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KATHOLISCHE KIRCHE STEIERMARK

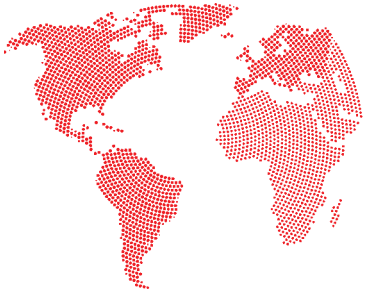
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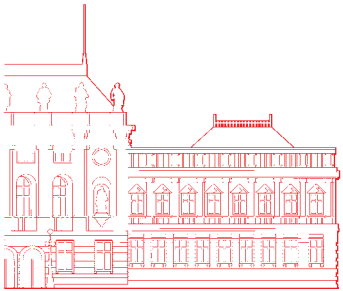
MEDITATING AND MEDIATING CHANGE:

STATE – SOCIETY – RELIGION

July 1st - July 14th, 2018
Seggau Castle | Leibnitz | Austria







GRAZ
INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER SCHOOL
SEGGAU
2018

MEDITATING AND MEDIATING CHANGE: STATE – SOCIETY – RELIGION

Too little, too late? How can we understand and react to the multifaceted changes that we are confronted with in our lives? Although we are frequently told that in today's world the only consistency is change, our daily lives seem to be governed by a surprising consistency and lack of flexibility. Institutions and their structures, rules and regulations, habits and routines do not appear to accommodate what we have come to think of as our "fluid identities" (Bauman). On the other hand, we experience a lack of agency in reacting to the processes that not only have drastic future implications, but are increasingly seen as points of no return. Political uncertainties and climate change, demographic transformation, continual re-thinking of societal coherence in times of diversity, as well as new technologies that will redefine the notion of work, are often met with reactions ranging from resignation to ignorance. They sometimes erupt in aggression and violence against others, increasingly taking the place of critical reflection and civic engagement.

In order to develop strategies and methods to meet the immense challenges of our time, this summer school suggests engaging in academic contemplation and interdisciplinary exchange. In times of a constant devaluing of science and scholarship, taking the time for vigorous intellectual investigation is a radical act of resistance to quick-fix solutions. Meditating change and at the same time mediating change offers us the opportunity of developing disruptive intellectual approaches and ideas, as we can gain insights into political, social, economic, and cultural forces that make us believe that the challenges we face are essential, natural, and inevitable. Such thorough analysis offers us the possibility of moving from a passive position to active involvement in transformation processes in order to become agents of change by an authentic reformulation of our identities.

In our interpretation, meditating and mediating change is the taking on of the responsibility of intellectuals to offer critical in-depth discussion in a world of babble. This is a radical commitment to academic pursuit not as abstract, but as concrete and necessary as an engagement with state, society, and religion, in order to understand the dynamics and structures that govern us as individuals, but also determine the structures we are all governed by. Such an effort makes us understand the facts and figures, the material realities, and how they are culturally represented. The summer school will provide more questions than answers, and will allow us to investigate the different approaches to the definitions of state, society, and religion, and their interconnectedness. Focusing on the emphasis areas of the University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central and South America – this program will offer a basis for discussing global and continental challenges as well as opportunities that change entails.

Roberta Maierhofer and Barbara Ratzenböck

TARGET GROUP

The Graz International Summer School Seggau is designed for internationally oriented, highly motivated students from all disciplines who wish to deepen their understanding of current European and international affairs by studying and discussing global developments and challenges in terms of radical definitions, reflecting aspects of individual and collective identities.

ORGANIZERS

GUSEGG is organized by the University of Graz in cooperation with the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) and the Diocese Graz-Seckau. The Office of International Relations of the University of Graz acts as the coordinating unit. Prof. Roberta Maierhofer (Center for Inter-American Studies) is the academic director.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Interdisciplinary cooperation of teachers and students on the cultural, intellectual and historical dimensions of current European and international affairs in view of their positioning in a globalized world.

Presentation of focus areas of the University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central and South America – through interdisciplinary lectures.

Unique educational opportunity for future leaders in the fields of politics, administration, business, academia, culture, and religion.







COURSE

HOW THE SUMMER SCHOOL WORKS ...

Students will deal with the relevance and effect of Europe/EU (emphasis on South Eastern Europe) and the Americas on global affairs by attending the offered morning and evening lectures, panel discussions, and participating in one of the following modules in the afternoon:

1. Histories of State, Nation, and Identity
2. Politics, Law, Religion
3. Media and Crisis of Democracy
4. Economics and Inequalities
5. Climate Change and Sustainability
6. Narratives of Culture and Religion
7. Aging, Communication, and Technologies

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY COURSEWORK:

- Academic Writing
- Public Speaking
- Publication Writing for PhD students 'Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought'







6 GOOD REASONS TO APPLY

- Improve skills in public speaking, academic writing, critical thinking
- 2-week summer university with a unique campus atmosphere at Seggau Castle
- 6 ECTS Credits (for participation and seminar paper)
- Lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and 7 parallel seminar modules (small groups)
- Discussions and networking opportunities with international lecturers and guests
- All-inclusive-package (tuition, meals, accommodation, extra-curricular program and field trips)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

March 2nd, 2018

COSTS & FUNDING

The total student participation fee of 1500 Euro covers the course costs, tuition and room & board for the entire two weeks. Scholarships are available, and will be awarded upon application. Travel arrangements have to be made and paid for individually.

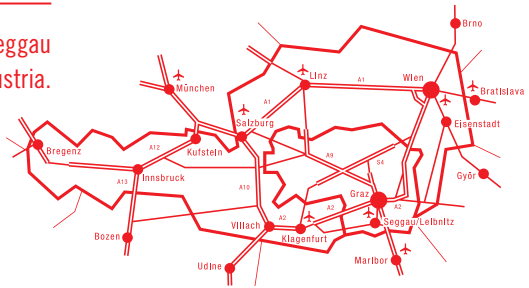






VENUE SEGGAU CASTLE (AT)

The venue of the summer school is 'Seggau Castle', located 45 km south of Graz, Austria.
www.seggau.com



CONTACT + INFO

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