

XVI International Ibsen Conference in Zurich, Switzerland

First draft of the program (April 2 2026)

The conference will take place at the main building („Kollegiengebäude“) of the University of Zurich (www.ds.uzh.ch/en/tagungen/ibsen.html).

THURSDAY, JUNE 25 2026

Thursday, June 25 2026					
08:00-09:00	Registration				
09:00-10:00	Opening				
10:00-11:00	Keynote – Ellen Rees (Oslo): The Popular Origins of Ibsen’s Modern Drama				
11:00-11:30	Coffee				
	Work-based stream	Thematic stream	Cultural analytic stream	Adaptation stream	Intertextual stream
11:30-13:00	Panel 1.1: Rethinking <i>John Gabriel Borkman</i>	Panel 1.2: Ibsen’s Families	Panel. 1.3: Philosophizing Ibsen:	Panel 1.4: The Pop-Cultural Ibsen	Panel 1.5: Ibsen as intertext I: The C20 Drama
	Moderator: Patrizia Huber	Moderator: Olivia Noble Gunn	Moderator: Frode Helland	Moderator: Clemens Räthel	Moderator: Linnea E. Timmermann Buerskogen
11:30-12:00	Lisbeth P. Wærp (Tromsø, Norway): Ibsen’s Borkman	Ethan Bjelland Hagberg (Seattle, USA): Orienting Hedvig in the Family Ideal: <i>Vildanden’s</i> Queer Generations	David Heckerl (Nova Scotia, Canada): Nora’s Untold Want: A Fresh Reflection on Ibsen’s Philosophical Currency	Camilla Storskog (Milan, Italy): Of Doctors and Drawings. Strategies of Representation in Javi Rey’s Graphic Novel Adaptation of <i>En Folkefiende</i>	Chen Liang (Shanghai, China): Performative Interpretation and Adaptation of Ibsenism in <i>Thunderstorm</i>
12:00-12:30	Lars Harald Storebø (Bodø, Norway): The Power of Nature. An Ecocritical reading of <i>John Gabriel Borkman</i>	Joachim Schiedermaier (München, Germany): Apotropaic Families. Ibsen’s Inversion of Freud’s Family Romance	Anežka Matěnová (Prague, Czech Republic): Ibsen, Individualism and Vitalism	Kwok-kan Tam (Hong Kong, China): Ibsenian Politics in the Chinese Popular Imaginary	Carmen Vind Jensen (Copenhagen, Denmark): Norwegianness and Ibsen’s legacy
12:30-13:00	Gaziza Omer Ali (???) & Rezan Saleh (Oslo, Norway): Ibsen in Kurdish Context	M Shahinoor Rahman (Bangladesh): The Family as Biopolitical Machine: Ibsen through	Ana Tomljenović (Zagreb, Croatia): Ironic existence: from Plato to Ibsen	Aleksandra Wilkus (Poznań, Poland): Ibsen in the Pop-cultural Mirror: Form and	Benedikts Kalnačs (Riga, Latvia): Realism in Ibsen and Brecht: Between the Pillars of

