

# Young Researcher's Conference

# Liberalism

Causing or Resolving the Crises of Global Governance?

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

**Goethe University Frankfurt**

Casino • Room 1801 • Campus Westend

## **The Idea**

We live in a world marked by constant global crises: Global climate change threatens our future living conditions and those of our children; in 2008 financial markets crashed and brought the world economy to the brink of collapse; since 11 September 2001, the "War on Terror" has been declared, but there is no common consensus on how and when this war will be won – or if it can be won at all.

Partly due to these challenges many citizens do not trust the impartiality or problem-solving competence of policy makers anymore. Indeed, even global institutions that have been set up to handle these problems are either unable or very slow to meet these and other challenges. Moreover, while global institutions lack democratic legitimacy, the scope of national democratic decision making is limited by the advancing globalization.

These developments lead to opposition and contestation by both (trans-)societal and state actors.

Coinciding with all these developments, liberalism is seen as the dominant ideology in world politics. However, the understandings of liberalism differ widely. On the one hand, liberalism can be associated with an economic ideology, a view which is predominantly held in Europe. On the other hand liberalism is thought of as a political principle throughout other parts of the world (most visibly in the US). Both definitions, though, are based on the belief in the universality of individual self-determination, equality and liberty, which is regarded as rational and universal. Even the political definition in itself is ambivalent: Both the active promotion of democracy and human rights and the radical tolerance of other organizational forms of society and rule can logically follow from liberalism.

Consequently, the different conference panel address the questions of whether and what kind of connection between liberalism(s) and the persisting crises can be found.

## **Conference Panels**

- *Whose Crises?*
- *Is Liberalism the Cause of the Financial Crisis?*
- *How Democratic are International Institutions?*
- *Opposition Against Global Governance*
- *Who is Responsible?*
- *Liberal War or Liberal Peace?*
- *Human Rights as the Basis for Future Global Governance?*

## **Key Note Speakers / Guests**

- Prof. Nicole Deitelhoff
- Prof. Nikita Dhawan
- Prof. Jens Steffek
- Prof. Hubert Zimmermann
- Prof. Lothar Brock
- Prof. Antje Wiener

***We invite all students and everyone else interested to participate in the conference. For more information and registration, see our website:***



<http://www.gesellschaftswissenschaften.uni-frankfurt.de/conference-global-governance>

**Please send all inquiries to:**



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