



18th Symposium of the International Brecht Society
Victoria, BC Canada
22–26 July 2026
Conference Schedule

****There will be various hybrid sessions (i.e. mix of in-person and remote presentations). Underlined names indicate remote presentation. Keynote presentations, panels, and other programming have unique Zoom links included. All times listed are Pacific Daylight Time****

****UVic building locations listed are MacLaurin (MAC) and Clearihue (CLE)****

Sunday 19 July

Climate Disaster Survival Stories I

(pre-registration required)

Sean Holman and Chelsea Haberlin

CLE A127

Monday 20 July

Climate Disaster Survival Stories II

(pre-registration required)

Sean Holman and Chelsea Haberlin

CLE A127

Tuesday 21 July

Climate Disaster Survival Stories III

(pre-registration required)

Sean Holman and Chelsea Haberlin

CLE A127

13:00-18:00	Arrivals and Registration David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144
18:30-20:30	Welcome Reception & Indigenous Welcome Ceremony David Lam Auditorium & Lobby MAC A144

Wednesday 22 July

8:30-9:30	Light Breakfast & Registration, cont. David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144		
9:30-11:00	Keynote: Markus Wessendorf, “Towards a Brechtian Dramaturgy of the Anthropocene” David Lam Auditorium MAC A144 [Zoom link to join]		
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144		
11:30-13:00 Parallel Sessions	Panel 1 (Noah Willumsen) <i>Revolution and Gender in “Kuhle Wampe”</i> MAC D111 Friedemann Weidauer, “‘Mein Körper gehört mir’ – Aber wem gehört die Welt? <i>Kuhle Wampe</i> and <i>Die Legende von Paul und Paula</i> in comparison” Artun Ak, The Nature of Revolution in Slatan Dudow and Bertolt Brecht’s <i>Kuhle Wampe</i>” (hybrid session) [Zoom link to join]	Panel 2 (Jack Davis) <i>Critical Gestures, Humanity, and Calls for Action</i> MAC D203 Micha Braun: “‘Können uns und euch und niemand helfen!’ <i>Mahagonny</i> as a call to action for today?” Wei Jiang, “Thomas Manns und Bertolt Brechts Vorstellungen von der ‘neuen Humanität’ mit Fokus auf ihren Auseinandersetzungen mit dem klassischen Erbe” Troy Vettese, “Of Useless Trees, Planetary Management, and <i>Wuwei</i>” (hybrid session) [Zoom link to join]	Panel 3 (Ella Ziel) <i>Brecht’s “Die Sintflut” in an Era of Climate Breakdown</i> MAC D288 Phoebe Von Held and Lizzie Stewart “Contextualizing <i>Die Sintflut</i>” “Producing <i>The Flood</i>” (fully remote session) [Zoom link to join]
13:00-15:00	Informal networking / meet and greet (catered lunch) David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144		
Running	Drop-in music exhibit: Berlin Verses – An Adaptation of Brecht and Eisler's <i>Hollywooder Liederbuch</i> (Andrew Munn) David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144		

15:00-16:00	Book Roundtable I: Unsere Hoffnung ist die Krise. Brecht's Interviews as Resource and Call to Action (Noah Willumsen, Nikolaus Müller-Schöll, Markus Wessendorf) David Lam Auditorium MAC A144		
16:15-17:45 Parallel Sessions	Panel 4 <i>Brecht-Tage 2026 Report:</i> <i>"Promoting the Verdant: A Reassessment of Brecht's Environmental Transformation"</i> MAC D111 Troy Vettese Marc Silberman [Zoom link to join]	Panel 5 (Stefan Soldovieri) <i>Social Relations and the Non-Human</i> MAC D203 Luke Franklin , "Anthropocene Seasonality and Environmental Rhythms in <i>Mother Courage and Her Children</i> " Carl Martin , "The Liminal Littoral in Brecht's <i>Leben Eduard des Zweiten</i> ." Henrique Laurentino , "Brecht's Legacy in the Portuguese Culture"	Panel 6 (Kris Imbrigotta) <i>Gestic Dissonance: Queer Aesthetics and Temporalities After the End of (the) (Hu)Man</i> MAC D288 Sam Kolodezh , "Saint Joan of the Stockyards and the Ridiculous Hope of the Counter-Apocalypse: Brecht in the Key of Camp" Kara Raphaeli , "Be a Mensch: Nonbinary Embodiment and the Brechtian Stage" Wind Woods , "Gestic Refusal and Non-Performance: What if Brecht's <i>Chalk Circle</i> was a Cypher?"
17:45-19:30	Dinner on your own		
19:30-21:00	Performance: Climate Disaster Survival Stories (Sean Holman/Chelsea Haberlin) David Lam Auditorium MAC A144		