		the Lens of Foucault and Agamben		Figure in <i>Dom Lalki</i> (Poznań, 2012)	Society and the Good Person
13:00-14:00	Lunch				
14:00-15:30	Panel 2.1: <i>A Doll's House</i> on the Contemporary Stage	Panel 2.2: Ibsen's Houses	Panel 2.3: Enacting Law, Enacting Transgression	Panel 2.4: Ibsen in Film History	Panel 2.5: Ibsen as Intertext II
14:00-14:30	Moderator: Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman	Moderator: Ellen Rees	Moderator: Giuliano D'Amico	Moderator: Tor Holt	Moderator: Alexia Panagiotidis
14:30-15:00	Hanna Rinderle (Berlin, Germany): From Nora to Niru. Retelling <i>A Doll's House</i> in a Postcolonial Context	Rixt Josefien Bilker (Oslo, Norway): "This f*cking house!" Simon Stone's <i>Ibsen Huis</i> (2017) as a Pastiche of Ibsen's Uncanny Home	Heidi Leclaire-Karlsen (Oslo, Norway): From <i>Pillars of Society</i> and Harald Thaulow's <i>Pillars of Society in Prose</i> to <i>An Enemy of the People</i> . The Emergence of an Early Whistleblower Figure	Helge Rønning (Oslo, Norway): Ibsen, du Maurier, and Hitchcock	Asztalos Veronka Örsike (Târgu Mureș, Romania): The Hungarian followers of Ibsen and their authentic vision
15:00-15:30	Sumaiya Swati Udit (Bangladesh/Oslo): Negotiating Bangladeshi Women's Socio-political Struggles through <i>Ninaad</i> , a Bengali Adaptation of <i>A Doll's House</i>	Eylem Ejder (Istanbul, Turkiye): Constructing a <i>Gecekondu</i> with Ibsen: Architectural Imaginations for New Dramatic Forms	Dag Michalsen (Oslo, Norway): Law and Normative Transgressions in Ibsen's Dramas	Ove Solum (Oslo, Norway): Tancred Ibsen to Ibsenize cinema	Siva Prasad Tumu (Rajasthan, India): Topical Ibsen: Theatrical Realism and Social Reflection in Telugu and Indian Contexts
15:30-16:00	Ye Rulan (Shanghai, China): Echoes of the Doll's House: Jon Fosse's Nora and the Timelessness of Ibsen's Legacy	Farid Manouchehrian (Oslo, Norway): Screens as Unheimlich: A Gaze into <i>A Doll's House</i>	Anna Stavrakopoulou (Thessaloniki, Greece): <i>An Enemy of the People</i> as Civic Intervention: Two Public Stagings by Theater of War Productions	Zhu Jianxin (Shanghai, China): Private Conflicts, Public Structures: Ibsen, Ideologiekritik, and the Politics of Chinese Cinema	Adriana Torquete do Nascimento Justino (Reading, Great Britain): <i>Ghosts</i> ' Topicality for the Irish Stage: Adaptation as a Collaborative Process
15:30-16:00	Coffee				
	Work based stream	Thematic stream	Cultural analytic stream	Adaptation stream	Intertextual stream
16:00-17:30	Panel 3.1: Nora's Legacies	Panel 3.2: Ibsen's Houses and other Dramatic Spaces	Panel 3.3: Ibsen and the Anthropocene	Panel 3.4: Unrealized Screen Adaptations	Panel 3.5: Ibsen as Intertext III: Norwegian Literature

	Moderator: Patrick Ledderose	Moderator: Rixt Josefine Bilker	Moderator: Sabhiha Huq	Moderator: Farid Manouchehrian	Moderator: Christian Janss
16:00-16:30	Benedikte Berntzen (Oslo, Norway): Was Nora always alone? <i>A Doll's House's</i> Nora Helmer representing what has been named the sad reality of our time	Annette Winkelmann: Architecture in literature, literature in architecture	Andrea Romanzi (Milano, Italy): Networks of risk: Posthuman ecologies and environmental governance in Ibsen's drama	Jan Balbierz (Krakow, Poland): Henrik Goes to Hollywood: Ingmar Bergman's American Screenplay of <i>A Doll's House</i>	Espen Børdahl (Frankfurt; Germany): A Distant Mirror: Solstad's Dialogue with Ibsen's <i>The Wild Duck</i>
16:30-17:00	Feng Duan (Shanghai, China): Breaking Through the Prison of the House?: Repercussions of <i>A Doll's House</i> in Contemporary China	Jens-Morten Hanssen (Oslo, Norway): The Dichotomy of Indoor and Outdoor in Ibsen's Plays	Sara Culeddu (Venice, Italy) & Marta Calogero (Venice, Italy): Ibsen's Animals in a More-than-anthropocentric Perspective: Stories of Adaptation	Audun Engelstad (Lillehammer, Norway): <i>A Doll's House</i> through the lens of Ingmar Bergman	Martin Humpál (Prague, Czech Republic): Idealism and Death in Ibsen's <i>The Wild Duck</i> and Ørstavik's <i>The Pastor</i>
17:00-17:30	Sotirios Mouzakis (Münster, Germany) & Clemens Räthel (Greifswald, Germany): Digesting Ibsen: On Sivan Ben Yishai's Nora Adaptation	Yang Jie (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia): Spatial Metaphor and Visual Transposition: The "Attic" and the "Depths of the Ocean" in the Modern Chinese Adaptation of <i>The Wild Duck</i>		Thor Holt (Oslo, Norway): Dreyer's Unmade Adaptation of <i>Brand</i>	Katarzyna Mackala (Gdansk/Wroclaw, Poland): Ibsen's <i>Peer Gynt à rebours</i> in Finn Alnæs' <i>The Colossus</i>
18:00	Apéro				

