



UNIVERSITÄT  
LEIPZIG

Research Centre Global Dynamics |  
ReCentGlobe



Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Regionalstudien  
der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg

## Call for Contributions: “How to Study the Global?”

23rd International Summer School of the Graduate School Global and Area Studies, Leipzig  
University in cooperation with the African Centre for Career Enhancement & Skills Support (ACCESS),  
Leipzig University and with the Centre of Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS), Martin Luther  
University, Halle-Wittenberg

Leipzig, 23 - 25 June 2025

### Research Context of the Summer School

*Over the past decades, the annual summer school of Leipzig’s Graduate School Global and Area Studies has established itself as a productive meeting place for interdisciplinary discussions on transnational, transregional, transcultural, and global encounters and entanglements as well as a space to reflect on new trends in globalization research both in a historical and in a contemporary perspective. The 2025 meeting, which is organised in cooperation with the African Centre for Career Enhancement & Skills Support, Leipzig University, the Centre for Interdisciplinary Regional Studies (ZIRS) at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg as well as the Research Centre Global Dynamics (ReCentGlobe), addresses questions of methods and approaches in global studies.*

There is no clear definition of what makes a topic or approach to a topic “global”. Some research projects are explicitly address global challenges like geopolitical rivalries, climate change, pandemics, or migrations. These problem-oriented and clearly transboundary-topics often require multi- or transdisciplinary perspectives to the research, including a wide range of methods and project design strategies. At the same time, new inroads can be made in well-trodden fields and locally or nationally framed topics through a global perspective, adding completely new insights, actors, geographies, historical contextualization, and potentially rethinking causality.

However, one must note the chasm between the perspectives – multiperspectivity, actor-centred approaches, historicity, respatialization, overcoming Eurocentrism and methodological nationalism – that make a “global perspective” possible, and the toolkit for methods and concepts that are rooted in the social science disciplines that emerged out of the very methodological nationalism or Eurocentrism a global approach is supposed to overcome. Simply combining “multiple methods”



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service

might not be enough to bridge this gap between ideals of “global perspectives” and the methodological tools we have at hand.

At this summer school, we ask PhD candidates to reflect on how they find themselves pursuing a PhD within a broader inter- multi- and transdisciplinary setting as well as in a global one – doing research side by side with scholars from different disciplines and different countries. We ask students to consider a range of questions while insisting that the format “How to study the global?” must remain open to individual interpretation:

What approaches did you take to your dissertation topic and why? How can we reflect on our own positioning vis-à-vis our work? What new and exciting techniques help to investigate global challenges and phenomena? How can we combine methods – but also make inroads in new methodologies for the study of the global? Why have you decided to situate your scholarship within (or beyond) a particular discipline and how would you write your dissertation differently if you were doing so in another field entirely? What are the shortcomings of a global perspective?

The summer school provides participating PhD candidates with an opportunity to engage in an intense exchange with fellow PhD candidates and Postdocs from different disciplinary and institutional backgrounds on topics of common interest and to network across disciplinary as well as geographical boundaries. Thus, we invite with great enthusiasm young researchers from all over the world whose research interests and practices are related to the focus of this year’s summer school.

### **Sequence of Events of the Summer School**

The summer school is organized into panels of 3–5 presentations each. Additionally, invited keynote speakers will introduce main aspects of the general theme. At the end of the summer school, a final discussion will bring the major findings together.

Young researchers can apply to hold individual presentations or to organize a panel. In the latter case, researchers are invited to submit applications containing a description of the panel’s main goals and its relevance to the overall topic of the summer school, plus a list of possible speakers with an indication if they have already agreed or must be contacted after the acceptance of the panel. The selection of the panel will be undertaken by the organizing team.

The conference language is English, but contributions in German are also welcome.

Individual time slots will be assigned by the organizers of the summer school, with preferences of participants being taken into consideration. In addition, active participation in the discussions of the summer school is expected.

### **Application**

Early career researchers interested in the topic are cordially invited to submit an application either for a panel proposal or an individual paper presentation for the summer school. The application should include:

- Personal details, academic status, and relevant academic affiliation.
- For panel proposals: a description (300 words) of the panel's main goals and its relevance to the overall topic of the summer school, plus a list of possible speakers.
- For individual paper presentations: an abstract (300–500 words), together with an explanation of its connection to the ongoing dissertation/project as well as its relevance to the overall topic of the summer school.

via e-mail to the organizing team: [phd@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:phd@uni-leipzig.de)

Application deadline: **01 May 2025**

Authors of accepted papers will be informed no later than 1 June 2025. A maximum of 20 papers will be selected. In order to prepare for academic comments, submission of the paper (10 pages) is expected by **10 June 2025**. The paper will be pre-circulated and should fit within a presentation of 15 minutes.

### **Organizational Issues**

**Conference fee & accommodation:** The participation fee is EUR 50. This fee covers all costs for conference material, refreshments during the breaks, lunch meals, as well as participation in the welcome reception. The Graduate School will cover the costs of accommodation in the hotel.

**Participation certificate:** Following successful participation in the summer school, it will be possible to receive a certificate from the Graduate School Global and Area Studies.

**ECTS:** You can also earn ECTS credits for the Summer School (3 ECTS for continuous participation in the summer school). The acceptance of credits is the responsibility of your home university.