



# Call for Applications

## Refugee Guest-Scientist Programme

The Collaborative Research Center 923 „Threatened Order“ at Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen seeks to invite four guest scientists from Ukraine to Tübingen, each for a term of four months. This offer is specifically directed to scholars who have become refugees due to Russia's war on Ukraine and are now in Germany. This call is open to PhD candidates, PostDocs, and professors alike.

We seek to invite colleagues who would like to contribute to the CRC's research program and who are interested in a discussion with our staff about their work. Consequently, we give preference to applicants whose research is related to one or several of our projects. Responsibilities will include exchange with our staff, participation in our research seminar series, and possibly a lecture or the participation in a workshop.

We will strive to involve our guests at the university as best as we can and can offer support to find housing via the university's established infrastructure as well as personal help from the CRC's administration. We expect guests to be present for the time of their visit and can offer funds to travel to Tübingen. Unfortunately, we cannot offer assistance to come to Germany.

All applications will be evaluated by one of our project leaders who is a specialist in the respective field. We encourage you to consider our research program and projects on our website, [www.sfb923.uni-tuebingen.de](http://www.sfb923.uni-tuebingen.de), or in the summary below.

**Applications are due on 6 May 2022.** Please send your application along with a CV, a description of your current project (1-2 pages) and either proof that you are a refugee or that you have applied to be recognized as a refugee in the EU, or a documentation of your status as a scholar at risk (for example through the Scholars at Risk Network or the Council for At-Risk Academics) to:

**Daniel Rothenburg**

Koordinator

SFB 923 «Bedrohte Ordnungen»

Keplerstr. 2, 72074 Tübingen

[koordination@sfb923.uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:koordination@sfb923.uni-tuebingen.de)

Funded by



Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

German Research Foundation



## Collaborative Research Centre 923 'Threatened Social Orders'

### Summary of the Research Programme

The Collaborative Research Centre 923 focuses its research on 'Threatened Social Orders'. In line with the wider meaning of the German word *Ordnungen*, order is conceptualized as an arrangement of elements that are related to each other in a certain way and that structure social groups or even whole societies. Orders are created, confirmed, and/or are modified by both, the actions and ideas of human actors. They emerge and exist for certain periods of time, contain and enable the drawing of boundaries between different social groups, channel options for action, stabilize behavioural expectations, and establish routines. At the same time, they serve as elements of broader overlapping and interdependent figurations of order: orders always exist in relation to other orders, to which they may be superordinate, subordinate, or adjacent. They emerge from the dynamic tension between normative propositions (which are often emotionally charged and associated with identity and identification) and practical realization. Such characteristics become especially recognizable in situations where orders are under threat.

We consider orders as threatened when actors become convinced that their possible courses of action are precarious, when normal behaviours and routines are called into question, when they feel they can no longer rely on each other either now or in the near future, and when they succeed in establishing a discourse about the perceived threat. Within this framework, researchers from a variety of disciplines in the Humanities, the Social Sciences, Legal Studies, and Theology collaborate on a model of Threatened Orders to achieve four long-term research goals:

1. to historicize current diagnoses of crisis,
2. to investigate modes of rapid social change,
3. to update categories of space and time in the social and cultural sciences, and
4. to fundamentally reflect on the social and cultural sciences under the conditions of globalization.

These broad goals are achievable because the concept of 'order' is central to political and social thought across multiple scholarly disciplines and historical epochs. Adding the attribute 'threatened' to the concept of order sharpens its profile, making it applicable to current interdisciplinary debates on issues such as crisis, revolution, social change and modernisation, security/insecurity, resilience and emotion, as well as to debates surrounding the historical dimension of globalisation. The CRC thus addresses issues that are currently widely debated both nationally and internationally. The Centre's primary approach is to seek out and identify the basic patterns of social order at the – short – moment of threat. By connecting threat and order in this way, both the existential aspects of threat as well as the stability and variance of order can be analysed from a diachronic perspective. The model of Threatened Orders thus opens a path to addressing fundamental questions in the cultural and social sciences in the 21st century.



## Individual Projects

### Cluster E: Diagnosis – Coping practices

**E01 (Prof. Schmidt-Hofner): Ordo amplissimus. The threat to the Eastern Roman imperial elite under Emperor Justinian I.**

**Project E01** examines the relationship between threat diagnoses and coping practices based on the history of the Eastern Roman imperial elite during the reign of Emperor Justinian (527-565 AD). Starting from the hypothesis that the threat to the Eastern Roman imperial elite was an unintended consequence of imperial action, the first goal of the project is to more clearly identify the protagonists, scope and relevance of the threat diagnosis. Based on this, questions are then addressed about the effects of the subsequent coping practices on the hierarchy and status order. The project pays particular attention to the synchronous interdependence between the status order and the *re-ordering* of the monarchy that took place under Justinian.