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 2026

TIME	Friday, June 26 2026				
09:00-10:00	Keynote – Chengzhou He (Nanjing): Who’s Afraid of Nora? The Intriguing Reception of <i>A Doll’s House Part 2</i> Across Cultures				
10:00-11:30	Work-based stream	Performance/history stream	Cultural analytic stream	Adaptation stream	Intertextual stream
	Panel 4.1: Navigating <i>The Lady from the Sea</i>	Panel 4.2: Theater Historiography	Panel 4.3: The Political Ibsen	Panel 4.4: Ibsen and the Visual Arts	Panel 4.5: Ibsen as Intertext IV: Nordic intertexts
10:00-10:30	Moderator: Sara Culeddu	Moderator: Jens-Morten Hanssen	Moderator: Dag Michalsen	Moderator: Camilla Storskog	Moderator: Caroline Sørensen
	Else Barratt-Due (Oslo, Norway): <i>The Lady from the Sea</i> – a key to the mysterious in our own lives?	Gianina Druta (Oslo, Norway): Tragedy and expressionism in the German-speaking tradition of staging Henrik Ibsen’s <i>Ghosts</i>	Joachim Grage (Freiburg, Germany): Ibsen’s politicians	Ana Barroso (Lisbon, Portugal): Unlikely resonances: Ibsen’s Drama in Mathew Barney’s Video Art	Gábor Attila Csúr (Budapest, Hungary): The Myth of the Complete Ibsen/Hultberg – Henrik Ibsen’s Dramas Behind Peer Hultbergs Stage Works and That Dark Matter
10:30-11:00	Sabiha Huq (Bangladesh): The Sea is the Woman: A Blue Humanities Reading of <i>The Lady from the Sea</i>	Keld Hyldig (Bergen, Norway): Ibsen’s Archetypal Characters: Individuation and Theatrical Embodiment	Fredrik Engelstad (Oslo, Norway): Henrik Ibsen as a sociologist	Kamaluddin Nilu (Oslo, Norway): Text to Image: Widerberg’s <i>Peer Gynt</i> as Self-Reflexive Alchemy Within the Liminal Optic	Anita Soós (Budapest, Hungary): Ibsen Reloaded: The Relevance of Ibsen’s <i>A Doll’s House</i> in Merete Pryds Helle’s novel Nora
11:00-11:30	Alexia Panagiotidis (Zurich, Switzerland/Odense): The Sea as Problem in Drama. The emergence of epic drama in Henrik Ibsen’s <i>Fruen fra Havet</i> (1888) through the lens of Hans Christian Andersen’s tragic tale <i>Den lille Havfrue</i> (1838)	Kayla Amity Hanson (Oslo, Norway): Radicalism, Ethnic Identity, and the premiere of Henrik Ibsen’s <i>Ghosts</i> , 1882	Charles Kalish (Berkeley, USA): Anti-Pastoral and Social Critique in Ibsen’s Problem Plays	Sara Paula Hoffman (Savannah, USA): Ibsen, Wild Duck, life lie, memory, domestic realism	Hanna Marrandi (Tartu, Estonia): The modernisation strategies in productions based on Henrik Ibsen’s plays in contemporary Estonian theatre

