



The Department of American Studies and the American Corner Innsbruck at the University of Innsbruck cordially invite you to a talk by

PD Dr. Sascha Pöhlmann

Associate Professor at the Amerika-Institut of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich

Play Around to Lose Yourself: David O'Reilly's *Everything*

**Thursday, June 7, 2018, 10.15am
HS 2, Humanities Building**



This lecture will analyze the video game *Everything* (2017) by David O'Reilly alongside the poem "Song of Myself" (1855) by Walt Whitman, arguing that both share an aesthetics of scale that confronts the recipient with the very small, the very large, and everything in between in order to convey a philosophical sense of universal connectedness. The means of conveying this sense are on the one hand similar in that they are non-narrative, as poem and game are formally independent of that category; on the other hand, they are also very different, as the reader reads and the player plays, and I want to explore this difference in terms of agency, embodiment, environment, and mediality.

Sascha Pöhlmann is the author of the monographs *Pynchon's Postnational Imagination* (2010), *Future-Founding Poetry: Topographies of Beginnings from Whitman to the Twenty-First Century* (2015), and *Stadt und Straße: Anfangsorte in der amerikanischen Literatur* (2018, forthcoming). In his research, he is generally interested in the relation between aesthetics and politics, and particularly with regard to unpopular culture.

Assoz.-Prof. Dr. Christian Quendler
Department of American Studies

Ass.-Prof. Dr. Margaret Davidson
Director, ACI