

The Viadrina

The European University Viadrina was founded in 1991, reanimating the distinguished tradition of the first State University of Brandenburg (Alma Mater Viadrina, 1506-1811). Due to its unique geography and history the Viadrina plays an important role as a bridge between Eastern and Western Europe. The University's objective is to attract a diverse and international faculty and student body, to support research and teaching on European and global issues, and to establish academic relationships with countries and regions inside and outside Europe. Small classes, modern facilities and an academic staff of renowned scholars provide a distinctive and distinguished learning environment for undergraduate and graduate students of economics, law, the social sciences and humanities.

Frankfurt (Oder)

Frankfurt (Oder) is situated in the very heart of Europe by the River Oder, forming the border with neighbouring Poland. The city is well connected with Berlin, the German Capital; the ride on commuter trains takes just one hour. Frankfurt (Oder) has a population of approximately 59,200. Historical buildings such as the medieval Town Hall and St. Mary's church display Frankfurt's past as a powerful and rich trading town, member of the Hanseatic League. The lively Polish neighboring town of Stubice is within ten minutes walking distance from the university. Frankfurt is a green town, beautifully located by the river with a promenade, parks and an attractive surrounding countryside.



Photo: Winfried Mausolf, Frankfurt (Oder)

Frankfurt (Oder), Viadrina Main-Building, St. Mary's Church, Bridge across the Oder-river to Stubice/Poland, view to Collegium Polonicum and the town of Stubice.

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EUROPA-UNIVERSITÄT
VIADRINA
FRANKFURT (ODER)

Funded by
Volkswagen Foundation



Viadrina Summer University 2013

Unfree Labour Revisited Practices and Public Controversies from Ancient to Present Times

1 – 19 September 2013

European University Viadrina
Frankfurt (Oder)
Germany

Unfree Labour Revisited - Practices and Public Controversies from Ancient to Present Times

Globalization has a dark side – the return and expansion of unfree labour. Regions inside and outside Europe have drawn benefits from political and economic liberalisations of the past decades, but deregulation of labour markets and of financial operations have also widened social gaps and facilitated the expansion of shadow economies. The acceleration of capital flows has been accompanied by increased efforts of more affluent nations to keep labour migrants at bay. Irregular immigrants are prone to labour exploitation, while employment of unfree labour on a large scale is widespread in newly industrialising economies.

These trends are reflected by the popularity of a notion like 'modern slavery', used by UN organizations, governments and civil society protagonists, and suggest a sense of historical continuity and current criticism. This course offers room to reconsider historical manifestations of unfree labour – slavery, serfdom, peonage, forced labour in totalitarian regimes – in different cultural contexts (European, African, American, Asian), and to scrutinize coeval concepts and meanings and their transfer into modern public talk. Participants will deal with the often very blurred lines separating free and unfree labour and reflect the discourses justifying or challenging these practises from perspectives of historical and social sciences, economics and law. The comparative and interdisciplinary approach of this course will allow us to put the cherished abstraction 'individual freedom' in contrast with actual forms of labour, which are *all* ranging somewhere on the continuum between 'free' and 'unfree'.

The issue is high on the agenda of scholars not only from the disciplines involved here. Recent publications have offered substantial overviews of the problem, yet always from the angle of a particular discipline, and mostly with a regional focus. This summer university shall provide an interdisciplinary forum for both younger and established researchers. It is also meant as an important element in the development of a related research focus at the Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences.

Core Course 1 - Prof. Dr. Klaus Weber:
"Historical Practices and Discourse of Unfree Labour"

Core Course 2 - Dr. Norbert Cyrus:
"Current Practices and Discourse of Unfree Labour"

Target audience

This summer university is targeting at doctoral students and at advanced MA students from the fields of

- history (ancient and modern)
- social sciences (sociology, anthropology, ethnology ...),
- economics,
- political sciences,
- legal studies or law,
- and other relevant fields of cultural studies.

It is aiming particularly at those young scholars already carrying out their own research related to the contents of the summer university. They shall be offered the opportunity to meet fellow researchers of their own cohort, and established university teachers and researchers from Europe and abroad. The objective is to establish contacts and networks which shall be helpful with their present and future projects.

Number of participants

There are 40 places for which we would like to have approximately 25 international participants and c. 15 from the European University Viadrina or other German Universities.

Teaching and Syllabus

During the Summer School a variety of teaching formats will be applied, in order to convey knowledge and encourage interaction, including course teaching with interactive elements, classical lectures by invited speakers, seminars, workshops, and field visits. The younger researchers will actively contribute to the program, offering their own papers in a 'Research Forum', and organising informal peer meetings. Details are available on the Viadrina Summer University's website.

Certificate and ECTS Credits

The Viadrina Summer University Certificate requires active participation in both core courses, two seminars, one workshop, three lectures and one excursion. Students are entitled to gain up to 18 ECTS credits. This requires one seminar paper on a topic of the participant's choice (related to the program, 25 pages) = 9 ECTS, 2 essays on chosen topics (related to the program) = 3 ECTS each, participation in the excursion to Sachsenhausen = 3 ECTS.

Course fees and fellowships

Participants from abroad:

The Viadrina Summer University (VSU) provides 25 fellowships for foreign participants. These fellowships cover tuition fee, accommodation and travel costs.

Participants from German Universities:

We regret that no fellowships can be granted to students from German universities.

They will cover travel, accommodation and tuition fee from their own funds.

(Tuition fee - €100 to be paid in advance - includes: course material, excursion and other costs related to the course program.)

Accommodation

Participants are invited to stay in modern student apartments with single rooms and modern facilities in Stubice, Poland. This small border town is situated right on the opposite bank of the River Oder. The price of a single room per person for 18 nights will be c. 130 Euro. Grocery stores, supermarkets and restaurants are all to be found within walking distance.

Application

Deadline for all applications is 30th April 2013. Decisions of acceptance will be announced by 15th May 2013 via e-mail. You can find the application form and information about all required documents at our website.

<<http://www.kuwi.europa-uni.de/de/studium/summeruniversity/index.html>>