

# Narratives of American Culture in Dialogue

A Symposium in Celebration of  
Winfried Fluck's 80th birthday



with the book launch for REAL Yearbook 38:  
*Dialogues with Winfried Fluck: Essays and  
Responses on American Studies*

**24 April 2024**

3:30 – 7:45 pm, Room 340

**John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies**



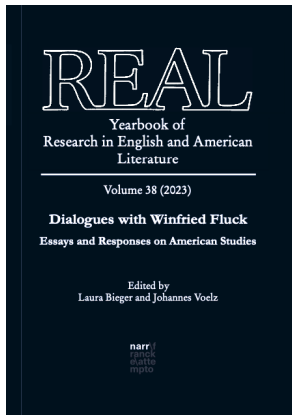
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# REAL Yearbook 38: Dialogues with Winfried Fluck: Essays and Responses on American Studies



Edited by Laura Bieger and Johannes Völz

Celebrating the 80th birthday of Winfried Fluck, this volume of REAL gathers leading US-American and European literary scholars from English and American Studies to engage some of his classic essays, covering topics that range from the aesthetics of early American literature to the history of our digital present and from the Americanization of literary studies to the search for American democratic culture. Each of the volume's twelve dialogues consists of a republished essay by Fluck and a response by one his interlocutors, written specifically for this occasion. Contributors include field-defining scholars, long-time companions, and colleagues whose intellectual trajectory has been impacted by Fluck's incisive metacriticism and his reception-oriented approach to literary and cultural history. The twelve dialogues reassess debates that have shaped literary studies in the late twentieth century and they inquire into the paradigmatic shifts that are currently reorganizing the field.

**3:30 Welcome** (Sebastian Kohl)

**Introduction** (Frank Kelleter)

**3:45 - 4:15 Laura Bieger**

“Reading for Premises: Some Thoughts on Winfried Fluck’s Field Shaping Method”

**4:15 - 4:45 Philipp Schweighauser**

“Fluck and the Early American Novel”

**4:45 - 5:15 Time for Discussion**

**5:15 - 5:30 Coffee Break**

**5:30 - 6:00 Johannes Völz**

“Aesthetics and Affects of Recognition”

**6:00 - 6:30 Susanne Rohr**

“What Fiction Can Do”

**6:30 - 6:45 Coffee Break**

**6:45 - 7:15 Don Pease**

“American Democratic Cultures and/as Winfried Fluck’s Aesthetic Fictions”

**7:15 - 7:45 Time for Discussion**

**7:45 Reception**

**Moderators:** Hannah Spahn, Samira Spatzek, Martin Lütke, Alexander Starre