THE POLITICS OF VOLUNTARINESS

Global and Postcolonial Perspectives

LECTURE SERIES BY THE RESEARCH UNIT VOLUNTARINESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY · Seven talks and discussions explore and critique established views on the Enlightenment, on subjectivity and self-ownership, on personal and political agency, on work and social reproduction, on migration and security – through the lens of voluntary action and in global and postcolonial perspectives. Featuring the approach that acting voluntarily is always situational and grounded in conditions of possibility they discuss how people's voluntary action takes on very different shapes across different times and societies.

15.04.2026 · 18:15-19:45 · C19.00.02

NIKITA DHAWAN (TU Dresden)

Unvoluntary Subjects of Enlightenment: The Postcolonial Conundrum

Followed by Semester Opening Reception of the Department of History!

MI, 22.04.2026 · 18:15-19:45 · C19.00.02
GURMINDER K. BHAMBRA (U Sussex, Brighton)
Modern Subjectivity and the Political Economy of Colonialism

MI, 06.05.2026 · 18:15-19:45 · C19.00.02
PHILIPP WINTERHAGER (HU Berlin)
Verantwortung abgeben, Verantwortung übernehmen. Freiwilligkeit im mittelalterlichen Amtsverzicht

MI, 20.05.2026 · 18:15-19:45 · C19.00.02
REGULA LUDI (U Fribourg)
„We Are Fed up with Unpaid Housework and Sick of Altruism." Second-Wave Feminism, Unpaid Work, and Volunteering

MI, 03.06.2026 · 18:15-19:45 · C19.00.02
TAHIRE ERMAN (Bilkent U) | **PIERRE MONFORTE** (UIC Barcelona)
FLORIAN WAGNER (U Erfurt)
Roundtable Discussion: Is Migration ever Voluntary? Migration Between Agency, Coercion, and Power

MI, 17.06.2026 · 18:15-19:45 · C19.00.02
PEER ILLNER (Groningen U)
The Mutual Aid Dilemma: Disasters, Crises and Social Reproduction

MI, 01.07.2026 · 18:15-19:45 · C19.00.02
EDUARDO ABOULTAIF (U Kaslik) | **MARA ALBRECHT** (U Erfurt)
Between the State and the Street: Qabadayat as Voluntary Security Actors and Agents of Political Mobilization in Lebanon (1943-1980s)

UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT Philosophische Fakultät

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