Practicing Companionship (Berlin/Hildesheim, 24 Nov 26 - 7 Jan 27)

Berlin, Spore Initiative Berlin / Books of Others Berlin; Hildesheim, University of Hildesheim, Nov 24, 2026–Jan 7, 2027

Annika Haas, Universität Hildesheim

What does it mean to claim companionship not just as a concept, but to also embrace it as a method? Practicing Companionship is a series of film screenings, readings and research workshops that calls for shared ways of being and doing. It invites gathering and journeying together under unsurmountable forces of loss, disaffection and violence.

Companionship as practice requires affective labours of being-with just as it affords joys of thinking and making together. We believe that forms of togetherness can be made to work against neo-imperial pressures that seek to divide us, homogenize and control how we perceive history and the present, no less the increasing attacks against academic and artistic attempts towards becoming companions with marginalized histories, perspectives and peoples.

Practicing Companionship is our invitation to pluralize, de-authorize and unmaster in the company of fellow thinkers and with texts, films, and stories while remaining open to the uncertainties and disclosures involved in the process. We invoke the notion of hamsafar — □□□□□ — the Persian-Urdu term for co-traveller to imagine a transformative journey through which strangers can become companions: we gather practices spanning the discursive, the social, the intimate as well as the aesthetic threads that run through the works of our guests along the way.

On the promise of gathering, we turn to the Arabic-Farsi-Urdu concept of majlis — □□□□□□ — literally, a place of sitting, a room for socializing and receiving guests. In Muslim South Asia, majlis is both the space and the act of gathering. It is an iterative site of purposeful remembrance where sitting with a historical tragedy is what gives affective shape to politics of the present. Whether we gather in a majlis or as one, we sit with history, extend a hand across time. We hold space for collective loss and shared purpose.

PROGRAM

24 November 2026, 5:30 PM–8 PM
University of Hildesheim, Kulturcampus
Thin Attachments: A Reading with Omar Kasmani

29 November 2026, 5 PM – 7:30 PM
Spore Initiative Berlin
The Nest: Film Screening with Julietta Singh. Followed by a conversation between Julietta Singh and Sylvia Schedelbauer

30 November 2026, 10 AM – 3PM
Books of Others Berlin. Registration mandatory: waiting list.
WRITING / LIFE: Workshop with Julietta Singh & Nathan Snaza, Berlin

30 November 2026, 04:30 PM – 6 PM
Common Imprint, Berlin. Please register.
Self-Publishing & Publishing Selves: Visit to Common Imprint with Sam Kim, Berlin

6–7 Januar 2027
University of Hildesheim, Kulturcampus. Please register.
Unsettling Intimacies and Potential Companions: Workshop with Essa Grayeb, Flavia Mazzarino, and Misha Zakharov, University of Hildesheim

Please register for the workshops.
Contact: grk2477@uni-hildesheim.de

Full program: https://www.uni-hildesheim.de/grk-2477/veranstaltungen/

Organized by Lukas Graf, Annika Haas, Omar Kasmani, Juri Wasenmüller
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Reference:
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