



“Un/Growing into Generational Roles”

International Conference at Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO), Berlin, 8-9 June, 2023

Like it or not, we would “grow into generational roles” or rather at the times strive for it, i.e., we are the link between the preceding generations and those who follow us. Current living generations are informed and shaped by diverging spaces of experience and horizons of expectations.

This interdisciplinary, international conference aims at understanding intergenerational relations, positions, and power relations as they intersect with emerging translocal networks, family relations and global order. Against the grain of the privileges of welfare states, we wish to explore conditions that exceed state institutions. We also believe that the intrinsic primacy of cohort groups alone is not enough to capture the complexities within and between generations.

Mobility restrictions and global politics show how far we are from being children of one human race in diversity with the potential of actualizing intergenerational justice. Furthermore, ways of knowledge production and transmission still perpetuate the disunity of generations around the globe on the basis of racialized and socio-economic injustices. Much of these ambivalences are the result of sensitive or so-called taboo topics: specific social norms and expectations which are not discussed openly yet are passed on from one generation to another.

We investigate processes of future-making such as the striving for intergenerational social mobility and attempts to reproduce or reform conservative social hierarchies. What life is desirable? What ensures the survival and continuity of families and societies? What binds generations and how are generations linked to one another? How do intergenerational relations work out within and without the family and how do they map out communally or globally?

We especially invite contributions that address the following issues:

First: **Intergenerational care for the future generations.** The promise of better life through growth, improvement and stability often goes along with practices that bring about change, ruptures and destruction. Examples include the materiality of house and home-making, and the upholding of social status.

Second: **Intergenerational practices of knowledge transfer (intangible heritage) and the silencing of knowledge.** Means and modes of transferring generational roles revolve

around questions of how to mold the next generation. How is generational transition projected and enacted? How do the modes of transfer manifest themselves within families, neighborhoods, and bigger communities? Normative frameworks of generations promoted by the state, religious institutions, and popular media will be scrutinized. Often gaps between generations occur through novel modes of knowledge production and transmission.

Third: **Intergenerational relations and justice in the aftermath of war.** Experiences of war, violence, and broken ecologies in the aftermath of atrocities often create silent voids between generations. In post-war situations intergenerational dialogue proves to be particularly difficult. How are relations between generations that were shaped in the aftermath of war and/or displacement played out?

Paper abstracts of no more than 300 words, grounded in the disciplines of sociology, social and cultural anthropology, Islamic studies, history, digital humanities and related fields are invited for this two-day on-site conference and **should be sent to Marta.Podvolotskaya@zmo.de by 15th November, 2022.**

Successful applications should send a draft version of their papers by 15th May 2023. Pre-circulated papers will be sent to discussants before the conference. Revised papers are envisioned to be published in a special issue of a journal or open-access edited volume. Limited funding for travel will be available.