

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

WAITING FOR THE BARBARIANS

UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN

23-26 SEPTEMBER

THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Lucia van Heteren

Eleftheria Ioannidou

Pieter Verstraete

Marline Lisette Wilders

MA INTERNS TEAM

Marcello Benedetti

Aistè Gargasaite

Lara van der Schaaf

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Mai Valk

**PRE-CONFERENCE DAY
TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER**

10:00 Registration desk opens

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

11:00-13:00 Editorial Meeting of *European Journal of Theatre and Performance* (EJTP)

13:00-14:00 Workshop for EJTP Editorial Board with José Sikkens & Dorien van Rheenen (University of Groningen Press)

15:00-17:00 EASTAP Executive Committee Meeting (ExComm members only)

18:15 SPOT ON Theatre Series
Lecture Performance by Hossein Tavazoni
Waiting, Witnessing, Disappearing
Venue: USVA
Munnekeholm 10, 9711 JA Groningen

**WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER – SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

PAPER PANELS, EMERGING SCHOLARS FORUM (ESF), AND ARTISTIC EVENTS

TEMPORALITIES OF AFFECT

MEDIALITIES OF WAITING

**WHO IS THE
BARBARIAN?**

**CAN WE IMAGINE
COLLECTIVE FUTURES?**

ESF

Panels and ESF sessions are labelled with initials and a number (e.g., T.1.). The letter indicates the thematic thread (T for Temporalities of Affect, M for Medialities of Waiting, W for Who is the Barbarian?, or C for Collective Futures) or ESF for Emerging Scholars Forum; the number indicates the session within that thread.

DAY 1
WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

9:00-9:30 Registration and coffee

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

9:30-10:15 Conference Opening and Welcome

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Alice Lagaay, Chair of Arts, Culture and Society, University of Groningen (RUG)

Eleftheria Ioannidou & Pieter Verstraete, members of RUG Organising Committee

Rui Pina Coelho & Stefania Lodi Rizzini, EASTAP Executive Committee members

10:30-12:15 Paper Panels

Panel T.1. From Suspension to Destruction

Venue: Room 3227.0152, Anda Kerkhoven Centre

Chair: Rui Pina Coelho

Wenjun (June) Zhu: Waiting for Reform: Self and Other, Suspension and Progression in Chinese Adaptations of *Waiting for Godot*

Alexandra Marinho de Oliveira: The Poetics of Waiting in Brecht: A Dialogue with Walter Benjamin on the Barbarian and Critical Interruption.

Philip Hager: Temporalities of Impasse and Deferral in post-2010 Greece: *Late Night* and *Antonio*
or the Message

Luule Epner: Waiting for Destruction: Lauri Lagle's *Leviathan*

Panel M.1. Bodies and Voices

Venue: Social Hub

Chair: Timmy De Laet

Katja Schneider: Waiting in the Whiteness of Black: Simone Forti's *The Bear in the Mirror*

Annelies Van Assche: *Le Foyer de la Danse 2.0*: Old Histories, New Precarities

Elena Kamilari: The Dramaturgical, Political and Intermedial Configurations of Waiting in the Adaptation of Ionesco's *The Chairs* (1971) on Greek Radio during the Military Dictatorship of 1967-1974

Richie Lux Kramár: Meditations in an Emergency: The Operatic Prompter and the Dramaturgies of Suspension

Panel W.1. The Performative Barbarian

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Chair: Hossein Tavazoni

Natassa Siouzouli: The Advent of the Object, or: Waiting for the Subject to Vanish: Performance, Power, and Persistence

Armando Rotondi: Waiting for the Machine: Guy Bar-Amotz and the Performative Barbarian

Kamila Mamadnazarbekova: Beaufs, Barbarians, and Trans Performativity

Stefania Lodi Rizzini: Ritual Temporalities and Queer Fugitivity in the Performative Practice of Va Bene

Panel C.1. Ecologies of the Future

Venue: De Noorderlingen

Chair: Marline Lisette Wilders

Gustavo Vicente: Towards an Ecology of the Invisible: Practices of Care in Performing Arts

Valentina Temussi: Waiting as Political Time: Vigilance, Witnessing, and the Civil Theatre of Marco Paolini

Marcela Moura: The Mangrove as Barbaricum: A Model for the Creation of a Complex Stage

