

## **- Call for Papers -**

### **Envisioning the Future:**

### **Zukunftsvisionen für Deutschland und Europa**

**Interdisciplinary Conference of the DAAD-funded Centres for German and European Studies**

**6th – 8th of December 2018, Berlin**

We are delighted to announce the scholarly networking **Conference of the Centres for German and European Studies “Envisioning the Future for Germany and Europe: Zukunftsvisionen für Deutschland und Europa”**, scheduled for **December 6-8 2018** to which the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) invites to **Berlin**.

The DAAD invites **paper proposals** from junior and senior academics as well as doctoral and Masters-level students at currently and formerly DAAD-funded Centers for German and European Studies as well as from researchers active in the field of German and European Studies. Paper proposals for the interdisciplinary panels may originate in any discipline of the social sciences, humanities and cultural studies including political science, law, sociology, history, geography, literary studies, linguistics, art history and economics.

#### **The conference theme**

We live in turbulent times that have been radically altered by sea changes in technology, science and mass communication. Rejecting Fukuyama’s ‘End of History’ as starting point, we posit instead that there are many paths into the future, and our scholarly task is to debate these possible futures and their connection to current societal changes. This is especially true for the academic community of German and European studies, which given its location at a nexus of interdisciplinary, intercultural and international pursuits is uniquely positioned to grapple with these questions. Futurology can no longer remain the pursuit of novelists and utopian philosophers alone, as fast moving technological developments, political change in addition to turbulence in global and regional economies upends societies and communities.

While researchers and companies expend energy and resources on quantum computing, immortality and artificial intelligence in politics and economy, Germany and Europe face old and new challenges with medium and long-term implications. Drawing impetus from these intellectual streams and developments, the 2018 DAAD Centres Conference is interested in potential developing futures and future oriented questions relevant for Germany and Europe as well as their role in a changing global context now and in the future. Global political developments such as populism, techno-social issues such as transhumanism as well as transformational processes in culture and society are of particular interest. We wish conference papers to engage deeply with one of eight topics outlined below, each of which will constitute its own panel: (1) Mobility, Migration, Flight; (2) Digitalization and the Man-Machine Nexus; (3) European (Des)Integration – Model or Cautionary Tale?; (4) Democracy and

Populism; (5) Future Viability of Society: What is the Future of our Global Society?; (6) New Media: Truth and Politics; (7) Digital Humanities and E-Learning – Teaching German and European Studies in the Digital Age; (8) Transnational Visions for Citizen and Human Rights – Values and Norms in Transition.

The 2018 DAAD Centres Conference aims to foster a dialogue highlighting the different perspectives of the DAAD Centres bringing together historically anchored, future-oriented analyses of Germany and Europe for systematic discussion. By integrating multi-and interdisciplinarity into the core of this conference, the aim is to encourage debate of current issues and trends with critical implications for society, politics and culture

**We invite senior and junior scholars representing the different disciplines that are represented at the various Centres for German and European Studies and their partner institutions to submit a short 1-page proposal for one of the outlined focus topics (see page 3ff.). Proposals relating to the general conference theme and going beyond the topics outlined below are also possible.**

The interdisciplinary panels will be made up of two to three papers from academics with different disciplinary backgrounds, to be selected by the conference's Advisory Board, which is made up of selected Centre directors and academics at Centres representing the worldwide network.

In order to ensure sufficient opportunity for discussion among panellists and participants, successful applicants will kindly be asked to **submit their finished papers at least 8 weeks prior to the conference**. The password-protected papers will be made available exclusively to conference participants in advance. **At the actual panels, we kindly ask panellists to present a ten minute summary of their papers**. Written papers should ideally be around 10 pages long plus bibliography (font size 12pt., line spacing 1.5 lines). All panels will be moderated by experienced members of the DAAD Centres network.

The DAAD Centres Conference 2018 will take a bilingual approach. **Papers can be submitted either in English or in German**, and contributions are welcome in either language during the conference. A good at least passive knowledge of the respective other language is therefore required. The DAAD actively supports multilingualism and the use of German as an academic language.

