Populism, Prejudice, Post-Truth –
Europe’s Democratic Values in Crisis?

11th-13th April 2019
Imshausen, Germany

The event is a part of the project “Resistance – Democracy – Internationality”, a cooperation of the University of Göttingen, the Stiftung Adam von Trott, Imshausen e.V. and the Adam von Trott Committee at Mansfield College, University of Oxford.

Populists are on the march. All over the world new leaders have emerged wearing the clothes of populism. But what marks out the 21st century populists? How far do they challenge liberal values? How do they challenge the configurations of democracy? This graduate workshop will aim to explore the background to this phenomenon, to compare and contrast the rise of right-wing Fascist groups in Europe in the last century, and to explore how a new politics, based on features such as prejudice and fake-news, is undermining Enlightenment values. We will also look at the role played by ‘people’ in politics – in protest, in uprising, in disobedience, in opposing the rule of remote, rich and exploitative elites, and explore examples of the ‘new wave’ of European populism – Left and Right – in movements such as Podemos, Front National, En Marche, Fidesz, UKIP, Syriza, Movimento 5 Stelle, and AfD.

The three-day graduate workshop, which will take place at Adam von Trott’s former home in Imshausen, now a conference centre, will explore these key questions. The event will be participatory and engaging, involving talks and lectures from expert academics and professionals, as well as younger scholars, together with working groups and debates. It is designed for 24 advanced graduates from a range of European universities.

Applications are now being accepted from doctoral or advanced graduates (master students) from University of Oxford, Göttingen University, and the Europaeum network universities. All local costs will be covered, a travel allowance will be granted. Applications in form of a CV (max. 2 pages) and a short letter of motivation, which includes your special areas of interest, your study fields and proposes your possible input for the workshop, should go to avt.committee@outlook.com by 1st March, 2019.

For more information, please contact:
Dr Paul Flather paul.flather@europaeum.ox.ac.uk
Lars Jakob lars.jakob@zvw.uni-goettingen.de

www.uni-goettingen.de/trott

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