

Call for Applications for the 4EU+ Summer School in Sociology
“Why does it matter? Discussing the relevance of sociological research”

Location: Max-Weber-Institute of Sociology at Heidelberg University

Date: August 29th-Auguste 31st, 2022

“Why does it matter?” - there are few questions that are more unnerving to sociologists than the one about the relevance of their work. This could be linked to the fact that, as sociologist, we have a double duty to perform where research relevance is concerned. The first duty is to convince our peers that our work constitutes some sort of scientific progress. A progress of analytical or theoretical nature on the backdrop of sound data – a step beyond the well-trodden paths of our sociological map. At the same time, we are urged to exercise caution and not to err too far off this map. Instead, we must connect our ideas to existing debates, thereby chartering new territories for those who might want to follow. A second duty consists in the development of a social critique. What are the inequalities, injustices, asymmetries and dysfunctionalities that lie at the heart of our work? More importantly: who should benefit from such knowledge? The question here is not “how” but “whom” to convince. Although our discipline has seen many talented sociologists becoming intellectual figures in socio-political debates, knowledge of how to practice social critique remains somewhat sketchy and anecdotal. This is where our summer school comes into play. The 4EU+ summer school is about engaging into a constructive dialogue regarding the relevance of your work. We do so by providing inspiring guest lectures on new modes of theorizing and the nature of social critique, organizing small group-discussions of your work with PhD students and faculty from all over Europe, and planning informal occasions to meet and exchange ideas.

This summer school is organized under the umbrella of the 4EU+ alliance, an EU-funded cooperation project among Heidelberg University, Copenhagen University, University of Warsaw, Charles University, the University of Milan and Sorbonne University. We invite PhD students (in their second year or more) from the sociology departments of all our partner institutions to apply to our summer school. All fees and travel costs are covered by the 4EU+ alliance.

Applications shall be submitted by May 20^h 2022 to Lukas Pfaeffle (lukas.pfaeffle@mwi.uni-heidelberg.de) and shall include a motivation letter, a CV, a summary of the PhD thesis (2 pages) including a paragraph on the relevance of your work **and why you struggle with it.**

For questions, please contact Kathia Serrano (kathia.serrano@mwi.uni-heidelberg.de).