

Unwesen.

Forms and Functions of the Demonic between Mythology, Iconography and Psychology

Workshop

ETH Zürich, May 7 – 8, 2026



Venue: ETH Zürich, Villa Hatt, Freudenbergstrasse 112, 8044 Zürich

Organisers: Noga Resh and Andreas Kilcher

lit.ethz.ch/unwesen

Program

Thursday, May 7

- 12:30 – 12:45 **Welcome & Introduction**
Noga Resh & Andreas Kilcher
- 12:45 – 13:45 **Jens Schlieter (University of Bern):**
*The Demon's Challenge: Nietzsche, the Buddha, and the
"Twenty-five Tales of the Corpse Demon" (Vetālapañcaviṃśati)*
- 13:45 – 14:45 **Ansgar Martins (University of Bern):**
*Deceptive Illuminations: Demonic Knowledge and Social
"Unwesen" from Goethe to Western Marxism*
- 14:45 – 15:15 **Coffee break**
- 15:15 – 16:15 **Yael Leokumovich (Hebrew University, Jerusalem):**
*The Other Habitat: Landscape and Unwesen in
Ancient Mesopotamia*
- 16:15 – 17:15 **Bill Rebigier (Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg):**
*Shaping the Demons: Classification and Individualization in
Jewish Magic from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern Period*
- 17:15 – 17:30 **Coffee break**
- 17:30 – 18:30 **Andreas Kilcher (ETH Zürich):**
Demanding Demons. The Craft of Conjuraton
- 19:00 **Dinner**

Program

Friday, May 8

Susanne Pollack (ETH Zurich):

09:30 – 10:30 *Fighting Demons: The Temptation of Saint Anthony in the Visual Arts*

Sébastien Mantegari Bertorelli

(Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne):

10:30 – 11:30 *Images of the Demonic and the Psychologic. Forms and Meanings of the Unwesen in the Visual Works of Carl Gustav Jung*

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

Noga Resh (ETH Zurich):

12:00 – 13:00 *Unwesen, Unmenschen, Ungeziefer. On the Secularization of Negative Semantics*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch break

Davide Giuriato (University of Zurich):

14:00 – 15:00 *The Fly, the Demonic Animal*

Malte Spitz (University of Bern):

15:00 – 16:00 *"A guest + a host = a ghost": The Taxi-driver by Hermann Grab and Other Habsburg Shadows*

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee break

Per Faxneld (Södertörn University, Stockholm):

16:30 – 17:30 *Female and Hermaphrodite Devils and the Experience of the Numinous*

Christine Lötscher (University of Zurich):

17:30 – 18:30 *Demonic Coming of Age: Poetics and Politics of Transgressive Desire in Feminist Horror*

Venue



Directions to Villa Hatt

Please use public transport; there are no parking spaces on the villa premises.

Arriving by public transport

- › Tram 9, 10 (also run from Zürich airport) or Bus 33 to «Seilbahn Rigiblick» stop
- › Funicular railway to the «Rigiblick» end stop
- › Walking distance ca. 4 minutes

Address:

ETH Zurich
Villa Hatt
Freudenbergstrasse
112 8044 Zurich

Publisher: Chair for Literature and Cultural Studies

Picture: The illustration is taken from *Doktor Johannes Faustus's Magia Naturalis et Innaturalis oder Dreifacher Höllenzwang, letztes Testament und Siegelkunst*, Stuttgart 1849, p. 38.

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