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HEINRICH
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Einladung zur Teilnahme am Junior-Wissenschaftler*innen Workshop

Geschichtsumdeutung von rechts: Forschungsperspektiven und Gegenstrategien

Wann: 9. September 2025, 16.00–18.00 Uhr

Wo: Berlin, Heinrich Böll Stiftung

Organisator*innen:

- Leibniz Forschungsverbund „Wert der Vergangenheit“
- Max Weber Stiftung
- Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

Im Rahmen der Tagung „Re- | Visions of history in right-wing populism and the far right. European and global perspectives“ (8.–10. September 2025) findet ein Workshop für Early Career Researcher (Masterstudierende und Promovierende) der Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung und der beteiligten Leibniz-Einrichtungen statt, zu dem auch Assoziierte der Max Weber Stiftung herzlich eingeladen sind.

Der Workshop bietet die Möglichkeit, ausgewählte Referent*innen der Konferenz in einem nur für sie konzipierten Rahmen kennenzulernen, sich zu vernetzen und die Themen der Konferenz zu diskutieren. Aus der Gruppe der Referent*innen werden teilnehmen: Frank Bösch (ZZF), Magdalena Saryus-Wolska (DHI Warschau), Jakob Schergauth (Geschichte statt Mythen).

Die Sprache des Workshops ist Deutsch.

Folgende Fragen und Themen sollen im Workshop in einer gemeinsamen Diskussion vertieft werden:

- DAS PHÄNOMEN „GESCHICHTSREVISIONISMUS VON RECHTS“
 - Wie faschistisch sind Rechtspopulisten – und ist das eine sinnvolle Frage?
 - Welche besonderen Charakteristika haben Geschichtsrevisionismen von rechts?
 - Wie anfällig ist die Gesellschaft für rechte Geschichtsbilder?

- MÖGLICHKEIT DES ENGAGEMENT DAGEGEN
 - Wie können Gesellschaft und Wissenschaft auf rechte Geschichtsrevisionen und die Instrumentalisierung von Geschichte reagieren: welche Rolle können insbesondere jüngere geschichtsinteressierte Wissenschaftler*innen spielen, welche die etablierten Institutionen?
 - Wie lassen sich solidarische Netzwerke zwischen verschiedenen Akteuren gegen Geschichtsrevisionismus aufbauen?
 - Welche Medienstrategien sollten dabei eingesetzt werden?

- FORSCHUNG/WISSENSCHAFTLICHE KARRIERE:
 - Welche Herausforderungen gibt es bezüglich der Erforschung der Neuen Rechten und des Rechtspopulismus – und breiter, des „gesellschaftlichen Zusammenhalts – derzeit?
 - Inwieweit sind eine wissenschaftliche Fokussierung und ein politisches Engagement gegen Geschichtsrevisionismus für eine wissenschaftliche Karriere förderlich, wo gibt es Hindernisse?

In Absprache mit den Teilnehmer*innen sollen diese Themen vor der Konferenz noch einmal erweitert bzw. spezifiziert werden.

Bitte melden Sie sich bis zum **30. Juni 2025** an: <https://survey.boell.de/index.php/345143?lang=de>

Bei Nachfragen können Sie sich gerne an Clara Fryszacka (Fryszacka@BOELL.DE) oder Achim Saupe (saupe@zzf-potsdam.de) wenden.

In begrenztem Umfang können entstehende Reisekosten übernommen werden. Wir bitten jedoch zu prüfen, ob diese auch von Ihren Instituten / Einrichtungen / Universitäten übernommen werden können. Da die Konferenz zu der Messezeit stattfindet, sind Hotelbuchungen sehr teuer. Interessierte sollten sich deshalb rechtzeitig um Übernachtungsmöglichkeiten kümmern.

Das Tagungsthema

Re- | Visions of history in right-wing populism and the far right European and global perspectives

Right-wing populism and the far right have become a central political force again, in Europe and countries worldwide. Over the last two decades, right-wing populist and far-right parties have been elected into regional and national parliaments, and have formed governments in a limited but, nevertheless, alarming number of countries.

Although these parties come from various historical backgrounds, there are obviously family resemblances in their ideologies: Nationalism, anti-immigrant and xenophobic nativism, ethno-pluralism, the purity of “the people”, an anti-elitist “general will” of the people, and authoritarianism are some of the connecting core concepts. Law and order (also in the variant “law and justice”), anti-Semitism and racism, anti-Muslim attitudes, and Euroscepticism are also common features. In terms

of economic policies, neo-liberal as well as protectionist approaches and welfare chauvinism can be observed.

