

About the conference

While the multiple societal crises that were often discussed under the label of polycrisis are still evolving in multiple dimensions and are considered to be continued threats to global stability they have since their inception also contributed to new material and ideological realities and realignments.

Sorting and ordering provides a framework for examining changes across multiple scalarities, from geopolitical shifts between regions/blocs to the reconfiguration of personal and collective identities in local contexts. The conference invites participants to jointly explore whether new forms of sorting/ordering are taking shape within their areas of expertise and how they potentially relate to larger societal adjustments to new global and local realities.

Through a series of workshops the conference aims at exploring key concepts shaping our local and global environments, including the role of international law, media, the environment, and knowledge production and epistemologies in the Global South.

In dialogue with leading scholars, we will investigate approaches to Area Studies that inform our own research at DIMAS: relating local events and agents to regional and international levels and, conversely, examining the effects of global phenomena on local spaces and personal identities – in real, virtual and imagined spaces.



Contact

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Conference Organization

Anna Steigemann, Mélanie Sadozai,
Roman Birke, Barbara Wimmer-Bulin,
Sebastian Richter, Laura Niebling
and the whole DIMAS team.



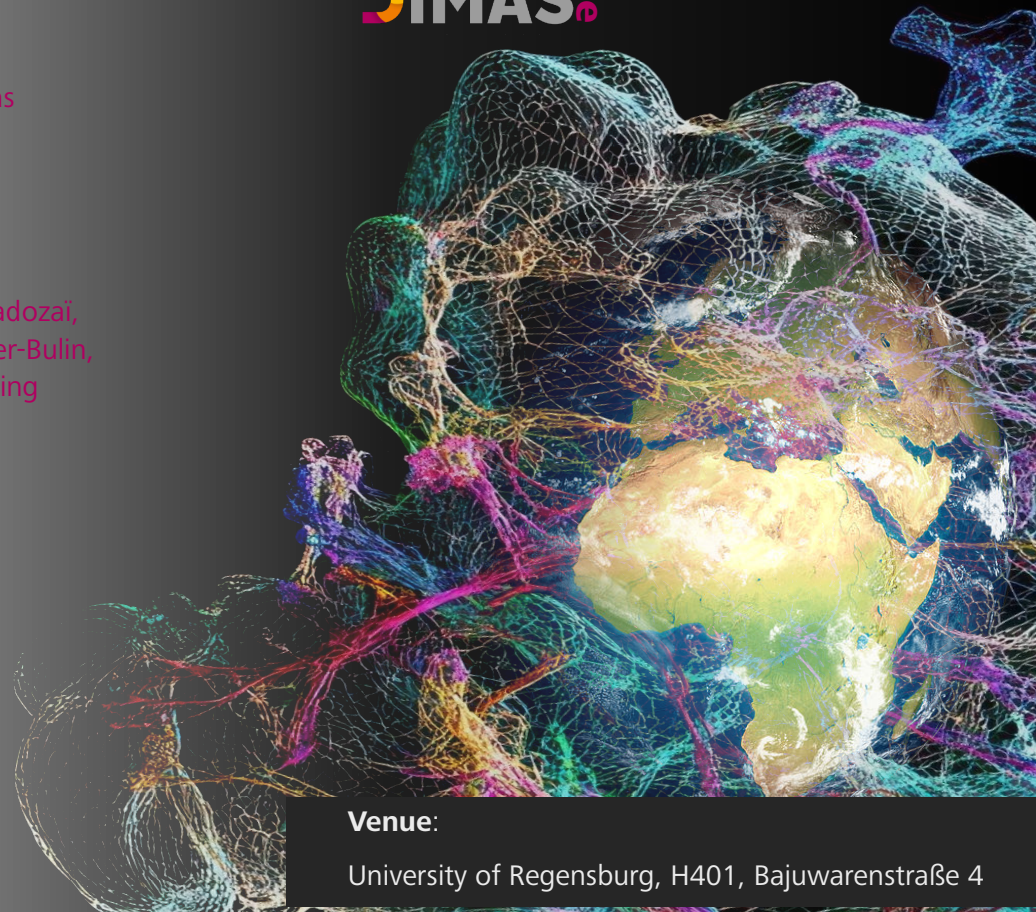
15 - 16 May 2025

Sorting and Ordering

Area Studies

in the Contemporary World

Conference
DIMAS



Venue:

