



# IRS Spring Academy 2020

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## Investigating Space(s): Current Theoretical and Methodological Approaches: Part 4 – Spaces of Crisis

### Call for Applications

Join us for the IRS Spring Academy for Doctoral Students and Junior Researchers

- ▶ 26-29 May 2020
- ▶ Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS) in Erkner, near Berlin

The IRS Spring Academy is a yearly format similar to a PhD summer school but, as the name suggests, taking place in spring. It is an international and interdisciplinary format that provides spots for 25 participants, typically doctoral students but also post-doctoral researchers in the early phase of their careers. The overarching aim of the IRS Spring Academy is to support qualification projects which seek to explore the spatial dimension of societally relevant topics. In particular we seek to stimulate debates at the intersections of disciplines and seek to promote academics who wish to conduct research with a spatial perspective. The IRS Spring Academy is dedicated to stimulate conceptual debates around a spatial perspective and to support new methodological knowledge that is required to conduct the related empirical investigations. Moreover, the IRS Spring Academy is a brokerage event that supports participants to build up personal networks and it provides feedback from acknowledged seniors for researchers at the early stage of their careers.

Each IRS Spring Academy will take four intensive days of collaboration, discussion and exchange. The program combines different elements and thereby offers plenty of opportunities to debate conceptual issues and methodological challenges as well as to engage in a critical, yet constructive and supportive dialogue.

This year's fourth IRS Spring Academy titled "Investigating Space(s): Current Theoretical and Methodological Approaches: Part 4 – Spaces of Crisis" is supported by the Leibniz Research Alliance "*Crises in a Globalised World*".

The German Red Cross will act as a local cooperation partner in 2020.

### Part 4 on "Spaces of Crisis"

There is little doubt. We live in times of crisis. Core functions of democratic societies, like the financial system, democratic institutions, the free press or human-nature relationships are under severe pressure. Global problems, like increasing social inequality and mass migration tend to escalate while those political institutions that have been built up to deal with international emergencies, like the UN and WTO, experience a loss of legitimacy and funding. As a consequence, more and more political and economic decisions are made under conditions of high uncertainty and great pressure. In other words, they are made in crisis.

### Locations

Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space (IRS)  
Flakenstraße 29-31  
15537 Erkner

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz e. V.  
DRK-Generalsekretariat  
Carstennstraße 58  
12205 Berlin

### Organizer

Prof. Dr. Oliver Ibert

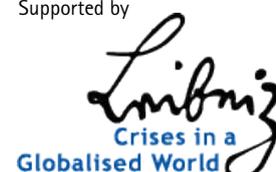
### Contact

For inquiries please contact  
Sarah Brechmann

- ▶ phone: +49 3362 793-160
- ▶ [springacademy@leibniz-irs.de](mailto:springacademy@leibniz-irs.de)
- ▶ [leibniz-irs.de/springacademy2020](http://leibniz-irs.de/springacademy2020)



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In the social sciences, crisis has not yet been used as a properly defined scientific term. Rather, most typically it is used as a signifier of relevance in cases, in which "problem" is no longer sufficient to express the severity of the perceived deficiency or the felt urgency to act. In crisis management, a rather recent and strongly practice-oriented knowledge domain, crisis is defined as follows: It denotes escalating threatening situations, in which actors feel an increased pressure to act under conditions of fundamental uncertainty. Crises erupt surprisingly and once the dynamics are in place, they unfold in an unpredictable manner. Crisis is a highly ambivalent notion. It marks a turning point for better or worse.

The term crisis is full of temporal implications. It suggests a certain dramaturgy of abruptness, urgency and surprise. In hindsight, the course of events is often arranged around the acute crisis. Crisis managers differentiate between pre-crisis (or: the 'primordial phase'), the acute crisis and the post-crisis. The first phase is about preparation for crisis but most often also about ignored warning signals. The acute phase is about crisis management and techniques to regain control. The latter phase is about reflecting the course of events and learning from crisis. Up until recently, the spatial dimension of crisis, however, has been neglected, despite the fact that in an era of increasing global inter-dependencies, crises have become more "trans-boundary".

**Against this background, the 4th IRS Spring Academy has the following aims:**

**To come to a theoretically ambitious understanding of crisis, highlighting in particular...**

- ▶ the enhanced relevance of uncertainty and non-knowledge,
- ▶ the mechanisms behind the dynamics of crisis,
- ▶ the relationship between crisis and normal,
- ▶ the particularities of decisions made under conditions of crisis,
- ▶ the transformative potentials of crisis and
- ▶ the often implicit assumptions that underlie the idea of crisis.

