



## THE PODCAST: FORMS, FUNCTIONS, FUTURES

## AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

8 - 9 February 2018

in Mainz, Germany

organised by

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and Patrick Gill (Department of English and Linguistics, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)

When the podcast emerged at the start of the 21st century, its future was wide open: no one seemed to be entirely sure where it would be headed in terms of content, audiences or funding. In fact, the only point of agreement in 2004, when the term "podcast" was coined, seemed to be the note of optimism commentators struck when discussing this new medium. More than a decade later, engagement with the podcast has still barely permeated the academic mainstream, with publications on the topic tending to deal with pedagogical uses of or hands-on advice on podcasts and podcasting rather than with the form itself. Any critical debate of the podcast, its aesthetics, its relation to other media, its financing models and their impact on concrete specimens, etc. are rarely to be found. Looking back at more than a decade of podcasting, our symposium will avail itself of the opportunity to historicise this young medium by asking what developments the podcast has undergone and in what directions it is headed in terms of:

- contents
- audiences
- sponsors/advertising

Department of English and Linguistics English Literature and Culture

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- genres/formats
- aesthetics/affect
- politics
- relation to other media/genres
- distribution
- narratology
- use in the language classroom/other educational contexts

Equally welcome are contributions on related formats covered by the blanket term 'long-form audio', such as radio features and audiobooks, especially where they establish a relation to the form of the podcast.

As members of two English departments, the organisers are primarily interested in anglophone podcasts, though presentations on podcasts in other languages may be welcome if they provide enough transferable content. Additionally, we are interested in what can broadly be described as the cultural dimensions of podcasting. We welcome submissions from established and emerging scholars. The conference language is English.

Please send your 200-word abstract outlining a prospective 20-minute presentation to <a href="mailto:patrick.gill@uni-mainz.de">patrick.gill@uni-mainz.de</a> by 1 December.