

Project C5

The Aesthetics of Co-Creativity in Early Modern English Literature

Project C5 "The Aesthetics of Co-Creativity in Early Modern English Literature" reconstructs an aesthetics of collaborative authorship in early modern English literature that is 'different' from concepts influenced by ideas of the author as an individual genius. The project analyses the communality of literary products (Working Area 1) as well as the literary productivity of communities (Working Area 2). The underlying hypothesis is that concepts of the communality of (literary) text production can be deduced not only from characteristics of and reflections on texts but also praxeologically from communities and their text production. Our work builds on the assumption that, in co-creative processes, an interrelation exists between the temporal production process, logical working steps, and the respective participants involved.

CRC 1391 Different Aesthetics

<https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/159334>

Workshop Venue

Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen
Brechtbau
Wilhelmstraße 50
72074 Tübingen
R. 215

Concept and Organisation

Project C5: The Aesthetics of Co-Creativity in
Early Modern English Literature

<https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/160798>

Project Chairs / Principal Investigators:

Prof. Dr. Matthias Bauer

Prof. Dr. Angelika Zirker

Doctoral Students:

Ina Berner

Yves Herak

Associate:

Dr. Laurie Atkinson

Contact

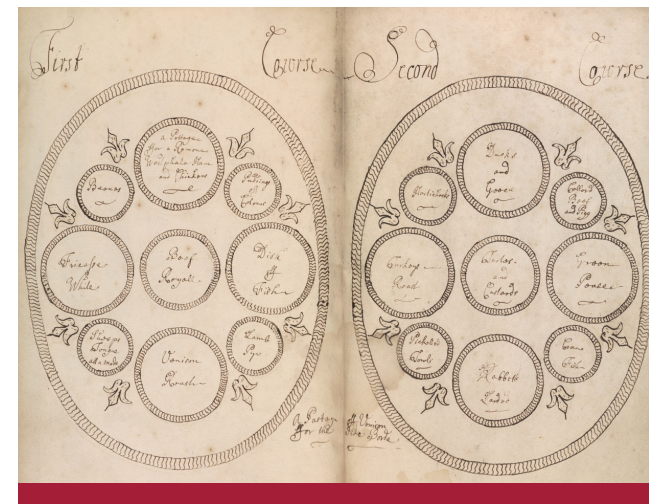
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**Please send a message if you wish to take
part via Zoom.**

© Wellcome Collection: Cookery-Books: 17th cent., pp.
346, 347.

**SFB 1391 Andere Ästhetik /
CRC 1391 Different Aesthetics**



CO-CREATING KNOWLEDGE:

RECIPE BOOKS AND COMMUNITY FORMATION IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

Workshop

**Project C5
The Aesthetics of Co-Creativity in
Early Modern English Literature**

28 November 2025



28 November 2025, R. 215 (Brechtbau)

10:00 **Matthias Bauer**

(University of Tübingen)

Welcome and Introduction

Chair: Yves Herak

10:30 **Edith Snook**

(University of New Brunswick)

Patient Experience and Recipe
Authority in Margaret Cavendish's
Poems and Fancies

Minutes: Alexander Wiemers

Chair: Ina Berner

11:30 **Kathryn Hempstead**

(University of Oxford)

Gesturing Towards the Aspirational
Community

Minutes: Nora Schalkers

12:30 **Lunch**

Chair: Yves Herak

13:30 **Ina Berner**

(University of Tübingen)

Dialogues, Lineages, and Special-
izations: Co-Creative Practices in
Early Modern Recipe Books

Minutes: Alexa König

14:30 **Coffee Break**

Chair: Laurie Atkinson

15:30 **Michelle DiMeo**

(Science History Institute, PA)

"Ghost Co-Authorship" in Early
Modern Didactic Texts

Minutes: Patricia Klač

Chair: Matthias Bauer

16:00 **Closing Discussion**

Minutes: Nora Schalkers

18:00 **Dinner at Restaurant "Forelle"**

Meeting Point: Entrance Brechtbau

(For those wishing to join the dinner who
are not speakers at the workshop, please
contact ina.berner@uni-tuebingen.de no
later than by 21 November 2025.)

This workshop examines early modern English recipe books as dynamic sites of co-creativity and community formation. Rather than viewing these texts as static repositories of information, we explore them as evolving records of collective knowledge shaped by multiple contributors—family, friends, and professional networks—across time. Often compiled over generations, recipe books not only document knowledge but also reflect the social interactions and collaborative processes that produced it.

A central focus of the workshop is the aesthetic and structural features of co-creativity in these texts. We will use a heuristic framework to identify and analyze different modes of collaboration: dialogical co-creativity, where contributions emerge through direct interaction or exchange; diachronic co-creativity, where knowledge is transmitted and transformed over time; and specialization-driven co-creativity, where input from diverse areas of expertise influences both the content and material form of the text. While these categories offer distinct analytical perspectives, they often overlap in practice, revealing the complexity of shared authorship in early modern pragmatic writing.

By investigating these collaborative modes, the workshop aims to deepen our understanding of how early modern communities formed around practices of shared knowledge production. Through an interdisciplinary approach that combines archival research, textual analysis, and historical inquiry, we will consider how the co-creative nature of pragmatic genres contributed to broader cultural and intellectual developments. Ultimately, the workshop seeks to reframe recipe books as central to the study of early modern sociability, authorship, and the circulation of practical knowledge.