

## Fellows



### **Isabel Kranz**

IFK\_Research Fellow

Duration of fellowship

01. March 2021 bis 30. June 2021

## **Isabel Kranz**

### **PROJECT TITLE**

Thinking with Plants: Possibilities and Challenges for Literary and Cultural Plant Studies

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Plants as specific research objects of the humanities have only recently come to the fore. This heightened interest in the vegetal world entails many disciplinary challenges. Thinking about plants as a literary scholar, I will pursue the following questions: To what extent can terms be translated fruitfully from one discipline to another (botany to literary and cultural studies, and vice versa)? What is achieved in this process, and what is lost? Which effects does the newfound attention to plants have on Literary and Cultural Studies and their fundamental concerns (such as rhetoric, poetics, and narratology), and how can a productive exchange with the natural sciences be facilitated? By investigating such processes of knowledge production on a foundational level, I hope to invite fruitful interdisciplinary discussions in an evolving area of research.

## CV

Isabel Kranz is a researcher in comparative literature. She has taught and conducted research at the universities of Berlin, Erfurt, Munich and, most recently, Vienna. In 2011, she received her Ph.D. with a dissertation on Walter Benjamin's *Arcades Project*. Her second book, on the language of flowers, has been translated into several languages. In her current project, she investigates the relations between literature and botany. She publishes on topics such as media and historiography, concepts of the future, Walter Benjamin, and the genre of the memoir. Isabel Kranz is a co-founder of the [Literary and Cultural Plant Studies Network](#).

## Publications

(ed.), *Was wäre wenn? Alternative Gegenwarten und Zukunftsprojektionen um 1914*, Paderborn 2017; *Sprechende Blumen. Ein ABC der Pflanzensprache*, Berlin 2014; *Raumgewordene Vergangenheit. Walter Benjamins Poetologie der Geschichte*, München 2011.