

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The title of this conference Making Crises Visible/Invisible refers to the question of how to recognize, describe and analyse complex crises phenomena. As crises are always a result of a specific communication and perception in a competitive market of public attention, the mechanisms of their creation or disappearance are a factor of high relevance. The annual conference is aimed at all member institutes and members of the alliance as well as those academics or practitioners who are interested in crises research. The main goal is to present and to discuss the work of the alliance and to increase its visibility.

The title Making Crises Visible/Invisible might sound counterintuitive at first glance. Crises are usually understood as moments of challenge which force actors to take immediate action. Due to their inevitable and urgent character, crises are expected to be highly visible with the consequence that the mechanisms of making crises visible or invisible are scarcely investigated. However, zooming in on specific crisis-situations reveals that different actors emphasize or cover very different aspects of a crisis with consequences on how a crisis is being managed and solved.

Generally, crises are perceived as moments which in fact may be influenced by the actors involved and in this sense form moments of transformation rather than demise. While there is controversy in debates on whether the concept is limited to sudden challenges or whether it also includes phenomena of permanent or latent crises, the transformational potential implies that moments of crises may be used to further certain political and economic interests.

In other words, there is also a politics of crises which forms an important strand of crises-research. Altogether, one major challenge in conceptualizing crises is the fusion of subjectifying and objectifying perspectives in describing crises phenomena – their ‘subjectivity’ so to speak. The mixture of subjective and objective views varies with regard to different fields of crises research which are studied within the alliance (economic crises, environmental crises, humanitarian crises and socio-political crises as well as concepts of crises), and is an important aspect of how a situation is made visible or invisible as a phenomenon of crisis.



PROGRAM

Wednesday, 12 December 2018

- 11:30** **Registration and light lunch**
- 12:30-13:00** **Welcome and introduction**
Nicole Deitelhoff, Speaker, Leibniz Research Alliance
“Crises in a Globalised World”
- 13:00-14:45** **Panel I**
“Placeless dynamics? Visualizing the spatiality of crises”
Session organisers: Rüdiger Graf and Oliver Ibert, Working Group “Concepts of Crises”
- 14:45-15:15** **Coffee and refreshments**
- 15:15-17:00** **Panel II**
“Dropout from multilateralism - Economic consequences and conclusions”
Session organisers: Friedrich Heinemann, Working Group “Economic Crises”
- 17:30** **Reception and exhibition “Making Crises Visible”**
Nicole Deitelhoff, Project “Making Crises Visible”
Klaus Hesse, Project “Making Crises Visible”
- 18:15** **Welcome**
Matthias Kleiner, President Leibniz Association
- Keynote:**
Sichtbare und unsichtbare Krisen im Film: Über Routinen der Bewältigung und Grenzen des Mediums
Peter Herrmann (Movie Producer)

Thursday, 13 December 2018

- 09:00-10:45** **Panel III**
“Permanent crises of political institutions between visibility and invisibility”
Session organisers: Antonia Witt and Alexia Katsanidou, Working Group “Socio-Political Crises”
- 10:45-11:15** **Coffee**
- 11:15-13:00** **Panel IV**
“Environmental crisis in the eye of different beholders: From seeing and understanding”
Session organisers: Anna Katharina Hornidge, Gérard Hutter, Andreas Macke, Jochen Schanze, Working Group “Environmental Crises”
- 13:00-14:00** **Lunch and coffee**
- 14:00-15:45** **Panel V**
“Food insecurity, food price developments, and social protest”
Session organisers: Linde Götz and Stefan Kroll, Working Group “Humanitarian Crises”
- 16:00** **End of the conference**



PANEL I

PLACELESS DYNAMICS? VISUALIZING THE SPATIALITY OF CRISES

Session organisers

Rüdiger Graf (ZZF)
Oliver Ibert (IRS)

Chair

Rüdiger Graf, Center for Contemporary History,
Potsdam

Presentations

The spatiality of crises from a dynamic process perspective

Verena Brinks, Leibniz-Institute für
Research on Society and Space

Textbooks as a realm of crisis discourse: the spatial representation of conflicts about water

