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UNIVERSITY OF LÜNEBURG



European  
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Studies

## Lower Saxony – Scotland Joint Forum 2020

24 November 2020

**Session IV – 10 am CET**  
**Epidemics – Then and Now**

### Workshop Organizers

Sheila Dickson, *University of Glasgow*

Alexander Košenina, *University of Hanover*

### Description

Covid-19 has fundamentally changed every-day life all over the world. Already, the humanities as well as historical research have begun to engage with this entirely new situation. The focus of our workshop is to situate the present in the context of a long history of pandemic diseases in order to better appreciate our developing public and literary responses to it. Examples from art history, literature and philosophy from the 17th to 21st century will be presented to compare possible reasons for epidemic outbreaks, how they work and develop, what kind of fears and responses they cause, and how they have been and are being represented and conceptualized. Is there anything to learn in our present situation from the history of such occurrences?

### Programme

(The times of the programme items are indicated in CET.)

**10 am**

#### **Welcome**

Sheila Dickson, *Senior Lecturer in German, University of Glasgow*

Alexander Košenina, *Professor of German, University of Hanover*

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- 10:05 am Covid-19 in a Long Historical Perspective**  
*Samuel Cohn, Professor of Medieval History, University of Glasgow*
- 10:20 am 17th Century Explanations of the Epidemic: Effluvia, Miasmata, Fermenta**  
*Benjamin Wallura, Research Fellow at Herzog August Library Wolfenbüttel*
- 10:35 am Epidemic and Theodicy in Didactical Poems by B.H. Brockes and F. Schiller**  
*Alexander Košenina, Professor of German, University of Hanover*
- 10:50 am Discussion**
- 11:10 am Bettina von Arnim and Cholera in 1830s Berlin**  
*Sheila Dickson, Senior Lecturer in German, University of Glasgow*
- 11:25 am The Epidemic in Contemporary German Literature**  
*Birgit Nübel, Professor of German, University of Hanover*
- 11:40 am Discussion**
- 11:55 am Closing**

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