




**Figurations of the Precarious
New Directions in Global South Studies
International Research Symposium**



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**3 May (Wednesday): 2 pm - 8 pm, Brechtbau, room 215
4 May (Thursday): 6 pm - 8 pm, Neue Aula, Großer Senat**

Interdisciplinary Centre for Global South Studies (ICGSS)
College of Fellows

 **CAPES** Chair Figurations of the Precarious

Convenors: Susanne Goumegou, Sebastian Thies

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The conceptual field of the precarious has proven in the last years to be a central tool for analysing and making sense of our contemporary time. It extends nowadays well beyond the original economic focus on labour and wage relations. Images of the precarious circulate in cultural production and media; social and legal activism, institutional politics try to tackle widespread processes of precarisation and, last but not least, precarity constitutes a challenge to be dealt with and made sense of in everyday practices.

The semantic field of the precarious - comprising widely discussed theoretical concepts such as precarity, precariousness, precariat and precarisation - is gaining traction in Global South Studies for roughly a decade now. The challenge in this context is to overcome the prevailing Eurocentric set of norms in precarity studies that are not only related to the Fordist welfare State but also to notions of the liberal subject. The Symposiums aims at discussing subject-centred research approaches in cooperation with our partners from the Global South. We suggest taking figurations of the precarious as a methodological tool. Figuration as the recognition of textual and social patterns of meaning by the subject refers first to thinking or acting in figures, i.e producing a work of imagination (to borrow a term coined by Arjun Appadurai 1996) with which people make sense of the world and times they live in and the ways they relate to it. It can also be easily related to Nobeit Elias' figuration analysis (1965), which focusses understanding the dynamic networks of interaction, interdependence and entanglement that subjects necessarily evolve and act in.

Wednesday 3rd May, Brechtbau room 215

2 pm: Welcome and Opening

Presentation and discussion of research paper

Susanne Goumegou, Sebastian Thies: „Figurations of the Precarious. Rethinking Studies on the Precarious in the Global South from a Subject-Centred Perspective“

Discussants: Ritu Vij, Hermílio Santos, Fernando Resende, Boris Nieswand, Renata de Sá Gonçalves

Coffee break

4 pm: Presentation of related projects and discussion

- 1) Ivonne Sánchez, Gabriela González Ortuño, Armando Octavio Velázquez Soto (all UNAM): PAPIIT project proposal: Narrativas de la precariedad en America Latina / Narratives of the precarious in Latin America
- 2) Bani Gill (UT), Infrastructures of Expulsion: Migrant Policing and Deportation in Urban India
- 3) Riccarda Flemmer (UT), Junior professor for Political Struggles in the Global South, current project

Break

Key note lectures:

Wednesday, May 3rd, Brechtbau room 215, 6 pm:

Hermílio Santos (Pontifícia Universidade do Rio Grande do Sul (PUC-RS), Brasilien / CAPES chair for Figurations of the Precarious, Tübingen):

Women's and children's protagonisms in peripheral urban context in the South: Alternatives to violent everyday lives (in Brazil)

Thursday May 4th, Neue Aula, Großer Senat, 6 pm:

***Global Encounters Lectures* (in cooperation with College of Fellows and Platform Global Encounters)**

Ritu Vij (University of Aberdeen): De-Pathologizing Precarity

(Abstract and more information: <https://uni-tuebingen.de/einrichtungen/zentrale-einrichtungen/college-of-fellows/events/#c1745842>)

Followed by a reception in Kleiner Senat

Link für Hybrid-Teilnahme: <https://zoom.us/j/93468660818>