Saturday 21 May
Lecture Theatre H2, University of Regensburg

0915–1045
Panel H: Pandemics, Biopolitics and Posthumanism
1. Raul Cârstocea (Maynooth University) – Othering a Pandemic: The Scapegoating of Jews and Roma during Epidemics
2. Romana Radlwimmer (Tübingen University) – Biopolitics and the Narrative of Colonial Illness
3. Minerva Peinador-Perez (University of Regensburg) – A Feral Matter: Attempting to figure out the paradigm of Anthropocene through its strange creatures
Chair: Anna Steigemann (TU Berlin)

1115–1300
Panel I: Apocalypse, Atrocity or Utopia? Prospects beyond the Pandemic
2. Thomas Lynch (University of Chichester) – Crisis and Apocalypse: Narrating the Pandemic
3. Danielle Heberle Viegas (LMU, Munich) – COVID-19, utopia and socio-spatial dynamics in Brazil
Chair: Jochen Mecke (University of Regensburg)

1445–1615
Panel F: Refiguring Europe
1. Gábor Egry (Institute of Political History, Budapest) – Swimming against the current of history? The relative failure of anti-Western official Hungarian Covid-19 narratives
2. Matthias Morys (University of York, UK) – Can a new Covid-narrative make the euro more sustainable?
3. Lukas Novotny (UJEP, Usti nad Labem) – Difficulties for tight-knit border communities during the COVID-19 pandemic: The case of cross-border commuters
Chair: Ulf Brunnbauer (IOS Regensburg / University of Regensburg)

1645–1830
Panel G: Cultural Crisis Narratives
1. Anne Brüske (University of Regensburg) – Spatializing the Pandemic: Graphic Narratives of Crisis in Latin America
2. Oleksandr Zabirko (University of Regensburg) – Post-Soviet “Zombification”: Between Literary Trope and Media Cliché
3. Jochen Mecke (University of Regensburg) – Re-Making and Re-Spatializing Narratives of Crisis, Catastrophe and Everyday Life
Chair: Tamara Heger (University of Regensburg)

Lunch in the University Mensa (canteen) – provided by the organizers for panelists and chairs

Please register via info@europeamerica.de to attend the panels in person or via Zoom. The keynote lecture is open to all in person and via the link/Zoom-ID in the program.
A variety of crisis narratives have emerged relating to the symbolic representation and management of the COVID-19 pandemic: functional and scientific narratives, heroic epics about dedicated medical staff, victim narratives, populist conspiracy narratives or even apocalyptic visions of divine punishment, and many more. Each type of narrative attributes responsibility to different groups and actors while suggesting a variety of remedies.

The conference examines these different narratives and their intersections from an area studies perspective. It considers connections between narrative and spatialization, exploring how such configurations configure, divide, delineate, or expand crisis spaces. Recognizing the complexity of the interconnected world, the discussions here set pandemic narratives in the context of ongoing and parallel crises. Indeed, the postmodern age has been marked by a sense that narratives struggle to make sense of the world. The global and indeed planetary scale of economic, ecological and now military and pandemic crises manages to disrupt even ‘grand narratives’. Hence, these are not only narratives of crisis but narrative itself seems to be experiencing crisis. While the COVID-19 pandemic has further fragmented narratives, deepening spatial, social and cultural divides, we might also be witnessing the emergence of new senses of shared meaning as the current conjunction of crises engenders significant regional, global and planetary reconfigurations.

