



DFG RTG 3105 Figurations of the Precarious in the Global South

College of Fellows

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Capstone Seminar with DFG Mercator Fellow Ritu Vij:

“Critical Perspectives on Precarity Studies”

10 – 12 November 2026, Tübingen, Germany

Venue: College of Fellows, University of Tübingen, Germany

Application Deadline: 15 October 2026

Financed by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

Outline:

Discussions of precarity traverse the humanities and social sciences. From concerns with the lived experience of precarity in anthropological discourse and its representations in literary and cinematic archives, to the political production of precarization as a governmental technology of rule, the sociological transformation of the nature of work, and theoretical, philosophical accounts of precarity as an ontological condition of life, the vocabulary of precarity/precarioussness/ precaritization addresses multiple dimensions of vulnerability in the 21st century.

This seminar maps some of the dominant lines of inquiry in precarity studies, with the aim of introducing doctoral researchers to the promise, ellipses, and limits of contemporary thinking on precarity. Key to our discussions will be the notion of the human that anchors contestations about liberal imaginaries of ‘repair,’ and their refusal in practices of survivance by precaritized populations in the Global South.

About Ritu Vij:

Ritu Vij is Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the University of Aberdeen. Her research lies at the intersection of social and political theory, with a focus on political economy and international political theory. In recent years, she has

principally engaged the problem of precarity in International Relations and Social Theory, and is known for her work on how precarious lives and subjectivities are shaped by global political and economic processes, as well as for her contributions to debates on subalternity, modernity, and social justice.

Her publications include the volume *Precarity and International Relations* (co-edited, 2021), the Special Issue *Precarity: Aesthetic and Poetic Explorations* (co-edited, 2025) and influential articles on precarity, globalization, and political subjectivity, such as “Broken Passages: From the Subaltern to the Precariat” (2025) and “The Global Subject of Precarity” in (2019). Her ongoing work includes a co-edited collection on *Political Imaginaries of the ‘Slum’*, an article on “Reimagining Precarious Futures”, and a book manuscript on *Rethinking Subalternity/Precarity in the Post-Colony*.

Seminar agenda:

The Capstone Seminar draws on key texts and provocative contributions from the field of Precarity Studies, which will serve as the basis for discussions.

Participation in the seminar requires the complete reading of all texts which will be circulated in advance.

Application:

This workshop is open to international doctoral students from humanities and social sciences with a background in Precarity Studies or related fields (applications of master students will be considered in exceptional cases).

Applicants must supply the following documents by **15 October 2026** to info@cof.uni-tuebingen.de:

- Application form (please download [here](#).)
- CV (2 pages max)
- 300-word expression of interest

A letter of admission will reach successful applicants before the end of October. There is no program fee, participants are however expected to cover their own costs for travel, accommodation and meals. The College of Fellows will assist participants in finding inexpensive accommodation.