

Call for Papers

Identities

Narratives between determination and plurality from an ethical perspective

International Conference on the occasion of 40 years of the Institute of Social Ethics ISE at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Lucerne, Switzerland

Fixed norms and frameworks act as identity instigators. For a long time, the nation, religion, origin, education, and the medical and biological boundaries of nature seemed to have functioned as such. Stable identity narratives could be built on top of them, and arrangements were laid down in which roles were clearly distributed - "one knew who one was and where one belonged". Can this still be predicated of the present?

If such "secure" identity founders start to totter, this creates new opportunities for social permeability and advancement, new opportunities for research, more plurality and openness towards the other and strangers. At the same time, however, we are currently experiencing a major wave of uncertainty. The plurality of possibilities, who one can be and become, often cause feelings of fear rather than being used as a design space.

From backward-looking utopias to "the past" – which are especially popular in the right-wing populist environment – to the technological and trans-humanistic visions of a new and better person, such offers seem to arouse hope, they promise a way out of the enduring plurality and its own boundaries. But was and is there such a thing as fixed identities? What could be their value? What do clear models of identity call for, what time and events define the longing for the past, for a "great again"? Who and what acts as an identity stabilizer, who acts as a pluralizer? What role do the sciences play in the (re) production of identities?

From the question of migration to the question of national boundaries, from the question of gender to technological changes to people, questions of identity seem to break with new power and reveal deep cracks through society.

Reason enough to put the issue of identities on the agenda in an international conference. Therefore, the ISE uses the **International Anniversary Conference** on the occasion of its 40th anniversary to question the phenomenon of identities as well as the related narratives from an ethical perspective, to examine differences and similarities and to discuss how much identity or how many identities should actually be or rather should be.

The **International Anniversary Conference "Identities: narratives between determination and plurality from an ethical perspective"** will take place on **March 1 and 2, 2021**, which, in addition to keynotes, offers the opportunity to work together in workshops on the topics raised above:

Biography
Home and identity
Borders, migration and flight
Identity politics
Right-wing populism
Religious identity
Gender
Economy, globalization and business ethics
Human and technology
Digital transformation and artificial intelligence

We ask for an Exposé of max. 3'000 characters and max. three references be sent to ise@unilu.ch **until February 29, 2020**, please indicate in which topic / workshop they are located. Please include the following information about the person: name, title, occupation, e-mail address.

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