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*We've got it all – and more !*

**CRiSS**  
 Contemporary Research  
 in Social Science

New lecture series: Everybody welcome!  
 Faculty of Social Science, Media, and Sports  
**Wednesday, 6 pm GFG 02-741**  
[www.sozialwissenschaften.uni-mainz.de/criss.php](http://www.sozialwissenschaften.uni-mainz.de/criss.php)

JG|U

## Contemporary Research in Social Sciences (CRiSS)

is a recurring lecture series organised by the Faculty 02: Social Sciences, Media and Sports of Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz. Members of all the faculty's departments – Communication Studies, Educational Science, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Sports Science – present their current research projects and provide insight into their research activities. The lectures are held in English to also enable an international exchange – with international students as well as visiting researchers.

**For students:** Attendance yields 2 ECTS. Please register via JOGU-StiNe. Exchange students can achieve a grade and 2 additional ECTS (a total of 4 ECTS) by submitting extra course work. Details will be provided in the first session.

### Programme



#### **19.04 Sociology Katharina Kunißen**

##### **Why should we not do what we often do?**

##### **Pitfalls in welfare state research**

Katharina Kunißen discusses how the way welfare policies are turned into explanatory variables can lead to contradictory results. She shows that not every conclusion in the literature should be taken for granted because results heavily depend on how characteristics of the welfare state are operationalised.



#### **26.04 Communication Studies Philipp Müller**

##### **How mediated discourse about populism polarises society**

Populism is on the rise worldwide as an anti-elitist political strategy and communication style. Philipp Müller summarises the latest research on how mediated discourse about populism contributes to a polarisation of society in two camps. He outlines how media scepticism and fake news are strategically utilised by populist political actors to serve their purposes.





### **03.05 Sociology** *Torsten Cress*

#### **Materiality and devotion. Artefacts in catholic belief practices**

Torsten Cress discusses the role of artefacts and other forms of materiality for the performance of catholic belief practices from a sociological point of view. The talk is based on video and interview data that were collected at pilgrimage sites like Lourdes and Jerusalem.



### **10.05. Sports Science** *Mathias Schubert*

#### **Breaking bad or breaking even?**

##### **On football, finance and fair play**

Fair play is an integral part in the rhetoric of sports competitions. Recent policies in European club football seek to apply the fair play principle also in financial matters. Mathias Schubert critically assesses pros and cons of such initiatives.



### **17.05. Psychology** *Vanessa Scholz*

#### **Why bipolar patients sometimes make bad decisions**

Across affective states, patients with bipolar disorder are often characterised by suboptimal decision-making. Vanessa Scholz discusses what factors might be contributing to this behaviour.



### **24.05. Communication Studies** *Pascal Jürgens*

#### **Fake news, conspiracy theories and propaganda: Not all is lost**

The unreasonable effectiveness of blatant lies in political communication has thoroughly shocked observers. Taking stock of observational and experimental evidence, Pascal Jürgens disentangles the causes, mechanisms and effect potential of misleading information.

### **31.05. Political Science** *Jasmin Fitzpatrick*

#### **Tweeting louder – becoming bigger?**

##### **Measuring the agenda-setting potential of CSOs and political parties through twitter**

Jasmin Fitzpatrick talks about the impact of social media on political communication of political organisations and presents a new measurement for agenda-setting. The findings presented are relevant to scholarly debate and to practitioners.



### **07.06. Sports Science** *Elmo Neuberger*

#### **Next generation gene doping: Hype and reality**

Elmo Neuberger illustrates the recent progress in the field of gene therapy and genetic engineering, to scrutinize if genetic manipulation could push human performance to new extremes. Are genetically modified “super humans” entering the sports scene soon or will athletes have to retain conventional doping strategies?



### **14.06. Educational Science** *Caroline Schmitt*

#### **„Some get ahead, others remain“ – Young refugees’ perspectives on inclusion in Germany**

Caroline Schmitt provides an insight on how young refugees experience inclusion in Germany. Based on qualitative interviews, she analyses the opportunities and limitations of participation from the young people’s perspective and discusses the consequences for (social work) practice.



### **21.06. Psychology** *Johanna Walter and Christopher Giebe*

#### **Work, health, and well-being**

Working has major implications on mental health and well-being. Johanna Walter and Christopher Giebe consider two important factors of our working life: (1) the pros and cons of changing jobs for a person’s health and (2) the interplay of personal relationships and work on well-being.





### **28.06. Sociology** Tobias Boll

#### **Getting intimate with the field. Methodological reflections on participatory research in erotic media-practices**

Producing and posting nude photos of one's self and body online has become a fairly common erotic practice in contemporary media cultures. For the research project presented in this talk, Tobias Boll got intimate with this novel set of practices involving visual media and bodies. Understanding the practical work of producing an erotic body required performing an ethnographic 'going naked' along with the usual 'going native'. The talk addresses the methodological foundations and implications of this research.



### **05.07. Political Science** Carl Berning

#### **Sub-national context and radical right support in Europe**

Carl Berning analyses local differences in the fortune of the radical right. He combines data of varying institutional, infrastructural, socio-economic, and attitudinal contexts with a standardised survey. The results provide an unparalleled level of detailed understanding of radical right support.



### **12.07. Educational Science** Yalız Akbaba

#### **Make migration great again. How minority teachers are called to capitalise foreignness – conceived as a threat**

Usually, discourses of migrants' children in school insinuate educational problems, social deviances and cultural incongruities. Interestingly, this stigma is reversed when talking about ethnic minority teachers, who are discursively produced to be a solution to educational inequality in schools. Yalız Akbaba gives insight to current results from a school field research, enlightening the mechanisms of double binding-ethnicity and the way teachers indeed turn the paradoxes into capital.

#### **Contact**

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