Thursday 23 July

8:30-9:30	Light Breakfast David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144
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9:30-11:00	Keynote: Abhilash Pillai , “Brecht in the Capitalocene: Performing Resistance from the Global South” David Lam Auditorium MAC A144 [Zoom link to join]		
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144		
11:30-13:00 Parallel Sessions	Panel 7 (Markus Wessendorf) <i>Opera and the Lehrstück in the Anthropocene</i> MAC D111 Stephen Brockmann , “Brecht, <i>Mahagonny</i> , and the Anthropocene” Francesco Sani , “Brecht and the Scope of Art in the Anthropocene: Dialectics and the Political Meaning of Creative Expression” Anthony Squires , “Crisis, Contradiction & Hope: <i>Der Jasager / Der Neinsager</i> ” (hybrid panel) [Zoom link to join]	Panel 8 (Hunter Bivens) <i>Nature and Disaster: Sezuan, Galileo, Caucasian Chalk Circle</i> MAC D203 Anshul Malik , “Alienation and Ecology: Brechtian Techniques in Contemporary Indian Theatre” Eve Yi Lin , “‘Nature’ in the Court of Humanity” Martin Woesler , <i>Brecht's Caucasian Chalk Circle</i> and the Chinese <i>Yuan Zaju Huilan Ji</i> : Paths of Transcultural Adaptation” (hybrid session) [Zoom link to join]	Panel 9 (Stefan Soldovieri) <i>Talking About Rivers and Trees. “Critical Gestures” on Infrastructure, Relationality, and Ecological Sensitivity</i> MAC D288 Fanti Baum , “‘lying on one’s back’: Becoming a Diplomat” Bernhard Siebert , “Beyond Birnam. Performing Arboreality After Brecht” Julia Schade , “‘The raging Torrent is called Violent’: Liquid Dramaturgies in the Wake of Extractivism” Leon Gabriel , “Gestures in the Contact Zone: Infrastructural Dramaturgy and the Promise of Indigenous Epistemologies” (hybrid session) [Zoom link to join]
13:30-14:50	Lunch on your own		
15:00-16:30 / running	Presentation & Exhibit: Landscapes of Exile / Brecht’s Paper War (running drop-in exhibit) (Grisha Meyer, presentation in German with Q&A in German and English) MacLaurin Lobby/Hallway		
16:30-17:00	Coffee Break David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144		
17:00-18:00	Lecture-Recital: “Hanns Eisler’s and Bertolt Brecht’s <i>Hollywood Elegies</i> ” (Harald and Sharon Krebs) David Lam Auditorium MAC A144		

	Dinner on your own / evening free
20:00-22:35	Optional film evening in collaboration with DEFA Film Library <i>Das Lied der Ströme/The Song of the Rivers</i> (dir. Joris Ivens, 1954, 95 mins, Germ. <u>with no sub.</u>) <i>Der Schneider von Ulm/The Tailor of Ulm</i> (dir. Lutz Dammbeck, 1979, 14 mins, Germ. with Eng. sub.) <i>Eine Hinterlassenschaft/A Legacy</i> (dir. Peter Voigt, 2004, 22 mins, Germ. with Eng. sub.) David Lam Auditorium MAC A144

Friday 24 July

8:00-9:00	Light Breakfast David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144
9:00-11:00	Lecture-Performance: Buying Brass in the Curacene (<u>Teresa Kovacs</u>, <u>Kevin Rittberger</u>, Marc Silberman) (hybrid session) David Lam Auditorium MAC A144 [Zoom link to join]
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144
11:30-13:00	Keynote: Martin Revermann, “Brecht and/on Time” David Lam Auditorium MAC A144 [Zoom link to join]
13:00-14:30	Lunch on your own

