

## CALL FOR PAPERS

2.-4.11.2026

University of Vienna / Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna (Austria)

### **Elfriede Jelinek: Science – Art – Democracy Interdisciplinary Workshop for early career researchers and artists**

*organized by the  
Joint Research Network Elfriede Jelinek  
of the University of Vienna and the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna in cooper-  
ation with Wien Modern and the Musikverein  
as part of Musikverein Perspektiven: Elfriede Jelinek*

**From 2 to 4 November 2026**, the Joint Research Network Elfriede Jelinek will host an inter-  
disciplinary workshop for early career researchers and early career artists. The workshop will  
take place at the University of Vienna and the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna,  
in cooperation with Wien Modern and the Musikverein.

**The workshop is aimed at** master's students, doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers,  
habilitation candidates, and project staff from the fields of literary studies, musicology, theatre  
studies, film studies, and media studies, as well as at emerging artists working in dramaturgy,  
directing, acting, dance, scenic writing, vocal performance, composition, and instrumental stud-  
ies. Applicants should be engaged in an academic or artistic project in the context of Elfriede  
Jelinek and interested in establishing longer-term networks with international experts.

**Thematically, the workshop is connected to** the current research focus *Science – Art – De-  
mocracy* of the Joint Research Network Elfriede Jelinek, which examines the role of science  
and art in the face of the erosion of democratic commitments and the global resurgence of pop-  
ulist politics and authoritarian forces.

In her texts, Jelinek analyses how anti-democratic movements abolish fundamental freedoms  
and undermine democratic checks and balances. She exposes global mechanisms of propagan-  
distic mass mobilization and the willingness of the masses to be seduced by images, slogans,  
and false promises. She warns against the destruction of democratic structures, the regression  
to traditional gender hierarchies, and the strengthening of reactionary economic and media dy-  
namics that establish themselves through violence, exclusion, manipulative linguistic aesthet-  
ics, and prophetically mythologizing rhetoric.

How can Jelinek's analyses be used to describe and interrogate contemporary risks to demo-  
cratic structures? And which concrete aesthetic and epistemic strategies can, and should science  
and art develop in order to counter anti-democratic discourses and rhetorics, to produce and  
promote enlightened, democratic knowledge, and thereby to open up new spaces for political  
thought and perception?

**We welcome academic and artistic contributions, as well as projects in the field of artistic  
research**, that engage—drawing on Elfriede Jelinek and her contexts and traditions—with the  
above questions in the media of linguistic form, musicality, and performativity. Text-based  
projects are equally encouraged, as are contributions from the fields of composition, dance,  
performance, and staging.

Building on the concept of the previous workshops held in 2014 (Vienna), 2016 (Bydgoszcz), 2018 (Brussels), and 2021 (Montpellier), this workshop will also be conceived as **part of an ongoing working process**. Its aim is to support participants in the development of their current projects.

Applicants are required to submit an abstract of 500 words and, if applicable, an additional video or audio file of no more than three minutes by **31 March 2026**.

Accepted proposals must be developed into a full contribution by **15 June 2026**. The workshop mentors will provide written feedback on these contributions in advance. During the workshop, participants will refer to this feedback in short presentations and further develop their projects in plenary sessions and small working groups.

Working languages are German and English; active proficiency in one of the two languages as well as **passive knowledge** of the other is required. Abstracts and contributions will be published online.

The following scholars and artists have agreed to serve as **mentors and co-mentors**. Each will supervise a group of 4–5 participants during the workshop:

- Prof.<sup>in</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Inge Arteel (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
- Mag.<sup>a</sup> Magdalena Hoisbauer (Volksoper Vienna)
- Assoc. Prof.<sup>in</sup> Dr.<sup>in</sup> Marie-Anne Kohl (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna)
- Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Stefan Krammer (University of Vienna)
- Univ.-Prof. Joonas Lathinen MA PhD (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bartolo Musil (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna)
- Univ.-Prof.<sup>in</sup> Mag.<sup>a</sup> Alex Riener (Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna)
- Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr. Günther Stocker (University of Vienna)

#### **Application:**

Early career researchers and early career artists are invited to submit a project working title, a description of the proposed project, an abstract (approx. 500 words, including 3–4 relevant bibliographic references), and a short biographical note (no more than 70 words), as well as, where applicable, an additional video or audio file of up to 3 minutes, in German or English to: [r.eidelpes@muk.ac.at](mailto:r.eidelpes@muk.ac.at)

Deadline for submission: **31 March 2026**

Notification of acceptance: from **1 May 2026**

Submission of full contributions: by **15 June 2026**

Mentors' feedback: by **15 September 2026**

Workshop dates: **2–4 November 2026**

Participants must cover **travel and accommodation expenses**; financial support cannot be provided.

**For further information**, please contact:

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