Tobias Ide, Georg Eckert Institute for International
Textbook Research

Crisis, capital and the city

Manuel Aalbers, KU Leuven

Crises are difficult if not impossible to ignore. Diagnosing a crisis is often an effective strategy to draw the attention of political actors and the media to a certain set of problems. Once a crisis is announced, social actors can hardly avoid becoming part of it, be it as victims or responsible decision makers, expert consultants, media representatives or simply as public audience. Yet, at the same time, crises may also remain strangely elusive. Different and even mutually exclusive ways of framing a crisis usually co-exist and public opinion may easily shift between alternative ways of seeing a crisis and even to forgetting the allegedly urgent crisis. Crises may emerge surprisingly without any predictable connection to empirically measurable problems. Often crises spill over into other sectors or societal subsystems in unforeseen ways. In this panel, we want to scrutinize this strange elusiveness of crises by focusing on the complex and dynamic spatiality of crises, which so far has received only limited scholarly attention. In general, the temporal structures and peculiarities of crises haven't been thoroughly analysed, describing crises as narrative devices that dramatize the present as a "moment of decision" between two existentially different futures and, thereby, creating an urgency to act. Yet, rather little is known about the spatiality of crises, the ways in which they spread and affect different places, their territorial extension or the dynamics of their expansion. Such a spatial perspective, we assume, will be useful to analyse the scope and extend of any crisis and, especially, of crises in a globalizing world. In particular, we will ask how the spatiality of crises is and may be visualized, e.g. by identifying "hot-spots" or "emblematic places" that are supposed to unveil the true nature of a crisis.



PANEL II

DROPOUT FROM MULTILATERALISM – ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES AND CONCLUSIONS

Session organisers

Friedrich Heinemann (ZEW)
Oliver Holtemöller (IWH)

Chair

Friedrich Heinemann, Center for Economic Research, Mannheim/University of Heidelberg

Presentations

Dropout from multilateralism – The case of European Monetary Union

Friedrich Heinemann, Center for European Economic Research, Mannheim/ University of Heidelberg

Populists in power: Economic and political consequences

Manuel Funke, Institute for the World Economy, Kiel

Dropout from multilateralism – the Case of climate negotiations

Sonja Zitzelsberger, University of Kassel

Over decades there seemed to be a continuous and stable development towards a rule-based multilateral economic governance. Increasingly refined trade rules (World Trade Organization) for the global level, ever closer cooperation on tax issues of industrial countries (OECD) and detailed fiscal and economic policy coordination (European Union) seemed to have made global economic relations predictable. This understanding has been shattered over the last two years with the Trump presidency, the Brexit decision, but also the broader rise of populist parties and programs in which a return to a narrow national perspective is a key ingredient. This panel wants to explore causes and consequences of this development.



PANEL III

PERMANENT CRISES OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS BETWEEN VISIBILITY AND INVISIBILITY

Session organisers

Antonia Witt (PRIF)
Alexia Katsanidou (GESIS)

Chair

Antonia Witt, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt

Presentations

Crisis and progress: The International Criminal Court and the RtoP under attack

Nicole Deitelhoff, Peace Research Institute
Frankfurt

How to create visible crises: Iran and the West between Shah and Khomeini

Frank Bösch, Center for Contemporary History,
Potsdam

Crisis of global and international order?

Andrew Hurrell, University of Oxford

The life of many political institutions, domestic and international, is characterized by a sequence of relatively stable and tranquil periods and periods of crisis. More often than not, however, the seeds of a crisis can already be discerned during stable phases and can even be traced back to efforts at resolving earlier crises. While the solutions to earlier crises appeared to have worked and stabilized the institution, they actually served to invisibilize continuing processes of institutional corrosion or created new sources of institutional instability. From this vantage point, these political institutions are in a permanent state of crisis. It is the visibility of the crisis that varies: What is perceived as individual moments of crisis can be understood as only the visible episodes of one larger crisis phenomenon. Contributions to this panel will critically discuss this argument with respect to various historical and contemporary cases.



PANEL IV

ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS IN THE EYE OF DIFFERENT BEHOLDERS: FROM SEEING AND UNDERSTANDING

Session organisers

Anna Katharina Hornidge (ZMT)
Gerard Hutter (IÖR)
Andreas Macke (TROPOS)
Jochen Schanze (IÖR)

Chair

Andreas Macke, Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research, Leipzig

Presentations

Environmental crises – Towards a multidisciplinary conceptualisation

Jochen Schanze (presenting author), Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development, Dresden

A transdisciplinary approach to mitigate emissions of black carbon in Metro Manila, Philippines

Simonas Kecorius (presenting author), Alfred Wiedensohler and Andreas Macke, Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research, Leipzig

Water pollution from agriculture as an emerging crisis: The mobilization potential of NGOs

Jale Tosun (presenting author) and Simon Schaub, Institute of Political Science, Heidelberg University

