

Simone Knewitz, Stefanie Mueller (eds.)
The Aesthetics of Collective Agency

Editorial

This book series brings together critical perspectives on the discourses, narratives, and cultural practices that shape imaginaries of "the future." Positioning futures as *critical* asks us to recognize the role of worldmaking in the face of multiple planetary crises as a matter of urgency and risk. At the same time, critical futures signify a turn towards complexity beyond the rhetoric of utopia and dystopia. At the intersections of the environmental humanities, speculative fiction, and science & technology studies, *Critical Futures* offers opportunities to explore the potential of literature and the arts to shift habitual ways of ordering the world and strives to promote epistemologies, pedagogies, and ethics suited to the messy realities of more equitable and ecologically viable futures.

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Simone Knewitz is senior lecturer for North American Studies at Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany. Her research focuses on poetry and poetics, cultural aesthetics and rhetoric, and the intersections of law, economics, and culture. Her current projects explore collective agency in twenty-first century North American poetry and protest movements, and the politics of whiteness in contemporary U.S. political discourses.

Stefanie Mueller is Professor of North American Literature at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. Her research areas include the environmental, legal, and economic humanities, with current research projects exploring citizenship in contemporary U.S. lyric poetry and law as well as the representation of the scales of climate change in literature.

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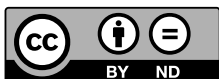
Corporations, Communities and Crowds
in the Twenty-First Century

[transcript]

Funded by Volkswagen Foundation

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at <https://dnb.dnb.de/>



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First published in 2024 by transcript Verlag, Bielefeld

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Cover layout: Maria Arndt, Bielefeld

Cover illustration: boti1985, istockphoto.com

Printed by: Elanders Waiblingen GmbH, Waiblingen

<https://doi.org/10.14361/9783839468159>

Print-ISBN: 978-3-8376-6815-5

PDF-ISBN: 978-3-8394-6815-9

ISSN of series: 2941-0258

eISSN of series: 2941-0266

Printed on permanent acid-free text paper.