**E02 (Dr. Eberle & Prof. Schmidt-Hofner): *Viri absentes*. *Re-ordering* of gender orders in the context of Roman expansion (2nd - 1st century BC)**

**Project E02** analyses the interdependence between a war-related shortage of men in the 2nd and 1st centuries B.C. which led to a threat to the established order in rural areas of the Roman Empire, and the *re-ordering* of gender orders that occurred at the same time. In this context, particular attention is paid to the question of how the coping practices – which initially focused on the threat diagnosis of the absence of men (e.g. as heads of families) – affected the social position of women.

**E04 (Prof. Dürr & PD Dr. Menning): Threat communication, coping practices and financial market speculation. Stock market booms, crashes and knowledge practices (18th–19th c.)**

**Project E04** investigates the threat diagnosis related to the stock market crash that occurred in the second half of the 18th and 19th centuries as well as the subsequent coping practices that were implemented. Special attention is paid to the relevance of diachronic interdependencies. In concrete terms, the objective is to examine how knowledge about hyper-speculation and price crashes that had been accumulated to that point influenced threat diagnoses and coping practices in the context of stock market crashes. The project thus applies the threatened orders model to achieve a better understanding of the *re-ordering* that occurred in the financial and economic system of order in the 18th and 19th centuries.



**E06 (Prof. Nieswand): Threat and diversity in the urban context. Ethnically heterogeneous and unequal urban districts in the global South**

**Project E06** investigates how synchronous interdependencies are established through threat diagnoses in unequal and ethnically heterogeneous urban districts, and what effects such interdependencies have on the *re-ordering* of the urban districts and their populations. Of particular interest is the question of how specific topoi of threat influence coping practices. In this context, the study focuses on demarcation and hierarchization as modes of creating synchronous interdependencies between urban districts and their populations.

## **Cluster F: Mobilisation**

**F01 (Prof. Meier): Transformation through threat. Threatened Orders and the development of the late Roman monarchy/monarchies**

**Project F01** aims to operationalise the paradigm of transformation based on an exemplary object of investigation. To this end, a diachronic analysis of the late Roman monarchy/monarchies in the period from the 5th to the 7th century is planned that will focus on specific phases of threat and *re-ordering*. This project will thus demonstrate the analytical potential of the CRC approach, especially with regards to questions concerning the conceptualization of epochal transitions.

**F02 (Dr. Grabowsky & Prof. Patzold): From Carolingian order to “société féodale”? Threatened Order and change in the Carolingian world**

Following preliminary work on the years around 1100 and 900, **Project F02** will continue its analyses of the diachronic succession of restructuring processes in the context of the transformation of the Carolingian order. The project will now look at a period around 1000 that has already been discussed for some time under keywords such as “mutation” and “révolution féodale”, and which is said to have brought about dramatic changes in the entire system of order in Western and Central Europe. This period will be re-examined with the help of CRC concepts, and the analysis will provide a new perspective on an innovative model of the transformation of the Carolingian world and the emergence of the Latin-European Middle Ages from about 900 to 1100.

**F03 (Prof. Holzem & Prof. Ridder): Craftsmen – farmers – clergymen. Threats to social-moral systems of order in religious literary discourse (15th–17th c.)**

**Project F03** examines the relationship between religiously influenced threat communication and social order in a diachronic comparative study using three exemplary constellations that span different epochs. We ask questions about the connections between threat communication and a loss of trust in religious and political authorities, about the relevance of threat scenarios as possible indicators of social change, about communicative strategies of mobilization using threat scenarios, and about imagined forms of *re-ordering*.



**F04 (Prof. Dürr & PD Dr. Hahn): Colonial order as Threatened Order: the Sangley revolts and Spanish massacres in Manila (1603, 1639, 1662, 1686)**

**Project F04** examines Spanish colonial rule in the 17th century as a threatened system of order from a diachronic perspective based on the example of the four Sangley revolts in the Philippines (1603, 1639, 1662, 1686). On the one hand, questions will be asked as to how the Spanish administration succeeded in mobilizing very different groups for its campaign against the Chinese-origin Sangleys, how colonial rule in Manila changed as a result of relevant threat communication, and about the *re-ordering* processes that were established based on such communication. On the other hand, the project will analyse the role that translation processes played in the maintenance of long-distance rule with respect to the global dimension of threat communication.

**F07 (Prof. von Bernstorff & Prof. Hasenclever): The struggle for international order. On the integration of affected population groups into the United Nations system**

**Project F07** investigates diplomatic and international legal strategies for the stabilization of national sovereignty claims within the United Nations system. In this context, the project asks whether the new form of including directly affected population groups (so-called MAPs) in negotiation and decision-making processes serves more to counter global processes of institutionalization and demands for social participation, or whether they are part of an expansion and deepening of global governance and thus the re-hierarchization of political spaces.