14:30-15:30	Book Roundtable II: Author Meets Critics. Bertolt Brecht's Adaptations and Anti-Capitalist Aesthetics Today (Anthony Squires, Jack Davis, Joerg Esleben, Noah Willumsen, Wei Zhang) [Zoom link to join] David Lam Auditorium MAC A144		
15:45-17:15 Parallel Sessions	Panel 10 (Micha Braun) <i>Brecht, Prose, and Environmental Thought</i> MAC D111 Wei Zhang, "Anthropocene Resonance between Brecht and Zhuangzi" Kristopher Imbrigotta, "Adaptability and Ecological Consciousness in the <i>Stories of Mr. Keuner</i>"	Panel 11 (Troy Vettese) <i>Human Potential, Aesthetics, and Praxis</i> MAC D203 Elisa Mazzocato, "Brecht and Dürrenmatt: Strategies of Verfremdung in the Theater of the Anthropocene" Paul Brodowsky, "A Manifesto for Theatre Practice in the Anthropocene" (hybrid session) [Zoom link to join]	Panel 12 (Stephen Brockmann) <i>Brecht in Dialogue with Paul Celan and Peter Weiss</i> MAC D288 Loren Kruger, "'When Speaking About Trees is Almost a Crime': Exile, Death and Renewal in <i>The Aesthetics of Resistance</i>" Elena Pnevmonidou, "Songs from Beyond the Anthropocene: Urgency and Futurity in Brecht and Celan"
Evening free / Dinner on your own			

Saturday 25 July

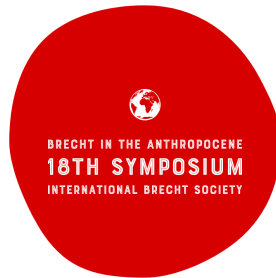
8:00-9:00	Light Breakfast David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144
9:00-10:30	Keynote: Theresa May, "Coming into Relation: The Power of Stories in Cultural Collaborations" David Lam Auditorium MAC A144 [Zoom link to join]
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144

11:00-12:30	IBS Business Meeting MAC D203	
12:30-14:00	Lunch on your own	
14:00-15:30 Parallel Sessions	Panel 13 (Noah Willumsen) <i>Colonialism, Exploitation, and Crisis Capitalism</i> MAC D111 Aldo Milohnić and Jakob Ribič, “Historicization versus Naturalization in Brecht’s and our ‘Dark Times’” Nikolaus Müller-Schöll, “‘The War for Oil,’ Authoritarianism, and Brecht’s Scope for Resilience” Ella Ziel, “Environmental Agency and Industrialist Exploitation in <i>The Exception and the Rule</i>”	Panel 14 (Joerg Esleben) <i>Technology, Mediation, Science</i> MAC D203 Tom Kuhn, “BB and the Automobile: Snapshots from a Love Story” Sebastian Kirsch, “I’m not a Performer. I’m a Transformer!”: Brecht’s <i>Street Scene</i> and the Anthropocene <u>Thereza de Jesus Santos Junqueira & Carine Costa Santos</u>, “Crossing the Ocean with Bertolt Brecht” (hybrid session) [Zoom link to join]
16:00-19:00	Workshop: RASA Box + Brecht. Ecology and the Human Body (Abhilash Pillai) CANCELED	
19:30	Reception Dinner at UVic University Club West Campus Way, Victoria, BC V8N 4V3 Pre-registration and fee required	

Sunday 26 July

9:00-10:00	Light Breakfast David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144		
10:00-11:30 Parallel Sessions	Panel 15 (Elena Pnevmonidou) <i>Ecocritical Storytelling and Brecht in Canada</i>	Panel 16 (Noah Willumsen) <i>Brecht, Global Capitalism, and Theory</i>	Panel 17 (Paul Brodowsky) <i>Mining Regimes and Justice in “Mahagonny”</i>

