

## Call for Papers: 10th European Workshops in International Studies

Workshop Title: 'After neoliberalism' and on the 'dark side'? The study of governmentality and counter-conduct in times of growing autocratization

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At least since the mid-2010s, serious challenges to the 'liberal order' both within states and in the international sphere have been identified, including the growing influence of illiberal and autocratic states and movements, sustained (transnational) violence, 'democratic backsliding' and a widespread devaluation of fact-based knowledge. At the same time, struggles for freedom and self-rule as well as initiatives for (cross-border) political organization or cooperation persist. The growing variety, complexity and hybridization of forms of rule and resistance, together with emerging alternative forms of conduct, blur traditional analytical categories and call into question presumed certainties of many academic disciplines.

We suggest that a revisiting of Michel Foucault's concept of governmentality – and its interlinking with counter-conduct – is highly relevant because it will help us make sense of these dynamics. Thereby, we go beyond (stylized) liberal and neoliberal understandings of governmentality and build upon approaches that have stressed the multi-faceted nature of power relations and governmental arrangements (e.g. Foucault 1991; Bevir 2016; Dean 2010). In this way, the governmentality perspective is particularly well-suited to also address authoritarian notions, practices and ambitions of governing and to understand what (liberal) principles, technologies and knowledges specifically they contest – or reinforce. As a broad research program, it allows to connect, integrate and expand on interests and insights from different subfields and disciplines.

Against this backdrop, we believe it is crucial to deepen existing lines of inquiry *of* and to explore novel avenues *in* the study of the hybridity and variety of forms of governmentality and counter-conduct. To this aim, we invite conceptual, methodological and empirical (single case or comparative) contributions relating especially to the following areas:

- Conceptual work and research methods
- Governmentality, counter-conduct and alternative *complexes of knowledge (savoir)*
- Gender, authoritarian governmentality and counter-conduct
- Hybrid, authoritarian or alternative forms of governmentality/counter-conduct within states
- Authoritarian governmentality, alliances and the global order
- Governmentality and counter-conduct in the digital sphere
- Transnational conflicts, (authoritarian) governmentality and counter-conduct

We especially encourage early career researchers and scholars from the Global South to submit their proposals.