



KATHOLISCHE
KIRCHE STEIERMARK



Graz International Summer School Seggau 2020 GUSEGG

Stability, Security, and Happiness: State – Society – Religion

July 5 - July 18, 2020

Seggau Castle, Leibnitz, Austria, Europe



GRAZ
INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER SCHOOL
SEGGAU
2020



TOPIC

Stability, Security, and Happiness: State – Society – Religion

GUSEGG 2020 will offer a broad discussion of our understanding of security, stability, and happiness. Defined quality assurance mechanisms and product and service safety measures are often defined as a guarantee for achieving individual happiness. Taking the place of political action and structural social change, the „imperative of happiness“ (Illouz) has led to institutions and multinational corporations determining which individual decisions will lead to successful, meaningful, and healthy lives. When happiness is seen as independent of the material and political contexts we live in, then individual personal action is seen as a replacement and not as a demand for collective political agency. Climate change activists' calls for action are relegated to media coverage as social events inspiring individual measures, but not as an urgent call for institutional and governmental consequences. As happiness has become a consumer good, the promise of an individual state of bliss has led to a decline of institutional ownership in terms of social, cultural, political, and economic measures, and shifts responsibilities from the collective to the individual.

In order to develop strategies and methods to meet the immense challenges of our time, this summer school suggests engaging in academic contemplation and interdisciplinary exchange. Such investigations offer us the opportunity of developing disruptive intellectual approaches and ideas, as we can gain insights into the many forces that make us believe that the challenges we face are essential, natural, and inevitable. Therefore, analysis offers us not only an understanding of our own alliances on an individual, a regional, national, and global level, but also the possibility of moving from a passive position to active involvement in transformation processes in order to become agents of change by an authentic reformulation of our identities.



Prof. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer

OVERVIEW

Target Group

The Graz International Summer School Seggau is designed for internationally oriented, highly motivated **students from all disciplines and all levels** 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 and collective identities.

Organizers

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. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer (Center for Inter-American Studies, of the University of Graz) is the academic director.

Aims and Objectives

- **Interdisciplinary cooperation of teachers and students.**
- Focus areas of the University of Graz –
Southeastern Europe and North, Central, and South America.
- **Unique educational opportunity** for future leaders.



HOW THE SUMMER SCHOOL WORKS



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

Seminar Modules

- 1 Unhappy Nations: Histories and Politics
- 2 Media and Populism: Digitalization of Politics
- 3 Economics and Inequalities: GDP and Happiness
- 4 Narratives of Jewish Migration
- 5 Aging Masculinities: In Pursuit of Happiness
- 6 Philosophy of (Un)Happiness: Passion and Nostalgia

Participate in the Poster Presentation and the Science Slam!

Additional Workshops

- a) Academic Writing
- b) Creative Writing
- c) Public Speaking

7 GOOD REASONS TO APPLY

1

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

2

6 ECTS credits

3

Lectures, panel discussions, workshops, and **6 parallel seminar modules** (small groups)

4

Improving skills in public speaking, academic writing, creative writing, and critical thinking

5

Discussions and **networking** opportunities with international lecturers and guests

6

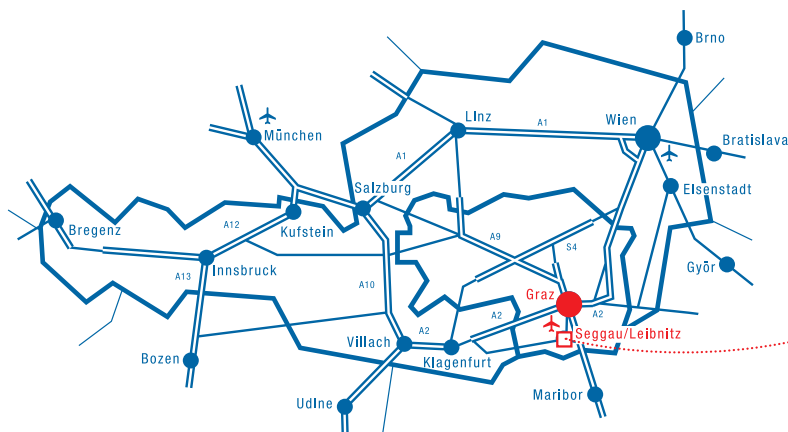
Publishing opportunity: *Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought* publication series

7

All-inclusive package (tuition, meals, accommodation, extra-curricular program, and excursion to Graz)

THE VENUE & SOCIAL PROGRAM

The venue of the summer school is Seggau Castle, located 45 km south of Graz, Austria. The castle is located on top of a hill overlooking the city of Leibnitz, amidst the vineyards of southern Styria.



Schloss Seggau
Seggauberg 1, 8430 Leibnitz, Austria
www.seggau.com



- Visit of Historic Wine Cellar
- Karaoke
- Gaming Night
- Sports Tournaments
- Movie Nights



- Excursion to Graz
- Excursion to Maribor, Slovenia (optional)
- Writing and Photo Contests
- Castle Tour



APPLICATION DEADLINE

March 16, 2020

How to Apply

Please see our website
international.uni-graz.at/gusegg
for more information.

Costs and Funding

The total student participation fee of 1500 Euro covers the course costs, tuition, and room & board for the entire two weeks.

Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships are available (please see our website for detailed information), and will be awarded upon application. Travel arrangements have to be made and paid for individually.

CONTACT & INFO

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Graz International Summer School Seggau



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