

Mapping Intersectional Commitment against  
Rightwing Extremism in Europe.  
Analysis, Communication, Intervention

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The rise of rightwing extremism all over Europe and North America is deeply rooted inter alia in the long history of intersectional racism. In doing so, it particularly motivates the racism of segregation that declares that Europe and the US should be the home to the white Christian race only, while also propagating its heteronormative family models and discrimination against people with disabilities. One of the respective strategies is to hold that migration and migrants are a threat to white nation states – while “migrant” eventually serves rightwing extremism to mean the collective of all Black or Indigenous people, all People of Color, Jews or Muslims. To gain the political power needed to implement the racist-sexist-classist-etc. state, rightwing extremism has relied on a rhetoric’s of populism. Extreme rightwing parties and organizations abuse societal problems to make them profitable in terms of political power. Existing debates are radicalized by them by, on the one hand, claiming that the problems are extremely unsolvable (by acting governments) and by then, on the other hand, pretending to be able to solve them by especially expelling or holding back migrants. Part and parcel of this populism is to hold that there is no democracy (while being eager to pave autocracy its way), that democratic politicians would be lying (while using lies as a legitimate strategy themselves) and by investing into hate and the splitting up of society (while blaming anti-discrimination policies to do so). Pursuing the return to a “völkische Rassismus” / ”racism that invests into eugenics”, extreme rightwing actors or parties attack democracy and anti-discrimination laws that it wants to undo. Ultimately, the rise of rightwing extremism in Europe or the US has also triggered a general backlash towards right and conservative stances as well as to racism and sexism inter alia. Despite given differences, commonalities can be mapped. To do so as well as to find strategies of how to address them and how to fight against rightwing extremism is the major goal of this conference. For one thing, we wish to discuss commonalities and differences both in terms of the roots and routs of rightwing extremism as well as with respect to its manifestations in different European countries or regions. For another, we wish to confront rightwing extremism with an intersectional commitment that knows to grasp and intervene into the complexities of power, social inequality and the respective privileging of some at the cost of the Othered and discriminated ones.

To allow for such a cross-European and intersectional perspective, the conference aims at bringing together different researchers, artists and activists (in given intersections) who pursue an intersectional commitment. The respective inputs, findings,

discussions and interventions are to be documented in a collective print publication and social media presence. In doing so, we will build on several workshops on the work of the rightwing extremist German AfD in 2024, eager to complement it with further European perspectives, to get a more complex and intersectional understanding of rightwing extremism in Europe.

In the course of the two days Conference, keynotes, fishbowl discussions and multimedia activist approaches, activist work and further input is to be complemented. It is an international conference in a local context of intersectional activism, open for all status groups of academia and a wider public.

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