

FUNDING INITIATIVE

Thematic Weeks

Call for Proposals

Thematic Week: Human rights in times of multiple challenges – perspectives from science and society

November 6-8, 2023

Profile Area: Societal Transformations

Deadline: May 4, 2023, 14.00 CET



1 OBJECTIVES

How is the worldwide situation of human rights in the twenty-first century? How do the current challenges change our perspective on human rights and what does this mean for societal processes in many countries? Current events, from the war in Ukraine to the COVID 19 pandemic and the handling of demonstrations in Iran to questions of climate justice and human rights violations in the financial sports scene make it necessary that science and society focus on the current situation of human rights worldwide.

With the thematic week "Human rights in times of multiple challenges – perspectives from science and society" (November 6-8, 2023), the Volkswagen Foundation intends to react to this situation. It offers an opportunity to reflect on research questions on human rights jointly with researchers and stakeholders from (civil) society. In the focus of these events are research questions from the perspective of political science, law, ethics, history, philosophy, sociology and communication science. Applicants are invited to address questions on how the research on human rights has changed, which new scientific research questions have emerged and in which direction the political and societal discussion of human rights might turn in the future. It is possible to apply for events that take into account the global challenges with regard to human rights, e.g. the analysis of or the comparison between international events where human rights are violated. Furthermore, the thematic topics could deal with research questions that analyze the implementation, defense or the questioning of human rights within societies.

Symposia should have a clear focus within this outline and develop a program in order to deal with this in an interdisciplinary manner and with an international group of participants. Furthermore, stakeholders from (civil) society should be involved. Applicants should also explain how they plan to transfer the knowledge gained at the symposia beyond the academic communities to the wider public.

2 SCOPE OF FUNDING

Symposia funded by the Foundation take place at the conference center Xplanatorium Herrenhausen Palace, Hannover, within the framework of the Volkswagen Foundation's "Thematic Weeks". It is planned to fund a total of two to four symposia and to bring them together in a joint thematic week. The venue offers meeting and conference rooms of different sizes, together with a professional organizational as well as technical infrastructure. In addition to the provision of this infrastructure and handling of organizational tasks, symposia are supported with funds covering personnel as well as non-personnel or publication costs. Support can be made available for events with usually up to 50 participants.

Applicants are requested to include the following slots into their program, in order to foster exchange and networking of the participants of all symposia among each other and with representatives of the Foundation:

- November 6th: 9:30 to 13:00 (joint welcome, get-to-know, presentation of symposia topics, lunch),
- November 7th: 12:00 to 13:00 (lunch) and from 16:00 (joint activity and dinner),
- November 8th: 12:00 to 13:00 (joint closing, afterwards lunch).

3 GENERAL CONDITIONS

Eligible for funding are researchers who are employed at a scientific institution in Germany,

- from the humanities and social sciences,
- at all career levels after the PhD,
- from foreign institutions applying as co-applicants.

Funds may be requested to cover the following costs:

- **Personnel costs**
 - funds for student assistants during preparation, running and follow-up of the event in an amount not exceeding 3,500 EUR.
- **Non-personnel costs, e.g.**
 - Expenses for accommodation for all participants (please estimate 140 EUR per night/person).
 - Travel expenses for all participants. The Foundation expects a critical examination of the necessity of flights and, as far as possible, the use of alternative means of transport. Please estimate the following sums per participant in the cost plan for travel to and from the event in total (please note that only costs actually incurred can be settled with the Foundation after the event):

▪ Participants from Germany:	250 EUR
▪ Participants from the rest of Europe:	500 EUR
▪ Participants from the east coast of the USA:	1,000 EUR
▪ Participants from the rest of the world:	1,500 EUR
 - Consumables in an amount not exceeding 500 EUR.
 - Expense allowances for freelancers (e.g. journalists), who are actively involved in the event.
 - Funds for child care costs, e.g. travel expenses, accommodation costs or allowances for caregivers. If you apply for funds for child care funds, please briefly explain how it is planned and how the costs are composed.

- **Publication expenses.** The Foundation expects that the results of the meeting will be published online and open access. Typical conference proceedings and pure print publications will not be funded.

As part of the grant, the following services are provided by the Volkswagen Foundation:

- hotel reservations (please do not make any bookings yourself),
- provision of conference equipment at the conference center Herrenhausen Palace,
- catering at the conference center Herrenhausen Palace.

The Foundation shall not be held liable for commitments incurred prior to the receipt of a grant letter.

4 APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Applications can be submitted in German or English. The following attachments (pdf files) should be uploaded:

- **Proposal** (incl. explanation of planned science communication measures) and **preliminary list of participants** (please use the template provided at the end of section 5)
- Preliminary **program of the event**, please list thematic focal points and chosen event formats.
- **Short CVs of all applicants** (max. 2 pages per applicant, please submit all CVs in one file).
- Please enter a **budget plan** directly in the application portal. In the case of multiple applicants, funding can only be granted to one institution, so please submit only one budget plan.

Please submit your application online via the Volkswagen Foundation's electronic application system. Information on the application system can be found in the document "Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips" (see section 5). For technical questions regarding the use of the portal, please contact support@volkswagenstiftung.de

A decision is usually made within two months of the deadline. In addition to the objectives of the respective thematic week described in section 1, the scientific quality of the event, the use of innovative and interactive event formats, and the conclusiveness of the overall concept are decisive factors in the review process. The Foundation also expects active participation of PhD students and postdocs as well as a significant inclusion of female scientists among both the speakers and the participants.

5 CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Further Information

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Additional Information

- [Webpage „Thematic week: Human rights in times of multiple challenges - perspectives from science and society”](#)
- [Template Proposal \(download\)](#)
- [Electronic Application System – Instructions and Tips](#)
- [Volkswagen Foundation Electronic Application System](#)