

Graz International Summer School
Seggau – Austria 2025

GUSEGG

TIME, TEMPORALITY, AND TRANSITION
IN EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS:
STATE – SOCIETY – RELIGION

July 6 – July 19, 2025
Seggau Castle | Leibnitz
Austria | Europe

20
years
GUSEGG



TOPIC

Time, Temporality, and Transition in Europe and the Americas: State – Society – Religion

Faced with a multitude of concrete challenges and crises posing existential threats to our lives and the stability of our societies, concrete implications of abstract concepts such as time and temporality are often less explored concerning their impact on the transitions we face. Despite the fact that no other notion has received as much attention as time, it is not a concept that is usually considered when discussing the relationship between the individual and the collective. Time has been considered epistemologically and ontologically in terms of present, past, and future, as breaks, pauses, and turning points, as continuity and change, eternity, and human mortality, as times of war or peace, in the context of commercial transactions, while political rule and functions, contracts, policies, and treaties have always been conceived of as time-independent. However, time itself has remained strangely underdefined.

With modernity, the exact measuring and defining of time were introduced. Time and modernity are deeply intertwined concepts. Our lives are structured as progress narratives and expressed as assumed correlation between time and abilities. The rhythm of our individual as well as our collective lives are determined by measurement of times. From schedules to deadlines, temporal micro and macro dimensions determine our existence throughout our lives and even beyond. Temporality can be defined as the state of existing within or having some relationship with time. In light of this, we can say that modernity has thoroughly temporalized our lives. Being defined by one's relationship to time, being exclusively within time without reference to something outside of it: that is part of the modern condition.

GUSEGG 2025 will offer a platform for the contributions of academics of various backgrounds and disciplines on the topic of time,

temporality, and transition. This pluralism reflects the breadth and depth of the question posed by the title. Regardless of our positions, we are all determined by time. Thus, temporality as an expression of our relationship to time needs to be redefined not only individually but collectively in its past, present, and future implications.

Thus, **GUSEGG 2025** will present research on how time, temporality, and transition in Europe and the Americas are addressed socially, politically, culturally, and economically, and what this means for states, societies, and religions. In order to develop strategies and methods to meet the challenges of our times, this summer school suggests engaging in academic contemplation and interdisciplinary exchange. Such investigations offer us the opportunity of developing intellectual approaches and ideas, as we can gain insights into the many forces that make us believe that the crises we face are



essential, natural, or inevitable. Therefore, the suggested analysis offers us not only an understanding of our own positions on an individual, a regional, national, and global level but also the possibility of moving from a passive position to active involvement in addressing time, temporality, and transition offering insights into the dynamics and structures that govern and shape us as individuals and groups. Focusing on the emphasis areas of the **University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central and South America** – this program will offer a basis for discussing global and continental challenges as well as opportunities that such academic engagement provides.

*Prof. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer,
Academic Director*

OVERVIEW

Target Group

The Graz International Summer School Seggau is designed for internationally oriented, **highly motivated students for an intense academic program from all disciplines and all levels** who wish to deepen their understanding of current European and international affairs by studying and discussing global developments and challenges, reflecting aspects of individual and collective identities.

Organizers

GUSEGG is organized by the University of Graz in cooperation with the Commission of the Bishops Conferences of the European Community (COMECE) and the Diocese Graz-Seckau. The Office of International Relations of the University of Graz acts as the coordinating unit. Prof. Dr. Roberta Maierhofer (Center for Inter-American Studies of the University of Graz) is the academic director.

Aims and Objectives

- **Interdisciplinary cooperation of researchers and students;**
- Focus areas of the University of Graz – **Southeastern Europe** and **North, Central, and South America;**
- **Unique educational opportunity for future leaders.**



HOW THE SUMMER SCHOOL WORKS

Morning Lectures
Optional Lunch Workshops
Seminars
Evening Events

Students will deal with the relevance and effect of Europe and the EU (emphasis on South-eastern Europe) and the Americas on global affairs by attending the offered morning lectures, discussions, and participating in one of the following seminars in the afternoon:

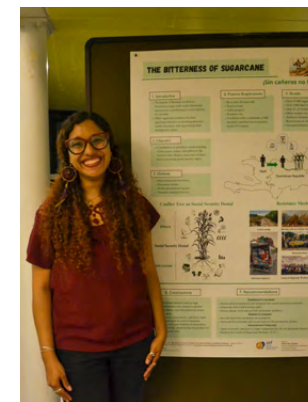
Seminar Modules

- 1: Contested Chronologies
- 2: Media and Democracy in a Post-Digital World
- 3: Economics in Times of Change
- 4: Literature and Culture of Memory
- 5: Controversies of a Society in Transition
- 6: Aging in Data
- 7: Society, Politics, and Emotions

Optional Lunch Workshops

- a) Creative Writing
- b) Academic Writing

Participate in the
Poster Presentations



7 GOOD REASONS TO APPLY

- 1 2-week summer university with a unique castle campus atmosphere at **Seggau Castle**
- 2 **6 ECTS credits**
- 3 Lectures, panel discussions, and **7 parallel seminar modules** (small groups)
- 4 **Improving skills** and critical thinking in workshops
- 5 Discussions and **networking opportunities** with international lecturers and guests
- 6 **Publishing opportunity:** *Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought* publication series
- 7 **All-inclusive package** (tuition, meals, accommodation, extra-curricular program, and excursion to Graz)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: January 31, 2025

Costs and Funding

The total student participation fee of 2.400€ covers the tuition, and room & board for the entire two weeks. Travel arrangements have to be made and paid for individually.

A limited number of scholarships are available (please see our website for detailed information)

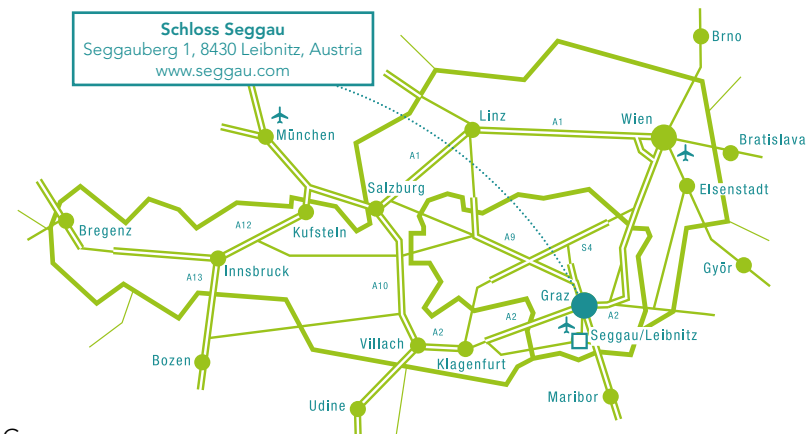
How to Apply

Please see our website for more information.



THE VENUE

The venue of the summer school is Seggau Castle, located 45 km south of Graz, Austria. The castle is located on top of a hill overlooking the city of Leibnitz, amidst the vineyards of southern Styria.



- Excursion to Graz
- Excursion to Maribor, Slovenia (optional)
- Writing and Photo Contests
- Castle Tour
- Visit of the Historic Wine Cellar
- Karaoke
- Sports Tournaments
- Movie Nights




CONTACT & INFO




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“ *The organization was top-notch. The summer school not only enriched my academic knowledge but also provided many bright **impressions and memories.** I recommend it to anyone seeking self-development and wanting to spend the summer productively! ”*

GUSEGG student 2024

Supported by:

