



International Society for
Gestalt Theory
and its Applications

Call for Papers, panels and sounds

in cooperation with



Business & Law School
Hochschule für Management und Recht

European
Society for the
Cognitive Sciences
Of
Music



24th GTA International Scientific Conference

Gestalt - Imagery - Action

16th to the 19th of September 2026
in Berlin/Germany

We are pleased to invite you to submit an abstract for a paper, for a poster, or proposals for a panel for the 24th GTA International Scientific Conference. It will take place from the 16th to the 19th of September 2026 in Berlin/Germany.

We are also pleased to invite students to submit audio samples for an electronic music set to be performed during the conference.

“Gestalt - Imagery - Action” addresses structured wholes in the phenomenally given (**Gestalt**), multi-modal experiences without a direct sensory input (**Imagery**) and forms of action that may arise from experienced Gestalts and mental imagery (**Action**). Of particular interest are the mediations that occur between these dimensions.

In the 1920s, Gestalts were discussed as principles of self-organization in human thinking and perception, in behaviour, and in the physical world. Carl Stumpf and the founders of the Berlin School of Gestalt Theory Max Wertheimer, Wolfgang Köhler and Kurt Koffka developed a new theory of mind, anchored in psychology and a scientific world-view. Kurt Lewin developed a Gestalt theory of action. Perceptual psychologist Rudolf Arnheim adopted Gestalt theory for art and visual studies.

One hundred years after the thriving decade of Gestalt Theory in Berlin, this conference motto honours these ground-breaking scientific traditions whilst coupling them with current research paradigms. Current studies of mental imagery, of cognition and action and of the ecology of perception (affordance) draw on aspects of Gestalt theory, but rarely reflect on its ethical and holistic implications.

The conference aims to critically engage these developments which unfold in a highly dynamic environment, spurred by computational and AI innovations. They complicate theory-driven approaches and invite us to reconsider the relevance of Gestalt concepts in general.

The conference aims to foster a rich dialogue with contemporary academic and artistic positions through the prism of the Gestalt approach. It will also create a space for students and for upstart researchers to articulate themselves in various formats. And it invites the public to share knowledge about Gestalt research in Berlin during a city walk.

The conference program will comprise key-note lectures, panel discussions, workshops, poster sessions, visits to historic sound archives, an easy listening session and a concert. We also plan a guided walk to the landmark sites of historic Gestalt Research in Berlin Mitte.

The conference languages are German and English.

The conference venues are Tieranatomisches Theater and the Institute of Musicology of Humboldt University, Humboldt Forum (can all be found in Berlin Mitte) and the BSP Business & Law School in Berlin Lankwitz.



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www.gta-conferences.net

Call for papers, posters and panels

Submitted abstracts for papers should contain at most 250 words (no references are allowed). The **deadline** for submissions is the **31st of March, 2026**. Authors may state their preference for paper or poster.

Groups of researchers (4–5 participants) can jointly propose a thematic panel (3 hrs, including a coffee break). The **deadline for panel proposals** is the **15th of April, 2026**.

Decisions on accepted papers, posters, and panels will be announced in May 2026.

Contributions from all wings of Gestalt-related research and practice are welcome. The conference embraces concepts and applications of „imagery“ and „action“ in the widest sense. „Imagery“ includes mind-wandering, kinaesthetic and multi-modal dimensions. „Action“ includes modalities of action in Gestalt-based psychotherapy (Gestalt Theoretical Psychotherapy) and in Morphological Psychology.

Confirmed key-notes come from the field of Music Cognition (Marc Leman, Ghent), Musical Joint Action (Peter M. Keller, Aarhus), the History of Philosophy (Fiorenza Toccafondi, Florence), the History of Psychology (Mauro Antonelli, Milan), the Philosophy of Science (Vincenzo Fano, Bologna) and the Psychology of Music (Liila Taruffi, Hong Kong).

Invited panels will address Music and Mental Imagery, Experimental Phenomenology, Cross-Modal Perception (ESCOM Panel), 100 Years of the Berlin School of Gestalt Theory, the legacy of Carl Stumpf, and the relationship of Gestalt Theoretical Psychotherapy and Analytical Intensive Counselling.

Call for sounds

We welcome audio samples of five minutes length. Selected artists are invited to play an electronica set of approx. 15 minutes during a relaxed listening session on the first full day of the conference (September 17th). Sounds may take inspiration from the conference topic, or from Erich von Hornbostel's essay "Die Einheit der Sinne" (The Unity of the Senses, 1925) which graces the Institute of Musicology of Humboldt University in the form of a large mural.

Feel free to visit: archive.org/details/Melos04.jg.1924-25/page/n281/mode/2up
www.gestalttheory.net/uploads/pdf/archive/1910_1933/unity_of_the_senses.pdf

The **deadline for submissions of audio samples** is the **31st of March, 2026**.

Please send submissions to submissions@gta-conferences.net.

Should you have any questions, please contact the organizing committee info@gta-conferences.net.

For further details, please visit the websites of the Gestalt Theory Society www.gestalttheory.net and of the Conference www.gta-conferences.net.



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