Recent research has focused on the history of these movements. There is also research on how right-wing populist parties try to re-interpret the past. This is especially the case for those parties that came into power, e.g. PIS in Poland and Fidesz in Hungary. Their attempts to revision and redefine history – also as a part of a post-socialist nation building – have been heatedly debated in the public and described in many studies. However, there are few comparative works on how right-wing and radical right populists interpret, reinterpret and revise the past in pan-European and global perspectives. This is the topic of the upcoming annual conference of the Leibniz Research Alliance “Value of the Past” and its cooperation partners: the institutes of the Max Weber Foundation and the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

The conference will analyse visions of history in right-wing populist parties and the far right. It focuses on specific topics that will give a deeper insight into conceptions of history, historical-political myths and the uses of the past in that political spectrum. The conference will bring together expertise from different European countries, and it will also look at right-wing populist movements and far-right thinking in Argentina, Brazil, India, Japan, and the US.

The conference will address the following topics:

What do they refer to, and what is left out?

Which key events and epochs, historical omissions and rewritings are particularly indicative of right-wing populist and far right visions of history? Here, it is of special interest how right-wing populists and the far right refer to periods of nation-building and to national “tipping points”, but also to the history in the “age of extremes”. How do they relate to fascism and the Nazi past, on the one hand, and to communists and socialist pasts, on the other? How do they justify authoritarian concepts and “illiberal” democracy historically? Which “elites” are criticised and for what historical reasons? Other central topics might be the nation as a retreat vs. globalisation, colonialism, (cultural) racism and the history of immigration societies, and a supposedly “Christian” Europe as a defensive bulwark against “Islamisation”.

The construction of history, memory and heritage

What kind of historical narratives does the far right offer and how consistent are right-wing populist and far-right images of history? The conference will look at the significance of palingenesis, of apocalyptic thinking, and conspiracy theories. We also want to look at the question of far-right and right wing populist utopias and how these movements want to overcome supposed decadence and multiple crises. Contributions can also look at the construction of heroic narratives in contrast to cosmopolitan and post-heroic narratives, at self-victimisation and narratives of resistance, as well as typical tropes and modes of the construction of histories, e.g. the in the form of tragedy and romance, or farce to discredit the supposedly “mainstream”, or “official” history of the “winners”. As the title of the conference also indicates, we also want to look at characteristic images that represent right-wing interpretations of the past and shared group-specific historico-political imaginaries.

Contributions on historical revisionism could also look at the construction of evidence in such narratives. The aim is not only to criticize historical myths as false, or to disclose “false consciousness”, but also to understand the function of historical and political myths in right-wing, conservative-revolutionary and fascist thinking. What roles do political-historical myths play, and how do right-wing intellectuals select and combine certain stories and events from early history, antiquity, the Middle Ages and modernity?

Right-wing movements have their own memory politics, politics of remembrance, and *lieux de memoires*. We, therefore, want to look at how these *lieux de memoires* are memorialized, and the role that memory practices like jubilees, marches, the use of symbols and other rituals play in stabilizing right-wing world-views. This could also integrate aspects of right-wing youth cultures, festivals, re-enactments, and right-wing rock music, for example. A special focus could also be placed on tangible and intangible heritage. Are there specific right policies in monument preservation, and what are their ideas about urban and rural heritage?

It is often said that nostalgia is inherent to populist thought. What is the function of the longing for a better past? What role do ideas of purity and authenticity play? Which (supposedly) traditional social and political role models are evoked? Which supposedly "traditional" understandings of gender roles go hand in hand with this?

Media strategies

Right-wing populist politics and the far right use publication and media strategies to position themselves in terms of the politics of history. Contributions can look at how the past is used in different media formats, in particular social media, and how these media strategies are globally connected, copied and adapted.

How to react: Academic and democratic answers in public history

Populists in power try to influence science and academia. Papers can address such attempts at institutional reorganisation, shifts in state funding and how democratic societies can react to such policies. This section will also deal with the question of how right-wing populist and far-right ideas of history are addressed in museums, memorial sites and other places of public history. How do they react to the questioning of historical interpretations and narratives that have become established in democratic societies? And which institutions and historians, on the other hand, see themselves as "new right" pioneers?

Contradictions and blurring boundaries

The conference will explore the question of how contrary and hardly compatible interpretations of history clash in the cooperation between right-wing populists and nationalists at European and international level - or are played down by the construction of common political goals and enemies outside of the nation and Europe (migration, anti-Semitism). In addition, the potential acceptance and dissemination of "right-wing revisionist" positions as well as "far-right" images of history in societies as a whole can be analysed.

Values in right-wing populist and far right discourses

Values always define belonging and otherness, sameness and difference, serving to build communities and exclude others: Value debates play a crucial role in political and social processes of exclusion and inclusion. Values are also at the core of conservative thinking, and the question in the context of the conference is how values are addressed and constructed in right-wing populist and far-right discourses, and what role history plays in their construction. And what kind of values are they? Here, (stereo-) "typical" national values, the role of religion and religious anti-Semitism, Christian values, heroic values, family values, gender roles, etc. can be addressed.

Historicising right-wing uses of the past

The conference has a strong focus on the past in the present. Individual papers could also historicize their findings, as we are interested in how the uses of the past in right-wing populist and far-right discourses and practices have changed over time.

Inter- and transdisciplinary approaches

The conference will bring together researchers from different disciplines as well as stakeholders from public history.