

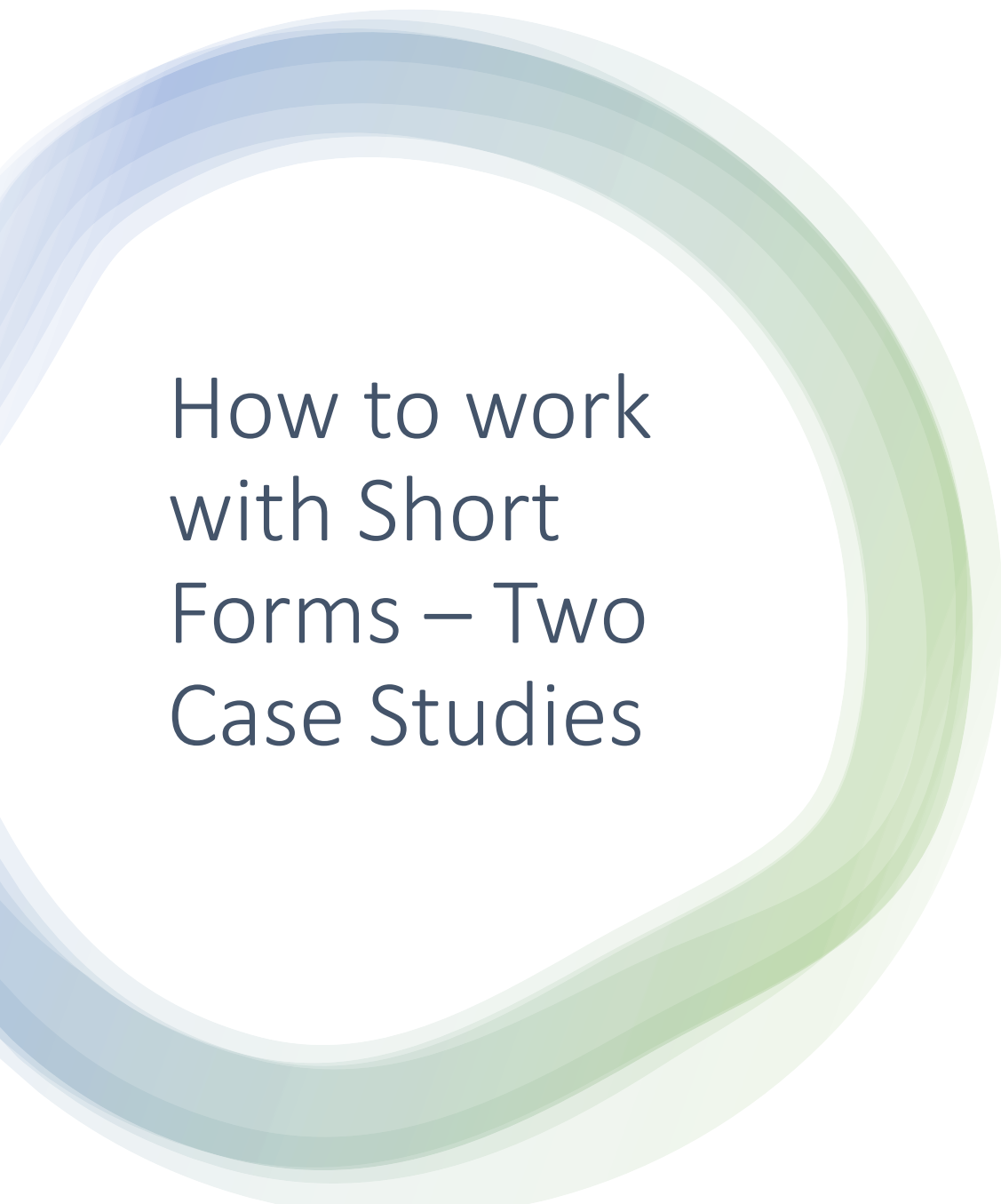
Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