**To explore the temporal and spatial dimensions of crisis and their connections.**

**Of particular interest are**

- ▶ tipping points, in which crises emerge or calm down,
- ▶ ways of thinking about the future in situations that lack orientation,
- ▶ the transgression of territorial borders and the embeddedness in multi-level systems and
- ▶ how crises affect and connect different places.

**To collect empirical knowledge about crises in different sectors and domains in order to**

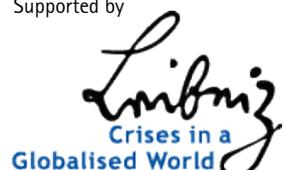
- ▶ explore the possibilities to compare crises and to
- ▶ discover additional aspects of crisis.

**Discuss methodological challenges and strategies. Of particular relevance are**

- ▶ ethical concerns of doing research with threatened actors and organizations,
- ▶ access to highly confidential information and
- ▶ the challenges of dealing with multiple perspectives and with ex-post accounts.



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## Keynote Speakers (in alphabetical order)

### ► Prof. Dr. Dennis Dijkzeul | Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Dennis Dijkzeul is working at the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV), Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany for the past eighteen years. He studied Economics at Free University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and earned his PhD on "Management of Multilateral Organisations" at the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University in 1997. From 2002 until 2009 he was the first Professor in the Management of Humanitarian Crises at a German university (Junior Professor at IFHV, RUB 2002-2009). Since 2009 he is Professor of Organization and Conflict Research, Faculty of Social Science, IFHV, at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum.

His work experience include, among others, working for the United Nations (UN) in Africa and Latin America. He was part of the working groups designing the humanitarian programs of the UN in Geneva and New York. In Congo he was working with the International Rescue Committee. He has been Member of the UNOCHA Advisory Group for the OCHA Policy and Studies Series, UN, New York (2011-2013), and Member of the Reference Group of the IOB Evaluation of Dutch Humanitarian Policy, Dutch Foreign Ministry, The Hague, The Netherlands (2014-2015). He regularly consults for international organizations in Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe, and the United States. His research in sociological theory, qualitative social research and human rights focus on humanitarian studies, management of international and local organizations in crises and local participation.

### ► Prof. Dr. Jörg Sydow | Freie Universität, Berlin

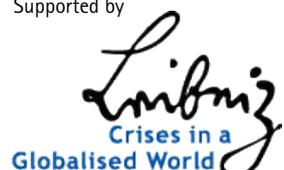
Jörg Sydow is Professor of Management at the Freie Universität of Berlin and Chair for Inter-firm Cooperation. He holds graduate and postgraduate degrees in Business Administration at Freie Universität Berlin (Dipl.-Kfm.) and of Management Science at Imperial College of Science & Technology London, UK (M.Sc.). He earned his doctoral degree with a thesis on office automation and the scope of organizational choice. From 1991 until 1995 he was Professor of Business Administration at Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany, Chair for "Planning and Organization".

He held various visiting positions, including at Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna (1996), Austria, at University of Arizona, U.S.A. (2004), Advanced Institute of Management (AIM) Research, London (2006-2008), University of Strathclyde's Graduate Business School (2008-2017), Australian School of Business of the University of New South Wales (2009), Columbia University in New York City (2013), and Said Business School, Oxford University, as well as Waseda University, Tokyo (both 2017). Among his many awards he most recently received the Global Research Award of the International Project Management Association (IPMA) in 2018 (with T. Braun) and the Academy of Management Review (AMR) Decade Award in 2019 (with G. Schreyögg & J. Koch). Currently he is a Senior Editors with Organizations Studies.

His research focus includes organization and information technology, strategic partnering, outsourcing, inter-firm networks in the service industries, innovation and project management, organization and management theory and research on uncertainty and catastrophes. In the context of crisis, Jörg Sydow is specialized in inter-organizational crisis management and how inter-organizational constellations can deal with uncertainty.



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## Lecturers (in alphabetical order)

### ► Prof. Dr. Olivier Berthod | Jacobs University Bremen

Olivier Berthod is Professor of Organization and Management at Jacobs University Bremen, Germany. He received his Doctorate (Management) from Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, and Master Degrees from Linné Universitet, Sweden, and Université Paris-Dauphine, France. His research reports mostly on questions of organization theory and design, specifically: organizational culture, interorganizational relations, reliability, sensemaking, decision-making, and resistance to change, with a particular interest in the public and nonprofit sectors, although not exclusively. Related projects received funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Peter Pribilla Foundation, the Wagener Foundation, the Dahlem Research School, and the industry. His work can be found in the *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance*, *Public Administration*, *Journal of Management Inquiry*, and *Organizational Research Methods*, among other outlets.

