



UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

Call for papers for early career scholars:

What do new corpora do to research practices in literature? (12th-21th centuries)

Conference on French-language literature

September 25, 26 and 27, 2024

University of Fribourg, Switzerland

The literary canon, whose essence has been debated for over fifty years in the course of the “culture wars”, has recently been revised, expanded, fragmented, deconstructed, or even abandoned, due to scientific and ethical reasons. In a process facilitated by the development of digital libraries and archives, many texts that had previously remained out of the scope of scholarship have now gained attention. In fact, profound shifts have moved our field from the study of “belles-lettres” as it was practiced in the 19th century to that which drives our literature departments today. The spatial, temporal, linguistic, and cultural boundaries to which we were accustomed have thus been displaced, if not erased, while generic categories have been remodeled, driven by intermedial and transdisciplinary approaches.

In light of these changes, we need to reflect on the consequences of the emergence of new corpora on literary studies in terms of methods and epistemology. Whether or not new corpora are the focus of our research, how do they influence the way we work and think about literature written in French? To what extent do they renew research practices in our field?