2019 Preisfrage / Prize Questions “Disrupted Orders?”

Theme:

As a common German saying goes, “Ordnung ist das halbe Leben” (approx.: order is half the battle). And indeed, different orders are part of our lives and, of course, of many research disciplines: social orders – referring to the conduct of communality in social sciences; orders – as tools for classifying organisms by rank in biology; a holy order, the ordo salutis – which relates to the salvific business of the church; or an order – as antithetical concept of chaos in philosophy. And sometimes it is the lack of order or its intentional or latent disruption that attracts the researcher’s attention.

Order can vaguely be regarded as the nature or quality of something. The Oxford English Dictionary specifies: Order /ˈɔːdər/ “the arrangement or disposition of people or things in relation to each other according to a particular sequence, pattern, or method”. It can relate to an authoritative command or instruction, as well as a particular social, political, or economic system, and, not to forget, orders within the context of nature and the natural sciences. As manifold as orders can be, as divergent can be the modes of their disruption. Disruption /dɪˈrʌpʃn/ has a negative connotation as it relates to the “interruption, disturbance or problems which interrupt an event, activity, or process.” But can disruption not be constructive and fruitful as well? Or conversely, is order always welcome?

This Preisfrage/ prize question by the Collegium Helveticum and the Zukunftskolleg invites the contributors to unravel ‘order’ and to show how it can be disrupted and what consequences may result from disrupted orders. It thereby seeks to address the societal, political, economic, artistic and scientific scope of order and its disruption in the past, present and future.

The best contributions will be published in a jointly edited volume or other suitable publication by the Collegium Helveticum and the Zukunftskolleg.

The top three entrants will receive prize money of

1st place: € 1,300 / CHF 1,500,
2nd place: € 650 / CHF 750, and
3rd place: € 300 / CHF 350.

The deadline is 12 September 2019 at 24:00 (GMT).

Accepted Contributions

The formats of the contribution can vary and can include essays, research notes and short articles as well as artwork, cartoons, short stories, scores and written concepts of performances and the like. Written contributions should remain within the range of 2,000 to 5,000 words. Contributions from all disciplines are welcome, ranging from the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences to arts and music. We accept manuscripts in English and German.
Please submit a short abstract (max. 200 words) and your anonymized contribution as attachment to Zukunftskolleg@uni-konstanz.de. Please indicate your name and address in your mail message.

Eligible Candidates

We invite Fellows, Associated Fellows and Alumni as well as their close staff from the Collegium Helveticum and Fellows and Fellow-Alumni as well as their research group members from the Zukunftskolleg to submit contributions meeting the Preisfrage announced hereby.

Nomination of Winners & Public Discussion

The public announcement of the winner will take place on 21 November 2019 at the Collegium Helveticum in Zurich. The best three contributors will be informed per email about three weeks ahead of the event on 1 November 2019. The three contributors will present their work and engage in a public discussion. Each candidate will be asked to give a 10 min oral presentation of her/his contribution. The Jury will then announce the first three winners, i.e. announce the order of the three winners.

Jury

The jury is composed of members of the contributing institutions and ad hoc experts invited to join the jury.

Cooperation Partners

The Collegium Helveticum is a think tank and laboratory for transdisciplinary research. We aim to provide a meeting place and forum for dialogue between the humanities, social sciences, physical sciences, engineering, medical science and the arts. We are sponsored by the University of Zurich, ETH Zurich and the Zurich University of the Arts.

The Zukunftskolleg is an Institute for Advanced Study (IAS). It offers 2-year and 5-year fellowships as well as a diverse support network to promote the independence of early career researchers. Researchers at the postdoctoral level perform research without administrative constraints and have the freedom to engage in meaningful exchange with other up-and-coming colleagues and with distinguished senior researchers. Researchers in the humanities, social and natural sciences come to Konstanz from across the world to perform first-class research.

– uni.kn/zukunftskolleg