

Publics in Global Politics

Annual conference of the Working Group “Sociology in International Relations”
of the German Political Science Association (DVPW)
in cooperation with
the Section “Political Sociology” of the German Sociological Association (DGS)

November 11 and 12, 2021

Organising team:

Ulrich Franke (Erfurt)
Janne Mende (Heidelberg)
Thomas Müller (Bielefeld)
Jasmin Siri (Erfurt/München)

Venue:

Zoom. No prior Zoom registration or software installation necessary. Log-in details will be circulated to all presenters and registered participants. Please turn your cameras on, and your microphone off when listening.

Registration:

The conference is open to guest participants. We ask guests to register with the organising team (aksib@dvpw.de) by November 9th. The Zoom link will be circulated on November 10th. Access to the short papers will be circulated by November 4th.

Topic

Publics are crucial to global politics. They shape our idea of how political decisions are to be made and disputed. Publics are the social spaces in which various actors compete over attention and support for their political agendas and in which political decisions on inter- and transnational issues are demanded, justified, contested and debated. These spaces depend on publicness – the availability of knowledge about political issues and the way they are communicated to those that are governed – and often feature appeals to global public interests in the sense of interests shared by humanity as a whole.

In International Relations as well as in Sociology, there is diverse and rich research on the relation between publics and global politics. The internet and social media are described as having brought about a structural transformation of the public sphere that is as revolutionary and momentous as the invention of the printing press, transforming the ways in which transnational and global publics and politics are constituted and shaped. Against the background of this radical transformation of the public sphere, we want to take stock of the debates about the relation between (the) public(s) and global politics. What is the role of the public(s) in global politics? Which publics matter in global politics? How do inequalities shape access to these new publics? And, more generally speaking: How has the relation between (the) public(s) and global politics changed?

Programme

- All times are in Central European Time (CET)
- To foster a lively discussion, we would like to organise the panels as roundtables: After an initial round of 5 min presentations per paper, the roundtable participants will talk about each other's papers for 20 min. Afterwards, the discussion will be opened up for the whole plenary for the remaining 55 min.

Thursday November 11th

12.45-13.00 Log-in and Coffee

13.00-13.15 Welcome

13.15-14.00 Conceptual discussion

14.00-14.15 Break and joint coffee in breakout rooms

14.15-15.45 **Roundtable 1: The Nature of Publics**

Chair: Ulrich Franke

Benjamin Herborth (Groningen): Publics and their Politics

Sebastian Schindler (München): Public Happiness and Public Freedom

Achilles Skordas (Heidelberg): The Manchurian Candidate and the 2016 US Presidential Elections

15.45-16.15 Break and joint coffee in breakout rooms

16.15-17.45 **Roundtable 2: Politics and the Public Spotlight**

Chair: Janne Mende

Julia Drubel (Giessen): Public(s) in the European Union and the Development of Sustainable Forest Governance within the Global Bio-Economy

Anne Krüger (Berlin/Potsdam) and Leopold Ringel (Bielefeld): Shaping the Globe by Shaping Global Publics: Disentangling Infrastructures of Quantification in the World Polity

Thomas Müller (Bielefeld): Transparency, Ambiguity and Global Nuclear Politics

17.45-18.45 Breakout bar and Zoom drinks

Friday November 12th

09.00-10.30 **Roundtable 3: The Boundary between the Public and the Private**

Chair: Thomas Müller

Jutta Joachim (Nijmegen) and Andrea Schneiker (Friedrichshafen): Public or Private? Blurring the Lines through YouTube Recruitment of Military Veterans by Private Security Companies

Janne Mende and Franziska Plümmer (Heidelberg): Personal Information, Private Actors, and Public Values: The Role of Public(s) in European Data Governance

Katharina McLaren (Kleve): Why the Religious Public Matters in Global Politics

10.30-11.00 Break and joint coffee in breakout rooms

11.00-12.30 Roundtable 4: International Institutions and their Publics

Chair: Jasmin Siri

Melanie Coni-Zimmer (Frankfurt am Main): Civil Society, International Organizations and the Public Sphere: The (Im-)Possibility of Virtual Dialogue

Matthias Ecker-Ehrhardt (Duisburg-Essen): The Personal/Intimate in IO Social Media Communication

Diane Schumann (Frankfurt am Main): Stuck in Semi-publicness – How the G20 Engagement Groups Fail to Translate their Work into the Digital Public Space

12.30-13.15 Lunch break and joint coffee in breakout rooms

13.15-14.00 Concluding remarks

14.00-14.45 Mitgliederversammlung des AK SiB (held in German)

For more information about the DVPW Working Group “Sociology in International Relations” and the DGS Section “Political Sociology”:

- <https://www.dvpw.de/gliederung/ak/soziologie-der-internationalen-beziehungen>
- https://www.sociohub-fid.de/s/politische-soziologie/custom_pages/view?id=11