

DEAR READERS

As we move into the next phase of our work, we're excited to share the latest highlights from CAPAS — from welcoming new Fellows and introducing a new Academic Advisory Board for the second funding phase, to welcoming our new team member, launching our annual CAPAS magazine *Auguries*, and showcasing our recent Distinguished Lecture on the politics of suspension and the workshop *Emergent Worlds: Reconfiguring Agency amidst Anthropocene Emergencies*.

And it's not just theory — apocalyptic thinking is entering everyday life. Germany's proposal to include war and disaster preparedness in [school curricula](#) shows how societies are confronting existential threats, bringing end-times scenarios from academic debate straight into the classroom. Enjoy the read!

Your CAPAS Team

NEW FELLOWS

We are pleased to welcome our new CAPAS Fellows for 2025–2026:

Susanne Bauer, Claire Blencowe, Debolina Chatterjee, Federico Cuatlatl, Jyhene Kebisi, Chioma Daisy Onyige, Jan Cornelius Schmidt, Kayvan Tahmasebian, and Goran Vranešević, as well as our new affiliated researchers Alexander Marx and Philip Roscoe.

You can learn more about their careers and research projects on our [website](#).



New Academic Advisory Board

Additionally, CAPAS welcomed its **new Academic Advisory Board**, bringing together leading international scholars to guide the Centre's research and strengthen its global collaborations. We would like to express our gratitude to the former advisory board for the fruitful collaboration and support in the founding years of CAPAS. The new members are:

- Professor María del Pilar Blanco (Chair) is a specialist in Spanish American literature at the University of Oxford.
- Prof. Dr. Volkhard Krech is Professor of Religious Studies at Ruhr University Bochum and Director of the Center for Religious Studies (CERES).
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Lemke holds the Chair of Sociology with a focus on Biotechnology, Nature, and Society at Goethe University Frankfurt.
- Prof. Dr. Kate Rigby is an internationally recognized scholar in the Environmental Humanities. She holds the Alexander von Humboldt Professorship in Environmental Humanities at the University of Cologne and is founding director of the MESH Research Hub.
- Prof. Dr. Renata Salecl is a Slovenian philosopher, sociologist, and legal theorist. She serves as Professor of Psychology, Psychoanalysis & Law at Birkbeck College, University of London, and is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Criminology, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana.

[\(More info\)](#)

New Team Member

We are delighted to welcome **Marcel Kückelhaus** to the CAPAS team! Marcel studied German and English Literature and Linguistics in Heidelberg and Rennes and earned his PhD from Heidelberg University with a dissertation on the linguistic framing of artificial intelligence. With a strong background in interdisciplinary research and science communication, he now joins our **Science Communication and Outreach** department.



[\(More Info\)](#)

Publications



In Argentina, Eterna Cadencia has published the Spanish translation of *Im Schatten der Tradition* ([En las sombras de la tradición](#)), featuring a foreword by Verónica Gago and a chapter by CAPAS team member Bruna della Torre on Elisabeth Lenk, Theodor W. Adorno, and the avant-gardes.

In his article "[Apocalypsis and Apocalyptic Events: The Morphogenetic Ontology of Synchronized Catastrophes](#)," Rolando Gonzales Martinez analyzes apocalyptic events through a morphogenetic ontology, exploring how synchronized catastrophes reveal underlying patterns that shape the evolution of reality.

In the article "[Recursive Apocalypse](#)," Ezekiel Dixon-Román, Luciana Parisi, Oana Pârvan, and Tiziana Terranova argue that the recursive logic of apocalypse, including fascism, is rooted in "recursive colonialism," showing how global computation, racial capitalism, and historical colonial projects are interconnected, and propose cosmocomputation as a framework for political resistance.

Joe P.L. Davidson, in the article "[Apocalyptic Democracy](#)," argues that apocalypse and democracy can coexist, showing how thinkers like Shelley, DuBois, and Hallam use apocalyptic awareness to expose corruption and inspire new democratic forms.

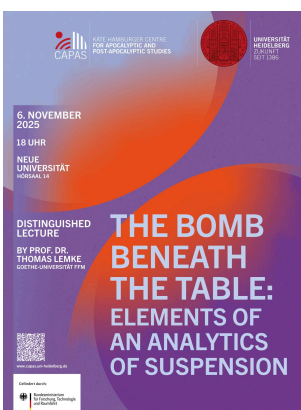
CAPAS Magazine 2025 – Auguries

We are excited to announce that the latest issue of our CAPAS Magazine is now officially published! This edition features a diverse collection of critical reflections, field notes, interviews, and artistic interventions. It continues our collective effort to explore apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic imaginaries from various disciplines and regions. [\(Read and download it here\)](#)



Past events

CAPAS Distinguished Lecture by Prof. Dr. Thomas Lemke (Goethe-University Frankfurt) – *The Bomb Beneath the Table: Elements of an Analytics of Suspension*



In the CAPAS Distinguished Lecture, Prof. Dr. Thomas Lemke examined the mechanisms of suspension in contemporary societies, identifying four interconnected modes: ontological (preserving life in a liminal state), temporal (postponing decisions), epistemological (undermining knowledge and trust), and affective (managing anxiety and disavowal in response to crises). The lecture drew on insights from his research project "Suspended Life: Exploring Cryopreservation Practices in Contemporary Societies" (CRYOSOCIETIES). (Will be available soon on the [CAPAS YouTube channel](#).)

Workshop – CAPAS (Heidelberg University) & IAS (University College London): *Emergent Worlds: Reconfiguring Agency amidst Anthropocene Emergencies*

In the workshop, the participants explored how emergencies are socially and politically constructed, examining their role in enabling new forms of action while generating power structures that can constrain certain actors. They discussed human imaginaries, socio-political institutions, and the agency of non-human forces in shaping processes of world-breaking and world-making, and addressed how emergent institutional power and human–non-human interactions co-determine responses to planetary-scale crises.

Other Media

Robert Folger – "Elk verhaal heeft een eind" (NEMO KENNISLINK)

In this article, Robert Folger explores our enduring fascination with the apocalypse. He reflects on how ideas of world-ending events—from historical crises to contemporary global risks—shape human thought, culture, and action. Read the full article [here](#) (in Dutch)

For those who are interested in the Apocalypse and in Brazil, here's a suggestion of a movie that just came out on **Netflix: *Apocalypse in the Tropics***. It explores the apocalypticism of the evangelical churches and pastors in Brazil and its connections with the right-wing movement. [\(Trailer on YouTube\)](#)

Upcoming Events

Conference: 25.02.-27.02.2026 – Recovering Universality? International Law and Emotions | Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany [\(More info\)](#)

Conference: 25.03.-27.03.2026 – Narrating Emancipation in Cuban and Eastern European Graphic Storytelling | Regensburg University, Regensburg, Germany [\(More info\)](#)

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With funding from the:

