

There's a Rumor Going Round ...

4–6 June 2025

ifk Internationales Forschungszentrum
Kulturwissenschaften
ifk Arkade
Reichsratsstraße 17
1010 Vienna

ifk

University of Arts
Linz

Conference

There's a Rumor Going Round ...

... and that rumor says that there's going to be a conference on rumors. At the ifk, they say. In June, it is said. But who knows for sure? Us?!? Not at all! A friend of our uncle's co-worker told us, that's all we know! Rumors are situated between truth and lies, knowledge and ignorance, fact and fiction. They lead an ephemeral existence—until they are proven to be true or not, just like this conference. Certain rumors remain persistent, even if they turn out to be false. While their media has changed historically, questions about the power and validity of rumors remain relevant. What used to be referred to as gossip, hearsay or even legend is today often categorized as disinformation or fake news. We'll discuss all this at this conference that you heard from through the grapevine.

Rumors can be viral and dangerous. They can predict riots, as Gordon Allport and Leo Postman stated: »no riot ever occurs without rumors to incite, accompany, and intensify the violence.« Such things seem to be true of conspiracy plots and alternative facts these days, but there are also theories that claim that rumors actually stabilize society: A way for people to keep things the way they seem.

Will this conference really take place? No one knows for sure!

THE CONFERENCE WILL BE A HYBRID EVENT.

To participate via Zoom, you have to register for the meeting with your name and e-mail address.

You can find the links on our website in the calendar entry for the event:
www.ifk.ac.at



Wednesday,
4 June
2025

ifk Arkade
and
ifk@Zoom

- 13:30 **Welcome**
Andreas Gehrlach und Thilo Neidhöfer
- 14:00 **Brigitte Weingart**
Gerüchte, Klatsch — und Memes
- 15:00 **Sylvia Sasse**
Alcoholics, Spies, Pornographers.
How Secret Services invented rumours about artists
- 16:00 **Pause**
- 16:30 **Andreas Gehrlach**
Mathematik und Mythologie von Gossip und Rumor
- 17:30 **Silke Felber**
Speculative Stinking. On Olfactory Rumors

Thursday,
5 June
2025

ifk Arkade
and
ifk@Zoom

- 10:00 **David Coady**
In Defense of Rumors
- 11:00 **Thilo Neidhöfer**
Rumor Control in the US in the 1960s and 1970s
- 12:00 **Mittagspause**
- 14:00 **Waldemar Isak**
Gilles Deleuze' Fingernägel
- 15:00 **Marc Siegel**
A Gossip of Images
- 16:00 **Pause**
- 16:30 **Thilo Neidhöfer and Andrea van der Straeten**
Sind Gerüchte gefährlich?

Friday,
6 June
2025

ifk Arkade
and
ifk@Zoom

10:00 **Andreas Beyer and Andreas Gehrlach**
Anekdoten, Unverbürgtes und Kolportiertes in der Kunst- und
Philosophiegeschichte

11:00 **Stefan Andriopoulos**
The Pope Ass. Rumors, Pamphlets, and Propaganda

12:00 **Pause**

12:30 **Marius Raab**
Lebenswelt und Lebensbewältigung.
Ein Blick auf Verschwörungstheorien mit den Theorien
der Sozialen Arbeit

Concept: Andreas Gehrlach (ifk Wien), Thilo Neidhöfer (Johannes Kepler Universität Linz)

Participants: Stefan Andriopoulos (Columbia University), Andreas Beyer (Universität Basel), David Coady (University of Tasmania), Silke Felber (Kunstuniversität Linz), Waldemar Isak (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Marius Raab (Technische Hochschule Nürnberg), Sylvia Sasse (Universität Zürich), Marc Siegel (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), Andrea van der Straeten (Kunstuniversität Linz), Brigitte Weingart (Universität der Künste Berlin)

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