





Humanities and Social Sciences in Times of Crises: Back to Provincialism?

Conference

20 October 2023 / 15.00-18.00

*Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Leibniz-Saal,
Markgrafenstr. 38, 10117 Berlin*

The **Forum Transregionale Studien** is a platform for the international cooperation between scholars of different expertise and perspectives on global issues. Transregional approaches connect and confront diverse disciplines, regional, national and local positions and insights on global issues.

The Forum provides scope for exchange on questions of science policy, epistemology and ethics, and develops infrastructures and formats that allow transregional research ideas and projects to be tested, implemented and communicated. The Forum is constituted by its members and the diversity of their research expertise and networks. It is committed to strengthening regional studies and to the principle of non-hierarchical research. It appoints scholars from around the world as fellows and engages in joint research programs and initiatives with partners from universities and research institutions in and outside Berlin. The Forum is funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care.

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Transregional studies respond to increasing interdependence and specialization, pursue an open approach in the internationalization of the humanities and social sciences, they confront and connect disciplinary and regional perspectives on shared questions. What is the role and value of the Humanities and Social Sciences in times of crises? How do wars and other un/natural disasters affect scholars, their work and society? What are the ethics of research in times of upheaval, in contexts of authoritarian transgression or temptation? What are de/pressing matters, for whom and why? What are politics of knowledge and meaning in polarised societies and fragmented publics? Will the effects of crises and different assessments of urgency lead to more parochialism? Are we back to provincialism? Or is there nothing new about crises, and Europe – after an exceptional run in the second halves of the 19th and 20th centuries – only becomes what it used to see in its others? What then may Decoloniality mean? Or Restitution and Emancipation? What does North, West, South, or East stand for in the 21st century? And who speaks for and in which direction?

Seven short interventions of Fellows of the Forum's programs EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST—THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPE, PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War Migration, Memory, and re:constitution: Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe will not answer all these questions but look forward through the themes and questions they have, in five minutes each.

A panel conversation will take up some of the issues introduced in the questions and in the fellow interventions and discuss what sustainable internationality could mean in light of the current crisis debates, degressive funding, irritable publics and shrinking spaces of civil and academic freedoms in many countries.

Convened by Forum Transregionale Studien and Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften

Program

15.00 Welcome

Birgit Meyer

(Berlin Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften)

Henry Marx

(Staatssekretär für Wissenschaft und Forschung des Landes Berlin)

Friederike Pannewick

(Forum Transregionale Studien)

15.15–16.00 Humanities and Social Sciences in Times of Crises: Seven Perspectives

Alia Mossallam (EUME/Forum Transregionale Studien)

Tracing Emancipation under Rubbles of War: Popular Histories of North African Laborers from the Fronts of World War I to Revolution

Grażyna Baranowska (re:constitution/Hertie School/Polish Academy of Sciences)

The Troubling Nexus between the European Border Policies and the Rule of Law Crisis in Poland and Belarus

Mina Khanlarzadeh (EUME/Columbia University)

The Role of Women Intellectuals in the Political Thought of Iran's 1979 Revolution

Sanabel Abdelrahman (EUME/Philipps-Universität Marburg)

'Oh Whale, Do not Swallow our Moon': Situating Liberation in Palestinian Magical Realism and Futurism

Silvia Steininger (re:constitution/Hertie School/Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law)

Let's Talk About the Rule of Law: Court Communication in the European Rule of Law

Lidia Kuzemska (PRISMA UKRAÏNA/Forum Transregionale Studien)

Between Hostages and New Citizens: What is the Role of Displaced Ukrainian Citizens?

Rim Naguib (EUME/Forum Transregionale Studien)

Policing the Nation's Boundaries: The Struggle of Jewish Internationalists for Citizenship in Post/Colonial Egypt

16.00–17.00 Conversation: Back to Provincialism?

Moderation: **Birgit Meyer** (Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften/Universität Utrecht)

Pascale Ghazaleh (The American University in Cairo)

Banu Karaca ((Dis)Possession and the Politics of Knowledge: BEYONDREST/Forum Transregionale Studien)

Viktorija Sereda (Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study/
PRISMA UKRAÏNA)

17.00 Reception

Participants:

Sanabel Abdelrahman holds a PhD in Arabic Studies, focusing on magical realism in Palestinian literature, from Philipps-Universität Marburg. She completed her BA and MA at the University of Toronto's Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations. She is a bilingual writer and publishes essays critiquing art and literature. In the academic year 2023/24, she is a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Grażyna Baranowska is an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences as well as Principal Investigator of MIRO, a project at the Hertie School in Berlin which seeks to identify and interpret international legal obligations regarding 'missing migrants'. In 2022, she was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council as an independent expert of the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances. In 2023/24 she is a Fellow of re:constitution.

