INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
NORMATIVE CONFLICTS IN POLARIZED SOCIETIES

Contemporary societies are experiencing multiple dynamics of deepening antagonisms and polarization. While these dynamics manifest differently across cultural contexts, economic structures, media infrastructures, and other factors, they share a common feature: normative conflicts both shape and are shaped by processes of polarization. Such conflicts can fuel antagonisms, even as they are themselves transformed by increasingly divided public spheres.

This workshop is dedicated to examining selected normative conflicts within specific societal contexts. It marks the launch of an annual series that will focus on the ethical dimensions of moral disagreement and public reasoning in pluralistic societies under conditions of polarization. Bringing together distinguished scholars from multiple countries and world regions, the workshop will explore normative conflicts in polarized societies from an international perspective. Postdoctoral researchers from each region will also actively contribute to the discussions.

A second fundamental objective of the workshop is to promote the creation of global scientific networks of researchers from different world regions, facilitated through strengthened structural collaboration among Heidelberg University's four liaison offices for South Asia, East Asia, North America, and South America.

HEIDELBERG CENTER LATIN AMERICA

HEIDELBERG CENTRE SOUTH ASIA

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CAMILLA AND GEORG JELLINEK CENTER FOR ETHICS

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Heidelberg University Association (HUA), New York

Sabine Schenk,
Heidelberg University Office Kyoto (HUOK), Japan

UNIVERSITÄT HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT SEIT 1386

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
NORMATIVE CONFLICTS IN POLARIZED SOCIETIES
EXPERIENCES FROM DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

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15 TO 16 JULY 2026
HAUS BUHL, HEIDELBERG

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026

Location: Haus Buhl, Hauptstraße 232, 69117 Heidelberg

09:00 Arrival, Registration and Refreshments

09:30 **Welcome Address**
Alexander Au, Head of International Relations, Heidelberg University
Eva Winkler, Professor and Director Department of Medical and Data Ethics, Medical Faculty, and Director Camilla-and-Georg-Jellinek-Center for Ethics, Heidelberg University
Thorsten Moos, Professor, Department Systematic Theology (Ethics), Faculty of Theology, and Director Camilla-and-Georg-Jellinek-Center for Ethics, Heidelberg University

09:45 **KEYNOTE LATIN AMERICA**
Universities in Search of Truth: Can They Help Reduce the Epistemological Crisis and Polarization?
Juan Larraín, Director Institute of Applied Ethics, Professor at the Faculty of Biological Sciences, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Comments and moderation: **Renata Motta**, Professor Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS), Heidelberg University

10:45 Posters & Coffee I

11:30 **KEYNOTE EUROPE**
Climate Change and Polarization in Select European Contexts
Endre Borbáth, Junior Professor, Institute of Political Science, Heidelberg University
Comments and moderation: **Eva Winkler/Thorsten Moos**, Heidelberg University
followed by Q&A

12:30 **Meet Heidelberg University's Centers Abroad**
Suboor Bakht, Director Heidelberg Center South Asia (HCSA), Delhi, India
Inés Recio, Executive Academic Director Heidelberg Center Latin America (HCLA), Santiago de Chile, Chile
Katja Simons, Executive Director, Heidelberg University Association (HUA), New York, USA
Sabine Schenk, Head Heidelberg University Office Kyoto (HUOK), Kyoto, Japan
Moderator: **David Palme**, Managing Director, Camilla-and-Georg-Jellinek-Center for Ethics, Heidelberg University

13:00 Lunch break

14:15 **KEYNOTE NORTH AMERICA**
Normative Conflicts in Polarized Societies: Reflections from the U.S. Healthcare Context
Kelsey Berry, Lecturer at Harvard Medical School; Co-Director of the Graduate Fellowship in Ethics and Visiting Scholar in Ethics at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University
Comments and moderation: **Jan Stievermann,** Professor of the History of Christianity in the US, Faculty of Theology and Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA), Heidelberg University
followed by Q&A

15:15 **EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER (ECR) SPOTLIGHT NORTH AMERICA**
Solidarity and Civility in Polarized Publics
Brian Palmiter, Postdoctoral Fellow, Civil Discourse, Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University & Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
followed by Q&A

15:45 Coffee and networking break

16:15 End of Workshop-Day 1

19:00 **OUTREACH EVENT**
Spaltet Moral die Gesellschaft?
(Does Morality Divide Society?) (in German)
Diana Aurenque, Institute for Ethics and History of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Tübingen
In conversation with Eva Winkler and Thorsten Moos, Directors of the Camilla-and-Georg-Jellinek-Center for Ethics, Heidelberg University
followed by Q&A

20:30 Get-together at Haus Buhl

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

09:15 Refreshments and Opening Day

09:30 **ECR SPOTLIGHT SOUTH ASIA**
Rethinking Normative Conflicts: Ethics of Coexistence in Indian Philosophy
Anish Chakravarty, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University
followed by Q&A

10:00 **KEYNOTE SOUTH ASIA**
Religions, Nationalism and Normative Conflicts
Krishna Pathak, Professor, Philosophy/Humanities/Liberal Arts, Hindu College, Delhi University
Comments and moderation: **Aurel Croissant,** Professor, Institute of Political Science, Heidelberg University
followed by Q&A

11:00 Posters & Coffee II

11:45 **ECR SPOTLIGHT LATIN AMERICA**
The Principle of the Social State in Chile: Divergent Conceptions in the Context of Polarized Constitutional Processes
Augusto Wiegand, Assistant Professor, Institute of Applied Ethics, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
followed by Q&A

12:15 **ECR SPOTLIGHT EAST ASIA**
On the Acceptability and Limits of Moral Bioenhancement in Japan
Yuki Takaki, Postdoctoral Researcher, Faculty of Arts, Shinshu University
followed by Q&A

12:45 Lunch

13:45 **KEYNOTE EAST ASIA**
Bridging AI Policy and Ethics: The Japanese Experience
Yuko Harayama, Secretary General, Tokyo Centre of the GPAI Expert Community
Comments and moderation: **Martin Krämer,** Professor, Center for East Asian Studies, Heidelberg University
followed by Q&A

14:45 **FINAL DISCUSSION, NEXT STEPS, CLOSING REMARKS**
Thorsten Moos & Eva Winkler, Directors of the Camilla-and-Georg-Jellinek-Center for Ethics, Heidelberg University

15:30 **Outlook: Conference 2027**
in Chile at the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Heidelberg Center Latin America (HCLA)

15:45 Farewell refreshments at Haus Buhl