



TALK: From Alphabetical to Digital Literacy?

Some reflections on orality, writing,
cultural techniques and digitality

Sybille Krämer, Max Kade Visiting Professor

Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, UC Santa Barbara

Are we on the threshold of the transition from alphabetic to digital literacy?

The lecture will critically reflect this question in five steps:

What does 'literacy' mean in the context of the 19th century orality/literacy distinction?

The problematic narrative of the 'Great Divide' between orality and literacy.

Alphanumeric literacy and the 'cultural technique of flattening' as creative potential.

The embryonic digitality of alphanumeric practices:

Why the digital is to be detached from computer use.

Is contemporary digitality the 'new alphabet'?

4pm on Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 in Phelps 6206C

(or via Zoom Meeting ID: 811 3588 9947)

Co-sponsored by the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, Transcriptions, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, Comparative Literature Program, and the Graduate Center for Literary Research (GCLR). Prof. Sybille Krämer's Winter 2022 Max Kade Visiting Professorship is made possible by the support of the Max Kade Foundation and Humanities and Fine Arts (HFA) at UC Santa Barbara.