



## CIRCLE U. TEAMS

\*\*\*offered next semester (April – July 2022) at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin\*\*\*

### 1. Security Governance and Democracy

**Team Leader:** Dr. Sonja Stojanović Gajić, PostDoc at University of Belgrade

**Level:** Master's students

**What prior theoretical and methodological knowledge should students bring with them?**

This Team is aimed at Master's students of social sciences, in particular of political science, international relations, security studies, media studies, and sociology, as well as of humanities, including literature and film studies. They should have the basic knowledge of democratic political arrangements and familiarity with the European history of the 20th and 21st centuries.

**Description:**

This Circle U.-Team aims to explore how national security policy and security sector governance are used to undermine or re-strengthen liberal democracy in Europe. It brings together insights from political science, security studies, including more recent literature on Security Sector Reform (SSR) and the sociology and ethnography of security professions (e.g. military, policing, intelligence). The course's empirical focus is on security governance within both 'old democracies' and post-communist countries, as well as on insights gained from European history of autocratisation and re-democratisation in 20th and 21st centuries. The political dynamics and local agency within the states are at the centre of examination, but the course will also study the interactions between local and international factors.

By combining insights from different academic disciplines and area studies, the Circle U.-Team will contribute to the Democracy Hub exploration of trends on how democratic values are discarded through security governance and how they may be reversed through political and civic engagement.

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### 2. Sustainable and Ecological Aspects of Self-directed Urban Gardening – How Science Can Support the Desirable Green Transformation of Cities

**Team leader:** Dr. Eleonora Zickenheimer, PostDoc at Humboldt-Universität

**Level:** Bachelor's and Master's students

**What prior theoretical and methodological knowledge should students bring with them?**

Students should bring a general interest in urban gardening and its ramifications.

**Description:**

What can individual citizens contribute to making cities greener and more ecological? Will a concept of a climate-friendly and healthy city grow over this - in the truest sense of the word? And how specifically can urban and private areas be gardened? What are private and municipal strategies for dealing with urban gardens and their implementation? What are the costs to cities of private urban gardening (e.g., increased sidewalk cleaning due to leaves from planted roofs)? Which horticultural and which structural engineering aspects have to be considered? Which psychological and healthy effects does a



green city have on its inhabitants? What kind of biodiversity exists in green cities? Which legal aspects have to be considered? These questions form the thematic framework of the course. The questions can only be dealt with and answered within an interdisciplinary framework. Therefore, a group of students from different disciplines and universities at different locations is desirable. The students will decide which sub-questions of this complex topic we will pick out or which we will further differentiate.

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### **3. Life Writing as a Democratizing Practice: Hybrid Feminist and Queer Writing 1960-1990**

**Team leader:** Tijana Kern, PhD student at Humboldt-Universität

**Level:** Bachelor's (preferably later semesters) and Master's students

**What prior theoretical and methodological knowledge should students bring with them?**

Students should bring a general interest in literature and cultural studies.

**Description:**

This Team looks at life writing as a democratizing genre, one that exhibits a higher potential for generating and performing transformative agency from the social margin, due to its accessibility, relative openness, and adaptability. By engaging with “hybrid” life writing – which crosses boundaries between life writing, fiction, and theoretical writing – this project will explore its relevance for the Western socio-political discourse on democracy and social justice in the 20th Century.

The project aims to unfold the importance of literary writing and criticism for the discussion of and working towards social justice, and thus to make space for the fields of literary theory, critical theory and cultural studies in a discourse that is traditionally dominated by political science and sociology.

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### **4. GloHAU Circle U. – „Refugee Health“**

**Team leader:** Andreas Halgreen Eiset, PhD student at Aarhus University

**Level:** Bachelor's and Master's students

**What prior theoretical and methodological knowledge should students bring with them?**

Basic research/epidemiological/biostatistical training.

Preferably experience with one or more statistical packages (R, Stata, SAS or the like)

**Description:**

There is a paucity of evidence on refugees' health and healthcare needs, resulting in public health interventions and clinical decisions being based on best guesses rather than available scientific evidence. The majority of previous publications have focused on maternal and mental health, but the available literature indicate that refugees in Europe may be disproportionately affected by both communicable, non-communicable (NCDs), and psychiatric diseases compared with the autochthonous population.

In this Circle U. Team students will get an introduction to the topic “refugee health” and to the scientific steps in developing and carrying out a research project in public health.

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### **What is a Circle U. Team and how can I register?**

Circle U.-Teams are digital seminars in an innovative teaching-learning format, initiated by postdocs or doctoral students. The Circle U.-Teams are open to Bachelor's and Master's students from different partner universities and different subjects, so that interdisciplinary and international perspectives on the subject matter are possible. The Circle U.-Team itself consists of at least 5 students of the Circle U. universities, who actively work on the study project and gain their first experience in an international and interdisciplinary team.

Students receive 5 credit points for their participation, in this Team-module the credits are granted without an examination.

**International students should contact their examination office before joining a Circle U-Team-seminar.**

The teams and their seminar plans and schedules will be published on <https://agnes.hu-berlin.de/> in March.

To formally register, Circle U. students should write an email to [qbologna@hu-berlin.de](mailto:qbologna@hu-berlin.de) with the following information:

- University
- targeted degree
- main subject / course / current degree programme
- study year or semester