In this joint venture of the RTGs (Research Training Groups) on “Ambiguity: Production and Perception” at Tübingen and on “The Literary and Epistemic History of Small Forms” at Humboldt University Berlin, in collaboration with the Literary Colloquium Berlin, we are interested in the problem or phenomenon of linguistic and poetic economy: how can it be defined? How and to what degree can we measure it?

Linguistic/poetic economy has strong links, so it would seem, to aptness, an in-between of ‘too much’ and ‘too little’, of the boring, superfluous, the incomprehensible, fragmentary. How short (or how long) is too short? How long (or short) is too long? When is a text ‘just right’ as to its length? Can what is apt be quantified, in the sense of measuring a certain number of signs, the duration of production and perception – in the words of Edgar Allan Poe: “to be read in one sitting”? Or does it describe a particular quality, an ideal as expressed by Sir Philip Sidney: “one word cannot be lost but the whole work fails”?

Our symposium aims at the most economic and unequivocal answers possible to the questions outlined here from scholarly perspectives that will be interspersed with artistic interventions. We have invited speakers who are interested in the reflexion, description, production and prevention of ambiguity in small and large(r) forms. The idea is to bring together academic, journalistic, poetic and poetological, rhetorical, political and other perspectives on (linguistic/poetic) economy and ambiguity.

Conference Venues
The event will take place in a hybrid format. It will take place via zoom in Berlin and Tübingen.

Literarisches Colloquium Berlin
Am Sandwerder 5
D-14109 Berlin

Organizers
Prof. Dr. Angelika Zirker
RTG 1808: Ambiguität – Production und Perception:
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Dr. Maren Jäger
RTG 2190: The Literary and Epistemic History of Small Forms:
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Please register your attendance via e-mail with Dr. Maren Jäger and Prof. Dr. Angelika Zirker.

Eberhard Karls University Tübingen
Humboldt-University Berlin
Literary Colloquium Berlin

14. & 15. Mai 2021
Friday, May 14

A M B I G U I T Y A N D L I N G U I S T I C / P O E T I C E C O N O M Y

10:30
Welcome and Introduction
Florian Höllerer (LCB)
Maren Jäger (Berlin) & Angelika Zirker (Tübingen)

11:15
Ambiguity and Economy of Poem Titles
Matthias Bauer & Martina Bross (Tübingen)

12:00
Title
Sigrid Beck (Tübingen)

13:00
Lunch break

14:15
Versuch über das Wünschen
Stefan Willer (HU Berlin)

15:00
Coffee break

S M A L L F O R M S A N D L I N G U I S T I C / P O E T I C E C O N O M Y

15:30
Statements and Discussion
Florian Fuchs, Joseph Vogl, Christy Wampole
(Chair: Maren Jäger)

Saturday, May 15

S M A L L F O R M S A N D A M B I G U I T Y

10:00
“In short, ’tis the women’s coffee house’:
Die Ambiguität der kleinen Form in Lady
Mary Wortley Montagus Turkish Embassy Letters
Patricia Plummer (Universität Duisburg-Essen)

10:45
Six-Word Stories: Extremely short, very meaningful, but unambiguous
David Fishelov (The Hebrew University Jerusalem)

11:30
Coffee break

12:00
Das “Streiflicht” der SZ als Spielform des Aktuellen
Lothar Müller (SZ Berlin)

12:45:
ΛV – A Sound Writing Tool: Eine plattenspielerische Wortkomposition (2020)
Andreas Bülhoff & Marc Matter (Berlin)

17:00
Discussion of/with the “Mixed Doubles”

A small review of aesthetic economy: “Mixed Doubles”

❖ Linguistics & Poetry:
Die Hase-Ente-Situation
Britta Stolterfoht & Ulf Stolterfoht

❖ Literature & Music:
“site special LCB”
Mara Genschel & Martin Schüttler

❖ Author & Translator:
Gossip & Osip
Eugene Ostashevsky & Uljana Wolf

❖ Author & Editor/Reader:
Wie findet ein Gedicht seine Form?
Sonja vom Brocke & Daniela Seel

from 15:00
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A joint venture of the RTG 1808 Ambiguity: Production and Perception (University of Tübingen) and the RTG 2190 Small Forms (HU Berlin) in cooperation with the Literary Colloquium Berlin