Call for Papers: Summer Academy “Challenging Inequalities”
21.-23.7.2022, Landhotel Burgaltendorf, Essen

In contemporary societies, wealth is extremely unequally distributed. This is Thomas Piketty’s central finding, supported by now by a wide range of new data and research. Within this general trend, Germany, together with Austria, exhibit among the highest levels of wealth inequality in Europe: around 25% all wealth held by the richest 1%.

But wealth inequality is only one of the many inequalities that characterise modern societies. More broadly, inequalities challenge liberal models of governance. Yet they can be shaped, amplified or reduced by policy makers. They have moved into the centre of public attention, of politics, and of research. The clusters of excellence “The Politics of Inequality” and “Contestations of the Liberal Script” (SCRIPTS) as well as the doctoral programme "The Political Economy of Inequality" study various dimensions of inequality, using a range of interdisciplinary approaches and methods.

This Summer Academy aims to give young researchers the opportunity to present their work on inequalities, to receive feedback from established scholars, and to meet colleagues from different institutions and disciplines.

We invite submissions that address the topic of inequality from different perspectives, including empirical, theoretical, descriptive and normative approaches. We look forward to submissions that explore inequality in its various dimensions, whether with respect to distributional issues or access to resources, with respect to the conceptual foundations of the concept(s) of inequality, both historically and analytically understood, or with respect to the political causes and consequences of inequality.

The title of the Summer Academy — Challenging Inequalities — highlights that inequalities are a social challenge whose causes and consequences need to be understood. It also signals that inequalities can be perceived, understood, and classified in different ways: it is a terrain in which "essentially contested concepts" (Gallie 1956) are the rule rather than the exception.

We invite young researchers, especially doctoral students, from economics, political science, sociology, history, philosophy, linguistics, law and related disciplines to submit contributions on the topic of inequality. We particularly encourage first-generation, female, BIPOC and LGBTQ* scholars to participate and present their work at the Summer Academy.

The deadline for abstracts (up to 300 words) is 31.1.2022, to be submitted online here. Food and accommodation will be covered, travel expenses are the participants’ own responsibility (but support may be available if required).