#### **Call for Posters and Call for Papers for a Graduate Workshop:**

In addition to the call for papers outlined above, all Centre Directors are invited to **nominate one junior academic (a PhD student or an advanced Master student) at their Centre to take part in a poster presentation and a Graduate Workshop**. The presentation aims to include junior academics from all 20 Centres. Nominations should be made by submitting via e-mail (see below) a short academic CV as well as a short outline of the research topic to be presented.

To offer junior academics an opportunity for exchange amongst each other at the Centres Conference a whole-day Graduate Workshop is offered on 6 December 2018. All graduate students who participate in the Centres' Conference are asked to participate in the workshop. There are ten participant slots with presentations available. Those who are interested can apply for one of the ten available presentation slots in the workshop according to the attached workshop description. Successful participants are obliged to present their project during the poster presentation of the

conference. Due to available capacities and the available timeframe the Graduate Workshop will be held exclusively in English this year.

The **deadline** for paper submissions and nominations for the poster presentations (1 page DIN A4 including a 500-word abstract, short bio and max. 5 bibliographical references) is

<b>Wednesday, 28th of March 2018.</b>
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**Please also indicate in the subject line of your email which of the main topics below your paper would be best suited for.**

**Submissions should be e-mailed to the DAAD, Section P33: Petra Bogenschneider [zenko@daad.de](mailto:zenko@daad.de)**

The DAAD will notify you most likely by mid-May whether the Academic Advisory Council has selected your paper for the conference.

**Financial Support:**

Upon request, the DAAD is happy to offer applicants whose paper has been accepted, as well as junior scholars presenting a poster and if applicable taking part in the Graduate Workshop, financial support in the form of **conference grants**, subject to the availability of funds. **Conference grants include travel, board** (breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks) and **accommodation** at the conference venue for the duration of the conference (Thursday evening until Sunday morning, including an evening reception on opening night, excluding Friday evening meal).

**Further information will soon be available at <http://www.daad.de/des>**

Please forward this call to interested colleagues at your institution or at other institutions.

*All scheduled panels are expressly interdisciplinary, open to viewpoints based in various disciplines and their intersections, e.g. political science, history, economics, literature and culture. The topics outlined below are to be seen as suggestions. We welcome paper and panel proposals going beyond the topics outlined below as long as they fit into the general theme of the conference.*

**Focus Topics:**

**1) Mobility, Migration, Flight**

This panel on migration is concerned with the ongoing migration and refugee situation and reflects the role of Germany and Europe in transnational and transregional human mobility. As potentially the most conflict-ridden issue in contemporary Europe, the refugee and migration crisis of 2015-2016 reshaped the political landscape of several EU member states including Germany. This crisis set into motion new policy constellations around borders in and outside the EU. Political and civil society actors staked new and at times exclusionary positions towards refugees and migrants; EU member states debated who would or could host new migrants and refugees. Although mass migration is not a new issue, but it had long been ignored in public debates. The UN is the only visible political actor that has drawn attention to migration as an issue central to the development of global trends. This panel invites papers that will grapple with questions of mobility, migration and flight in connection with Germany and Europe. Papers should consider the multitude of societal, political and cultural implications as a research focus. The goal of this panel is, on the one hand, to make a case for the comparability of migration processes and on the other hand, to illuminate the

specifics of nationally, sectorally or otherwise distinct processes, particularly as they relate to old and new forms of social and political exclusion in different cultural contexts. It is important that migration be problematized as more than a force external to politics and histories, but also as constitutive of them. Contributions could also examine how art, literature, film, and media explore the experience of migration. Central to this broader problematization is the question of when migrants become minorities, and how minorities can be agents and instruments of new formulations of migration and border policy as well as expanded or retracted notions of community.

