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# TRANSFORMATION AND CHANGE: EUROPE AND BEYOND

June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Seggau Castle | Leibnitz | Austria



DIÖZESE  
GRAZ-SECKAU



GRAZ  
INTERNATIONAL  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
SEGGAU  
2014

*"I have never had the opportunity before to meet 35 nations in one place!"  
- Vitalii, Ukraine*

## TOPIC

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# TRANSFORMATION AND CHANGE: EUROPE AND BEYOND

The only consistency of today's world is change. Current processes of transformation are frequently perceived as unexpected and unpredictable. They are often triggered by the quest of individuals and groups for self-determination, their need for cultural reassessment, or by more mundane motives of globalized business and politics. Whatever their cause, it is clear to all that contemporary societies are facing many challenges in their constant transformation.

Demographic change in Europe and America has become one of the key challenges and policy issues of our time. An ageing population, low birth rates, and changing family structures have had an enormous impact on intergenerational relationships, the job market, and systems of social care, but also on an individual's definition of identity over the life course.

At the same time, there are "others": migrants who are trying to find their place in these societies. Nation building processes and ever-deeper forms of economic and political integration retrace and dilute borders, again with an unprecedented impact on the individual as well as the collective.

The summer school will offer the possibility of examining current debates on transformation and demography in Europe and beyond by focusing on the current challenges to established forms of government, welfare policies and modes of transformation in a radically changed global world, where migration and transnationalism play an important role. Focusing on the emphasis areas of the University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central, and South America – the summer school will provide a basis for an interdisciplinary analysis in terms of opportunities provided and challenges faced in the past, present and future.

*Roberta Maierhofer  
for the Advisory Board*

*"Summer School taught me to focus more on the similarities than differences between people and to use our differences to enrich ourselves."  
- Christopher, Uganda*

## TARGET GROUP

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The Graz International Summer School Seggau is designed for internationally oriented, highly motivated students from all disciplines, who wish to deepen their understanding of current European and International affairs by studying and discussing global developments and challenges within the context of transformation processes and demographic change reflecting aspects of individual, social, political, religious, cultural, literary, regional, economic, cohort and national identities.

*"I learned about all sorts of backgrounds, cultures and identity-shaping environments!"*  
- Barbara, Austria



## ORGANIZERS

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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. Roberta Maierhofer (Center for Inter-American Studies) is the academic director.



## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

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**Interdisciplinary** co-operation of teachers and students on the cultural, intellectual and historical dimensions of current European and International affairs in view of their positioning in a globalized world.

**Presentation** in research and teaching of focus areas of the University of Graz – South Eastern Europe and North, Central and South America.

**Development** and education of young leaders of tomorrow in the fields of politics, administration, business, science, culture and religion.



## COURSE

# HOW THE SUMMER SCHOOL WORKS ...

Students will deal with the relevance and effect on global affairs of Europe/EU (emphasis on South Eastern Europe) and beyond by attending the offered morning and evening lectures, panel discussions, and participating in one of the following modules in the afternoon:

1. Politics & Law
2. Media, Society & Culture
3. Ethics, Religion & Economics
4. Rhetorics of Transformation
5. Literature of Transformation
6. Aging and Demographic Change

*'SA introduced me to various perspectives and interdisciplinary fields that I can incorporate into my own field of interest.'*  
- Anonymous



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# 5 GOOD REASONS TO APPLY

2-week summer university with a unique campus atmosphere at Seggau Castle

6 ECTS credits  
(for participation and seminar paper)

Lectures, panel discussions and 6 parallel seminar modules (small groups)

Discussions and networking opportunities with international lecturers and guests

All-inclusive-package (tuition, meals, accommodation, extra-curricular program and field trips)



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## APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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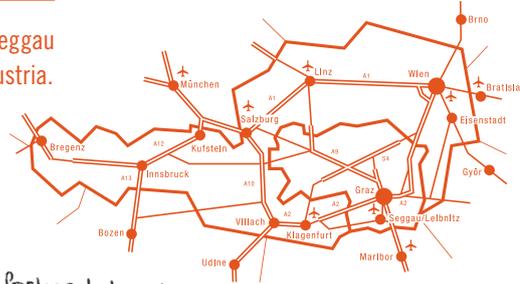
## COSTS & FUNDING

The total student participation fee is EURO 1.300,-- covering course costs, tuition and room & board for the entire two weeks. Scholarships are available and will be awarded upon nomination for the program. Travel arrangements have to be made and paid for individually.



## VENUE SEGGAU CASTLE (AT)

The venue of the summer school is 'Seggau Castle' located 45 km south of Graz, Austria.  
[www.seggau.com](http://www.seggau.com)



"The international environment fostered by the summer school has helped me to broaden my horizon regarding other cultures!"  
- Ines, Portugal

## CONTACT + INFO

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