	MAC D111 Joerg Esleben and Misha Kostroy, “A Brechtian Toolkit for Canadian Ecocritical Theatre” Jure Zrilic, “International Law in the Capitalocene: A Brechtian Intervention” John Bessai, “Epic Estrangement for the Anthropocene: Brechtian Techniques in NFBC Digital Storytelling” (hybrid session) [Zoom link to join]	MAC D203 Hunter Bivens, “‘The monster rises, making merchandise of nature itself.’ Brecht, Mauler, and Bersiev on Labor and Ecological Metabolism David Schwartz, “Dialectical Theater as an Instrument for Environmentally Engaged Performance: Insights from Romania”	MAC D288 Lily Climenhaga, “Documenting Mahagonnys: Intersectional Critique, <i>Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny</i>, and Resource Extraction in Documentary Theatre” Eyck Marcus Wendt, “Justice Beyond the Pit: Political Provocation and the Opera” Elia Rediger, “Artistic Reflections on ‘The Irrationality of the Operatic Form’” (hybrid session) [Zoom link to join]
11:30-11:55	Coffee break David Lam Auditorium Lobby MAC A144		
12:00-13:00	Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Symposium Plenary Roundtable and Workshops Debrief David Lam Auditorium MAC A144		
TBD	Optional group excursion TBD		
18:00-21:00	Closing Farewells Swans Pub (1601 Store Street, Victoria V8W 1N6)		



18th IBS Symposium Organizing Committee:

Micha Braun, University of Leipzig (Germany)
 Stephen Brockmann, Carnegie Mellon University (USA)
 Joerg Esleben, University of Ottawa (Canada)
 Kristopher Imbrigotta, University of Puget Sound (USA)
 Abhilash Pillai, National School of Drama (India)
 Elena Pnevmonidou, University of Victoria (Canada)
 Marc Silberman, University of Wisconsin (USA)
 Stefan Soldovieri, University of Toronto (Canada)
 Anthony Squiers, American Musical and Dramatic Academy (USA)
 Markus Wessendorf, University of Hawaii (USA)

The organizers wish to thank the following for their support and collaborations:

The University of Victoria
 The University of Puget Sound
 The University of Toronto
 International Brecht Society
German Life and Letters
 Newworld Theatre
 DEFA Film Library



German Life and Letters

International Brecht Society

Panel moderators

- 1: Lily Climenhaga
- 2: Jack Davis
- 3: Ella Ziel
- 4: Marc Silberman/Troy Vettese
- 5: Stefan Soldovieri
- 6: Kris Imbrigotta
- 7: Markus Wessendorf
- 8: Hunter Bivens
- 9: Stefan Soldovieri
- 10: Micha Braun
- 11: Troy Vettese
- 12: Stephen Brockmann
- 13: Noah Willumsen
- 14: Joerg Esleben
- 15: Elena Pnevmonidou
- 16: Anthony Squiers
- 17: Paul Brodowsky

Film screenings: Kris Imbrigotta

Lecture-Performance (Kovacs/Rittberger): Marc Silberman

Lecture-Recital (Krebs): Elena Pnevmonidou

Exhibit/Presentation (Meyer): Tom Kuhn

Keynote introductions/moderators:

(Wessendorf) Stephen Brockmann

(Pillai) Elena Pnevmonidou

(Revermann) Marc Silberman

(May) Kris Imbrigotta

Plenary debrief: Elena Pnevmonidou and Kris Imbrigotta

Zoom links at a glance for moderators

1: Lily Climenhaga	[Zoom link to join]
2: Jack Davis	[Zoom link to join]
3: Ella Ziel	[Zoom link to join]
7: Markus Wessendorf	[Zoom link to join]
8: Hunter Bivens	[Zoom link to join]
9: Stefan Soldovieri	[Zoom link to join]
11: Troy Vettese	[Zoom link to join]
14: Joerg Esleben	[Zoom link to join]
15: Elena Pnevmonidou	[Zoom link to join]
17: Paul Brodowsky	[Zoom link to join]

Lecture-Performance (Kovacs/Rittberger): Marc Silberman [\[Zoom link to join\]](#)

Book Roundtable II Author Meets Critics (Squiers et al): [\[Zoom link to join\]](#)

Keynotes

(Wessendorf) Stephen Brockmann	[Zoom link to join]
(Pillai) Elena Pnevmonidou	[Zoom link to join]
(Revermann) Marc Silberman	[Zoom link to join]
(May) Kris Imbrigotta	[Zoom link to join]