

INTRO

Literature is being overtaken by the future. Digital technologies and internet developments are having a dynamic impact on the entire literary and cultural sector. With **LitFlow** the German Federal Cultural Foundation has initiated a public **think tank** that shall explore these changes and the future of literature and the book market. Twenty international experts from all areas of the literary field are invited to sound out the conditions and possibilities of the literature of tomorrow. They will experiment with ideas, develop theories and programs, and set in motion constructive reflection on the innovative forms of production, distribution, and reception for the literary culture of tomorrow. Neither the kind of thinking practiced at **LitFlow** nor the ideas it generates reflect what exists today. Instead, interest revolves around the question which projects could be put into practice in the coming thirty years. Parallel to the think tank the experts will present the most startling and interesting innovations on the project website www.litflow.de.

LitFlow. For the Literature of Tomorrow
An event of the German Federal Cultural Foundation

www.litflow.de

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All events are open to the public; the number of available seats is limited. Please register at organisation@relations-projekte.de

LitFlow

LitFlow

For the Literature of Tomorrow

Thinktank

An event of the German
Federal Cultural Foundation

September 28/29, 2012

Theaterdiscounter
Klosterstr. 44, 10179 Berlin

www.litflow.de

KULTURSTIFTUNG
DES
BUNDES



1.00 pm—7.00 pm

THINK TANK FOR THE LITERATURE OF TOMORROW

Friday is the day of innovations. The think tank's ten experts present in 15-minute performances the projects, inventions, and future scenarios they have developed for LitFlow.

Rita Bollig, Caroline Drucker, Jane Friedman, Kenneth Goldsmith, Ingo Niermann, Kathrin Passig, Elisabeth Ruge, Hilmar Schmundt, Bob Stein, and Philipp Teister respond in a pointed way to the big questions: what will be the decisive influences on literature and the literary scene and business in ten, twenty, or even fifty years time? How will we write and read? What kind of publications will there be which we have not even yet dared to consider? How will we communicate about these and in which media? What will happen to literary critics? What will the publishing houses of tomorrow look like? The publisher of tomorrow? And how will the coming editors and agents advise and guide the authors of tomorrow?

The envisaged innovations and conceptualized scenarios are discussed and examined in the think tank. But above all the experts will dare to predict and theoretically elaborate what the literature of tomorrow could actually bring forth.

8.00 pm—9.30 pm

A PROGRAM FOR THE LITERATURE OF TOMORROW: LARRY BIRNBAUM FEAT. NARRATIVE SCIENCE (WITH KATHRIN PASSIG AND BOB STEIN)

The most important prizes in the literature of tomorrow could be won by Narrative Science: the writing robot developed in Chicago generates texts fully automatically from databanks. His inventor Larry Birnbaum will bring it along to Berlin especially for this evening and discuss on stage with Kathrin Passig and Bob Stein how algorithms will influence the literature of tomorrow - and how they will change reading and writing practices as well as our whole notion of creativity. *(in English)*

11.30 am—1.00 pm

OPENFLOW: PROJECTS FOR THE LITERATURE OF TOMORROW

On its website Litflow posed the question to those interested in literature: who has a project for the literature of tomorrow which they would like to present to the think tank experts and the public? Six projects will be selected, and perhaps great things can be expected. A series of inspiring presentations will be on show and in just fifteen minutes they shall make clear which concrete innovations are currently being worked on. The project leaders will then be available for discussion. (The projects to be presented will be announced at litflow.de on September 22)

2.00 pm—7.15 pm

DISCUSSIONS ON THE LITERATURE OF TOMORROW

Saturday is the day of discussion. The think tank experts have each invited their own discussion partner, someone they always wanted to talk to about the changes to take place in literature in the coming years.

In part the discussions take up the concepts presented on the previous day, enlarging upon and developing them further. But they will also tap into completely new areas from the broad field of the literary culture of tomorrow. All of the discussions are informal in character, taking place face-to-face and without any great technological extravagance. Here is not where last grand words will be spoken, but spaces of possibility surveyed and perspectives broadened.

2.00 pm

OPENING AND PRESENTATION OF THE DISCUSSION ROUNDS2.30 pm—3.15 pm *(parallel discussions)***Friedrich von Borries & Stephan Porombka**

Speak about the future scenario as technology and as an art form for exploring the culture of tomorrow.

Jürgen Neffe & Jane Friedman

Speak about the conditions and possibilities of tomorrow in terms of publishing books without paper. *(in English)*

3.45 pm—4.30 pm *(parallel discussions)***Peter Glaser & Caroline Drucker**

Speak about the new creative industries and their potential to change the publishing world.

3.45 pm—4.30 pm

Rita Bollig & Mathias Gatza

Speak about the new formats of storytelling and the principle of multiple utilizations in the literature of the digital age.

4.30 pm—5.15 pm *(parallel discussions)***Thierry Chervel & Bob Stein**

Speak about how the coming forms of social reading shall change literature and the literary scene. *(in English)*

Elisabeth Ruge & Katharina de la Durantaye

Speak about Google Books and explore the democratic implications and legal challenges of texts in the public domain.

5.45 pm—6.30 pm *(parallel discussions)***Jan Oliver Schwarz & Kathrin Passig**

Speak about the technological and social foundations for new literary strategies and which strategies still need to be invented.

Hilmar Schmundt & Henrik Berggren

Speak about the digital bookshelves of tomorrow and discuss the for-and-against of a Facebook for booklovers. *(in English)*

6.30 pm—7.15 pm *(parallel discussions)***Larry Birnbaum & Kenneth Goldsmith**

Speak about uncreative writing and new forms of literary communication. *(in English)*

Ingo Niermann & Harm van den Dorpel

Speak about the attention spans of future readers and the digital text as a medium for broadly-based reading processes.

8.00 pm — Open End

PERFORMANCES ON THE LITERATURE OF TOMORROW

In his performance "Facebook Roulette", developed exclusively for LitFlow, the Viennese author and cyber artist Philipp Teister gambles with think tank participants and Facebook users with their own online identity as stake. The self-updating live narration glides seamlessly into the musical duration performance by Ludwig Plath, alias Touchy Mob. In his show Touchy Mob combines personal minimalism with world-embracing electronic sounds and rounds off the LitFlow club evening with danceable beats.

(To register for the Teister performance: http://philippteister.de/roulette/roulette_anmeldung/)