



**DEC 2-3  
2022**

Forschungskolleg  
Humanwissen-  
schaften  
Bad Homburg

convened by  
Pavan Malreddy  
and Johannes Voelz

ConTrust International Workshop  
Working Group 5

# THE AFFECTIVE LOGIC OF POPULISM

Trust, Distrust,  
and the Productivity  
of Conflict

This conference assembles leading international scholars with expertise in political emotions and affects. Coming from a broad range of disciplines, including cultural geography, social psychology, sociology, philosophy, and political science, the speakers will explore the affective dimensions of the constellations of trust and distrust at work in contemporary populism and authoritarianism. Starting from the premise that populism and authoritarianism share global family resemblances that have to be contextualized with regional and historical specificity, the conference facilitates a debate between perspectives from the Global South and North.

Conceptually, we start from the premise that populist and authoritarian formations are held together by the interplay of organized internal trust and external distrust. We will explore the hypothesis that this interplay operates according to identifiable affective logics. Internally, trust is demanded and enforced through appeals to loyalty and solidarity, but trust is also generated through affective experiences ranging from resentment and rage to enthusiasm and love. These affects of internal trust are mobilized in conjunction with affects of distrust along friend/enemy lines. While the constellation of internal trust and external distrust has been explored from a range of scholarly perspectives, our conference contributes to a more detailed analysis of the range of affects at play as well as their internal logic. From this starting point, we also hope to be able to shed light on those ranges of affect that do not seem to fit neatly into the schema of internal trust/external distrust. Experiences such as apathy, boredom, and the simultaneous experience of joy and fear also belong to the affective repertoires of populism and authoritarianism, yet how they relate to the more widely discussed features of the populist and authoritarian experience so far has remained largely unexplained.

## PROGRAM | Fri, Dec 2

**12.00-13.00h**

### **Conference Opening**

Pavan Malreddy and Johannes Voelz  
(Frankfurt)

**13.00-14.00h**

Lunch

**14.00-15.00h**

Ben Anderson (Durham, UK)

### **Populism and the Promise of Intensity**

**15.00-16.00h**

Vera King and Ferdinand Sutterlüty  
(Frankfurt)

### **On Destructive Authoritarianism: Some Empirical Findings and Conceptual Considerations**

**16.30-17.30h**

Ricardo Pagliuso Regatieri (Bahia, Brazil)

### **The Affective Logic of 'Bolsonarism'**

## PROGRAM | Sat, Dec 3

**9.00-10.00h**

Pierre Ostiguy (Santiago de Chile)  
**The Objects of Emotions in Populism:  
Sameness and Otherness with  
Proper Names**

**10.00-11.00h**

Regina Schidel (Frankfurt)  
**The Affective Dimension of  
Epistemic Trust**

**11.15-12.15h**

Ulrike Flader (Bremen)  
**On Fear, Apathy and Hope:  
Understanding Soft Authoritarianism  
in Turkey through Affects**

**12.15-13.15h**

Ajay Gudavarthi (Delhi)  
**Politics, Ethics and Emotions  
in 'New India'**

**13.15h**

Lunch