

Luxury and Cultural Identities: Alterities and the Dynamics of Appropriation

International Symposium: Friday, 22 May 2026
(RPTU, Campus Landau)

Program

9:30 – 10:00	Meet and Greet
10.00 – 10.20	Stella Butter, Ekaterini Kepetzis, Frank Polzenhagen: Introductory Remarks
10.20 – 11.10	Christine Weder (University of Geneva): Culture as/against Luxury: A Double-Bind Relationship
11:10 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:20	Marion Gymnich (University of Bonn): Luxury - a Promising Concept for Dependency Studies?
12:20 – 13:30	Lunch Break (Butenschoen-Haus)
13.30 – 14.20	Hywel Dix (Bournemouth University): On Collectors and Collecting: The Pre-Mediation of Luxurious Beauty in Recent Literary Works
14.20 – 15.10	Ekaterini Kepetzis (RPTU): Blackness, Luxury, and Tobacco: Representing Alterity in Eighteenth-Century English Trade Cards
15.10 – 15.30	Coffee Break
15.30 – 16.00	Concluding Discussion

Symposium Venue

Butenschoen-Haus
Luitpoldstraße 8
76829 Landau/Pfalz

Luxury plays a vital role in the forging and upholding of cultural identities, not the least by endowing them with luster. After all, the power to enchant belongs to the affordances of 'aestheticized money' (Noam Yuran). The luxurious performance of identity across different domains is intertwined with the thorny issue of appropriation and its long history (witness the travelling of luxury goods across continents). This symposium seeks to explore this interplay between luxury, cultural identities and the dynamics of appropriation from the perspective of cultural studies, literature and the arts.