



Copyright

Modell-/Projektfoto: Klemens Wihlidal [Bearbeitung: Uta Degner]
Foto 2025: Wolfgang Thaler /KÖR Wien

Winter School

Identities in Europe in Times of Rising Populism

Innsbruck, 16 – 20 February 2026

Blended Intensive Programme | Universities of Innsbruck, Opava, Wrocław & Duisburg-Essen
University of Innsbruck, Innrain 52, 6020 Innsbruck
Main Building, Room *University of New Orleans (UNO)* – First Floor

Programme

Monday, 16 February 2026

- 09.00 **Welcome** *Lukas Madersbacher (Vice Dean of Studies)*
Opening *Uta Degner & Ellinor Forster*
- Panel 1: Discourses in Digital Spaces: Populism, Crisis, and Disinformation**
Chair: Tim Peiffer & Mateusz Gąssowski
- 09.30 **KEYNOTE lecture** – *Derya Gür-Şeker*: Analysing Discourses in Digital Spaces
- 10.15 *Lena Rebhan*: Dynamics of knowledge communication about terrorism in Germany – A linguistic discourse analysis based on the online encyclopedia Wikipedia
- 10.45 *Jil Sophie Klüvers*: The strategic use of compound-words with the head-noun ‚crisis‘ in the context of the migration discourse in german right-wing political speeches in the ‚PolRrA-Korpus‘
Coffee break
Chair: Barbara Bubiková & Dominik Axmann
- 11.45 *Anna Kramerová & Martina Lesáková*: From Operation Neptun to AI: The Changing Forms of Disinformation
- 12.15 *Emily Vuković*: The Female Body in Right-Wing Populist Discourse: Anti-Feminism, Misogyny, and Abortion
Lunch break
- 15.00 **Old town of Innsbruck & Court Church** (Hofkirche): Cenotaph of Emperor Maximilian I, Andreas Hofer’s tomb

Tuesday, 17 February 2026

- Panel 2: Contested Histories: Memory and Populist Narratives Across Europe**
Chair: Lena Rebhan & Annie Freytag
- 09.00 **KEYNOTE lecture** – *Paweł Jaworski*: Polish disputes over historical memory. Last two decades
- 09.45 *Bohdan Brzobohatý*: Belarus – behind the Iron Curtain
- 10.15 *Damian Drzazga*: The November Uprising in the Narratives of Polish Politicians after the Russian Federation’s Aggression against Ukraine, 2022–2025
Coffee break

- Chair: Jil Sophie Klüvers & Anna Kramerová*
- 11.15 *Ana Matošević*: Populism Across Political Systems: Front-Page Narratives in Yugoslav Sobotna priloga and Contemporary Slovenian Digital Media (Nova24TV)
- 11.45 *Xandra Knappe*: The Significance of Empty Signifiers in the Digital Discourse of Populist Radical Right European Parliament Members
Lunch break
- 14.00 **Trip to the Hafelekarr**: Landscape as a function of identity
- 20.00 **Movie night at the Cinematograph**
Ruth Beckermann: *Waldheim’s Waltz, Austria 2018.*

Wednesday, 18 February 2026

- Bozen/Bolzano, Victory Monument, fascist architecture
Meeting points:
- 8.45 Corner Südbahnstraße/Heiliggeiststraße
- 9.00 Youth Hostel Reichenauer Straße 147

Thursday, 19 February 2026

- Panel 3: Constructing Identity: Historical Legacies and Populist Strategies**
Chair: Emily Vuković & Damian Drzazga
- 09.00 **KEYNOTE lecture** – *Hana Komárková*: Medieval Myths and Modern Politics: Palacký’s Role in Shaping Czech Identity
- 09.45 *Mateusz Gąssowski*: The monument to Bolesław Chrobry, the first king of Poland, in Wrocław as an example of using distant history to build a narrative of identity today
- 10.15 *Michaela Pecinová*: From Enemy to Neighbour: The Image of Germans in Czech “Collective Memory” after 1945
Coffee break
Chair: Xandra Knappe & Ana Matošević
- 11.15 *Marina Wahab*: Populist Communication Strategies on Social Media: Platform-Based Campaigning Examined through the Case of the AfD in Germany

- 11.45 *Philippe Thommes*: Identity Politics in Luxembourg and Austria. Populist Constructions of Nation, Language, and History in the ADR and FPÖ
- 12.15 *Katharina Mair*: Between Tradition and Populism: Continuities and Discontinuities in the Minority Discourse of the “Süd Tiroler Freiheit”
Lunch break
- 15.00 **Bergisel: Andreas Hofer & Tirol Panorama**

Friday, 20 February 2026

- Panel 4: Culture and Representation: Literature, Media, and National Identity**
Chair: Marina Wahab & Martina Lesáková
- 09.00 **KEYNOTE lecture** – *Uta Degner*: Literature against Populism. Some thoughts about an Austrian Tradition
- 09.45 *Annie Freytag*: Identity, Populism, and Nationalism in Stefan Zweig’s *The World of Yesterday*
- 10.15 *Tim Peiffer*: Leni Riefenstahl: Between Aesthetic Ambition, Populism, and Propaganda
Coffee break
Chair: Michaela Pecinová & Katharina Mair
- 11.15 *Barbara Bubiková*: Jára Cimrman – almost the greatest Czech
- 11.45 *Dominik Axmann*: Defining national identity in forms of representation in the example of Austria at the Eurovision Song Contest
- 12.15 Concluding remarks
Flashlight by the students
Chair: Bohdan Brzobohatý & Philippe Thommes
- 19.00 **Farewell Dinner**