

Present Futures – Future Pasts: Researching Germany and Europa in Global Perspective

DAAD Graduate Workshop for Young Researchers in German and European Studies

6 December 2018 in Berlin

On the occasion of the conference of DAAD-funded Centres for German and European Studies 2018, we invite advanced Master and PhD students affiliated with the centres, and working on projects in the fields of contemporary German and European studies to participate in our graduate workshop for young researchers. The first graduate workshop on December 6, 2018 will provide a forum for presenting ongoing research on present and future challenges for Germany and other European societies. The financial crisis in 2007/2008 the so-called refugee crisis in 2015, the Brexit votes as well as the rise of right-wing and populist parties in many countries and their success in recent elections; these and other political, economic and social challenges urge us to review the continent's past and present and think about future strategies and visions.

However, Germany's and Europe's troubled past influences and interferes with current political, social and cultural debates and conflicts. On the one hand, memories of the past resonate in contemporary discourses and often shape public opinion, media coverage, and the perception of social and political actors in conflicting ways. On the other hand, the rediscovery and review of strategies, concepts, visions and theories might provide models for how to deal with new political, social and economic challenges, and can help analyse the present state of a (political) mindset that is fundamentally affected by fears, distrust and a lack of vision.

We invite short paper presentations (15 minutes) on all topics that focus on contemporary Germany and Europe from an interdisciplinary, global, transnational, and/or comparative perspective. The graduate workshop provides a forum for discussion of ongoing research with fellow young researchers and experts in the field. It offers the opportunity to present recent findings and case studies as well as to evaluate useful methods and theories for research in German and European Studies. The workshop is also intended to build and strengthen networks between young researchers from different countries and disciplines.

Possible topics for presentations are:

- Changing concepts of nation, democracy, sovereignty; global anti-democratic movements; the future of international and global relations and cooperation.
- Environmental policy, sustainability, preservation and heritage.
- New perspectives on economic interdependency in Germany and Europe from a transnational perspective, and revaluation of past concepts and critique of political economy.
- Security, terrorism and political violence in a transnational and/or historical perspective.

- Right-wing parties, ethno-nationalism, racism, antisemitism and populism; and changing political discourses on society, democracy, pluralism, culture, gender and European integration.
- New Media and digital technologies, and their impact on political and social developments.
- New ways of conceptualizing German and European histories in relation to present conflicts and challenges (comparative and entangled history, cultural history, media history).
- Memory Cultures in Germany and Europe (presence of the past, competing and conflicting memories, collective memory from a comparative perspective).
- Envisioning the present and the future in German and European literature and culture, and its lessons for the current discourses and debates; depictions of present-day Germany and Europe in contemporary German and European literature.

Paper submissions should be one page only, containing the paper abstract (roughly 500 words) and a short biographical profile. Successful candidates will have to submit brief summary of their presentation in English (2-3 pages) in advance that will be distributed among the participants. Furthermore, active participants are also asked to present their projects in the poster presentation. The papers will be presented in two sections, one focusing more on historic and past events and their influence on contemporary issues and the other focusing on possible future outcomes and scenarios emitting from present-day events.

Submissions should be e-mailed by 28 March 2018 to DAAD, Section P33: Petra Bogenschneider zenko@daad.de

Information on whether your paper has been accepted will be sent out by the DAAD most likely by mid-May.

Supported by the DAAD with funds provided by the Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt)



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