Rūta Mažeikienė: Performing AI-Augmented Dramaturgy: Between Human and Machine

ESF 1. Dramaturgical Linging

Venue: Studio X, Het Regulateurshuis

Chair: Noah Lena Vercauteren

Lisa Celsi: 'Make Them Wait for It, then... What?': Spectatorship as Waiting in Sarah Kane's First and Last Plays

Borghild Rangnes Homlong: The Act of Waiting: Exploring the Dramaturgical Potential of Audience Interaction during the Theatre Intermission

Hossein Oroumiehchiha: Waiting and Suspension in *The Seagull*: Failures, Trauma, and the Dramaturgical Power of Deferred Action

10:45-11:15 Open session at Het Houten Huis, hosted by David van Griethuysen (managing director and dramaturg)

Location: Kunstwerf, Bloemsingel 10c

Get a backstage look at this imaginative music theatre company for young audiences, and see how it fits into Groningen's theatre ecosystem.

*** The session at Het Houten Huis overlaps with the panels. ***

12:15-14:00 Lunch break

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

14:00-15:45 Paper Panels

Panel T.2. Other Bodies

Venue: Zaal 1

Chair: Marianne Fraklin

Jetë Zhitia: Desire Deferred: *Phèdre* and the Dramaturgy of Waiting

Yanna Kor: Woman in Waiting in Contemporary Theatre

Simone Chiacchiararelli: Beginnings as Relational Devices: Reconfiguring

Waiting and Crip Time in Bersani's Performances

Ljubiša Matić: Countdown to Shutdown

Panel M.2. Art / Activism

Venue: Room 3227.0137, Anda Kerkhoven Centre

Chair: Thijs Lijster

Liesbeth Groot Nibbelink & Sigrid Merx: Simulation, Speculation and Dramaturgies of Suspension in *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*

Ana Maria Ursu: Art-tivism in Post-socialism

Fernando Matos Oliveira: Between Sleep and Laziness: Revisiting the 'Politics of Installation'

Panel C.2. Citizenship, Ethics, Response-ability

Venue: De Noorderlingen

Chair: Philip Hager

Marilena Zaroulia: 'The Barbarians Are Already Inside': Performing a Decolonial Europe in Hew Locke's *The Procession* (2022)

Catriona Craig: Deferred Arrival: (In)Action, Ethical Dramaturgy, and Agonistic Solidarity

Elodie Verlinden: Suspending the Horizon: Whiteout, Signification, and the Dramaturgy of Deferred Eventuality in *Dehors est blanc* (Tumbleweed)

Alex Norton: Bodies of Punishment: Performing Tragic Otherness in Applied Prison Theatre

ESF 2. The Barbarian as Sexual Object

Venue: Studio X, Het Regulateurshuis

Chair: Maíra Santos

Marie-Louise Kolmos: Violators and Rebel-Bodies: Exploring Narratives Surrounding Intimacy Coordination in a Danish Production Context

Matteo Tamborrino & Andrea Zardi: GRNDR or Date a Barbarian

Keiu Virro: Co-creating Accessible Theatre: A Culture Hackathon as Action Research

15:45-16:00 Coffee break

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

16:00-17:15 Keynote Talk

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Maria Boletsj, University of Leiden / University of Amsterdam

‘Waiting for the Barbarians’ as Political Stage:

From Modernist Suspension to Polycrisis, Defeat and Radical Hope

17:15-18:15 Drinks reception

Venue: Zaal 1, Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

18:15-19:30 Dinner on your own

*** If you are attending the performance, please allow enough time to get to the theatre. ***

20:00 Performance evening

Venue: Grand Theatre Groningen

***Helstone in het Pand der Goden* by Mathieu Wijdeven (Theater Rotterdam)**

DAY 2

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

9:30-10:00 Registration and coffee

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

10:00-11:15 Keynote Talk

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Emma Cox, Royal Holloway, University of London (EASTAP Associate Scholar)

Reparation, Temporality, and Response:

Awaiting the Law after Migration Fatalities

11:15-11:30 Coffee break

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

11:30-13:15 Paper Panels

Panel T.3. Memory and Endurance

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Chair: Pieter Verstraete

Matilde Ghelardini: Presence through Absence: Silence, Memory, and Waiting in the Theatre of Gabriel Marcel

Suzanne Knip-Mooij: ‘This Strange Loop is Endless, Eternal’: On the Vibrancy of Suspended Temporalities in Susanne Kennedy’s Theatrical Trilogy

Kristina Hagström-Ståhl: ‘Traumatic Realism’ and the Scene of Memory: Time and Temporality in the Plays of Charlotte Delbo