### ► Dr. Natascha Bing | German Red Cross

As a research associate in the Humanitarian Assistance in the Urban Context Unit, Natascha Bing supports the team in the field of scientific standards. In close collaboration with the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit she is in charge of defining and implementing scientific and methodological quality throughout the project. This includes the evaluation of latest research findings and the translation into innovative pilot strategies contributing to strengthening international humanitarian aid in an urban context and the international humanitarian system. Natascha Bing holds a M.A. in African Studies and Political Science from the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz, Germany. She completed her PhD in African Studies at the Institute of African Studies, Leipzig University (Germany) in November 2017.

### ► Jun.-Prof. Dr. Verena Brinks | Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz

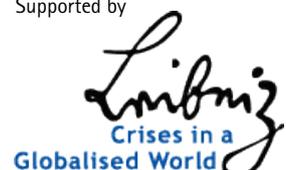
Verena Brinks is junior professor for "geography of social media and digital cultures" at the University of Mainz since September 2019. Her disciplinary background is mainly in economic geography. From May 2012 to August 2019, Verena Brinks worked as a research associate (doctoral student and post-doc) at the Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space in Erkner (near Berlin). In her dissertation she analyzed processes of user innovation and intensively dealt with "communities" (particularly with the concept of "communities of practice"). As a further research topic, Verena Brinks works on new spatial settings for work and creativity which emerged as a consequence of digital practices and technologies (such as coworking spaces, Fab Labs etc.). In the last years, Verena Brinks extended her research focus towards the analysis of "crises". She is particularly interested in the role of experts and the complex time-spatial dynamics of crisis management.

### ► Dr. Sarah Marie Hall | University of Manchester

Sarah Marie Hall is a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Manchester, where her research focuses on the everyday impacts of economic and political change. In recent years she has carried out research on austerity, devolution and Brexit, with a focus on how these processes shape lived experiences, practices, and relationships in families and communities. She is particularly concerned with intersecting inequalities where gender, race, class, and age are concerned. Sarah Marie Hall also engages in local activist and community groups across Greater Manchester, offering research advice, guidance and training. She also sits on the UK Government's Department for Work and Pensions Methods Advisory Group, where she provides expertise on ethnographic, creative and participatory approaches.



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## ► Prof. Dr. Oliver Ibert | Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space

In July 2019 Oliver Ibert took over the position of the director of the Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space and Professor of Socio-Spatial Transformation at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg. Since 2009 he has been head of the research department „Dynamics of Economic Spaces“. From 2009–2019 he was professor of Economic Geography at the Freie Universität Berlin. In 1991 he started to study the topics Geography (major), German Literature and Political Sciences (both minor) at the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg and obtained his master's degree in 1997. In 2002 he acquired his PhD at the University of Oldenburg and in 2009 he completed his post-doctoral habilitation thesis at the University of Bonn. In summer 2014 Oliver Ibert was a visiting professor at the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Toronto and in autumn 2018 he was a Hallsworth Visiting Professor at the Department of Geography at Manchester University. He is a member of the editorial board of *Raumforschung und Raumordnung* | Spatial Planning and Research and acts as a spokesperson of the working group “Concepts of Crisis” as a part of the Leibniz Research Alliance “Crises in a Globalised World”.

## ► Dr. Thorsten Klose-Zuber | German Red Cross

Thorsten Klose-Zuber is the head of the Thematic Cooperation Unit within the International Cooperation Department of the German Red Cross (GRC). He is responsible for GRC's conceptual and thematic development in the fields of disaster risk reduction, anticipatory humanitarian assistance and health as well as for humanitarian assistance in the urban context. He studied geography and political science at the Ruhr-University Bochum and University of Namibia. From 2005 to 2007 he was working for the NGO Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe in South Asia in the field of risk reduction and education after the Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004. In 2009 he completed his PhD about the relevance of disaster preparedness inside the German humanitarian assistance. After completing his PhD, he worked as disaster risk reduction and resilience advisor for the GRC international cooperation department from 2009 until 2016. Between 2016 and 2019 he was working as senior policy officer within the humanitarian assistance division of the German Federal Foreign Office, being responsible for the portfolio of risk reduction, disaster and climate displacement and anticipatory humanitarian action within the German humanitarian assistance.

