

Ideas for Re-ordering the World in Times of Multiple Crises: Continuity and Change beyond Covid-19

3rd Annual Conference

Call for abstracts

Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research
and Institute for Development and Peace (INEF)

in cooperation with the Main Research Area Transformation of Contemporary Societies

22-23 April 2021

Virtual Conference



We seem to live in times of multiple crises: a global health crisis around Covid-19, a global ecological crisis around climate change, a global institutional crisis with populist and other challenges to liberal multilateralism, to name but a few. How do perceptions of these cumulative crises affect world order?

Change or continuity? Will these current multiple crises bring about long-term transformations: in geopolitical power distributions; in prevailing global norms such as economic growth and human rights; in gender, race and other struggles for social equality; in the workings of capitalism; or in the very project of modernity? Alternatively, are today's perceived crises simply a passing moment of instability that brings no deeper change to world order? What does history tell us about whether, how and why perceptions of global crises prompt re-ordering of the world in some cases but not others?

The 3rd Annual Conference of the KHK/Centre for Global Cooperation Research (KHK/GCR21), organized jointly with the Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) at the University of Duisburg-Essen, addresses these debates. The interdisciplinary conference examines these multiple crises and the re-ordering of the world along three dimensions:

Ideas for re-ordering the world: How do diverse actors, disciplines, and methodological-theoretical approaches conceptualize and study processes of world (re-)ordering in the face of perceived current global crises? Is there substantial variation in the way world re-ordering is discussed in different world regions? What kind of conceptual overlaps, if any, can we identify among the diverse actors (e.g. shared visions or imaginaries of world order)?

Actors and governance constellations: Who are the actors and institutions involved in processes of world (re-)ordering, in particular, those who are not part of formal decision-making processes, especially on a global level (e.g. civil society members, social movements etc.)? Also, what governance constellations best describe, help examine and/or explain the (re-)ordering of the world in times of crises (e.g. polycentric governance etc.)? How do these constellations vary across key policy fields or global public goods affected by crises? And above all, how can interlinkages between various policy fields – epitomized by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) – be addressed adequately?



Institutional architectures and power hierarchies: To what extent and how are structural inequalities and power imbalances affected by these perceived multiple crises? Do crises like Covid-19 have the potential to change long-term global or regional institutional structures? In short, do they lead to power transformations, and if so, for the better or the worse? What kind of repercussions does this have for the practice and prospects of global and transnational cooperation?

The conference welcomes contributions from different disciplines across the social sciences, humanities and law, as well as diverse theoretical, historical, cultural and area studies perspectives. We welcome different forms of contributions, including presentations of research results, short think pieces, and memos on specific methodological or disciplinary approaches to the conference theme.

The Käte Hamburger Kolleg/Centre for Global Cooperation Research is an interdisciplinary and international learning community that seeks to enhance understanding of the possibilities and limits of global cooperation and to explore new options for global public policy. The Institute for Development and Peace (INEF) is a research institute of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Duisburg-Essen that works on issues at the interface of development and peace, thereby also addressing questions of global and transnational governance. We especially encourage academic exchange across faculties, research centres and research profile areas at the University of Duisburg-Essen, also reaching out to researchers at the DIE, KWI and other UAR institutions.

To propose a conference contribution, please submit **a title and a short abstract of maximum 250 words** in English [via this submission page](#). Deadline for submissions is **24 January 2021**. If you have any questions, please contact Sigrid Quack (sigrid.quack@uni-due.de), Cornelia Ulbert (cornelia.ulbert@uni-due.de), Nina Schneider (schneider@gcr21.uni-due.de) or Christof Hartmann (christof.hartmann@uni-due.de).