**F08 (Prof. Scheer): ‘Threatened Solidarities’. Mobilising discourses and practices in refugee aid.**

**Project F08** takes a diachronic approach to the self-image and identity narrative of German society as a threatened system of order in the aftermath of the “refugee crisis”. The project analyses how actors in refugee aid programs have dealt with the threats of nationalism and racism. In particular, it focuses on the interplay between protests and aid projects as places of mobilization, on the operationalization of the ideal of solidarity in everyday life, and on the effects of experiences of success and failure on *re-ordering*.

**F09 (Prof. Eckel): The threatened order of the ‘globalized’ world. Conceptions of globalization, political awakening and social debate in the USA, Great Britain, and the Federal Republic of Germany (1990s and 2000s)**

**Project F09** addresses the emergence of the globalization discourse during the 1990s and early 2000s and takes a synchronous perspective to explore the question of how the discourse and its inherent notions of threatened orders shaped contemporary political perceptions and action in the USA, Great Britain, and Germany. The project focuses on the expansion of free trade promoted by the Clinton government and the World Trade Organization and opposed by the ‘anti-globalization movement’, as well as the reforms of social and labour market policies in both Great Britain and Germany.



## Cluster G: Reflection

### **G01 (Prof. Drecolli & Prof. Männlein-Robert): Platonism and Christianity in late antiquity: literary strategies of threat communication in Porphyrios and Eusebios**

**Project G01** investigates the reciprocal threat and threat perception of two systems of order during the period of the Constantinian shift. Platonism and Christianity – previously examined in the first two funding periods using other sources – will be reconceptualised as holistic systems of order regarding the world, knowledge, and life, and the competition between these two systems will be analysed by focusing on the intellectuals Porphyrios and Eusebios as actors with far-reaching perceptions of threat.

### **G02 (Prof. Hirbodan): Spiritual women's communities in the 18th century. Conceptions of order and threat communication during the enlightenment and secularisation**

**Project G02** deals with the increasing threat communication in spiritual women's communities since the middle of the 18th century. The project involves surveying groups of women from different social and religious orders about the transformation of older concepts of order and about updating older forms of threat communication.

### **G03 (Prof. Johler): A 'genealogy of hybridity'. The Threatened Orders of the multicultural Istrian peninsula (1970 - 2013)**

**Project G03** investigates the history of "hybridism", a category of order first described by Austro-Hungarian researchers at the turn of the 19th to 20th centuries using Istria as a model case (as described in the 2nd period of funding). In the wake of the threatening disintegration of Yugoslavia, the regional order of the multilingual and multicultural peninsula has been redefined several times with reference to older experiences. Project G03 will develop a genealogy of hybridity based on the lessons of the Istrian laboratory.

### **G04 (Prof. Frie): *End of Empire. Re-Ordering* in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada (1960–1980)**

In the second funding period, **Project G04** addressed the reinvention of the settler colonies Australia, New Zealand and Canada as nation states following the end of the British Empire. The project now turns to the conflict-laden implementation of the *re-ordering* in the late 1970s, when the oil crisis, the Vietnam war, and experiences with globalization seemed to deny the hopeful nation states the self-images that had been constructed in the early 1970s.

### **G05 (PD Dr. Tümmers & Prof. Wiesing): Threatened but stable medical systems of knowledge. Ebola in West Africa and endangered orders of medicine (2013–2016)**

After dealing with AIDS (1st funding period) and antibiotic resistances (2nd funding period), **Project G05** will use the third period of funding to investigate the Ebola epidemic from 2013–



2016, an episode that represented a much more dramatic and more contemporary threat to medical order, particularly with regards to threat communication and time constraints. On the basis of a comparative threat analysis, the project will develop parameters for stability and change in the medical order in the 20th and 21st centuries.

**G06 (Prof. Franke): Past Futures of Threatened Orders. Alternative racial orders in speculative fictions and realities in the U.S.**

In the third funding period, **Project G06** will continue to focus on the racial order in the U.S. by looking at imagined alternative orders in fiction and utopian communities. These visions testify to the resistance to the existing order that can inform future mobilization and threat; they also fuel continuing attempts of re-ordering by keeping up the promise of a better order.

## **Cluster Ö: Public Relations**

**Ö (Prof. Grewe, Dr. Hanke & Prof. Johler): Experiences – expectations – results. Threatened Orders between scientific analysis and public discussion**

**Project Ö** further advances the historization of crisis diagnoses – one of the CRC's long-term goals – by anchoring the concept of transfer in the research design and research practices of the subprojects and of the CRC as a whole. In the third funding period, Project Ö will work with CRC collaborators to develop a global exhibition to be held at twelve locations worldwide, and which will integrate and expand on the existing virtual exhibition. In addition, the project is developing a digital learning platform for teachers and students that transfers the CRC model to classrooms teaching history. Finally, the project will continue to ensure intensive interaction both within and outside of the research group through innovative formats as well as classical public relations work.