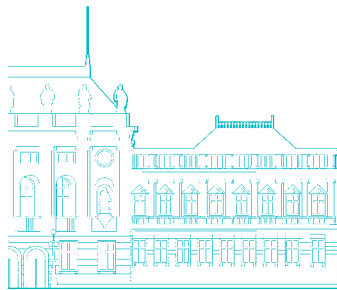


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# RADICAL DEFINITIONS: STATE – SOCIETY – RELIGION

July 2<sup>nd</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Seggau Castle | Leibnitz | Austria



KATHOLISCHE  
KIRCHE STEIERMARK



GRAZ  
INTERNATIONAL  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
SEGGAU  
2017

## TOPIC

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### **RADICAL DEFINITIONS: STATE — SOCIETY — RELIGION**

Definitions of concepts such as state, society, and religion have been non-contested pillars of the “European project” with its optimism and belief that the challenges of our times can be met with a self-confident declaration of common values. However, contention concerning the European project with its goal of stronger and cohesive economies, politically stable institutions, and multicultural societies supportive of religious expressions and generally resistant to exclusion, has diminished the faith in common European values.

Instead of cohesion and communality, a re-negotiation of definitions of state, society, and religion is taking place, sometimes simply by popular vote and political maneuvering, as the

Brexit example shows. Feelings of fatigue, despondency, and resignation have replaced the upbeat definition of Europe, and consequently put into question the very foundations of the European Union. Instead of greater economic, political integration, and open border policies, individual states are reclaiming the rhetoric of national identity and national self-interest.

Faced with unprecedented demographic changes and national and international challenges, political decisions need to be based on radical definitions in order to accept the responsibility of the power to describe, explain, and understand the ambivalences of the terms used. The topic of “State — Society — Religion” in juxtaposition with radical definitions thus offers an in-depth analysis in a world of vagueness and babble, and validates intellectual endeavors as a radical commitment to academic and political engagement. This engagement is, however, not abstract, but very concrete in its re-definition of state, society,

and religion. Such negotiations lead to an understanding of the dynamics and structures that govern our societies and us as individuals. Facts and figures are then comprehended as cultural representations of material and social realities.

The radical nature of these definitions lies in the fact that the summer school will provide more questions than answers, and will allow us to investigate the different approaches to the definitions of state, society, and religion and their interconnectedness. Focusing on the emphasis areas of the University of Graz — South Eastern Europe and North, Central and South America — this will provide a basis for an interdisciplinary analysis in terms of opportunities provided and challenges we have been facing in the past, preparing us for the present and future.

Roberta Maierhofer  
for the Academic Advisory Board

## TARGET GROUP

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The Graz International Summer School Seggau is designed for internationally oriented, highly motivated students from all disciplines who wish to deepen their understanding of current European and international affairs by studying and discussing global developments and challenges in terms of radical definitions, reflecting aspects of individual, social, political, religious, cultural, literary, regional, economic, cohort and national identities.



## ORGANIZERS

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GUSEGG is organized by the University of Graz in cooperation with the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) and the Diocese Graz-Seckau. The Office of International Relations of the University of Graz acts as the coordinating unit. Prof. Roberta Maierhofer (Center for Inter-American Studies) is the academic director.



## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

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**Interdisciplinary** cooperation of teachers and students on the cultural, intellectual and historical dimensions of current European and international affairs in view of their positioning in a globalized world.

**Presentation** of focus areas of the University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central and South America – through interdisciplinary lectures.

**Unique educational opportunity** for future leaders in the fields of politics, administration, business, academia, culture, and religion.



## COURSE

# HOW THE SUMMER SCHOOL WORKS ...

Students will deal with the relevance and effect on global affairs of Europe/EU (emphasis on South Eastern Europe) and the Americas by attending the offered morning and evening lectures, panel discussions, and participating in one of the following modules in the afternoon:

1. Politics and Law
2. Media, Society, and Culture
3. Economics and Ethics
4. Narratives of State, Society, and Religion
5. Aging, Communication, and Technology

## ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY COURSEWORK:

Academic Writing

Public Speaking

Publication Writing for PhD students Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought



# 6 GOOD REASONS TO APPLY

Improve skills in public speaking, academic writing, critical thinking

2-week summer university with a unique campus atmosphere at Seggau Castle

6 ECTS Credits  
(for participation and seminar paper)

Lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and 5 parallel seminar modules (small groups)

Discussions and networking opportunities with international lecturers and guests

All-inclusive-package (tuition, meals, accommodation, extra-curricular program and field trips)

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

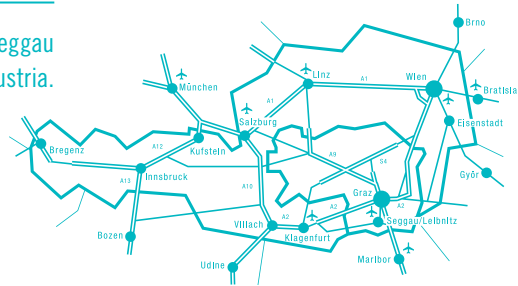
## COSTS & FUNDING

The total student participation fee of 1500 Euro covers the course costs, tuition and room & board for the entire two weeks. Scholarships are available, and will be awarded upon application. Travel arrangements have to be made and paid for individually.



## VENUE SEGGAU CASTLE (AT)

The venue of the summer school is 'Seggau Castle', located 45 km south of Graz, Austria.  
[www.seggau.com](http://www.seggau.com)



## CONTACT + INFO

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Facebook: Graz International Summer School Seggau

