

## **Blended Intensive Program:**

### **The apple is a migrant, too. Performing Objects and Moving Stories**

Dr. Albert Kümmer-Schnur, scholar of literature and media, University of Konstanz

Martina Hering, puppeteer (<https://guckmal-figurentheater.de>)

Target Groups: Students and Staff

Teaching Format: Blended Intensive Program, including online sessions and a final intensive on-site session near Konstanz, Germany

Seminar time in 24 - 30 March

Online Session 24 January, 10:00 - 11:30 CET (09:00-10:30 BST and 11:00-12:30 EEST)

Online Session 23 May, 10:00 - 11:30 CET (09:00-10:30 BST and 11:00-12:30 EEST)

Application ends on **30 November 2024**

## **Teaser**

*Not only people migrate. Plants and animals do so as well. And just like our social and cultural environments are shaped by and continuously change from migration processes, so does our non-human environment as well. Take the apple as a protagonist. Take puppet theatre as a medium. And let's meet in the wonderful castle of Schloss Blumenfeld ([www.schloss-blumenfeld.de](http://www.schloss-blumenfeld.de)) from 24 - 30 March 25 to explore migration stories. Places are limited and applications close on 30 November 2025.*

## **Text**

All around Lake Constance, apple trees grow. Here, they are a symbol and the embodiment of home. Nothing could be more homely than apples – and nothing could be more wrong than this sentence. Genetically, all apples stem from the Tien Shan mountains sitting right on the border separating China from Kazakhstan. For millions of years, they have grown there in large forests. Spread by bears, silk route merchants, Greek and Roman soldiers, the apples slowly moved westwards as well as northwards. With the apples, ideas and stories migrated. They mixed with the stories of the peoples they met on their way. And so did the people who grew, harvested and sold them.

This course will explore migration stories and cultural theories of migration with the apple as protagonist. It will combine seminar readings and discussions with theatrical exercises taken from object and puppet theatre: we will mainly work with paper as a highly flexible medium. The central questions are: Who narrates migration? Do you just tell the kind of sequence of events that we call a 'story'? Somebody moved from A to B. While moving, he or she passed through C. Whenever in C... etcetera. Or can the narrative itself be a migration? And, if so, how?

The seminar will be beautifully located in Blumenfeld Castle (<https://schloss-blumenfeld.de>), a cultural center surrounded by apple plantations. Moreover, Blumenfeld offers different types of rooms and spaces: the open space of the courtyard in contrast to the secluded space of an 18<sup>th</sup> century lock-up cell. The blooming garden is atmospherically completely distinct from the sparse space of the wooden roof truss. From a 1990s wedding room you move directly into a 16<sup>th</sup> century living quarter.

On Saturday, 29 March, you will be invited to watch a professional puppet performance by Martina Hering. In the evening, we will invite the citizens of Blumenfeld village to present the work of the seminar.

Assessment format: active participation and a written essay

Teaching language: English

**Date & Time:** Online sessions 24 January and 23 May, 10:00-11:30 CEST (09:00-10:30 BST and 11:00-12:30 EEST) and an intensive on-site session in Germany: 24 to 30 March, 2025

**Location:** Schloss Blumenfeld, near Konstanz, Germany

**Who Can Attend:** students from all disciplines who are interested in migration, literature and/or puppetry

Participants may receive 3 ECTS for their participation and a 3 page reflective essay. Recognition of the credits must be clarified with the students' home universities.

### **Application process**

There is no participation fee, but we will ask for a no-show guarantee. Students will stay in shared rooms in the castle. Food will be provided, and students will share cooking/cleaning tasks. Please note that the travel expenses and the accommodation costs will be covered by the sending institution.

If you are interested, please get in contact with the EUniWell Team of your home institution.

For any further information regarding the process, please contact [euniwell@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:euniwell@uni-konstanz.de). For any content related questions, please contact Albert Kümmel-Schnur: [albert.kuemmel-schnur@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:albert.kuemmel-schnur@uni-konstanz.de)

**Applications close on 30 November 2024.**

### **Contact**

For more information, please contact Albert Kümmel-Schnur: [albert.kuemmel-schnur@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:albert.kuemmel-schnur@uni-konstanz.de) or [euniwell@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:euniwell@uni-konstanz.de)