

Conference Report: Contemporary Austrian Literature, Film and Culture

The international conference on Contemporary Austrian Literature, Film and Culture was held at Highfield House, University of Nottingham, on 13-15 April 2015. The conference was organised by [Dr Katya Krylova](#), Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in the Department of German Studies, and was sponsored by the [Leverhulme Trust](#), the [Austrian Cultural Forum London](#) and the University of Nottingham.

The international conference examined trends in Austrian literature, film and culture over the past thirty years. The keynote speakers were [Professor Allyson Fiddler](#) (University of Lancaster), [Professor Jonathan Long](#) (University of Durham), and [Professor Dagmar C. G. Lorenz](#) (University of Illinois at Chicago). Professor Dagmar C. G. Lorenz (UIC) opened the conference with a keynote lecture about cosmopolitanism and the Vienna-“Orient” connection in Austrian literature and film since 1945. On the second day of the conference, Professor Jonathan Long (Durham) gave a keynote lecture about the enduring genre of Austrian *Heimatphotographie* [homeland photography]. On the third day of the conference, Professor Allyson Fiddler (Lancaster) spoke about street protest and civic resistance following the entry of the Austrian Freedom Party into the Austrian coalition government in the year 2000.

In addition to the keynote lectures, a total of twenty-four papers were presented at the conference by speakers from the UK, the United States, Canada, Austria, Germany, Italy and Hungary. The conference also featured film screenings and Q&As with two award-winning Austrian documentary filmmakers: [Dr Ruth Beckermann](#) (Vienna) and [Dr Frederick Baker](#) (Cambridge). Ruth Beckermann has been making documentary films in Austria for over three decades. On the second day of the conference, we had the opportunity to see her most recent award-winning film, [Those Who Go Those Who Stay](#) (2013), and to discuss the film with the director in the Q&A afterwards. This film screening was generously supported by the Austrian Cultural Forum London. On the final day of the conference, we had the opportunity to view the Austrian-British filmmaker Frederick Baker’s film [Widerstand in Haiderland \[Resistance in Haider Country\]](#) (2010), a film reflecting on the protest movement in Austria, which arose following the election of the radical right-wing Austrian Freedom Party into the coalition government in 2000. Again, this film sparked a great discussion in the Q&A with the director afterwards.

An edited volume arising from the conference will be published in 2016. For updates about the conference please follow the [conference blog](#) or Twitter feed [@calfac2015](#).

Photo credits: Katya Krylova, Gesine Haberlah