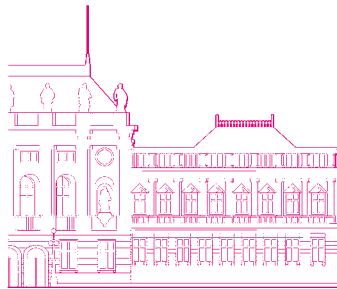
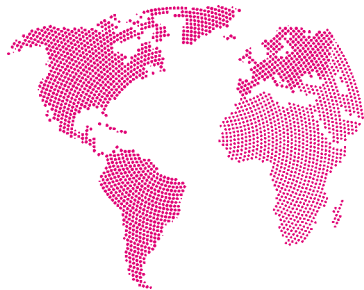


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SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES: EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

June 28th – July 11th, 2015
Seggau Castle | Leibnitz | Austria



KATHOLISCHE
KIRCHE STEIERMARK



GRAZ
INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER SCHOOL
SEGGAU
2015

*"I have never had the opportunity before to meet 35 nations in one place!"
- Vitalii, Ukraine*

TOPIC

SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES: EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

The only consistency of today's world is change. Current processes of transformation are frequently perceived as unexpected and unpredictable. They are often triggered by the quest of individuals and groups for self-determination, their need for cultural reassessment, or by more mundane motives of globalized business and politics. Whatever their cause, it is clear to all that contemporary societies are facing many challenges in their constant transformation, and shifting perspectives will be discussed in the frame of this summer school both in terms of the past, present and future.

The historian Norman Davies in *Vanished Kingdoms: The History of Half-Forgotten Europe* (1997) compares nations to people when he uses the term “death” to describe structural changes of states. We will use this as a starting point for our discussions on the interrelatedness of the private and the public. Within the summer school, we will attempt to link shifting perspectives in terms of nation-states to the aspect of individual change. Demographic change in Europe and America has become one of the key challenges and policy issues of our time. An aging population, low birth rates, and changing family structures have had an enormous impact on intergenerational relationships, the job market, and systems of social care, but also on an individual's definition of identity over the life course. At the same time, there are “others”: migrants who are trying to find their place in these

societies. Nation building processes and ever-deeper forms of economic and political integration retrace and dilute borders, again with an unprecedented impact on the individual as well as the collective. Within the frame of the summer school, the specialized modules will offer the possibility of examining current debates of shifting perspectives in Europe and the Americas by focusing on the current challenges to established forms of government, welfare policies and modes of transformation in a radically changed global world, where migration and transnationalism play an important role. Focusing on the emphasis areas of the University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central, and South America – this will provide a basis for an interdisciplinary analysis in terms of opportunities provided and challenges faced in the past, present, and future.

*Roberta Maierhofer
for the Advisory Board*

*"Summer School taught me to focus more on the similarities than differences between people and to use our differences to enrich ourselves."
- Christopher, Uganda*

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 shifting perspectives reflecting aspects of individual, social, political, religious, cultural, literary, regional, economic, cohort and national identities.

ORGANIZERS

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, science, culture and religion.

"I learned about all sorts of backgrounds, cultures and identity-shaping environments!"
- Barbara, Austria



COURSE

HOW THE SUMMER SCHOOL WORKS ...

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

1. Politics and Law
2. Media, Society and Culture
3. Ethics and Economics
4. State, Society and Religion
5. Literature of Transformation
6. Aging and the Life-Course
7. History and Power

'SA introduced me to various perspectives and interdisciplinary fields that I can incorporate into my own field of interest.'
- Anonymous



5 GOOD REASONS TO APPLY

2-week summer university with a unique campus atmosphere at Seggau Castle

6 ECTS Credits
(for participation and seminar paper)

Lectures, panel discussions 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

February 28th, 2015

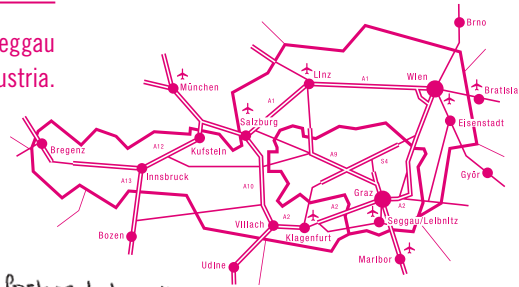
COSTS & FUNDING

The total student participation fee of 1300 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



"The international environment fostered by the summer school has helped me to broaden my horizon regarding other cultures!"
- Ines, Portugal

CONTACT + INFO

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