

GRAZ INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL SEGGAU - AUSTRIA

# GUSEGG 2023

CONFLICT, CHALLENGE, AND CHANGE  
STATE – SOCIETY – RELIGION

July 2 - July 15, 2023

Seggau Castle, Leibnitz, Austria, Europe

# TOPIC



## Conflict, Challenge, and Change: State – Society – Religion

GUSEGG 2023 will offer a discussion on how conflict, challenge, and change determine our lives as individuals and as a society. Our times are marked by various conflicts and antagonisms arising from challenging circumstances: climate change, war, inequality, poverty, hunger, pandemics. The problems faced today are conceived of in different ways: as unexpected tragedies, as predictable outcomes of past behavior, as the result of systematic and structural processes, or as the consequence of individual actions or even chance. It is a constant challenge to attempt to resolve tensions and antagonisms without multiplying and escalating them. If conflict is a challenge and a question, change is the answer.

However, dialogue between the past and the present must continue as the basis of a democratic ideal, as silence as an alternative would not signal the end of all conflicts, but the end of a democratic way of dealing with them. Therefore, creative transformation processes are necessary to meet the various challenges faced. Thus, GUSEGG 2023 will present research on how conflict, challenge, and change 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 disruptive intellectual approaches and ideas, as we can gain insights into the many forces that make us believe that the challenges 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 conflict, challenge, and change, and offer insights into the dynamics and structures that govern us 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

# 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

Students will deal with the relevance and effect of Europe and the EU (emphasis on Southeastern 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: Politics and Cultures of Conflict in the Americas
- 2: Media and Democracy: The Fourth Age of Political Communication
- 3: Pins and Needles: Economic Background to Conflict
- 4: Narrative Didactics: The Challenges of Text Analysis
- 5: Jewish Studies: Personal Narratives and the Power of Hollywood
- 6: Aging in Data: Quantified Bodies and the Power of Access
- 7: Society and Politics: Emotions and Antagonism

## Workshops

- a) Creative Writing
- b) Documentary Production
- c) Academic Writing



Participate in the Poster and Documentaries 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, workshops, and **7 parallel seminar modules** (small groups)

4 **Improving skills** in public speaking, academic writing, creative writing, and critical thinking

5 Discussions and networking opportunities with international lecturers and guests

6 **Publishing** opportunity: *Off Campus: Seggau School of Thought* publication series

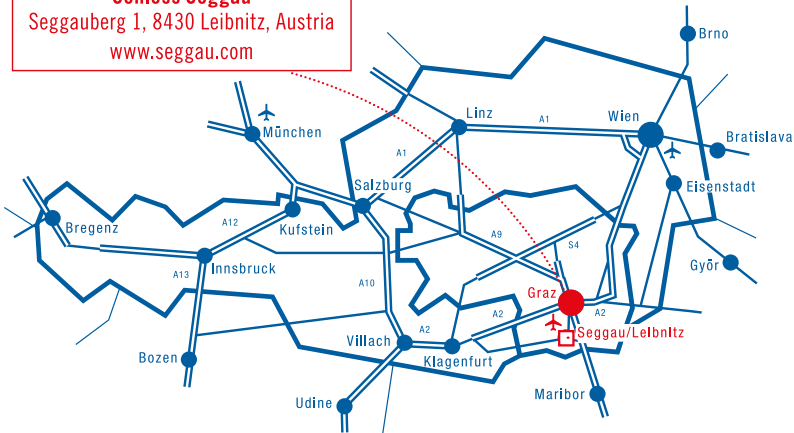
7 **All-inclusive** package (tuition, meals, accommodation, extra-curricular program, and excursion to Graz)



# 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.

**Schloss Seggau**  
Seggauberg 1, 8430 Leibnitz, Austria  
[www.seggau.com](http://www.seggau.com)



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



# APPLICATION DEADLINE

## January 31, 2023

### How to Apply

Please see our website

<https://international.uni-graz.at/de/summerschools/graz-international-summer-school-seggau/>  
for more information.

### Costs and Funding

The total student participation fee of 2.400 Euro covers the tuition,  
and room & board for the entire two weeks.


Travel arrangements have to be made and paid for individually.


### Scholarship Opportunities

Scholarships are available (please see our website for detailed information),  
and will be awarded upon application.


# CONTACT & INFO

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 <https://international.uni-graz.at/de/summerschools/graz-international-summer-school-seggau/>

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