## **2) Digitalization and the Man-Machine Nexus**

As digital technology transforms the way people interact with each other, it also transforms our understanding of the boundaries between humans and machines. This panel invites papers that consider the implications of technological change on society and politics in Germany and Europe with a perspective on how the digital technological revolution may be different from or similar to past technological revolutions. Interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary papers that explore themes of human-technology symbiosis or cyborgs, the role of technological design on social relationships and cultural creation as well as changing meanings, discourses and philosophies of humanism and the man-machine nexus are especially welcome. Papers may also grapple with the concept of technological determinism or the degree to which technology is seen as driving developments in society or vice versa. Artistic and literary reflections could be explored alongside political and technological discourses. Additional relevant questions papers in this panel should address include whether and how concepts of virtuality are changing across time and geographical space? How does technology reify and reorganize social divisions such as those by race, gender, religion and national origin? What has been the role of the state in shaping and managing the social costs and impacts of technological revolutions? How has the invisibility of many technical aspects of the digital technological revolution (such as the algorithm) obscured both its social, political and economic effects as well as the links of this current technological revolution to past technological revolutions?

## **3) European (Des)Integration – Model or Cautionary Tale?**

European integration serves as a source of inspiration to politics throughout the world and is an object of study across the social sciences, humanities and law. 60 years after the Treaty of Rome, Europe continues to be in flux, both in terms of its geographic boundaries as well as in terms of its orientation towards the future. As the EU has become more diverse, it has also become more conflict-prone. Both external and internal crisis such as Brexit, Euroskepticism, populism and nationalism have tested the integrity and the resilience of the Union. This panel thus confronts the question of whether European integration should be regarded as a model or a cautionary tale. The section welcomes interdisciplinary presentations, dealing with different aspects of European integration and desintegration (Brexit, Grexit, Catalonia, etc). In particular, it encourages studies dealing with issues important for the future, problematizing the role of Germany in the EU, comparing further examples of regional integration processes from other continents with the EU and focusing on transplant processes inspired by EU institutions and ideas. Studies dealing with negative developments, critical points and problematic issues in the EU are also encouraged.

To support networking between various Centres for German and European Studies and to unveil different visions of the topic this section encourages co-authorship of (young) scientists of two different Centres.

## **4) Democracy and Populism**

This panel aims to explore the question of democracy's future viability in the context of populism and rightward shift in Germany and Europe (comparative analyses with non-

European countries are possible). Does democracy have a future? What are the threats against democracy? How does one strengthen democracy? What are the origins of the populist waves and the significant rightward shift of the past few years? Are there counterforces? What is the significance of developments such as religious pluralization/immigration of religious minorities? How compatible are democratic values with multi-religious societies in Germany/Europe? What role do capitalism, anti-intellectualism, and changes in the media, but also countermovements such as feminism, anti-racism, anti-fascism play? Due to its 20th century history Germany plays a special role. For a long time this was taken for granted. However, the rise of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) has led to uncertainty abroad: Does the rightward shift in Germany reflect a change in the German population? What parallels and cooperation is there between right-wing populist trends in Europe? Are there common ideological masterminds? We are hoping for contributions to topics such as Pegida, AfD, loss of the SPD, social (in)justice, the labour movement, right-wing extremism, and the theory of democracy, as well as about respective developments and counter-developments in literature, art, and culture, as well as comparisons with historical parallels.

#### **5) The Future Viability of Society: What is the Future of our Global Society?**

This panel will address the central question: How can our societies achieve future viability in the face of challenges such as climate change, dwindling natural resources, biodiversity loss, dramatic demographic change (aging populations, migration, integration) and the robotisation of services, i.e. the ‚end of work‘, and ‚degrowth‘ which are changing the architecture and challenging our current model of society?

We envision that these current challenges be analysed in the context of the study of Germany and Europe, by presenting different interdisciplinary perspectives and proposed solutions for the national as well as the international, regional, and supranational context.

Germany bears a special responsibility due to its economic power (in Europe and worldwide) and its role as a leader in environmental and climate protection, but also due to its history.

We are hoping for contributions with topics such as climate and species protection, global warming, ‚clifi‘, sustainable consumption, demographic changes, aging populations, climate refugees/migration, degrowth, post-growth society, economy of the common good, ‚sharing economy‘, digitalization, robotisation, new ‚work‘, history of social change and future viability of society in general.

