

IDENTITIES AND REPRESENTATIONS

Call for Papers

Why identity? The opportunities people are or aren't given, the decisions they do or don't make, the qualities they ascribe to themselves and to others – identity is entangled everywhere. Mention, e.g., a particular sexual orientation, ethnicity, or mental condition and one risks being reduced to a single characteristic. The way we perceive ourselves and others is constantly shaped by language, image, picture, sound, gesture, clothing; the list goes on. Forms of representation can include and exclude, promote and limit self-expression, as well as hinder seeing beyond stereotypes.

Coming to terms with identity appears constantly across cultural, social, and literary discourses. ICON 2020 will provide a discussion forum for all disciplines that address one of the countless aspects of identity and representation. Potential contribution topics include:

- Personal and group identity
- Identification
- Citizenship
- Representation of nationalities and cultures
- Immigrant experience
- Identity politics
- Intersectionality
- Feminism
- Performativity
- LGBTQ+ identities and representation
- Gender representation
- Identity construction through language, narrative, or (social) media
- Identities throughout history

Are our understandings of identity and forms of representation really appropriate?

Do they provide a suitable basis for addressing identity related conflicts?

How does one avoid the danger of essentializing identities?

Does “difference” incline us to construct mutually exclusive categories when dealing with “identity?”

Is there a way to ensure beneficial exchange?

We invite submissions of abstracts (550-600 words) on aspects of this wide range of topics.

Possible formats of presentations include:

- Individual talks (20 minutes + 30 minutes discussion period)
- Joint talks (20 minutes + 30 minutes discussion period)
- Posters
- Workshops (50 or 100 minutes, workshops must actively involve the participants)
- Creative work (e.g., photo exhibition, performance, concert or audiovisual presentation)

Please include a short bio with your name, affiliation, university, and field of study in the *body* of your email, and send your *attached* abstract prepared for blind review by **April 30, 2020** to icon@uni-mainz.de. **Guidelines for abstracts** are available here: <https://icon.uni-mainz.de/abstract-submission-2020/>. For further information visit: www.icon.uni-mainz.de.

