



Hessisches Ministerium für  
Wissenschaft und Forschung,  
Kunst und Kultur



# **Social Contracts and Democracy in Times of the Anthropocene**

## **Thinking Beyond Crisis**

International Conference

December 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Venue: Hochschulzentrum Fulda Transfer, Heinrich-von-Bibra-  
Platz 1a, 36037 Fulda



FB SOZIAL- UND KULTURWISSENSCHAFTEN

HOCHSCHULE FULDA  
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES



**CINTEUS**<sup>★</sup>  
Centre for Intercultural  
and European Studies

## Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> day of conference (10:00 – 19:30)

10:00 – 10:30 *Welcome and coffee*

10:30 – 12:00 **Opening: CO3 Roundtable “Social Contracts in Times of the Anthropocene - Thinking beyond Crisis”**

- Rui F. Carvalho (University of Coimbra)
- Emilia Palonen (University of Helsinki)
- Anna Björk (Demos Helsinki)
- Pinar Uyan-Semerçi (İstanbul Bilgi University)
- Ana Matan (Zagreb University)

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch Break*

13:00 – 14:00 **Keynote Lecture – Hannah Richter (University of Sussex) “Re-imagining Solidarity for the Anthropocene”**

*Coffee Break*

14:15 – 16:00 **Panel 1 – Conceptualising the Anthropocene**

- Christiane Kuller (University of Erfurt): Does the Anthropocene have a History? Historical Research in the Age of the Anthropocene
- Matthias Klemm (Fulda University of Applied Sciences): Anthropocene or Societocene?
- Jamal Ali Bashir (Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg): No Outside Left: Modernity, Externalities, and the Anthropocene
- Kari Palonen (University of Jyväskylä): The Anthropocene Language: A Sign of Politicisation
- Claudia Wiesner (Fulda University of Applied Sciences): Challenges to social contracts in times of the Anthropocene

*Coffee Break*

16:30 – 18:15 **Panel 2 – Social Contracts in the Anthropocene**

- Nathanaël Colin-Jaeger (Université Catholique de Lille): Accounting for Past Inequalities: Assessing the Fair Baseline for Dynamic Contracting
- Christina Fischer (Fulda University of Applied Sciences): Eroding Solidarity: Ritual Disintegration and the Fragility of Democracy and Social Contracts
- Andrea Klinger (Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg): Sentimental Populism in France’s Presidential Campaigns: Affective Polarization and the Crisis of Liberal Democracy in the Anthropocene
- Theresa Reinold (EDHEC Business School Nice): Social contract theory and multinational corporations in the age of the Anthropocene: Who’s sovereign now?
- Emilia Palonen (University of Helsinki): From politics of Climate in 2019 to Polycrisis in 2024: a comparative study of the European Parliamentary Elections

*Coffee Break*

18:30 – 19:30 **Roundtable “Adaptive Governance in the Anthropocene”**

- Pol Bargués (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)
- David Chandler (University of Westminster)
- Jessica Schmidt (Fulda University of Applied Sciences)
- Claudia Wiesner (Fulda University of Applied Sciences)

### Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> day of conference (09:00 – 18:45)

09:00 – 10:00 **Keynote Lecture – Elisa Randazzo (University College London) “Hope, Wonder and Futurity in the Anthropocene”**

*Coffee Break*

10:15 – 12:00 **Panel 3 – Thinking Democracy in the Anthropocene - Ontological and Epistemological Perspectives**

- Jessica Schmidt (Fulda University of Applied Sciences): Liberal awakening and critical redemption: Mapping the crisis discourse of democracy in Anthropocenic times
- David Chandler (University of Westminster): After Representation? The Anthropocene and the politicization of everyday life
- Julia Feine (Stockholm University): Eco-political Responses to the Crisis of Democracy: A Critical Fantasy Studies Approach to the Anthropocene
- Caroline von Taysen (University of Westminster): Democracy in the Anthropocene - an Irresolvable Dilemma?
- Emre Erdoğan and Pinar Uyan-Semerici (İstanbul Bilgi University): Thinking Beyond Crisis: Post-truth and Information Disorders for Rethinking Social Contracts and Democracy

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch Break*

13:00 – 14:30 **Panel 4 – New Conceptions of Democracy in the Anthropocene**

- Manish Dutta (University of Bremen): A critical re-imagining of democracy: Postcolonialism in democratic practices in the age of the Anthropocene
- Jan Groos (Kiel University): Alternative Environmentality - Three Provocations for Democratic planning in the Anthropocene
- Ana Matan (Zagreb University): The Rest is Politics: The Strengths and Weaknesses of Democratic Innovations in the Anthropocene
- Hagen Schölzel (University of Erfurt): Gardening democratic practices

*Coffee Break*

15:00 – 16:45 **Panel 5 – Rethinking Democratic Governance in the Anthropocene**

- Pol Bargués (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs): Peace in the Anthropocene
- Niilo Kauppi (University of Helsinki): A paradigm shift in democratic governance? The OECD and the governance of the future
- Igor Rogelja (University College London): The Anthropocene lag: extraction and democracy Southeast Europe
- Tom Scheunemann (Fulda University of Applied Sciences): Fatal Forests - Forestry's Afterlife in the Anthropocene
- Petteri Repo (University of Helsinki): AI and the Anthropocene – LLMs as Knowledge Producers

*Coffee Break*

**17:15 – 18:45 Panel 6 – A New Ecosocial Contract?**

- Nandor Knust (Fulda University of Applied Sciences) and Rosamunde Elise Van Brakel (Vrije Universiteit Brussel): The Ecosocial Contract and the Crime of Ecocide
- Elvis Ngandwe (Fulda University of Applied Sciences): Recasting Social Contracts in Motion: Regional Integration, Refugee Protection, and Democratic Governance in the Anthropocene (The East African Community as a Lens)
- Cornelia Frings (Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz): Distributive Justice in the governance of water resources in the Anthropocene
- Rui F. Carvalho (University of Coimbra): Visions of the Ecosocial Contract in Europe (and beyond): Theories and Policies to Confront the Polycrisis

We kindly ask you to **confirm your participation until 9<sup>th</sup> of December** to  
[muriel.wenzel@sk.hs-fulda.de](mailto:muriel.wenzel@sk.hs-fulda.de)