

Populist Backlashes around the World: The Role of Media and Communication

*International Conference and Annual Meeting of the International and Intercultural Division
of the German Communication Association (DGPuK)*

Program

Thursday, 13 November 2025



14.30 – 15.30
Hörsaal 7

PhD World Café
meeting between PhD-students and invited scholars
(closed session)

- Daniela Guerrero, Aarhus University: “Network Collaboration: Empowering Social Media Influencers to Limit the Dissemination of Disinformation”
- Miriam Jawadi, Aarhus University: “Constructing Islam on Social Media: Populist Discourses about Islam in Italy”



16.00 – 17.30
C18-03.03

**Hybrid Meeting of the International and Intercultural
Division of the German Communication Association
DGPuK, (closed session)**

- separate invitation for members of the division, guests are welcome
- agenda will include the upcoming conference 2026 and the DGPuK working group “Becoming International”



18.00
Abendbrot

Get Together
All conference participants welcome!

Friday, 14 November 2025

Location: University of Erfurt, C-19 Research Building „Forschungsbau Weltbeziehungen“, C19.00.02

8.30 – 9.00 **Registration**

9.15 **Welcoming Address**

*Anne Grüne and Kai Hafez
International and Intercultural Division of the DGPuK*



9.30 – 11.00 **Keynote Session and Discussion
Rethinking the Resistance: Responding to Hate and Polarization**

Cherian George (Hong Kong Baptist University)

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee/tea break**



11.30 – 13.00 **Panel Session I – Conceptual and Methodological Challenges**

Chair: Judith Pies

Racist vs. Cosmopolitan Populism? Reflections on Reclaiming Social Debate for Common Good

Anne Grüne (University of Erfurt)

The Epistemic Crisis using the Example of the AfD in Germany

Johannes Gemkow (University of Leipzig)

The 'Equivalency Problem' in Middle Eastern-Western Comparative Perspective: How to Situate Populism Research in Relevant Socio-Political Contexts

Kai Hafez (University of Erfurt)

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch break (Mensa Campus UE)**



14.00 – 15.30 **Panel Session II – Comparative Perspective from the Global North and South**

Chair: Kai Hafez

From Pools to Prayers: How Local Incidents Become National Populist Panics in Germany and Malaysia

Melanie Radue (University of Passau), Gayathry Venkiteswaran (Nottingham University Malaysia)

Interdiscursivity within a Semi-Authoritarian Global Governance Framework: How Close Are BRICS Countries to Fostering a South-South Exchange of Ideas and Populism?

Augusto Junior da Silva Santos (University of Erfurt)

Cross-Context Challenges: Media and Press Freedom under Populist Pressure in Ethiopia and Hungary

*Bereket Hasen Beddecha, (University of Erfurt), Gabor Polyak (University of Pécs),
Sven Joeckel (University of Erfurt)*

15.30 – 16.00 **Coffee/tea break**



16.00 – 18.00

Panel-Session III – “Western” Perspectives on Populism and Anti-Populist Responses

Chair: Sabrina Schmidt

Digital Forms of Extreme Right Violence against People with Disabilities from a Transcultural Perspective

Lina Brink (Hochschule Düsseldorf)

Comparing the Mediated Othering of Dominant and Minoritised Groups in Europe and the U.S.

Gwendolyn Mingham (TU Munich)

Representation Reconsidered: Two Decades of Minoritized Groups Portrayal in the U.S.

Valeria Ariza Gómez (TU Munich)

Foreign News Reporting as an Anti-Populist Tool: The Political Media Reality of DER SPIEGELs pioneering International Project 'Globale Gesellschaft'

Julia Walter, Anne Marie Gorski, Janis Brinkmann (Hochschule Mittweida)

Farewell Address



19.00
Restaurant
Übersee

Conference Dinner