Arianna Frattali: Suspended Time: Dramaturgies of Waiting in Robert

Wilson’s *Odyssey*

Panel M.3. Language and Translation

Venue: The Social Hub

Chair: Marline Lisette Wilders

Henriëtte Rietveld: Translating Early Modern Barbar(it)y

Margherita Laera: Leaving the Barbarians Out of the Curriculum? The Role of International Drama in UK Drama Education in Schools

Kasia Lech & Claire French: No More Surtitles? Materiality and Linguistic Citizenships of the Global East

Christina Svens: Contesting Social Fantasies about 'the Others': Multilingual Dramaturgy in the Children's Theatre Performance *The Heroine of Basra* by Theatre Jalada

Panel C.3. Theatre as Political Institution

Venue: De Noorderlingen

Chair: Quirijn van den Hoogen

Lisa Skwirblies: Performing *Staatsräson*: Cultural Freedom, Barbarism, and the Cancellation of Wajdi Mouawad's *Birds of a Kind* in Munich

Lily Climenhaga: Post-Patriarchy? Institutionalized Misogyny, *The Brotherhood* (2024), and Carolina Bianchi's Critique of European Theatre's Patriarchy Problem

Sandra Grehn: Searching for Memory, Barbarian Acts and New Possible Futures in Angered Theatre's production *Omelas* (2025), inspired by Ursula K.

Le Guin's Sci-fi *Novella The Ones Who Walked Away from Omelas*

Rita Agatina Di Leo: Waiting for a No-form of Censorship: *Sorry, Boys* by Marta Cuscunà

ESF 3. Waiting as Method

Venue: Studio X, Het Regulateurshuis

Chair: Noah Lena Vercauteren

Dominika Fleszar: Waiting for the Red Barbarian: Katyn Dread in London

Émigré Plays *Świadek* and *Displaced Person* (1948)

Arianna Morganti: The Institutional Counter-festival: Performative Practices and Political Memory in Estate Romana (1977-1985)

Eyck Marcus Wendt: Can The Performance Wait? Enduring the Interruption in Milo Rau's *Vienna Trials* (2024) and Tania Bruguera's *Where Your Ideas Become Civic Actions* (2015/2024)

Sanita Duka: Un Barbare à Paris: Left-Wing Cosmopolitanism, Estrangement, and the Barbarian Gaze

13:15-14:30 Lunch break

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

14:30-16:15 Paper Panels

Panel T.4. Waiting as Dramaturgical Device

Venue: Room 3227.0050, Anda Kerkhoven Centre

Chair: Lucia van Heteren

Frithwin Wagner-Lippok: On the Affectivity of Waiting: Phenomenological Aspects of Waiting Using the Example of Kae Tempest's *Let Them Eat Chaos*

David Roesner: The Comedy of Waiting: Musicality, Rhythm, and Political Expectation in Weimar Germany

Jurgita Staniškytė: From Durational Performances to Comic Pranksters:

Repertoires of Protest: Lithuanian Case

Alix De Morant: The Return of Frank(enstein)

Panel M.4. Relational Modalities

Venue: Social Hub

Chair: Pieter Verstraete

Anneli Saro & Hedi-Liis Toome: Decolonizing Moments in the Russian Theatre in Estonia

Merilin Jürjo: Us vs Others: The Role of Theatre in Reinforcing Beliefs

Raffaella Viccei: When the Other Is Oneself: Waiting for Oedipus with Bob

Wilson and Ulrich Rasche

Danielle Mages Amato: Staging Grief-Worlds: Re-Mapping Time and Space in Performance

Panel W.4. Entangled Pasts and Presents

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Chair: Giuseppe Fidotta

Hossein Tavazoni & Eleftheria Ioannidou: Ancient Barbarians in Modern Cultural Imaginaries

Katerina Karra: Waiting for Civilization: Foreign Actresses, Operetta, and Cultural Anticipation in the Eastern Mediterranean (1900-1940)

Deimantė Dementavičiūtė-Stankuvienė: Between Civilization and Barbarians: The Postcolonial Hero in Post-Soviet Lithuanian Theatre

Tancredi Gusman: Waiting for Performance to Come: Documentation and Reactivation between Past and Future

Panel C.4. Collective Being

Venue: De Noorderlingen

Chair: Philip Hager

Andy Lavender: Performance Temporalities in the Face of Doom

Paula Gomes Magalhães: Active Waiting: Political Urgency and Vigilance in Portuguese Revue Theatre (1974–1975)

