

# INGRID – Archiving Graffiti in Germany

The talk introduces the research project INGRID (Information System Graffiti in Germany), which was founded in 2016 and provides a scientific database for graffiti. It focuses on the ontology, the usability of the database and the annotation and acquisition of graffiti. INGRID is an interdisciplinary cooperation project between the KIT in Karlsruhe and the university of Paderborn and offers for the first time a systematic registration of graffiti. The annotation is done by two different teams in Paderborn (linguistics) and Karlsruhe (art history).

The team in Paderborn focuses on aspects of scripturality such as the analysis of language, grammar and semiotics. The team in Karlsruhe focuses on aspects of imagery such as the shape of letters, the design of figurative elements, and the choice of colors.

The annotation also takes into account categories that are relevant to the graffiti scene itself. These include the distinction of certain letter styles (i.e., simple style, wild style, bubble style, etc.), the typology (i.e., pieces, tags, characters, etc.), and the use of typical stylistic elements (i.e., crowns, arrows, outline, etc.).

Furthermore, there will be a presentation of exemplary studies, which examine the database on a sociolinguistic and a linguistic historical perspective. With INGRID it is possible for the first time to take a look at developments and changes in the phenomenon of graffiti over longer periods of time on the basis of extensive, secure and high-quality research data as well as to research its visual aesthetics, its specific scripturality, notational iconicity, grammaticality, urban location as well as its social function and meaning.

INGRID contains over 150 000 photographs of graffiti. The images were provided by different sources. A large part of the pictures comes from the police departments in Mannheim, Cologne and Munich. Another part consists of photographs from private collections and public archives.