



Modern  
**German Studies**  
Graduate Seminar

14th Annual German Graduate Symposium, 29th of April 2017, University of Oxford

***Motion***

ping pong  
ping pong ping  
pong ping pong  
ping pong

Eugen Gomringer, *Ping Pong*, 1953

Life, ideas, narratives, bodies are always in motion. Whether in real, imaginary, or paper spaces, motion is hard to grasp and hold on to. Like a sound, it can be traced, chased, channeled and transformed, but it can't be pinned down. As soon as it is, it becomes stillness, silence, confinement. Whether conceived in abstract or physical terms, motion is life. The aim of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual German Graduate Symposium is to invite discussion on the range, depth and productivity of the concept of motion. We are interested in its aesthetic, scientific and philosophical configurations in the German context from the early modern period to the present day.

Topics might include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Speed, Rhythm and Dynamism
- Movement, Gestures, Reflexes
- Sports, Sex, and other active Bodies
- Commotion, Unrest, and Agitation
- Change, Shifts, and Initiative
- Film, Theatre, and Music as Motion
- Emotion and Affect as Processes
- Machines and Mechanisms
- Stillness

Other related ideas are more than welcome. The papers presented should be no longer than 30 minutes in length. We look forward to receiving abstracts of up to 250 words, to be sent to us before **Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2017**.

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