Lukáš Kubina: Waiting for the Barbarian to Slip: Political Authenticity, Performative Breakdown, and the Dramaturgy of Anticipation

Paul Geary: (Not) Knowing the Future: Awaiting, Anticipating, and Staging Futurity in Ontroerend Goed's *World Without Us* (2016)

ESF 4. On the Threshold of Waiting

Venue: Studio X, Het Regulateurshuis

Chair: Sanaz Afshin

Ermina Apostolaki: The Barbarian Within: Durational Labour and the Suspension of Event in *Pleno*

Maria Sławińska: Where Miracles Happen: Theatre Beyond the Visible

Ioanna Solidaki: Slowness and the Experience of Stretching Time as Tacit Protest

Burcu Güney Yilmaz: Matrixial Temporality: Cultural Borderspaces and Time-Wealth Equity

16:15-17:00 Light pre-performance snack

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

16.30-17:00 Grondtonen showcase at Het Houten Huis, hosted by Elien van den Hoek (director) Martin Franke (composer/puppeteer), and David van Griethuysen (dramaturg)

Location: Kunstwerf, Bloemsingel 10c

Meet the makers behind Grondtonen ('ground tones' or 'root notes'), a new music theatre production for young audiences in the North, and hear how live music is built into imaginative theatre from the ground up.

*** The session at Het Houten Huis overlaps with the pre-performance snack. ***

The barbarians are finally here!

Stilt performer Fiona van den Bergh will join us at the Kunstkantine during the pre-performance snack and guide us to Stadsschouwburg for the dress rehearsal of *Waiting for the Barbarians*.

Performance Evening

Venue: Stadsschouwburg Groningen

17:45-18:30 Discussion with Klaus Bertisch (dramaturg)

Moderated by Pieter Verstraete

**19:00 Dress rehearsal *Waiting for the Barbarians*
Nederlandse Reisopera in coproduction with Club Guy & Roni**

Duration: 2 hours and 45 minutes

*** This is a dress rehearsal. Timings may vary. ***

DAY 3
FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

8:45-9:00 Registration and coffee
Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

9:00-10:45 Paper Panels

Panel T.5. Waiting, Wanting, Becoming

Venue: Room 3227.0205, Anda Kerkhoven Centre

Chair: Alix de Morant

Cock Dieleman: Het wachten van / op Jetse Batelaan

Yağmur Atlar: Waiting for the Audience: Empowering Silence in Tim Crouch's Plays

Helena Buffery: 'Waiting for Tomorrow: Temporal Suspension, Memory and Transgenerationality in the Work of Helena Tornero'

Roksana Niewadzisz: 'Trapped Somewhere Between "I" and "Other": Practice-based Re-tellings of Animal-Woman Folk Tales'

Panel M.5. Cultural Borderspaces and Civil Resilience

Venue: Room 3227.0206, Anda Kerkhoven Centre

Chair: José Pedro Sousa

Panel of 3 participants

Rebecca Brinch, Ylva Lorentzon, & Anna Lund: Transforming Imaginaries: Institutional Dramaturgies for Civil Resilience

Panel W.5. Barbarians and the Future

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Chair: Marline Lisette Wilders

Rui Pina Coelho: Barbarian Bodies at the End of the World: Heterotopia, Utopia and Refusal in Tiago Rodrigues's *La Distance*

Alena Dvorakova: Waiting for the Hero of Resistance to Turn a Traitor
Cláudia Madeira & Raquel Rodrigues Madeira: What are We Waiting for? We, the Barbarians!: A 'Resistance Manual for 2050' (2025), by Ana Borralho and João Galante

Panel C.5. The Barbarian as Performative Strategy

Venue: De Noorderlingen

Chair: Lucia van Heteren

Martin Bernátek: Choreopolitics of Red Vienna

Paulo Filipe Monteiro: Bluebeard, the Homemade Barbarian

Małgorzata Budzowska: Standby: On the Need for *Barbaric* Art in Times of War

10:45-11:00 Coffee break
Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

11:00-12:45 Paper Panels

Panel T.6. #MeToo: Polish Perspective

Venue: Room 3227.0137, Anda Kerkhoven Centre

Chair: Şirin Fulya Erensoy

Panel of 4 participants

Katarzyna Waligóra, Monika Kwaśniewska-Mikuła, Kasia Lech, & Marta Keil:

