

16. GRADUATE CONFERENCE OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

21.05. – 23.05.2024

as an integral part of the GRADUATE WEEK on the topic of

POWER AND PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES

CALL FOR PAPERS

Social structures and its forms of coexistence are subject to constant change. The opportunities to participate in these transformation processes are unequally distributed among individuals, groups, and institutions. Particularly alongside societal power structures, they entail processes of inclusion and exclusion.

Social participation and social transformation entail an interdependency: Power relations are used to initiate social change and social participation, to steer them in a targeted manner or to prevent or deny them. In the same way, power relations themselves can be changed by (new) forms of participation and by processes of social change. However, power is not only to be understood as political or legal power, but also to be understood and analyzed at a discourse level. Knowledge generates power within discourses, which in turn becomes effective on different levels of verbal discourse spaces. Transformation processes are not inevitably synonymous with progress; rather, they represent social debates, negotiations and changes that are time- and place-bound and not necessarily subject to social consensus.

The aim of the conference is to use current research projects to discuss these societal transformation processes from the various disciplines of cultural studies and humanities. Which forms of power and participation can be identified along these societal transformations and how these are expressed? Possible topics or questions could be:

Use of power, retention of power, appropriation of power:

Who/what has power, exercises power or abuses it? Who retains power and in what way? What possibilities and instruments are used to influence social transformation processes?

Places and forms of (social) negotiation:

Where, how and by what means is influence exerted on social transformation processes? How do power structures affect forms of co-determination and vice versa? How do decisions affect participants and non-participants in this context?

Perspectives and methodology:

Which perspectives and research methods (e.g. intersectionality) are suitable to analyze and reveal social power (structures) and participation (opportunities)?

Presentations (German or English) will be given 20 minutes plus discussion time. Please send abstracts (max. 300 words) by February 15, 2024 to: graduierenforum-kw-team@lists.uni-paderborn.de. The publication of the elected papers is planned in the form of an anthology.