

**DFG Research Training Group "Aesthetics of Democracy": Opening Conference**

IG Farben Haus  
Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1  
60323 Frankfurt am Main  
**Room: IG 311**

**Friday, June 5, 2026:**

**3:00 to 3:15 p.m.:** Ulrich Schielein (vice president, Goethe University) and Prof. Dr. Johannes Völz (spokesperson, RTG Aesthetics of Democracy): **Welcome Address**

**3:15 to 4:45 p.m.:** Prof. Dr. Jason Frank (Cornell University): **"Crowd Theory and Counterrevolution"**

**4:45 to 5:00 p.m.:** Coffee break

**5:00 to 6:30 p.m.:** **Panel discussion "Praktische Perspektiven auf die Ästhetik der Demokratie"** (in German), with Dr. Deborah Schnabel (Bildungsstätte Anne Frank), Prof. Franziska Nori (Kunstverein Frankfurt), Matthias Wagner K (Museum Angewandte Kunst Frankfurt) and Jürgen Kaube (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung). Moderated by Prof. Dr. Johannes Völz and Prof. Dr. Sophie Loidolt (deputy spokesperson, RTG Aesthetics of Democracy)

**Saturday, June 6, 2026:**

**10:00 to 11:00 a.m.:** Prof. Dr. Anindya Sekhar Purakayastha (ILSR Kolkata and Kazi Nazrul University): **"Transnational Aesthetics of Democracy: A Roundtable with Lalan Fakir, Rabindranath and Immanuel Kant"**

**11:00 to 11:15 a.m.:** Coffee break

**11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.:** Prof. Dr. Francesca Raimondi (Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach): **"Art as Exercise? Practices in Contemporary Art and Radical Democracy"**

**12:15 to 1:30 p.m.:** Lunch

**1:30 to 2:45 p.m.:** Prof. Dr. Till van Rahden (Université de Montréal): **"Democracy: A Fragile Way of Life,"** response by Ajay Gudavarthy (Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi).

**2:45 to 3:00 p.m.:** Coffee break

**3:00 to 4:00 p.m.:** Prof. Dr. Patricia Hayes (University of the Western Cape): **"The Visibility of Partition and the Partition of Visibility"**