Environmental crises are usually not immediately visible and their effects on humans and nature are in part neither directly recognisable nor causally assignable. Change in the quality of environmental media such as air and water; for example, can only be understood scientifically through physical and chemical analysis methods. The reduction of species diversity can only be demonstrated by systematic surveys and statistical evaluations. And climate change, with its large-scale impacts, requires long-term observation data and complex model simulations. These environmental changes are mostly the result of the actions of various social actors. Crises arise when these actions are no longer related to the pressures or dangers for the environment and social control fails. Since the absence of these connections also eludes direct observation, social awareness and effective interventions are made more difficult. Against this background, the panel examines the seeing and understanding of environmental crises from both a scientifically empirical perspective and the perspective of social awareness and control with its discursive construction. The following three questions are central: Which environmental changes are typical effects of crises and how can they be identified? Which behaviors and control deficits are the causes of these crises? How can these crises and their effects be communicated in public discourse even in competition with fake science?



PANEL V

FOOD INSECURITY, FOOD PRICE DEVELOPMENTS, AND SOCIAL PROTEST

Session organisers

Linde Götz (IAMO)
Stefan Kroll (PRIF)

Chair

Stefan Kroll, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt

Presentations

Socioeconomic protests and incorporation crises in post-revolutionary Egypt and Tunisia: A comparative analysis inspired by Latin American experiences

Irene Weipert-Fenner, Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt

Post-Arab Spring macroeconomic reforms and price developments in the wheat-to-bread supply chain in Egypt

Osama Ahmed, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, Halle (Saale)

Food security and conflict: Using empirical research to affect food policy in crises

Charles Martin-Shields, German Development Institute, Bonn

Food insecurity was one of the claims mobilizing social protests during the uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia in 2011. The protests in Egypt were, as is well known, accompanied by the demand for “bread, freedom, and social justice”. However, food insecurity still is an unresolved issue in Egypt and the MENA region by and large. Research on the uprisings and its aftermaths illustrate a rather complex mixture of motivations and policy demands, and food insecurity turned out not to be a particular reason for ongoing socioeconomic protest and decision making after the Arab spring. On the contrary, within Egypt’s comprehensive macro-economic and structural reforms, aiming to spur sustainable economic growth, just recently has led to an extensive cut of subsidies on wheat grower prices and bread end consumer prices which will have an effect on both wheat farmers and consumers. Thus, how does it come, that the highly visible crisis of food insecurity and hunger does not translate into ongoing specific protest and immediate political action with the goal to solve this problem? What are the conditions and barriers to make this crisis visible? This panel on the visibility and invisibility of the humanitarian crisis of food insecurity will deal with these questions from three disciplinary perspectives: Using scholarship on social movements and political participation, one of the papers will discuss the general aspects of socio-economic protests in selected countries of the MENA region between 2011 and 2016. Zooming in on the issue of food insecurity and agricultural and food price developments, the second intervention will be evaluating policy changes by the Egyptian government from the perspective of agricultural economics by using the example of price developments along the wheat-to-bread supply chain. The third paper will provide an empirical perspective on the issue of food security and conflict.



MAKING CRISES VISIBLE (EXHIBITION PROJECT)

The project “Making Crises Visible” provides an experimental approach to the themes of the Leibniz Research Alliance: “Crisis in a Globalised World”. In cooperation with students of the University of Art and Design Offenbach (HfG) and the project partners of the Research Alliance, it is planned to design hybrid “Science-Art-Objects”, clips and posters, in the course of two semesters.

These objects can be seen as a creative processing of scientific findings, which speak to the audience in an emotional and unexpected manner.

Our first workshop on October 25th/26th, organised by Prof. Klaus Hesse and Felix Kosok (HfG), was the starting point. It brought the participating researchers and art-students together and provided a forum to generate ideas for the artistic realization of the researcher’s findings.

The exhibition at the annual conference is aimed to give a preview of these results. At the beginning of 2020, it is planned to present the scientific findings and artistic realizations to a broader audience at Senckenberg Naturmuseum in Frankfurt.

Cooperation partner: Leibniz Research Alliance “Crises in a Globalised World”, Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders”, University of Art and Design Offenbach, Senckenberg Naturmuseum.

Peter Herrmann **Keynote speaker**

After studying ethnology in Munich, Peter Herrmann began working as a documentary filmmaker and producer. Herrmann is best known for producing the film “Nowhere in Africa” which won not only the German Film Award in several categories but also multiple awards at international festivals and was honoured with the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2003.

In his keynote, which will be held in German, Peter Herrmann will reflect from his perspective as a filmmaker about the challenge of making crises visible, but also on how to manage crises at the movie set. The keynote is entitled “Sichtbare und unsichtbare Krisen im Film: Über Routinen der Bewältigung und Grenzen des Mediums”.



