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect start from the premise that connections are simultaneously made and unmade through, for example, uneven infrastructures, asymmetries of power, or frictions of translation. Dis:connection is thus not simply the absence of relation but a constitutive condition of global interaction.

The materiality of global dis:connections can take many forms. It may be staged and institutionalised (as in an international art exhibition) or operate as a more-than-human agent within systems of circulation (as with shipworm damage to hulls and maritime infrastructure). In both cases, materiality is not merely a backdrop: it can produce delay, friction, breakdown, and misunderstanding, and it can reconfigure what – and who – is able to move, endure, or be recognised. The evidence of such connections and disconnections is preserved in equally diverse ways: as documents in an archive and as the lacunae that structure archival memory; as practices retold through oral stories, songs, and dance; or as fleeting sensory residues – for instance, an ephemeral scent that recalls a place, a commodity, or an encounter. Drawing on material and sensory approaches, this workshop explores how diverse ways of being, knowing and remembering collide in moments of exchange across human and more-than-human worlds.

The In/tangible connections workshop aims to bring together researchers who explore methods for studying dis:connection as a material, embodied and sensory process. Rather than treating

connection or disconnection as a simple link between different agents, we are interested in the media and mechanisms through which relations are made and unmade: infrastructures and devices, documents and formats, bodies and affects, environments and more-than-humans; as well as the gaps, silences, and breakdowns through which dis:connection becomes legible.

We encourage papers that consider the tensions and intersections between the tangible and intangible, sensory or embodied ways of knowing, and/or their absences in moments of exchange and interaction between different people, species, places, things, and ideas.

We invite contributors to consider the following prompts in relation to their own research:

- How has the material nature of transits, circulations and exchanges shaped dis:connections in different cultural, political, or environmental contexts?
- To what extent were dis:connections embodied or sensory phenomena in different times and places?
- How do the material aspects of varied bundles of connections come together to produce meaning? And how do these different connections constantly impact each other?
- In what ways are these material, sensory or embodied traces of dis:connection collected, archived, or preserved? What remains and what is lost of their tangible or intangible qualities in the process?

Given the broad focus on materiality and methods, the workshop is open to research from different disciplines and encourages papers that engage with these ideas in varied cultural, temporal and geographical contexts.

### **Format**

The workshop takes place over two days. In the opening session, all participants will introduce their scholarship via a single prompt – an image, object, smell, taste or sound. Participants will then present their research in more detail. This may be in the form of a traditional paper, but we explicitly welcome other modes of presenting and sharing (e.g., audio-visual essays, object-based contributions, short demonstrations, performative formats). If you would like to propose an alternative format, please indicate this in your proposal and include any space, accessibility or technology requirements.

### **Practicalities**

The In/tangible connections workshop will take place on the 18-19 of June 2026 at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre in Munich. Accommodation will be covered. Limited funding is available to support travel costs, particularly for early-career researchers or those without institutional funding. If you require travel support, please indicate this in your application and specify your point of departure, as this will be relevant for reimbursement.

### **Application Materials**

Please send the following documents (in order), compiled into a single PDF file titled YOURLASTNAME\_gdc-intangible-2026.pdf, by 25 March, 2026 (23:59 CET) to [intangibleconnections2026@gmail.com](mailto:intangibleconnections2026@gmail.com).

- **Proposal** including your name, institutional affiliation or place of residence, a title and a short abstract (max. 500 words) of your paper
- **CV** (max. 2 pages) or Artistic Portfolio (max. 5 pages, or links to other media).