



Introduction

Greetings and welcome to the sixth quarterly newsletter of the Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences / Kolleg-Forschungsgruppe (KFG) "Universalism and Particularism in European Contemporary History" at the School of History at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. As we embark on the start of the summer term, this newsletter provides a recap of recent highlights and offers a preview of the months ahead.

In the opening segment of this newsletter, we're pleased to introduce the fellows who will be joining the KFG for the upcoming summer term. As organizers of and contributors to this semester's workshops and colloquia, they will play a central role in advancing the KFG's research.

The second section spotlights recent contributions to the KFG's research from the past term and links to past colloquia and conference presentations, hosted by the KFG partner, the L.I.S.A. Science Portal.

In the third segment, we'll present a Call for Applications (CfA) for the summer term 2026. Then, in the fourth segment, we'll provide a teaser of events for the upcoming summer term. Keep an eye on our event calendar, as additional workshops, conferences, and more will be added throughout the term. To ensure you stay informed, consider subscribing to this newsletter if you haven't already: kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

The current fellows of the KFG

At the center of the KFG's work are its fellows, who work on their own research projects and contribute to the KFG's research on the concepts of universalism and particularism.

The KFG Senior Fellows of the Summer term are:

- **Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Carsten Herrmann-Pillath**
Market Under Heaven: Chinese Conceptions of Markets and Market Economy in a Comparative Perspective
- **Prof. Dr. Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann**
Human Rights: A modern History
- **Prof. Dr. Till van Rahden**
Universalism and Its Discontents: Toward A Provincialized History of Political Thought in Europe
- **Prof. em. Reinhard Schulze**
Post-secular redefinitions of the antinomy of universalism and particularism in Europe and Middle East

The KFG Junior Fellows of the Summer term are:

- **Dr. Gideon Hlamalani Chitanga**
Hegemonic Shifts and Contestations: Great Power Competition and Rivalry Between the EU and US versus China, and its Implications for Democratization and Human Rights in Sub-Sahara Africa
- **Dr. Sevan Poghosyan**
Russia and Challenges to Liberal Democracy within the European Regional Order
- **Mgr. Ph.D. Václav Rameš**
In search of a new balance of power. Transforming industrial relations in late socialism and post-socialism from the perspective of international agents (late 1980s – early 2000s).
- **Dr. phil. Alexa Stiller**
Russia and Challenges to Liberal Democracy within the European Regional Order

Access the KFG's work online

As part of the aforementioned cooperation with the Gerda Henkel Stiftung's L.I.S.A. Science Portal we continuously upload contributions from the KFG's conferences and semesterly colloquia. Lectures of previous terms include:

- Angelika Nußberger's contribution to the Lecture Series ["Nürnberg 2.0? Die Kriege in Osteuropa vor Gericht"](#)
- Alexander Libman's lecture the KFG workshop "Anti-Westernism of Knowledge Production in Russian Social Science during Russia's War against Ukraine", 14 November 2024 titled ["Social Sciences in Russia before the War: Integration, Isolation, Political Impact"](#)
- Caroline von Gall's lecture on ["Anti-Western Approaches to Human Rights Discourse in the Soviet Union and Putin's Russia"](#)

Call for Applications

The Kolleg-Forschungsgruppe (KFG) 'Universalism and Particularism in European Contemporary History' at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) is seeking to appoint **three Junior Fellowships (Postdocs)** for the **summer term of 2026 (April–September)**. The KFG fellowships are awarded for 3–6 months. The **deadline for applications is June 15, 2025**. The preferred starting date is April 1, 2026. The KFG 'Universalism and Particularism' investigates universalist and particularist models of order in European contemporary history from the 1970s to the present. The KFG research program focuses on economic, religious/secular, and human rights regimes. More information on the KFG can be found [here](#). The call for applications is available [here](#).

Events

a. Research Insights: Fellows' Colloquium and Lecture Series

As in the previous semester the KFG is planning a (almost) weekly colloquium and a **lecture series**. You can find all the events in both series in the [events section of our website](#).

To receive the reading material for each session or to get regular updates about the colloquium and other KFG events, please contact us or subscribe to the newsletter by emailing: kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

b. Lecture Series with Benjamin Ziemann and Till van Rahden

This semester, the KFG is building on the success of its previous winter term **lecture series** by continuing the program this summer term. The first lecture of the term, organized in collaboration with the [Chair of Modern History at Ludwig Maximilians Universität München](#), will feature **Benjamin Ziemann** from the University of Sheffield. His talk, titled **"Social Transformations since the 1970s from the Vantage Point of Functional Differentiation"**, will explore key societal shifts over the past decades.

The next edition of the lecture series, organized in collaboration with the [Center for Advanced Studies](#), will feature the KFG Senior Fellow **Till van Rahden** from Université de Montréal. His lecture, titled **“Minority and Majority as Asymmetrical Concepts: The Perils of Democratic Equality and Fantasies of National Purity”**, will examine the complexities of democratic equality and national identity.

For full details on both events, visit the [events section of our website](#).

To register, please contact us at kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

c. Workshops

On **26 and 27 June**, KFG Junior Fellow [Grace Ballor](#) will return to Munich to host the Junior Fellow Workshop **“Varieties of Neoliberalism: National Experiences in Late 20th Century Europe,”** which she co-organized with **Mattia Ravano**. Among the participants will be KFG Junior Fellow **Benjamin Thomas**, as well as **Aleksandra Komornicka** and **Christian Dengg**.

You can find the [full program](#) on the KFG website.

The eighth edition of the **Interdisciplinary Workshop on Theories and Methods** will be organized by the KFG Junior Fellow [Sevanna Poghosyan](#). She will discuss the subject of **Self-Determination** with **Oliver William Rowe**.

The workshop will take place on **12 July** at the **School of History (Schellingstraße 12) in Room K302 at 5pm**.

d. Conferences

Upcoming: An Exploration of Russia’s Anticolonial Stance: Intellectual Genealogies, Institutional Production, and Foreign Policy

The KFG is pleased to announce the upcoming conference **“An Exploration of Russia’s Anticolonial Stance: Intellectual Genealogies, Institutional Production, and Foreign Policy,”** organized by [Marlene Laruelle](#), Director of the Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies at the George Washington University.

Participants of the conference will include KFG Distinguished Fellow [Alexander Libman](#) (Berlin), **Ivan Grek** (Washington DC), the KFG directors as well as many more.

The conference will take place on **June 13** at the **School of History (Schellingstraße 12) in Room K 226**. Participation is possible in person or online.

You can find the [full program](#) on the KFG website.

To register, please contact us at kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

If you want to regularly receive information on the colloquium and other KFG events, please register for the newsletter by writing to kfg20@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

We also want to draw your attention to the mailing list “Osteuropaforschung München”, which we operate jointly with the Collegium Carolinum and the Graduate School. This mailing list will keep you informed about selected events on Eastern Europe in Munich, including public lectures, study days, and other activities of interest. On average, you will receive two to three invitations per semester. Subscribe to this newsletter [here](#).