

Open Door Workshop

INFORMATION MALAISE AND EUROPE: REFUGEE VOICES FOR DEMOCRACY

Registration
is
mandatory![Register here](#)

Jean Monnet Lecture Series (Ringvorlesung)

"European Democracy and the Media: Critical Issues"

Währingerstr. 29, 1090 Vienna
HÖRSAAL 1**JUNE****22nd****2023****09:00 - 13:00**

In times of polycrisis, European democracies are under pressure. Financial, social, political crises, and currently armed conflict, have tested institutions and governments continuously in the past 15 years. European institutions and national governments have represented unpopular and questionable public policies undermining citizens' established rights across a range of sectors in public life, met by pressures culminated by changing communication landscapes. "Project Europe" has been further met with skepticism, frustration and resistance from across diverse populations who question the legitimacy of policies. Within this context, accurate information is most important for citizens to participate in public affairs.

Information malaise is when half-truths, lies, inaccurate and misleading pieces of content disguised as "information" enter the means of communication, the public debate and people's everyday lives. The ways in which such a condition characterized lately by epithets of mis-dis or malinformation enters public and private life are important to understand, analyze and counter. The concept and practice of democracy are being challenged, with questions arising about who holds power and how decisions are made. Many citizens feel that their voices are not being heard. To address these challenges, European democracies need to adopt a more inclusive and participatory approach to governance.

Refugees are among the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in European democracies, facing multiple barriers to inclusion and participation. Once in Europe, they face a range of challenges, including language barriers, limited access to education and employment opportunities, and social exclusion. Despite these challenges, refugees make important contributions to European democracy, bringing diverse perspectives, experiences, and skills to the process. Their unique insights and experiences enrich policy and enhance the democratic process in Europe. However, their voices are often marginalized and they are frequently excluded from decision-making processes that affect their lives.

What are the possibilities and new challenges for European Democracy in addressing these issues? This workshop aims to promote inclusive and participatory approaches to governance in European democracies, with a particular focus on the voices and perspectives of refugees. By researching the needs and perceptions of Europe's future autonomous citizens, including young people and children, the workshop will seek to gather factual information about the experiences of refugees in Europe, and explore policy-oriented thinking about integration on the basis of informational rights and enabling informational environments.

PROGRAMME

9:00 Registration. Coffee.

9:30 Introduction.
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Katharine Sarikakis,
Director Jean Monnet Centre of
Excellence FREuDe, Chair of Media
Governance, Organisation and Media
Industries.

9:40 Keynote.
Marie-Claire Sowinetz, Office of the
UN Refugee Agency UNHCR in Austria,
Public Information. "Breaking Barriers,
Building Bridges: The Impact and
Potential of Refugee Voices in Europe".

10:00 - 11:00

**Panel 1. Misrepresentation as
misinformation: Implications for
European Democracies.**

Chair: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Katharine
Sarikakis.

Speakers:

Alexander Warzilek, Managing
Director Presserat / Austrian Press
Council.

Kiril Kirkov, American University in
Bulgaria.

Dr. Nevzat Inan, Pamukkale
University.

11:00 - 11:15

Coffee break.

11:15 - 12:00

**New Roots: Vienna - Bringing of
migrant perspectives to the public.**

Film screening - 15 minutes.

Presentation: Kiril Kirkov, Aisha
Shaiban, Murtaza Elham, Mustafa Haj
Omar.

Discussion.

12:00 - 12:45

**Panel 2. Jean Monnet FREuDe Report:
Public Debates on Refugees**

Chair: Dr. Oleksandra Gudkova, Jean
Monnet Centre of Excellence FREuDe,
University of Vienna

**"Research review of EU policies on
refugees: gaps and similarities".** Thomas
Fröhlich, Anastasiia Krynytska.

**"Keep out: EU immigration policy from
2015 to 2023."** Bîrsan Dragos-Ioan,
Bortolotti Lucas, Fath Félix, Luthfah Andina,
Toledano Adi.

**"German speaking media reporting on
refugees."** Karin Inama, Antonia Fechner,
Clara Jacobsen, Luis Nacken, Theresa
Zeitlinger, Cedric Berset, Matthias
Pandrea, Nija Würzelberger, Klara
Meixner, Frederic Möhren, David
Heilemann.

12:45 - 13:00

Closing notes