University of Regensburg, H401, Bajuwarenstraße 4

Thursday, 15 May

H401, Bajuwarenstraße 4,
University of Regensburg

17:00 Registration

18:00 Welcoming Remarks

UR President **Udo Hebel**
(University of Regensburg)

Anna Steigemann
(University of Regensburg,
DIMAS Board, Conference co-organizer)

18:15 Keynote

*The Future of Area Studies in an
Era of Global Transformations*

Susan Hodgett
(University of East Anglia)

Susan Hodgett is the founding Professor and Director of Area Studies at the University of East Anglia. A leading advocate for reimagining Area Studies as a form of conversational scholarship, she emphasizes deep engagement with place and people. Her work strongly advocates interdisciplinarity and encourages the blurring of traditional academic boundaries and genres. In her keynote, Professor Hodgett will explore the future directions of Area Studies in today's complex and rapidly changing global landscape.

19:00 Roundtable Discussion

Helmut Aust, Julia Bee, Susan Hodgett, Cassandra Mark-Thiesen and Timothy Nunan

Chair: **Anna Steigemann**

19:45 Reception

Friday, 16 May

BA.825, Bajuwarenstraße 4,
University of Regensburg

9:00 to 10:30

*Knowledge Production in the Global South.
Print Cultures and Post-Colonial Historiography.*

Cassandra Mark-Thiesen
(University of Bayreuth) and
Timothy Nunan (University of Regensburg)

Chair: **Mélanie Sadozai** (University of Regensburg)

Cassandra Mark-Thiesen is a Junior Research Group Leader at the University of Bayreuth. She is interested in the historical cultures of Africa, aiming to bring forgotten or erased actors and stories back into the limelight. Timothy Nunan is Professor for Transregional Cultures of Knowledge in the Department of Interdisciplinary and Multiscalar Area Studies (DIMAS) at the University of Regensburg. His research examines how non-Western powers like the Soviet Union and the Islamic Republic of Iran have sought to transform the Western dominated international system. Their workshop will discuss how actors from the Middle East and West Africa have tried to produce knowledge on their own terms; Nunan and Mark-Thiesen will also discuss how they, as historians, engage with an eclectic source base of magazines, newspapers, and television programs as they write new histories of decolonization.

Snacks and drinks in room BA.806



**„open ateliers“
during coffee break**

11:00 to 12:30

*Disruptions in the Global Order.
Is there still a Role for International Law?*

Helmut Aust (FU Berlin)
Chair: **Rike Krämer-Hoppe** and **Roman Birke**
(Both University of Regensburg)

Helmut Aust is Professor for Public Law and Internationalization of Law at the Freie Universität Berlin. His research focuses on the role of International Law for urban spaces and foreign relations. In a recent op-ed published in F.A.Z. he argued that upholding international legal obligations was essential to protecting the integrity of domestic constitutional law. In his session, Helmut Aust will examine the mounting challenges facing the international legal system today.

13:30 to 15:00

*Climate Divide and Media Climate Justice. Rethinking
the Epistemic Borders and Methods of Cooperation*

Julia Bee (Ruhr University Bochum)
Chair: **Astrid Ensslin** and **Laura Niebling**
(Both University of Regensburg)

Julia Bee is Professor for Gender Studies with particular emphasis on Diversity at Ruhr-University Bochum. She is an expert on experimental methods and digital political education, pushing the boundaries of forms and formats of media engagement and the areas that media uphold in contemporary society. As a renowned scholar at the intersection of media studies and climate studies she will take the topic of media climate justice to discuss ways of rethinking epistemic borders and methods of cooperation.

15:00 to 15:30

Closing Remarks by **Susan Hodgett**
and **Anne Brüske** (University of Regensburg)