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**Dimensions of  
Europeanization**

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**Field of Excellence**  
University of Graz



**What  
makes  
Europe  
tick?**

*We work for*  
**tomorrow**

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## RESEARCH PROFILE

The Field of Excellence Dimensions of Europeanization explores social transformation processes in Southeastern Europe in a comparative perspective with respect to the changing discourses about the understanding, organization and, particularly, unification of the material and figurative territory referred to as “Europe” in time and space.

Europeanization describes the transnational construction and diffusion of institutions, rules, styles, and shared beliefs. These processes can be driven by divergent actors and are multidirectional. Whereas their origins can vary, the implementation of circulating unification concepts and discourses has been always related to power relations – from antiquity to the present.

The Field of Excellence examines the circulation of Europeanization discourses in relation to power and communication spaces by including cultural, economic, legal, political and social aspects, always considering further categories of analysis, such as gender, ethnicity, class and generation. It questions conventional dichotomies such as East and West, center and periphery.

Building on the historically grown research expertise in Southeastern Europe at the University of Graz, the Field of Excellence focuses on this region in understanding and exploring Europeanization. As a region that has participated in processes of Europeanization from antiquity to the present, it is an ideal site for studying dimensions of Europeanization in an historical perspective always through multi-perspectival comparisons.

## NETWORK

Univ.-Prof. Dr.phil. Florian Bieber,  
Centre for South-East European Studies (Speaker)  
O.Univ.-Prof. Dr.phil. Karl Kaser,  
Institute of History, Southeast European History and  
Anthropology (Co-Speaker)  
Univ.-Prof. Dr.habil. PhD Libora Oates-Indruchová,  
Department of Sociology (Co-Speaker)  
Univ.-Prof. Dr.habil. Wolfgang Spickermann,  
Institute of Classics (Co-Speaker)

This is a joint effort between currently 26 Principal Investigators (PIs), 46 Associated Members (AMs) of five faculties (School of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Environmental, Regional and Educational Sciences, and the Catholic Theological Faculty), and of the inter-faculty Center for South-East European Studies. Our activities are organized by a research manager and counseled by an international Scientific Advisory Board.



## FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Our fellowship program focuses each academic year on a different theme: *Making Borders/Crossing Borders* is the theme for 2020-2021.

**Deadline for applications: March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
(for each upcoming academic year)  
**europeanization@uni-graz.at**

Each year it will support four junior fellows (post-doc and early career) and two senior fellows (tenured professors and equivalent) to spend one semester in Graz to conduct and present research and collaborate with other researchers.

This year's theme focuses on historical and contemporary processes of border making, in particular in the context of defining Europe in changing historical contexts. Projects can cover all historical periods from antiquity, such as the role of the limes of the Roman Empire, to the present, such as the external borders of the EU and FRONTEX. Crossing borders includes different acts of people that cross, negotiate, and challenge boundaries. Projects that reflect on the interplay between border creation and its crossing are particularly welcome.

The field of excellence is particularly interested in projects that engage with each year's themes in an interdisciplinary fashion, and which are open to a diachronic engagement. A focus on Southeastern Europe is welcome, but not required. Innovative, unconventional project ideas are encouraged.

## **CONSORTIUM "RESONANT SELF-WORLD RELATIONS IN ANCIENT AND MODERN SOCIO-RELIGIOUS PRACTICES" OF THE DOCTORAL ACADEMY**

Our young researchers of the International Graduate School "Resonant Self-World Relations in Ancient and Modern Socio-Religious Practices" study in a program which is financed by German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) from 2017 to 2021.

In this International Graduate School, the Universities of Erfurt and Graz aim to foster collaborative research in the fields of contemporary Sociology, Theology, and Ancient Studies.

It provides an institutional base for studies comparing the self-world relations that were established, reflected, or sustained in social (and especially religious) practices in Mediterranean antiquity with those in the contemporary (late) modern period. Combining and confronting different methodological traditions as well as different periods the consortium offers new research perspectives and training for doctoral students.



## **CONSORTIUM “ESOE – EUROPEANIZATION PROCESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE” OF THE DOCTORAL ACADEMY**

“ESOE—Europeanization Processes in Southeastern Europe” is based on the Southeastern Europe PhD Program that was established in 2013.

The program’s overall goals are to support doctoral research at the University of Graz with a focus on Southeastern Europe, and to advance state-of-the-art research in the field of South-East European Studies in an interdisciplinary environment with innovative results.

The concrete analytical goal of the consortium is to advance innovations in the fields of interdisciplinary research as well as critical and historical Europeanization research.

The program gathers doctoral researchers of the University of Graz from the fields of History, Political Science, Anthropology, Literature, Gender Studies, Economics, Law, Sociology, Theology, and Human Geography.

### **INFORMATION AND CONTACT**

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[europeanization@uni-graz.at](mailto:europeanization@uni-graz.at)