Theatre Studies After #MeToo: Polish Perspective

Panel M.6. Humans and Robots

Venue: De Noorderlingen

Chair: Alice Lagaay

Panel of 4 participants

Maike Bleeker, Soyun Jang, Laura Karreman, & Ruowen Xu:

The Robots are Coming: Affect, Attunement and Imagination in Human-Robot Encounters

Panel W.6. Willful Barbarians

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Chair: Stephen Wilmer

Aylwyn Walsh: An elegy for *Elegy*

Maíra Santos: Cronopolitics of Waiting: Unlearning the Barbarian Within the Imperial Gaze

Ewa Bal: Theatrical *akēdía* is a Resistance Strategy in Response to Challenges of Patriotism, Heroism and Capitalism

Presentation of EJTP Issue 7.2

Timmy De Laet & Pieter Verstraete (Editors-in-Chief)

Venue: Studio X, Het Regulateurshuis

12:45-13:45 Artist Panel

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Guy Weizman (EASTAP Associate Artist)

Moderated by Eleftheria Ioannidou

13:45-14:45 Lunch break

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

13:45-14:45 ESF Lunch Panel on Academic Publishing

with Sara Brady (Managing Editor of TDR), Mariellen Sandford (Associate Editor of TDR), Timmy De Laet, & Pieter Verstraete (Editors-in-Chief of EJTP)

Venue: Studio X, Het Regulateurshuis

**** This session overlaps with lunch. ****

14:45-16:00 Keynote Talk

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Sruti Bala, University of Amsterdam

All the Arms we Need:

On the Normalisation of Militarisation in the European Cultural Realm

16:00-16:45 Artist Panel

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Chokri Ben Chikha, Action Zoo Humain

Moderated by Lucia van Heteren

16:45-17:00 Coffee break

17:00-18:00 Performance Lectures

Performance Lectures 1

Venue: De Noorderlingen

Chair: Eleftheria Ioannidou

Agata Tomšič: Can a Barbarian Change the Society We Live in through a Violent and Radical act of Rebellion?

Performance Lectures 2

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

Chair: Pieter Verstraete

Christina Schmutz: Those Times Are Gone: A Lecture Performance on the Paradoxical Relationship of Restlessness in Theatre Art and Politics

Theron Schmidt: Waiting for Emergence: Performing Non-linear Classrooms

DAY 4
SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Staged Reading

Venue: Studio X, Het Regulateurshuis

Student collaboration between the University of Amsterdam (MA International Dramaturgy) and Leiden University (Minor in Gender Studies)

Chair: Marline Lisette Wilders

Children is All by James Purdy

Participants: Yuankun Zhou, Grace Kavanagh, Jonna Wikström, Eros Chien

Curating the North

Venue: Room 3227.0133, Anda Kerkhoven Centre

Open discussion with cultural agents from the North of the Netherlands and University of Groningen alumni on how to relate to the conference theme in practice: Mark Hospers (Explore the North), Marinthe Vergonet (De Harmonie Leeuwarden), Raydun Bolk (Festival Noorderzon), and Nina Postma (Tryater).

Chair: Lucia van Heteren

Special guest: Hans van Maanen

18:00-20:00 Dinner on your own

20:00 Performance Evening

Venue: Grand Theatre Groningen

Double Bill: Nik Rajsek KINK, Sanam Tahmasebi, *ShELFISH – Archive of a Lonely Body*

9:00-9:15 Registration and coffee

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

9:15-11:15 EASTAP AGM Meeting and Plenary

Open to all EASTAP Members

Venue: Zaal 1, Machinefabriek

11:15-11:30 Coffee break

Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

11:30-13:15 Paper Panels

Panels W.7. / C.7. The Waiting Never Ends

Venue: Machinefabriek, Zaal 1

Chair: Eleftheria Ioannidou

Caterina Piccione: 'Où le soleil tue les questions': Waiting, Alterity, and the Need for Meaning in Camus's *Le Malentendu*

Marta Brites Rosa: Rehearsing Freedom: When the Audience Became the Event

Eva-Liisa Linder: Same Waiting, Different Welcomes: Political Theatre and Democratic Transition in Estonia

José Pedro Sousa: Barbarian Intermissions: Modalities of Cultural Resistance in 17th-century Theatre in Portugal

13:15-14:00 Light lunch and World Café

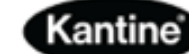
Venue: Kunstkantine, Machinefabriek

EASTAP

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE



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