Alongside a well-documented spatial turn, the Age of Goethe also exhibits what could be called a "geologic turn" in cultural awareness. Focusing on encounters between humans and mineral objects in Goethe's abandoned *Cosmic Novel* and *Wilhelm Meister's Years of Wandering* (1821/29), this talk will address a polymorphous inclination toward the inorganic that is increasingly evident in contemporary literary, philosophical, and artistic practices. In this way, the novel productively unsettles those conventional divisions between life and non-life that are, once again, rapidly eroding in the Anthropocene epoch.

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