

Graz International Summer School
Seggau – Austria 2024

GUSEGG

DISRUPTIVE IMAGINATION AND RESISTANCE
IN EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS:
STATE – SOCIETY – RELIGION

June 30–July 13, 2024
Seggau Castle | Leibnitz
Austria | Europe



TOPIC

Disruptive Imagination and Resistance in Europe and the Americas: State – Society – Religion

As challenges and crises multiply, a sense of resignation and helplessness spreads. Climate change, war, inequality, poverty, hunger, and pandemics pose existential threats to our lives and the stability of our societies. Faced with such a threat, the response is meek. How could we go about things differently? There seems to be a dearth of alternatives. However, such a lack is indicative of a secondary crisis, namely that of the imagination. Maybe there are alternatives but we are simply too comfortable within the frameworks dictated by the status quo to imagine them. The task of the imagination is, therefore, to unsettle this comfort. Imagine in order to disrupt, disrupt in order to resist. Because, once disruptive imagination shatters the comforts of intellectual complacency, new avenues of action might open up: resistance against injustice and exploitation, on the one hand, and resistance against one's own hopelessness and resignation, on the other.

GUSEGG 2024 will offer a platform for the contributions of academics of various backgrounds and disciplines on this one topic. This pluralism reflects the breadth and depth of the question posed by the title. Disruptive imagination is not an isolated, individual task but a social, processual, systemic one. The input has to come from as many sides as possible and the output can only ever be provisional. No one answer will be found. One aspect of the possible disruptiveness of the imagination is its open-endedness. To embrace the imagination as a vehicle for resistance is to embrace this open-endedness, which means abandoning all illusions of definiteness and accepting the heterogeneity of experience. This is the only way the challenges of today can be met. **Or can you imagine another?**

Thus, **GUSEGG 2024** will present research on how disruptive imagination and resistance in Europe and the Americas are addressed

socially, politically, culturally, and economically, and what this means for states, societies, and religions. In order to develop strategies and methods to meet the challenges of our times, 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, or inevitable. Therefore, the suggested analysis offers us not only an understanding of our own positions on an individual, a regional, national, and global level, but also the possibility of moving from a passive position to active involvement in addressing conflict, challenge, and change, and offer insights into the dynamics and structures that govern us and shape as individuals and groups. Focusing on the emphasis areas of the **University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North,**



Central and South America – this program will offer a basis for discussing global and continental challenges as well as opportunities that such academic engagement provides.

*Prof. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer,
Academic Director*

OVERVIEW



Target Group

The Graz International Summer School Seggau is designed for internationally oriented, **highly motivated students for an intense academic program 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, 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 researchers 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

Morning Lectures
Optional Lunch Workshops
Seminars
Evening Events

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

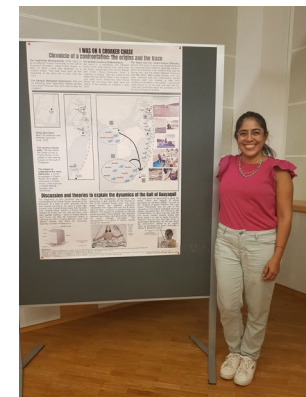
Seminar Modules

- 1: Contested Territories
- 2: Media and Society: Democracy in a Post-Digital World
- 3: Challenges of Economy
- 4: Jewish Studies
- 5: Culture, Gender, and Narrative Pedagogies
- 6: Aging in Data
- 7: Society, Politics, and Emotions

Optional Lunch Workshops

- a) Creative Writing
- b) Academic Writing

Participate in the
Poster Presentations



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 **7 parallel seminar modules** (small groups)
- 4 **Improving skills** and critical thinking in workshops
- 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)

APPLICATION DEADLINE
January 31, 2024

Costs and Funding

The total student participation fee of 2.400€ covers the tuition, and room & board for the entire two weeks. Travel arrangements have to be made and paid for individually.

Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships are available (please see our website for detailed information), and will be awarded upon nomination.

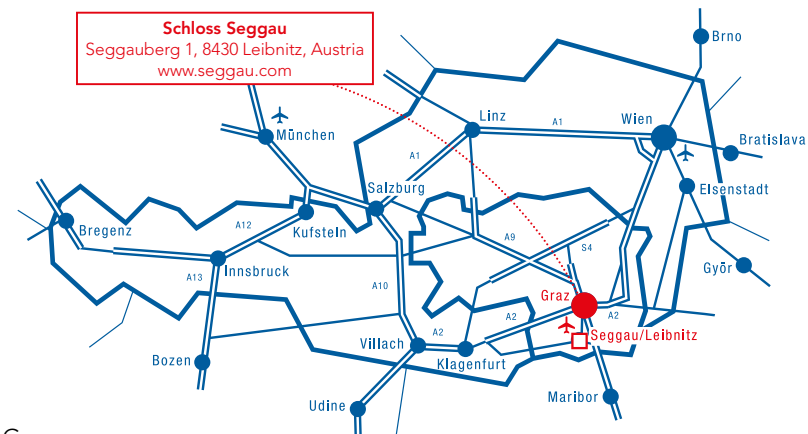
How to Apply

Please see our website for more information.



THE VENUE

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.



- Excursion to Graz
- Excursion to Maribor, Slovenia (optional)
- Writing and Photo Contests
- Castle Tour
- Visit of Historic Wine Cellar
- Karaoke
- Sports Tournaments
- Movie Nights



CONTACT & INFO




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 <https://international.uni-graz.at/en/incoming-students-and-staff/incoming-students/gusegg/>



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