

Gegenwartsbewältigung
**German literature, the shadows of the past
and the challenge of the present**

A masterclass
with Max Czollek



Date: 10 November 2025
Time: 11-13 h
Location: BH-OIH E 1.02

Interested students and colleagues are invited to a masterclass with the author Max Czollek. We will discuss his thoughts about the political character of literature throughout 20th century German history and into the present. How has the German language been entangled with the country's past crimes and traumas and how is that relevant for dealing with our present shaped by a far right that is gaining political ground? History and literature, memory and political work come together in Czollek's thinking and writing in a way that invites us to face the current political moment through reflecting the relationship between past and present, language and people. We will have a conversation about some of Max Czollek's recent writings (among which an extract from the Essay *Gegenwartsbewältigung*) about these questions.

Max Czollek lives in Berlin. He studied Political Sciences at the FU Berlin and did a Ph.D. at the Center for Antisemitism Research (TU Berlin). He is a member of the poetry collective G 13, co-editor of the journal *Jalta – Positionen zur jüdischen Gegenwart*. The Essay *Desintegriert Euch!* was published in 2019 (English *Des-Integrate!*, 2023), *Gegenwartsbewältigung* in 2020, and *Versöhnungstheater* in 2023. He also published four volumes of poetry: *Druckkammern* (2012), *Jubeljahre* (2015), *Grenzwerte* (2019) and *Gute Enden* (2024) with Verlagshaus Berlin.

Organization: Hanno Balz, Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam
Moderation: Natalie Scholz, University of Amsterdam

To sign up for the masterclass please send an e-mail to: Hanno Balz (h.balz@uva.nl)
Two texts (in German) will be pre-circulated. The discussion will be held in English.