Spatial concepts are discussed and implemented in various ways within cultural studies. Furthermore, they impact (trans)disciplinary questions, discourses, and concrete research objects (see Baumgärtner, Klumbies, Sick 2009, p. 9). In this context, spatial concepts can be understood as constructs created and shaped by culture, which allow for a variety of associations: geographical spaces, sacred spaces and territories as well as written and social space, and linguistic and image space (p. 10). As a result of numerous global challenges such as climate crises, pandemics, and periods of war and peace, these spaces and their associations are continually being reconstructed. At the same time, these spaces challenge scientific disciplines to reflect on and to rethink traditional perspectives. The character of space, defined as (socially) constructed (see Lefebvre 2005, p. 30), thus repeatedly (re)shifts into the focus of cultural studies research.

Furthermore, transdisciplinary research approaches – meaning socially contextualized, theoretically grounded, methodologically based, and problem-oriented research (see Vilsmaier, Lang 2014, p. 89) – are becoming increasingly relevant in the process of reframing spatial concepts. In contrast to interdisciplinary approaches, transdisciplinary research perspectives primarily aim to reinforce a contemplation of their methods and practices, both within and outside of academic contexts (see Michelsen, Adomßent 2014, p. 46).

The conference therefore aims to present new perspectives and reflections on transdisciplinary spaces in cultural studies in relation to individual research projects. It also allows the exchange of ideas with scholars from a wide range of cultural studies disciplines. Complementing the thematic focus on transdisciplinary spaces as described above, presentations may ask further questions such as: Which social challenges is my research project motivated by? How does my research project contribute to cultural studies and to transdisciplinary research? Which spatial concept do I base my research on? In how far does the increased relevance of transdisciplinary research lead to a constant change of this space and of this conception of space?

Each presentation will be allotted 20 minutes plus time for discussion. Please send your abstract (max. 300 words) to graduierenforum-kw-team@lists.uni-paderborn.de by 15.02.2023. Abstracts may be submitted in German or English, as the conference allows for presentations in both languages.

We are aiming for the publication of presented papers in an anthology as part of the wbg series Interdisziplinäre Studien des Paderborner Graduiertenzentrums für Kulturwissenschaften (Interdisciplinary Studies of the Paderborn Graduate Center for Cultural Studies).

We are looking forward to receiving your abstract and to reading exciting contributions from all areas of cultural studies. If you have any questions or suggestions, please reach out to us via email at graduierenforum-kw-team@lists.uni-paderborn.de.

With kind regards from the Graduate Forum team

and Prof. Dr. Volker Peckhaus (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities)