

“In the Age of the Polycrisis: How Complex Crises Emerge and How We Can Confront Them”

Junior Researchers Receive Prestigious Grant from the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Dr. Gordon M. Friedrichs (Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg) and Dr. Natalie Rauscher (Heidelberg Center for American Studies) have received a prestigious grant from the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the state of Baden-Württemberg for their interdisciplinary research project "In the Age of the Polycrisis: How complex crises emerge and how we can confront them."

Commencing on April 1st, 2024, the project is set to explore the complexities of polycrises — parallel, overlapping, and connected crises with the potential to disrupt global political and societal systems. The project's goals include conceptualizing the emergence, development, and course of polycrises, investigating their impact on social and political discourses, crisis management, and complexity reduction. Drawing on theoretical frameworks from international relations and American Studies, including complexity theory and discourse analysis, the team will tackle two fundamental questions: How can polycrises be effectively conceptualized, and how do they impact national discourses?

The project seeks to develop theoretical assumptions and employ a mixed-methods approach to examine discourse formations in the context of global polycrises, focusing on cases such as the global climate crisis and the Ukraine war. The project underscores the importance of understanding societal perceptions of polycrises, often leading to disagreement and polarization. Utilizing quantitative and qualitative discourse analysis, the research aims to provide insights into effective crisis communication in the United States and Europe.

The funding includes two doctoral positions, funds for research assistants, workshops and research and travel funds amounting to over €300,000.

More information about the research project is available [here](#).