Struggles for Hope
Negotiating the Future in Times of Global Crises
7 & 8 April 2022, online via Webex

The workshop invites to explore the diversity of visions and practices of future-making in the global, multifaceted crisis of capitalist modernity. We seek to illuminate social contestations over collective futures: What kind of future is likely, what is desirable, what are possible ways to shape tomorrow’s society? What are people’s hopes, fears, ideas and strategies for a social transformation? The workshop promotes the exchange between research on everyday future-relations of non-activist populations and utopian thinking and prefigurative practices of social movements.

Thursday, 7 April 2022

10:00 – 10:30 CET  Welcome and Introduction

10:30 – 12:15 CET  Panel 1: Hope and Transformation in Everyday Struggles

“Reproductive and Transformative Hopes in Everyday Life in a Coal Frontier”
Thembti Luckett, University of Cape Town

“Hope and the Neoliberal State: Struggles over Rural Futures”
Corinna Land, Fulda University of Applied Sciences and Ruhr University Bochum

“Recharging for Tomorrow: On Building Norway’s Battery Futures”
Anna-Sophie Hobi, Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Panel 2: Hope and Transformation in Struggles over Migration

“From Hope to Transformation. Platform Politics in the Movements of Solidarity City and Safe Harbour”
Stephan Liebscher, Freie Universität Berlin

“Activism in the Contested Border Area between France and Italy: Care-Practices and their Transformative Potential”
Jasmin Behrends, Goethe University Frankfurt

Panel 3: The (Un)making of Belonging in Past, Present and Future

“Conservative Utopias: Prefiguration and Islam among Italian-Bangladeshi Youth”
Andrea Priori, Fulda University of Applied Sciences

“Envisioning Future: The Forms of Hijra Identity Assertion in Contemporary India”
Prajwal Gaikwad, University of Hyderabad

Friday, 8 April 2022

Panel 4: Decolonial Utopias in the Anthropocene

“The Agri-Food System in the Anthropocene: (Re)imaging our Collective Future through Food”
Maria Ines Carabajal, University of Buenos Aires; Mario Grasso, Artist and educator; Hugo B. Partucci, University of Buenos Aires

“Decolonising Utopia – Indigenous Women Struggling for the Art of Living”
Anja Habersang, Fulda University of Applied Sciences and Ruhr University Bochum

“Which Narratives help us encounter and challenge the Anthropocene within the Pluriverse?”
Friederike Teller, University of Applied Arts Vienna

“With Dignity towards a Plurinational Chile – Struggles for Hope beyond Coloniality and Neoliberalism”
Andrea Silva-Tapia, Justus Liebig University Giessen; Sebastian Garbe, Fulda University of Applied Sciences
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<td>12:30 – 12:50 CET</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>12:50 – 14:00 CET</td>
<td>Panel 5: Student’s Life Projects in Times of Crisis</td>
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<td>“The Dynamics of Imagined Futures in Face of Crises: The Case of German-Jordanian University Students” Norina Fischer, Fulda University of Applied Sciences</td>
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<td>“Suspended Futures? Building Life Projects in Times of Crisis: The Case of University Students From Rio de Janeiro’s Outskirts” Elis de Aquino, Freie Universität Berlin</td>
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<td>14:00 – 15:00 CET</td>
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<td>15:00 – 16:10 CET</td>
<td>Panel 6: Children’s Struggles over Rights and Recognition</td>
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<td>“Between Struggle and Hope: Orphan Rights in India” Sannaki Munna, University of Hyderabad</td>
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<td>“Between Normative Disputes and Struggles for Recognition: The Agency of Organised Working Children” Nadine Benedix, Technical University of Darmstadt</td>
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<td>16:10 – 17:00</td>
<td>Wrap-up</td>
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<td>Towards a Publication Project – First Ideas and Exchange</td>
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