11:30-12:00	Coffee					
	Work-based stream	Performance/history stream	Cultural analytic stream	Adaptation stream	Intertextual stream	Hedda stream
12:00-13:30	Panel 5.1: <i>An Enemy of the People</i> on the Contemporary Stage I	Panel 5.2: Ibsen in the South Asian Context	Panel 5.3: History in Ibsen's Plays	Panel 5.4: Translating Ibsen	Panel 5.5: Ibsen in Dialogue with his Contemporaries	Panel 5.6: Troubling <i>Hedda Gabler</i> I
12:00-12:30	Moderator: Heidi Leclaire-Karlsen	Moderator: Srideep Mukherjee	Moderator: Lena Rohrbach	Moderator: Andrea Romanzi	Moderator: Keld Hyldig	Moderator: Lisbeth P. Wærp
12:30-13:00	Burç İdem Dinçel (Dublin, Ireland): Thomas Ostermeier's <i>An Enemy of the People</i> Revisited: Dramaturgical Dialectics in Istanbul	B Ananthakrishnan (Kerala, India): Locating new Subjects for Playwriting in Malayalam: Ibsen as a Model	Solenne Guyot (Strasbourg, France): Medieval allusions and modern feuds: familial collapse in Ibsen's plays	Linnea E. Timmermann Buerskogen (Oslo, Norway): Impossible Stage Directions in <i>Når vi døde vågner</i> (1899)	Knut Ove Arntzen (Bergen, Norway): Henrik Ibsen and inspiration from the North: Emilie Zogbaum	Andy Cooper (London, Great Britain): Directing <i>Hedda Gabler</i> for the Royal Shakespeare Company
12:30-13:00	Patrick Ledderose (München, Germany): Staging 'the many': Henrik Ibsen's <i>An Enemy of the People</i>	Venkata Naresh Burla (Jharkhand, India): Navigating Moral Conflicts and Cultural Translation: The Impact of Ibsen's Dramaturgy on Indian Adaptations	Roland Lysell (Stockholm, Sweden): The Vikings at Helgeland – a draft?	Anna Wing Bo Tso (Hong Kong): A Comparative Analysis of Logos, Ethos, and Pathos in Ibsen's <i>An Enemy of the People</i> and Pan Jiaxun's Chinese Translation	Kirsten E. Shepherd (Oxford, Great Britain) & Tzen Sam (Oxford, Great Britain): Model v Artist: The Question of Artistic Responsibility in Three Plays by Henrik Ibsen and Laura Kieler	Ayla Bayram (Kayseri, Türkiye): Plastic Modernities: Mungan's <i>A Woman Called Hedda Gabler</i> as a Cross-Cultural Rewriting of Ibsen
13:00-13:30	Ewa Partyga (Warsaw, Poland): Experimenting with <i>An Enemy of People</i> in Polish Political Landscape	Manasi Patra (Kolkata, India): Women's Question, Tagore and Ibsen's Topicality in 20th Century Bengal	Julia A. Walker (St. Louis, USA): Ibsen and the Legacy of the World-Historical Present	Thomas Austenfeld (Fribourg, Switzerland): Lincoln's Assassination—Seen from Abroad		Ágnes Teplán (Budapest, Hungary): The Abject in Henrik Ibsen's <i>Hedda Gabler</i>
13:30-14:30	Lunch					
14:30-15:30	Keynote – Sandro Zanetti (Zürich): The Murderer of His Own Creations. Ibsen in Peter Szondi's <i>Theory of the Modern Drama</i>					
15:30-16:00	Coffee					
	Work based stream	Performance history stream	Cultural analytic stream	Adaptation stream	Hedda stream	
16:00-17:30	Panel 6.1: <i>An Enemy of the People</i> on the Contemporary Stage II	Panel 6.2: Ibsen in America	Panel 6.3: Thinking Genre with Ibsen – Ibsen's Poetry	Panel 6.4: Moving Boundaries in Contemporary Performance	Panel 6.5: Troubling <i>Hedda Gabler</i> II	

