

MARCH
18TH
2026

A Public Lecture

in the
IMPULSE-Focus
Event Series
2026/27
on
*Imagination/
Memory*

**Hauptgebäude
Hörsaal VII at 6 pm c.t.**

More information:



impulse.uni-bonn.de



About IMPULSE

The *House for Intellectual Innovation and Creativity* is a place of inspiration, intellectual encounter, and creative collaboration for the University of Bonn.

Grounded in the conviction that academic work thrives on receiving and sharing impulses, IMPULSE fosters creative environments for the exchange of ideas.

It serves as a dedicated hub for the University's commitment to inter- and transdisciplinary innovation.



HOUSE FOR
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UNIVERSITÄT **BONN**   **IMPULSE**
RHEINISCHE FRIEDRICH-WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT BONN HOUSE FOR INTELLECTUAL INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY



**Anna
ABRAHAM:**

**Understanding the
Human Imagination**

A Neurophilosophical Framework

IMPULSE-Focus Event Series 2026/2027: *Imagination / Memory*

The **IMPULSE-Focus** program consists of a series of events that combine two closely interrelated elements:

Public talks and discussions with high-profile scientists, academics, artists, and intellectual figures, open to a broad audience.

Transdisciplinary explorations and experimental workshops with our guests at **IMPULSE** in the day(s) following the public event.

In 2026 and 2027, **IMPULSE-Focus** centers on the theme *Imagination/Memory*, approaching it from diverse disciplinary perspectives and through explicitly transdisciplinary methodologies. The human imagination and its relationship to memory constitute a cutting-edge topic in contemporary research across the neurosciences, psychology, philosophy, the humanities, and the arts. By bringing together scientific inquiry, artistic practice, and philosophical reflection, **IMPULSE-Focus** seeks to open up new ways of understanding imagination and memory as dynamic, relational, and socially embedded processes.

IMPULSE-Focus with Anna Abraham: March 18–19, 2026

With a public lecture entitled “**Understanding the Human Imagination: A Neurophilosophical Framework**”, Prof. Dr. Anna Abraham (University of Georgia) inaugurates the **IMPULSE-Focus** Event Series 2026/27. Drawing on neuroscientific, psychological, and philosophical perspectives, she explores the human imagination as a central capacity for cognition and creativity. The lecture is aimed at a broad audience and invites open discussion.

Doctoral researchers and postdoctoral scholars are additionally invited to take part in a transdisciplinary exploration in the form of a one-day workshop at Uni Bonn’s new **IMPULSE – House for Intellectual Innovation and Creativity** (Adenauerallee 131). Building on the public lecture, the workshop brings together Anna Abraham and colleagues from Bonn to **explore questions of imagination and creativity at the intersection of medicine, the humanities, and artistic research**. Through inputs from different disciplines and co-creative working formats, participants will jointly investigate connections between human imagination, creativity, (ambiguous) soundscapes, and visual imagery. The workshop is conceived as an experimental space for shared inquiry, dialogue, and intellectual exploration.

Event Overview

Lecture: “Understanding the Human Imagination: A Neurophilosophical Framework”



Speaker: Prof. Dr. Anna Abraham (University of Georgia)

Anna Abraham is the E. Paul Torrance Professor and Director of the Torrance Center for Creativity at the University of Georgia (UGA), USA. Dr. Abraham investigates the psychological and neurophysiological mechanisms underlying creativity and other aspects of the human imagination, including the reality-fiction distinction, mental time travel, social and self-referential cognition, aesthetic experience, and mental state reasoning. Her educational and professional training has been within the disciplines of psychology and neuroscience, and she has worked across a diverse range of academic departments and institutions the world over, all of which have informed her cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary focus. She has penned numerous publications including the 2018 book, *The Neuroscience of Creativity* (Cambridge University Press), and 2020 edited volume, *The Cambridge Handbook of the Imagination*. Her latest book is *The Creative Brain: Myths and Truths* (2024, MIT Press).

March 18, 2026: 6 pm (c.t.) to 8 pm (s.t.)

Lecture Hall XII, Main Building, University of Bonn

Open to the public – no registration required

**Transdisciplinary Workshop (for PhD candidates & postdoctoral scholars):
“Exploring Imagination Through Sensory Experiences and Co-Creation.”**

March 19, 2026: 9.30 am to 5 pm

IMPULSE – House for Intellectual Innovation and Creativity, Adenauerallee 131

Registration required:

Registration deadline: March 8

Registration via: maria.ullrich@uni-bonn.de