

# VISUAL STUDIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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SPRING 2024 EVENTS

## Images Out of Time Seminar



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

12:30-2pm PST

THH 309K

### *Images of the A-Visible*

**SIGRID WEIGEL**

Former Director, Center for Literature and Cultural Research  
Professor Emerita, Technical University of Berlin

Co-sponsored by the School of Religion

Readings and links for Images Out of Time events will be made available when you RSVP to [vsri@usc.edu](mailto:vsri@usc.edu).

The critical grammatological theory of images focuses on the question of how a-visible phenomena – such as the mind and the soul, emotions, transcendental ideas and figures – or acts of adoration or discrimination get re/presented as images. Departing from the governing maxim of Derrida's *Of Grammatology* "Il faut penser la trace avant l'étant", it is a matter of different procedures and techniques of 'imaging' [*Bildgebung*] and their history. When imaging something that is not invested with a physical body, any kind of materiality or visibility of its own, the scene or moment of 'making an appearance' is of special interest: that is to say the threshold between immaterial phenomena and pictures of any kind – be it a painting, drawing, an effigies, a photography, or digital produced image. At stake is the examination of the ways and modes by which an-iconic, non-mimetic images get access to the visual world and the tradition of iconography. In the light of this approach, one may discover unexpected correspondences between quite diverse and even vastly scattered historical constellations, e.g. between images from the history of religion and present days natural sciences' labs.

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