EXC 2020
»Temporal Communities:
Doing Literature in
a Global Perspective«

## The Aesthetics and Politics of Collapse

Masterclass with Jack Halberstam

Summer Semester 2025 Temporal Communities
Distinguished Fellow
of Global Literary Studies

Co-taught by

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Freie Universität Berlin / EXC 2020

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Building on Jack Halberstam's recent work on "collapse" and "un/ worlding" as well as his seminal work on queer theory, this masterclass engages with the topic of "collapse" in relation to "deep time." Focusing on long time spans, we ask how these render visible or produce collapse, how collapse can be read as a symptom of deep time, how collapse may reveal traces of unregistered or unfathomable histories, and how the nexus itself intersects with both human and non-human processes (from politically produced or framed to environmental processes). In relation to literary and cultural productions, we explore the aesthetics and the politics of deep time and how they relate to the formation of communities. How do traces of deep time and/as collapse shape communities and their material practices? How do traces of deep time affect communities or community narratives, or call for their adjustment?

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