We welcome contributions about new developments in scientific, political, societal, and economic innovation needed for a viable future. Comparative analyses of historical perspectives on how similar challenges have been successfully overcome in the past (nuclear crisis, ozone hole, dying forests) are welcome, too.

To support active participation this panel will be held in the open space format or as markets of opportunities: three to four short presentations will be discussed with the presenters on the basis of various guiding questions in small groups. Results will be presented briefly at the end of the session.

#### **6) New Media: Truth and Politics**

New media contains great potential for the democratisation of communication in all of its forms. We observe the amplification of knowledge extremes, both arcane and ordinary, scholarly research and quackery, rumours and rants. Social media companies such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram receive praise from all quarters for the ways in which they broaden communities, audiences and speakers. At the same time these same platforms have been criticized for creating echo chambers and disseminating fake news more widely and readily consumed than real news. The digitisation of media and communication has expanded surveillance and frozen numerous alternative worlds, subcultures and identities.

We invite papers from all disciplines to address the following questions: What is the significance of new media for our understanding of truth and knowledge? How can we look to history to contextualize the challenge digital media poses for democracy, individual autonomy and social solidarity? In what ways are the bonds of social connection facilitated by digital forms of communication de-humanising? How has digital media changed the reach of the law and the monopoly of states on the exercise of violence in a territory? How has news consumption changed? What is a meme? How can memes be understood outside their culturally specific contexts? How can memes be both universal and culturally specific? Do the changes in new media and media consumption foster the alienation of individuals and social groups? How do subgroups manipulate new media? Why are social media platforms vulnerable to manipulation? Are the solutions to fake news and social media manipulation technical (algorithmic) social, cultural, or political or all of the above? How do gender and race tie into these questions of the role of new media in our understanding of truth and politics? How do 'old media' like film and literature refer to new media and reflect transformations in media communication? What forms of adaptation of new media can be found in contemporary art?

#### **7) Digital Humanities and E-Learning – Teaching German and European Studies in the Digital Age**

The increasing emergence of new digital technologies significantly changes traditional ways of learning and teaching. Online platforms establish a virtual classroom that offers the opportunity of making accessible a variety of teaching materials, of establishing interactive learning environments and of enabling independent and self-organized forms of individual and collaborative learning. The use of a variety of new technologies in the classroom supports establishing smaller learning groups and working with digital sources and data. Methods of digital humanities also change the ways of analysing and researching cultural artefacts, historical sources and moving images. The panel provides a forum for the presentation of new digitally based teaching methods and best practice examples. It seeks to enable professional exchange of new approaches and technical tools for teaching German and European Studies in the digital age. Short presentations are invited on all topics related to digital humanities and e-learning.

#### **8) Transnational Visions for Citizen and Human Rights – Values and Norms in Transition**

The UN's Declaration of Human Rights will turn 70 in 2018, but social scientists and humanists continue to grapple with the realization of human and citizen rights and new mechanisms of exclusion in societies around the world. The ever-present conflicts around religion, ideology and culture show that there are many different visions of the relationships between citizen and nation, human and human, the collective and individual, market and consumer. Europe and Germany have contributed a great deal to the respect for values and norms, for the rule of law and human rights in the modern era.

The protection of human dignity and human rights has increased worldwide. Yet a pluralization of visions of the future poses new challenges: Our unquiet times show that there is not just one vision of human, of right and injustice in the world. The universal values and the function of norms are called into question again. Changing values are also the basis for conflict and distancing. Human rights play an important role, but their realization requires institutional (national, regional, supranational and international) legal frameworks.

This panel will analyse these contemporary global challenges of the so-called value and norm „flexibilisation“ in the context of the study of Germany and Europe: Is it possible and sensible to form a consensus in light of the plurality of visions? Is it still possible to respect universal values and norms worldwide? What role should Europe and Germany play in this context? Contributions to topics such as human rights, citizen rights, citizen and emancipation

movements, legal philosophy, history and development of international relations, cultural and social science, international private and economic law, law of nations and economic integration and cooperation as well as critical and interdisciplinary perspectives and attempts to craft solutions are welcome.

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