

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 8. Crisis Breeds Fascism

Convenors:

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The panel investigates the global renaissance of fascism in the context of the current era of multiple crisis. Building upon Antonio Gramsci’s understanding of “organic crisis”, we argue that the contemporary turmoil reflects more than the experience of increasing economic and ecological insecurity; it signals the decline of neoliberal hegemony. Since the formation of a new progressive consensus from below is nowhere on the horizon, we are experiencing, in Gramscian terms, a time of political interregnum, “when the old is dying but the new cannot be born”. Among the “morbid symptoms” that appear at such times is fascism. The parallel between the 1920s and 30s, the time of Gramsci’s writing, and the recent years of permanent crisis that have eroded people’s consent to neoliberal capitalism and liberal democracy, have been noted by many scholars.

The panel aims to approach fascism as a social movement that builds upon people’s existential insecurities in the face of their declining prospects for the future, on the one hand, and their disaffection with both classical politics of representation and the political establishment, on the other. We aim to explore the historical trajectories of fascist resurgence in the context of organic crisis and the ethnographic present of fascism as a retrograde utopian movement in a variety of localities, North and South.

In doing so, we have two goals in mind: (1) to explore the usefulness of Gramsci’s concepts as an explanatory framework of today’s multiple crisis and its political consequences and (2) to investigate how ethnographic studies of contemporary fascism fit these concepts or rather suggest different theoretical approaches.

We invite theoretical and ethnographic contributions from various disciplines to the discussion of these issues. Topics to be addressed may include:

- a critical engagement with Gramsci's analysis of crisis
- the comparative dimension of ethnographies of fascist movements that each reflect specific historical trajectories and political-economic contexts
- the emic understanding of crisis and its management by fascist actors
- the possible contribution of academic engagement with contemporary fascism to raising public awareness and supporting antifascist practice.

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.