

The Collaborative Research Centre “Dynamics of Security” (SFB/TRR 138) and the Anthropology of Peace, Conflict, and Security (APeCS) network of the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) are organizing the joint, interdisciplinary conference:

**Peace, conflict, and security in times of existential crises:  
Critical, interdisciplinary, and public engagements**

21–22 March 2024, Marburg, Germany

## Call for papers

### Panel 3. Non-Urgency: Exploring Experiences of and Responses to Chronic and Routine Crises

Convenors:

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The present of today's global societies presents itself as an immense accumulation of crises – e.g. economic decline, democratic regression, catastrophic climate change – that interlock and reinforce each other, forming a “polycrisis” that threatens humanity’s future prospects (Lawrence et al. 2022). Many people affected, solidary or worried activists, politicians, and also social scientists feel the urgency of mitigating and adapting to these crises and seek to contribute to societal problem-solving. However, this practice is, on closer inspection, fairly presuppositional, for it is assumed that these are extraordinary events that require equally extraordinary efforts to be managed and overcome. In fact, to live in a ‘crisis’ is an interpretive performance, a way of collectively making sense of an experience of breached/violated expectations and disorder (Gephart 2007; Johnson, Basham, and Thomas 2022). But what happens when people face situations that are both challenging and evolving, while at the same time expected and already made sense of? It is the striking sense of non-urgency with which some contemporaries seem to meet these situations that is at the center of this panel.

Rather than focusing on crises as exceptional events disrupting states of order, we thus seek to advance discussions about “chronic” (Vigh 2008) or “routine” crises (Muir 2021). How do people affectively experience these simultaneities of rupture and familiarity (Das 2001)? Do people feel detachment (Bissell 2022), unfeeling (Berlant

2015) or boredom (Anderson 2021)? And, how do people approach and make sense of these experiences? Are they constructed as public secrets (Taussig 1999,) or are people in denial (Cohen 2001) or simply ignorant (Proctor 2008) of them? Finally, how and where is non-urgency enacted? Is it in everyday practices (Machado da Silva 2008; Das 2020) or through collective public action (Dewey 2016)?

The panel therefore seeks to investigate the fine boundaries between inherently disturbing moments and routines, and to collectively draw a panorama of non-urgency in the face of extended/stretched crises. Therefore, we are interested in a broad range of critical empirical studies that allow us to explore i) different locations/sites, ii) different temporalities (for example, responses to prolonged and ongoing/extended/stretched crises such as the management of violence in the face of criminal governance, or far-right terrorist attacks and their aftermaths), and iii) different scales of action (such as the everyday management of forest fires or the deliberate inaction). We invite papers dealing empirically with these and other modalities and dimensions of 'non-urgency' in the face of temporally extended/stretched crises.

Abstract proposals of up to 300 words, accompanied by titles, names, bios of up to 100 words, and affiliation and contact details of authors should be sent to the convenors by **the 2nd of October 2023**. We expect to notify the selected participants by the 16th of October.

We also remind you that (limited) funding will be available to precarious scholars on a reimbursement of real costs basis. Also, for scholars from the Global South in need of a visa, the organisers can issue letters of invitation.