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"CRISES IN A GLOBALISED WORLD"

In a globalised world, basic malfunctions of economic, social, political, and ecological systems are often interconnected in complex ways that endow crises with a new quality. If we are to cope with crises successfully, a comprehensive assessment of their causes is needed, as a basis for concerted action. Such an advance is only possible if exchange between scholars, political decision-makers, and the wider public is intensified.

Against this background, the distinctive mission of the Leibniz Research Alliance "Crises in a Globalised World" is to cut across three sets of boundaries— between disciplines, between different thematic fields in which crises figure, and between the academic, political, and societal spheres. The Alliance's strategic goals are:

- to create a network between the 24 Leibniz Institutes and external partners
- to establish working groups that carry out transdisciplinary research projects
- to deepen the links between the Leibniz Association, the political community and the wider public and to focus attention for policy-relevant expertise of the collaborating institutes

Speaker

Prof. Dr. Nicole Deitelhoff, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)

Research Alliance's Steering Group

Prof. Dr. Frank Bösch, Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam

Prof. Dr. Andreas Macke, Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research,
Leipzig

Prof. Dr. Friedrich Heinemann, Centre for European Economic Research,
Mannheim

Coordinator

Dr. Stefan Kroll, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt

In case of questions please do not hesitate to contact the coordinator:

Dr. Stefan Kroll: kroll@hsfk.de



“CRISES IN A GLOBALISED WORLD”

ASSOCIATED LEIBNIZ INSTITUTES

The 24 Leibniz institutes that make up the Alliance are drawn from four of the Association’s sections—‘Humanities and Educational Research’ (A), ‘Economics, Social Sciences and Spatial Research’ (B), ‘Life Sciences’ (C), and ‘Environmental Research’ (E).

Section A (Humanities and Educational Research)

GEI: Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research Member of the Leibniz Association, Brunswick

HI: Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe, Marburg

IFZ: Institute for Contemporary History, Munich

IOS: Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg

ZZF: Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam

Section B (Economics, Social Sciences and Spatial Research)

DIW: German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin

GESIS: Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Mannheim

GIGA: German Institute of Global and Area Studies, Hamburg

HSFK (PRIF): Peace Research Institute Frankfurt

IAMO: Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies, Halle

ifo Institute: Leibniz Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich

IfW: Kiel Institute for the World Economy

IOER: Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development, Dresden

IRS: Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning, Erkner

IWH: Halle Institute for Economic Research - Member of the Leibniz Association

RWI: Rheinisch-Westfälisches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, Essen

WZB: Berlin Social Science Center

ZEW: Centre for European Economic Research, Mannheim

Section C (Life Sciences)

IUF: Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine, Duesseldorf

Section E (Environmental Research)

IGZ: Leibniz-Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops, Großbeeren und Erfurt

PIK: Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research

TROPOS: Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research, Leipzig

ZALF: Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Müncheberg

ZMT: Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research, Bremen



REGISTRATION, ACCOMMODATION AND DIRECTIONS

Registration

To register for the conference, please send an email to siurkus@hsfk.de.

Hotel reservation

The Research Alliance has reserved a limited number of rooms at the Mercure Hotel Berlin City (****), which can be booked until 14.11 directly at the hotel. Please send an e-mail to h5341-re2@accor.com using the keyword "LFV Krisen" to reserve a room. The hotel is located only a few meters away from the conference venue. The rate per night is set at 80€ and includes breakfast. The offer is only valid while stocks last.

Directions from Berlin Central Station

Tram/cable car (estimated travel time 5 minutes)

You may take the tram/cable car named M5 in the direction of Zingster Straße and you have to exit at the second stop which is U Bahnhof Naturkundemuseum.

City train + subway (estimated travel time 12 minutes)

You could also use the city train (S7 in the direction Ahrensfelde) and exit at the station Friedrichstrasse, then you have to change to the subway line U6 using the direction Alt-Tegel and get out at the station Naturkundemuseum.

By foot (estimated travel time 12 minutes)

Our location is nearby the Berlin central station. Using the exit Europaplatz/Invalidenstrasse you should turn right and go along Invalidenstrasse. You should pass the Natural History Museum on the left. The Office is located right next to the Mercure Hotel Berlin City at the crossroad Invalidenstrasse/Chauseestraße.

Traffic

S-Bahn/City train: Station Nordbahnhof

Subway: Station Naturkundemuseum

Tram: M5, M8, M10

To plan your journey, the use of the digital journey planner of the BVG is highly recommended: www.bvg.de



Key Visual:

Nikolas Brückmann, Yuriy Matveev/INK Institut für Neue Kommunikation

Peace Research Institute Frankfurt

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