16:00-16:30	Moderator: Anna Stavrakopoulou	Moderator: Kayla Amity Hanson	Moderator: Thomas Austenfeld	Moderator: Liyang Xia	Moderator: Solenne Guyot
	Lada Čale Feldman (Zagreb, Croatia): On being outvoted: the topicality of Ibsen's <i>An Enemy of the People</i> for the attempt to define „deliberative dramaturgy“ as a subgenre	Srideep Mukherjee (Kolkata, India): Marriage, Market Place and the Diasporic Indian: <i>A Doll's House</i> in America	Ralph Müller (Fribourg, Switzerland): Henrik Ibsen's poem <i>Ballonbrev til en svensk dame</i> , journalistic purposes and non-fictional elements	Monica Emilie Herstad (Oslo, Norway): Movements of modernism at play	Patrizia Huber (Zurich, Switzerland): Queering <i>Hedda Gabler</i> : A Transliterary Reading
16:30-17:00	Victor Castellani (Denver, USA): The People and Its Enemies: Influencers and Targets in Ibsen—and Resisters	Helen T. Mariam Gebreamlak (London, Great Britain) & Natalie Schmidt (London, Great Britain): Staging <i>Hedda Gabler</i> in the Contemporary United States	Kirsten Anne Stirling (Lausanne, Switzerland): “Jeg vandrer i mit eget Galleri”: Ibsen's Madonnas and Poetic Form	Lianna Torres (Seattle, USA): Dancing Ibsen: Exploring Silence and Topicality in Marit Moum Aune's Contemporary Ballet Trilogy	Olivia Noble Gunn (Seattle, USA): “No, no you're wrong that's a dated idea ... of sexuality”: Masochism and the Question of Progress in <i>Hedda Gabler</i> and <i>Babygirl</i>
17:00-17:30	Subah Binte Ahsan (Exeter, Great Britain): Ephemerality and Afterlives of Performance: A Student Production of <i>An Enemy of the People</i> in Bangladesh		Hans Kristian S. Rustad (Oslo, Norway): Ibsen's rework of poetic forms: sonnets and de-sonnet-ization	Irene Pérez Puyol (Madrid, Spain): Voting, Speaking, Witnessing: Spectatorship in Ålex Rigola's Ibsen Adaptations	Azadeh M. Isaksen (Oslo, Norway): Dog, Doll, Director: Ibsenian Echoes and the Paradox of Power in Halina Reijn's <i>Babygirl</i> (2024)
17:45-18:45	Business meeting International Ibsen Committee				
19:30	Drinks Dinner				

SATURDAY JUNE 27 2026

Uhrzeit	Saturday, June 27				
9-10	Keynote Barbara Weber: Staging Hedda Gabler – Conversation				
	Work-based stream	Performance/history stream	Cultural analytic stream	Thematic stream	Hedda stream
10:00-11:30	Panel 7.1: Existential Challenges in <i>Emperor and Galilean</i>	Panel 7.2: Cross-cultural Performative Events	Panel 7.3: Thinking Gender with Ibsen	Panel 7.4: Ibsen – Old and New Media	Panel 7.5: Troubling Hedda Gabler III
10:00-10:30	Moderator: Hans Kristian S. Rustad	Moderator: Xiaomei Chen	Moderator: Eliane Jaberg	Moderator: Joachim Grage	Moderator: Gianina Druta
10:30-11:00	Ana Carolina Calenzo Chaves (Lisbon, Portugal): On Theatricality: Ibsen's Dramaturgical Contributions to Staging	Song Jia (Nanjing, China): Cross-cultural Performative Events: The Adaptation of Ibsen's Works in the New Century, the Aesthetic Transformation of Chinese Theaters, and Global Theatrical Culture	Dörte Linke (Berlin, Germany): Handicrafts in Henrik Ibsen's Plays as Female Knowledge Discourse and a Field of Female Agency	Astrid Sæther: Ibsen's Satirical Drawings	Rezan Saleh (Oslo, Norway): Trapped by Societal Constraints: The Parallels of Violence in the Lives of Kurdish Women and Hedda Gabler
	Giuliano D'Amico (Oslo, Norway): Spectral Topicality in <i>Emperor and Galilean</i>	Ahmed Ahsanuzzaman (Dhaka, Bangladesh): Doing <i>Hedda Gabler</i> in Bangladesh	Rhonda Vespestad (Oslo, Norway): Dangerous Bromances and "Yes Men": The complicit men in Ibsen's plays	Liang Xia & Julie Holledge: Activating Ibsen Research with VR technology	Huang Fangling (Shanghai, China): Humanity from Disorientation to Awakening: A Cross-Media Theater Experiment in the Era of Technological Accelerationism. Huang Fangling's New Work <i>Anna Gabler</i> as a Contemporary Interpretation of Ibsen
11:00-11:30	Christian Janss (Oslo, Norway): Friendship in		Yifan Zhang (Shanghai, China): Re-reading Ibsen's <i>Catiline</i> .	Xujia Zhou (Zurich, Switzerland): The Attic and the Algorithm:	Xiang Dingding (Shanghai, China): If the Child Were Ever

	H. Ibsen's <i>Emperor and Galilean</i> (1873)		Embodied Space, Femininity, and Liminality	Ibsen's "Life-Lie" as a Precursor to the Modern Information Bubble	Born: Motherhood Reconfigured in Recent Adaptations of <i>Hedda Gabler</i>
11:30-12:00	Coffee				
12:00-13:00	General meeting				
ca. 14:00-16:00	Excursions				