## Application

This call for applications addresses doctoral candidates and early post-doctoral researchers from the social sciences. The participants will be selected according to their academic qualification as well as the suitability of their current research project to the topic of the IRS Spring Academy 2020.

Applications must include:

- a motivational letter (1-2 pages),
- your CV, and
- a short description of your current research project, e.g. abstract of your dissertation incl. name and affiliation of your PhD advisor(s).

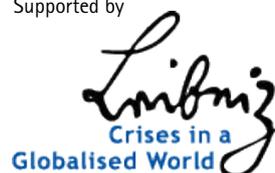
We can only accept applications in electronic form. Please send your application via email to [springacademy@leibniz-irs.de](mailto:springacademy@leibniz-irs.de)

**This call for applications closes on 28 February 2020.**

Selected candidates will be informed at the mid of March 2020; enrolment for the IRS Spring Academy will take place until the end of March.



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## Participation

In order to foster in-depth discussions and reflection as well as extensive opportunities for establishing and consolidating networks, both among each other and with leading international scholars, a maximum of 25 participants will be admitted to the IRS Spring Academy.

Thanks to funding by the Leibniz Research Alliance "Crises in a Globalised World" we do not charge any tuition fees. Meals, snacks and drinks during the event are included, as well as one evening reception and one dinner.

Participants are required to organize accommodation and make travel arrangements themselves and to cover these expenses.

For applicants who a) cannot receive any funding from home institutions and b) travel and accommodation costs would prevent participation, may receive a scholarship. 3.500 Euro are reserved for participants in need. These scholarships will be divided between selected candidates and shall contribute to compensate for travel and accommodation costs.

If you wish to apply for a scholarship, please briefly explain your situation and indicate the amount that would make your participation possible.

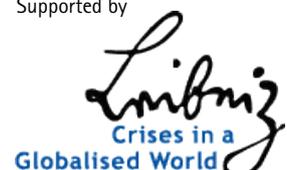
## Goal and Program

The overarching goal of the IRS Spring Academy is to enable junior researchers from the social sciences to identify relevant research gaps, to encourage them to use a spatial perspective in their analyses and to learn from leading experts in the field about theoretical approaches and innovative methods for empirical work. Participants will have the opportunity to present their projects in paper pitch formats and to access leading experts for one-on-one consultancies. We therefore cordially invite doctoral and early postdoctoral researchers in the social sciences, geography and history to join us for an interesting program to discuss their own research with internationally leading scholars and their peers.

The IRS Spring Academy combines well-tried and proven formats such as lectures and seminars with less common formats such as doing-research workshops, paper pitches, or academic speed dating. It offers various possibilities to exchange ideas, to discuss current concepts and methodological approaches, as well as to getting feedback on one's own research projects from leading scholars in the field. A preliminary outline of the program can be found on the next site.



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	TUESDAY, 26.05.2020 Erkner	WEDNESDAY, 27.05.2020 Berlin	THURSDAY, 28.05.2020 Erkner	FRIDAY, 29.05.2020 Erkner
9:00		Welcome and Introduction <i>German Red Cross</i>	Public Keynote Lecture II	Individual Consultations II
9:30		Public Keynote Lecture I		
10:00				
10:30			Three Doing-Research Workshops (parallel)	Paper Pitch III
11:00		Coffee Break		
11:30		<i>Crises in Urban Areas – Challenges for Humanitarian Aid</i> <i>German Red Cross</i>		
12:00	Arrival and Registration	Visit „German Red Cross Operations Room“	Lunch	Lunch
12:30				
13:00	Welcome and Organization	Lunch	Paper Pitch II	Three Doing-Research Workshops (parallel)
13:30	Academic Speed Networking			
14:00		Departure to German Red Cross Logistics Center		
14:30	Coffee Break		Coffee Break	
15:00	Introduction Spaces of Crisis and Leibniz Research Alliance	Visit German Red Cross Logistics Center at Schönefeld Airport	Individual Consultations I	Coffee Break
15:30				
16:00	Coffee Break			Closing Panel
16:30	Paper Pitch I			
17:00		Departure to Berlin City Center	Meet the Editors and Reviewers	Farewell
17:30				
18:00	Reception at IRS	Dinner in Berlin	Free Time for Participants Faculty Dinner	



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