

Power and Participation in Social Transformation Processes

Call for Papers



The 16th Graduate Conference of the Faculty of Cultural Studies focused on the theme "Power and Participation in Social Transformation Processes". Interested members of the faculty's middle ranks now have the opportunity to publish in the volume, regardless of conference participation. Selected contributions will be published as an edited volume by Herder Verlag. The aim of the volume is to demonstrate, through current research projects from various disciplines of cultural studies, what forms of power and participation can be observed along social transformations and how they manifest.

Social structures and its forms of coexistence are subject to constant change. The opportunities to participate in these transformation processes are unequally distributed among individuals, groups, and institutions. Particularly alongside societal power structures, they entail processes of inclusion and exclusion. Social participation and social transformation entail an interdependency: Power relations are used to initiate social change and social participation, to steer them in a targeted manner or to prevent or deny them. In the same way, power relations themselves can be changed by (new) forms of participation and by processes of social change. However, power is not only to be understood as political or legal power, but also to be understood and analyzed at a discourse level. Knowledge generates power within discourses, which in turn becomes effective on different levels of verbal discourse spaces. Transformation processes are not inevitably synonymous with progress; rather, they represent social debates, negotiations and changes that are time- and place-bound and not necessarily subject to social consensus.

Possible topics or questions could be:

Use, retention or appropriation of power:

Who/what has power, exercises power or abuses it? Who retains power and in what way? What possibilities and instruments are used to influence social transformation processes?

Places and forms of (social) negotiation:

Where, how and by what means is influence exerted on social transformation processes? How do power structures affect forms of co-determination and vice versa? How do decisions affect participants and non-participants in this context?

Perspectives and methodology:

Which perspectives and research methods (e.g. intersectionality) are suitable to analyze and reveal social power (structures) and participation (opportunities)?

For the contributions to the volume (in German or English), a character count of 40,000-50,000 is expected. Please submit the abstracts (max. 300 words) by **July 31, 2024**, to the following email address: gfkw@uni-paderborn.de, which can also be used for inquiries. A response with acceptance or rejection will be provided by mid-August.