Pascale Ghazaleh is chair and Associate Professor of History at The American University in Cairo. She is an expert on Ottoman history and 19th century Egypt. She received her PhD in History from the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris. She was a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien in 2017/18, and returned in summer 2019 as a EUME-FU Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. She is also a member of the Forum's Board of Trustees.

Banu Karaca is Principal Investigator of “Beyond Restitution: Heritage, (Dis)Possession and the Politics of Knowledge (BEYONDREST)”, a European Research Council-funded project at the Forum Transregionale Studien. She holds a PhD from the Graduate Center, The City University of New York. Karaca is the author of *The National Frame: Art and State Violence in Turkey and Germany* (Fordham U Press, 2021), and co-editor of *Women Mobilizing Memory* (Columbia U Press, 2019). She has been a EUME Fellow in 2016/17 and 2019-2022, and a Fellow of ART HISTORIES AND AESTHETIC PRACTICES in 2015/16.

Mina Khanlarzadeh is a historian of the modern Middle East. She holds a PhD from Columbia University’s Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, & African Studies with a thesis in global political thought. She recently co-authored a book on the history of science and technology, titled *Revolutionary Engineers: Learning and Politics at AMUT (1966-1979)* (forthcoming with MIT Press). In the academic year 2023/24, she is a EUME Fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Lidia Kuzemska is a sociologist with an interdisciplinary interest in forced migration, internal displacement, borders, and citizenship. She holds a PhD from Lancaster University and is a Fellow at the PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration, Memory research group at the Forum Transregionale Studien. Kuzemska is also a research affiliate at the Internal Displacement Research Programme (SOAS U of London) and a peer-reviewer of the Knowledge Platform and Connection Hub (UN Network on Migration).

Henry Marx is Berlin State Secretary for Science and Research. He received his BA in History, Spanish, Political Science and South Asian Studies from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He then completed his PhD in 2018 and also received a Master of Education in History and Spanish from HU Berlin in 2014. Before his current position, he worked as an elementary school teacher from 2021 to 2023.

Birgit Meyer is Professor of Religious Studies at Utrecht University where she directs the program “Religious Matters in an Entangled World”. Trained as a cultural anthropologist and working on lived religion in Ghana for more than 20 years, she studies religion from a global and post-secular perspective. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Forum Transregionale Studien.

Alia Mossallam is a cultural historian. Her research project at EUME, “Tracing Emancipation Under Rubbles of War”, retrieves the physical and political journeys of Egyptian and North African workers on the various fronts of World War I through the songs and memoirs that recount their struggles. An experimental pedagogue, she founded the public history project “Ihky ya Tarikh”, as well as having taught at The American University in Cairo, the Freie Universität Berlin, the Cairo Institute for Liberal Arts, and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin.

Rim Naguib is a EUME Fellow at Forum during the academic years 2019-23. She received her PhD in Sociology from Northwestern in 2016. Her research interests address the genesis and development of Egyptian patriarchal nationalism; the securitization of nationality practices and foreigners’ residence in post-colonial Egypt; and the colonial roots of the practice of ideological deportation in interwar Egypt. Naguib is a writer and illustrator of graphic biographies and has also co-translated several graphic novels into Arabic.

Friederike Pannewick is professor for Arabic Literature at the Philipps-Universität Marburg/CNMS, and member of the board of directors at the Forum Transregionale Studien, as well as co-director of EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST—THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPE (EUME). She is member of the Executive Council of MECAM, Merian Centre for Advanced Study in the Maghreb, Tunis. Her research areas are modern Arabic literature and culture, Arabic theatre, and the cultural and intellectual history of the Arab world.

Viktorija Sereda is a sociologist and head coordinator of the Virtual Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (VUIAS). Since 2022 she has been the director of the research group PRISMA UKRAÏNA: War, Migration and Memory at the Forum Transregionale Studien. Before she was a Fellow at the Imre Kertesz Kolleg (U of Jena). From 2011 to 2017, Sereda was involved in the project “Region, Nation and Beyond: An Interdisciplinary and Transcultural Reconceptualization of Ukraine” (U of St. Gallen). She was also a MAPA Research Fellow at the Ukrainian Research Institute at Harvard University, where she developed a digital atlas of social changes in Ukraine after the Euromaidan.

Silvia Steininger is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Hertie School, Centre for Fundamental Rights in Berlin as well as a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute of Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg. She completed a PhD at the Faculty of

Law, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, and holds graduate degrees in public international law (U of Amsterdam) and political science (U Heidelberg). She publishes widely on matters of human rights, courts, international institutions, and economic regulation. In 2022/23 she held a re:constitution Fellowship.

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