Call for Participants

"When the word does not arrive: visibility, audibility, and global dis:connect"

Workshop to be held at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect

Munich, 18-19 March, 2027
Conveners: Liliia Tsyganenko (Izmail State University of the Humanities) and Leila Kiknadze (University of Georgia)

Deadline for applications: 22 November, 2026

The workshop explores dis:connectivity as both a rupture in communication and an attempt to reorganise relationships. It brings into dialogue two distinct cases: women's letter-based searches for relatives who disappeared during and after the Second World War, and the reconfiguration of Islamic religious authority in contemporary digital environments.

Despite their differences, both cases raise questions about visibility, audibility, and the conditions under which messages, voices, and claims become recognised, transformed, or lost. In one case, communication is marked by absence, delayed response, uncertainty, and archival silence. In the other, digital platforms and algorithmic systems shape visibility, circulation, and authority.

Rather than seeking direct comparison, the workshop uses these contrasting cases to explore how dis:connectivity operates across different historical, social, and technological settings. What determines whether a voice is heard? What happens to messages as they move through institutions, archives, platforms, and other mediating structures? How are they amplified, transformed, interrupted, or lost? And what forms of connection emerge through absence, silence, or rupture?

The workshop combines case presentations, collective discussion, and small-group work. Participants will explore shared analytical questions and contribute to a collaborative conceptual mapping exercise developed over the course of the two days.

We welcome applications from people working across a range of disciplines and fields, including but not limited to media and communication studies, migration, and diaspora studies, memory, and archival studies, anthropology, digital technology and platform studies, religious studies, digital culture, and gender studies.

The workshop will take place on 18-19 March, 2027 at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect in Munich. The working language of the workshop will be English. Meals and accommodation will be provided for the duration of the workshop, and support for travel costs is available where required.

To apply, please send a short CV (up to one page) outlining your field, current role or activity, main interests, and place of residence, together with a brief statement (up to 300 words) explaining why you would like to participate, how the workshop connects to your work or interests, and which questions you would like to explore.

Please send your application to Leila Kiknadze (Leila.Kiknadze@lmu.de) and Liliia Tsyganenko (Li.Tsyganenko@lmu.de) by 22 November, 2026.

global dis :connect

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