Drawing on a multi-sectoral perspective, the discussions here treat the worldwide pandemic as a starting point for recognizing both the global reach as well as the temporality and space-bound particularities and family resemblances of crisis narratives. We look to understand how the various pandemic narratives affect the formation (or dissolution) of global, national and community remedial actions, solidarities and divisions. How do narratives across crisis or draw boundaries, for example, between nations or large- and small-scale regions or social groups? How do the spaces of the pandemic crisis relate to other crisis spaces and their determinants, such as poverty, socio-economic standing, development, and (medical) infrastructure? The keynote lecture will also trace the significance of social and historical legacies, such as post-socialist infrastructure? The keynote lecture will also trace the significance of social and historical legacies, such as post-socialist

### Thursday 19 May

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<td>Lecture Theatre H44, University of Regensburg: Welcome Address</td>
<td>Udo Hebel (President of the University of Regensburg)</td>
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<td>1215–1245</td>
<td>Expert Discourses and Counter-Narratives</td>
<td>Jochen Mecke (Speaker of the Board of the Centre for International and Transnational Area Studies, Member of the Board of Leibniz ScienceCampus, University of Regensburg) – Introduction: Crisis – Narratives – Pandemics – Area Studies</td>
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<td>Panel A: Expert Discourses and Counter-Narratives</td>
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<td>1800–1930</td>
<td>Panel C: Dis/located Narrative Spaces</td>
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<td>1615–1745</td>
<td>Keynote Lecture via Zoom (ID: 659 9675 8151) – webinar with public viewing in H44</td>
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<td>1000–1400</td>
<td>Panel B: Reframing State-Citizen Relations</td>
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### Crisis Narratives and the Pandemic

1. **Crisis Narratives and the Pandemic**
2. **Udo Hebel** (President of the University of Regensburg): Welcome Address
3. **Jochen Mecke** (Speaker of the Board of the Centre for International and Transnational Area Studies, Member of the Board of Leibniz ScienceCampus, University of Regensburg) – Introduction: Crisis – Narratives – Pandemics – Area Studies
4. **Panel A: Expert Discourses and Counter-Narratives**
5. **Anelia Kassabova** (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) – “The Kingdom of the Anti-Vaxxers”, “Fortress of the Anti-NATO”: Debates on Covid-19 Vaccination and the Putin Regime’s War Against Ukraine in Bulgaria
6. **Önder Küçükural & Merve Aktar** (Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul) – Dynamics of Vaccine Skepticism Among Turkish Youth
7. **Rahmi Oruç** (Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul) – Swinging Between Two Pending Narratives: The Reception of Covid-19 Narratives Among Freshmen Students in Turkey
8. **Panel B: Reframing State-Citizen Relations**
9. **Christopher Ankersen** (New York University) – This Means War! The Ramifications of Framing the Response to Covid19
10. **Panel C: Dis/located Narrative Spaces**
11. **Panel D: Everyday Crisis Narratives**
12. **Panel E: Transregional Narrative Spaces**
13. **Chair: Gerlind Groatl** (University of Regensburg) – **Coffee break**
14. **Chair: Jean-Marc Moura** (University of Regensburg) – **Coffee break**
15. **Chair: Alexander Pittman** (Ohio State University) – The Power of Same Race Mentoring: Creating Space at a Predominantly White Institution (PWI) for Students of Color to Speak Their Truth During the Dual-Pandemics of Covid-19 and Racism
16. **Chair: Avishek Ray** (IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Linz / National Institute of Technology, Silchar) – Walking as a Metaphor: COVID Pandemic and the Politics of Mobility
17. **Chair: Martina Drescher** (University of Greifswald) – COVID-19 vaccine narratives on Twitter: Discrepancies between the Global North and the Global South?
18. **Chair: Galina Gostrer** (University in Niš) – Narratives on Holy Communion in Serbia During the Pandemic
19. **Chair: Nina Pilz** (University of Göttingen) – Regions as Pandemic Actors: Narratives on the Baltic Sea Region in Times of the Pandemic
20. **Chair: Lorella Viola** (University of Luxembourg) – “Italy, for example, is just incredibly stupid now” – European crisis narratives in relation to Italy’s response to COVID-19
21. **Chair: Jana Sverdliková** (University of Agder) & Bastiaan Bruinsma (Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg) – COVID-19 vaccine narratives on Twitter: Discrepancies between the Global North and the Global South?
22. **Chair: Pia Vickers** (University of Regensburg / Leibniz ScienceCampus)

### Dinner in “Weltenburger am Dom” beer garden – self pay