

Program

Wednesday 08.06.22

- 13:00 Arrival & Reception
- 14:30 AiS Welcome Plenum
- 16:00 Localizing Academics in Exile:
A First State of the Art
Aslı Vatansever, Betül Yazar, Çağla Diner,
Aslı Telli Aydemir
- 18:00 Dinner
- 19:30 AiS Strategy Session
- 21:00 Evening Drinks

Thursday 09.06.22

- 08:00 Breakfast
- 09:30 Whatever Happened to Solidarity
Bernd Kasperek, Christina Rogers,
Veronika Zablotzky
- 11:00 Working Group-Time
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Academic Freedom Today
Olga Hünler, Ertuğ Tombus, Florian Kohstall
- 16:00 Cake & Canoe at the Lake
- 18:30 Out of House Dinner

Friday 10.06.22

- 08:00 Breakfast
- 09:30 Working Group Prep-Time
- 10:30 AiS Strategy Talk
- 12:30 Lunch
- 14:00 AiS Network Meeting Plenum
- 15:00 Departure

Organizers

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AiS NETWORK MEETING & RETREAT

8.-10.06.2022

Wannsee Forum
Berlin

Locating Academics in Exile: A First State of the Art

The first session highlights different ongoing and accomplished research projects on “academics in exile”. While for a long time the public debate on scholars has been dominated by a romantic picture of émigré life as the peak of intellectual and artistic activity, recent research highlights the hardship of normal everyday life of scholars in a competitive academic environment. Through the reflection of experienced conditions displaced scholars have turned to “situated knowledge”, becoming the subject and object of their research. This constitutes an important contribution to the research on the German and European higher education system as it holds a mirror to a system that has difficulties not only to critically reflect and assess itself, but also to move and adapt to the challenges of what has been coined ‘forced internationalization’.

By assessing a first state of the art, we try to open the debate on: how does engaged and situated research offer specific insights to this field of study and what does it do to the individuals involved? What instruments are used to make voices heard and how do exiled researchers situate themselves in the wider debate on reforming higher education in Germany and elsewhere?

Whatever Happened to Solidarity?

This panel aims at re-thinking the discursive practices of solidarity today. May it be in the context of the summer of migration, the global pandemic, social movements tackling issues of labour inequality, climate change and racist discrimination or in the context of crisis and war in Afghanistan Syria, Ukraine, Yemen or other places, the call for solidarity is invoked in many instances. At the same time, there is a need to investigate how solidarity is reinvented in practice and which power dynamics play into how it is lived today.

The panel brings together members of the transdisciplinary consortium “Transforming Solidarities: Praktiken und Infrastrukturen in der Migrationsgesellschaft” and “Academics in Solidarity” to discuss how the notion has been negotiated in recent research, under which conditions solidarity emerges and is put into practice, and pinpoint what is yet needed in this regard. The panel is an invitation to think about forms of cooperation and mutual responsibility that are not based on charity or necessarily shared interests, identity, community and belonging.

Academic freedom Today

The goal of this panel is to negotiate how we can grasp key issues of academic freedom today that will help to pinpoint strategies to support and facilitate research without restrictions to specific knowledge and people in the sciences and humanities. There has been a lively debate on academic freedom in recent years in which the latter has been set as ‘core value’ of academic institutions and as prerequisite for research in many science communities. Different factors have led to a heightened attention for the topic, but empirical and theoretical studies on the contexts and definitions of academic freedom have only recently gained momentum as a topic of inquiry in itself calling for more in-depth transdisciplinary and transnational collaboration on this matter. This panel wishes to highlight the different perspectives towards academic freedom in order to grasp what we mean and need to investigate when dealing with the topic. This includes perspectives from people affected by academic freedom and a sensibility for the global networks of scholars at risk that not only hold a rich knowledge on how academic freedom is challenged, but have also set up considerable political and social initiatives to intervene or react to restrictions to knowledge production and the people involved in it.