

**Transatlantic Interdisciplinary Research Colloquium Small  
Forms. Aesthetics – Media – Modernity**

**Abstract**

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**The Topicality of “Bildnachricht” in the German Daily *Tempo* (1928–1933)**

The Summer School presents an opportunity for me to consider an aesthetic and epistemological concept central to my dissertation, Aktualität, in connection to a specific small form, the “Bildnachricht.” The first number of the illustrated Ullstein tabloid *Tempo* (1928-1933) boasted its images were not simply “illustration[s]” but “Nachricht[en]” conveyed in the “vivid language of images.” By this technique, *Tempo* claimed to enhance feelings of Aktualität that would generate a mood of productive pressure in its consumers. In 1933, media phenomenologist Hans Traub defined Nachricht as a “Mitteilung zur Entscheidung” and so linked it to the horizon of Aktualität. Drawing on a chapter in progress, I would propose that carefully unpacking these terms – Aktualität, Nachricht, and Bildnachricht – helps us think more clearly about political and aesthetic stakes embedded in *Tempo*’s method to render visible the contemporary. Doing so may also make it possible to evaluate other small forms by the perspectives these categories entail.