

# Hollywood's Usable Past, or, The Politics of Film Remakes, Reboots, and Sequels

**Prof. Dr. Kathleen Loock**  
Leibniz University Hannover



Film remakes, reboots, and sequels perpetually generate, sustain, and renew popular media texts, whose enduring economic and cultural relevance adds up to more than Hollywood's deeply ingrained profit principle. Kathleen Loock argues that these movies actively shape how the film industry, cinema, and audiences imagine themselves as they constantly negotiate past and present, stability and change through a serial dynamic of repetition and variation. Film remakes of *Stella Dallas*, gender-swap reboots, or sequels like *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* and *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* transform Hollywood's past into a usable past and become sites where conservative and progressive ideologies are negotiated time and again.

Tuesday,  
28 November 2023  
6:15 – 7:45 pm  
(CET)

Rabinstr. 8, SR 6

Kathleen Loock is Professor of American Studies and Media Studies at Leibniz University Hannover and director of the Emmy Noether Research Group "Hollywood Memories." Her second book *Hollywood Remaking: How Film Remakes, Sequels, and Franchises Shape Industry and Culture* is forthcoming in March 2024 with University of California Press.