Short Forms in the Classroom  
University of Angers, 12 July 2023

# Short Forms in Higher Education Learning and Teaching

Michael Basseler, Kirsten von Hagen  
(Justus Liebig University Giessen)



How to work  
with Short  
Forms – Two  
Case Studies

Workshop Series „Short Forms, Big  
Impact: Brevity as a Tool in Research,  
Teaching and Communication“

Creative Writing Course

# The International Graduate Centre for the Study of Culture (GCSC)



- Est. 2006 (German “Excellence Initiative”)
- Interdisciplinary profile (humanities & social sciences)
- 9 Research Areas & 3 Emerging Topics Research Groups
- ca. 90 PhD candidates
- Wide-ranging course programme, including Teaching Centre & Career Service

MAY 9, 2023

**Presenting Research in Short Form: Abstract Writing**  
(Katharina Stornig)

MAY 16, 2023

**Affordances of Short Forms in Teaching Literature and Culture**  
(Michael Basseler & Kirsten von Hagen)

MAY 23, 2023

**Short Forms for Distracted Minds? Social Media, the Attention Economy, and Science Communication**  
(Sandra Engels & Robin Schmieder)

JUNE 6, 2023

**Research on Stage: Slams as a Format for Science Communication**  
(Benjamin Roers)

JUNE 27, 2023

**Research goes Public: Science Communication in Exhibitions**  
(Jana Keidel)

MAY 9, 2023 4:30 P.M. – 6 P.M.

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EVENT SERIES

**SHORT FORMS, BIG IMPACT**  
BREVITY AS A TOOL IN RESEARCH,  
TEACHING, AND COMMUNICATION

Registration:  
<https://t1p.de/f20oc>





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# Some insights from our evaluation

- Participation: 19 PhD candidates (9 of which attended 2 or more workshops in the series)
- Background of participants: literary and cultural studies, history, social sciences
- One third of the participants rated the workshop series as “very good” (A), 90% gave it either an A or B
- Among the most productive aspects, participants said that the workshop enabled them to rethink their own research from a different angle

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## Online course in creative writing

- Bilingual online courses with researcher and artist-educator **Nirina Ralantoaritsimba** have enabled intensive cooperation in hybrid teaching between the participating institutions, strengthening and deepening of cooperation through the duration and frequency of seminars and workshops.
- By setting up activities with students once a week, we could establish a new regularity in writing exercises, a more detailed pedagogical progression over an academic year, and therefore an improvement in students' writing practices and also their ability to analyse and interpret (short) texts within a wider range of cultural contexts.





# Online course in creative writing

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Some exemplary topics covered:

- Autofiction and self-writing
- Literature and sociology
- Literature and migration



The combination of creative writing, interpretation and analysis of texts and the writing process has led to great enthusiasm among the students and to some very beautiful texts, some of which we are now publishing (Axel Dielmann Verlag, Frankfurt).

# Online course in creative writing: sample results

## *Haikus*

Brouillard sur les fleurs  
Monts légèrement illuminés  
Parfums colorés  
(Rabea März)

Le soleil dans l'air  
Neige brille sur les montagnes  
Voix de loin. Silence.  
(Antoinette Zimmermann)

L'odeur des fleurs  
Les arbres sont silencieux  
Les saisons passent.  
(Sarah Langenbeck)

## **Small Things**

When was the last time you noticed  
The small things?  
Fragments of life finding a way through the cracks,  
Green in a world of gray,  
The vibrant meeting the mundane.  
They take up little space  
And make their home  
Where others can't survive  
So successful in this work that maybe you've forgotten:  
They are tiny miracles.  
I greet them as teachers  
And try to learn their lessons well.  
I want to be like Moss, like Dandelion,  
Content to grow where I am,  
Thriving quietly. (Jaime Patriarca)



# Short Forms...

- (should) matter in BA/MA and PhD education!
- are omnipresent yet often invisible in our daily work
- offer great potential and affordances for teaching sequences
- aren't easy to handle, demand training and reflection
- Are fun to experiment with in HE contexts
- can have added value in the context of doctoral education (expanding professional skills)

