

ConTrust International Workshop, AG 5

“The Affective Logic of Populism: Trust, Distrust, and the Productivity of Conflict”

Dec 2-3, 2022. Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften Bad Homburg  
Hosted by Pavan Malreddy and Johannes Voelz

Description:

This conference assembles leading international scholars with expertise in political emotions and affects. Coming from a broad range of disciplines, including cultural geography, social psychology, sociology, anthropology, discourse studies, and political science, the speakers will explore the affective dimensions of the constellations of trust and distrust at work in contemporary populism and authoritarianism. Starting from the premise that populism and authoritarianism share global family resemblances that have to be contextualized with regional and historical specificity, the conference facilitates a debate between perspectives from the Global South and North.

Conceptually, we start from the premise that populist and authoritarian formations are held together by the interplay of organized internal trust and external distrust. We will explore the hypothesis that this interplay operates according to identifiable affective logics. Internally, trust is demanded and enforced through appeals to loyalty and solidarity, but trust is also generated through affective experiences ranging from *ressentiment* and rage to enthusiasm and love. These affects of internal trust are mobilized in conjunction with affects of distrust along friend/enemy lines. While the constellation of internal trust and external distrust has been explored from a range of scholarly perspectives, our conference contributes to a more detailed analysis of the range of affects at play as well as their internal logic. From this starting point, we also hope to be able to shed light on those ranges of affect that do not seem to fit neatly into the schema of internal trust/external distrust. Experiences such as apathy, boredom, and the simultaneous experience of joy and fear also belong to the affective repertoires of populism and authoritarianism, yet how they relate to the more widely discussed features of the populist and authoritarian experience so far has remained largely unexplained.

Program:

Fri, Dec 2:

12-13.00h Conference Opening

Initial input

Pavan Malreddy and Johannes Voelz

13-14h Lunch

14-15h

Ben Anderson

Professor of Geography

Durham, UK

15-16h

Vera King und Ferdinand Sutterlüty

Sigmund Freud-Institut Frankfurt, Goethe-University Frankfurt, ConTrust / Institut für Sozialforschung

16.30-17.30

Ricardo Pagliuso Regatieri

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil

17.30-18.30

Ruth Wodak

Em. Professor Dr DDr h.c., FAcSS

Distinguished Professor and Chair in Discourse Studies

Lancaster University/University Vienna

Sat, Dec 3:

9.00-10.00

Pierre Ostiguy

Professor, Instituto de Ciencia Política, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

10.00-11.00

Shalini Randeria

Rector, Central European University, Vienna

11.15-12.15

Ulrike Flader

Institut für Ethnologie und Kulturwissenschaft (IfEK), Postdoc in Bremen Excellence Chair group „Soft Authoritarianisms“

12.15-13.15

Ajay Gudavarthi

Professor of Politics

Jawaharlal Nehru University, Dehli

13.15 Lunch