

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

RESEARCHING COLLECTIVITY IN PROTESTS AND RESISTANCE

WORKSHOP || HOCHSCHULE FULDA UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES || 04.12.2025

In an era marked by social uncertainty, fragmentation, and intensified calls for solidarity, collectivity remains a central yet contested phenomenon in the social sciences. Whether as enduring movements, temporary alliances, or spontaneous gatherings, collectives continue to shape political, cultural, and everyday life. Their emergence, internal dynamics, and eventual dissolution raise key questions about social organization and belonging. Furthermore, scrutinizing the emergence and internal dynamics of collectives in environments of protest and resistance is crucial to reflecting on the possibility of collective struggles for human rights and social justice.

One thematic focus of the workshop is on the micro-sociological and interactional dimensions of collectivity, particularly in protest settings or short-lived group configurations. Here, the emphasis is on affective and performative dynamics that unfold in the moment: the generation of solidarity, the embodied experience of being part of a collective, but also the fragility of these formations in the face of situational change (Collins 2018; Durkheim 1912; Katz 1999). How do such collectives emerge, what maintains them, and when do they begin to dissolve?

In light of the migrant segmentation of numerous labor sectors and the fraying of “class” as salient mobilization logic (Kelly 2018), a second thematic focus is on the emergence of collectivity among precarious migrant workers. How do collective resistance, organization, and mobilization form under conditions of “multiple precarity” (Neuhauser and Birke 2021)? What dynamics of grievance formation, institutionalization, or division characterize these collectives? Contributions in this area may address processes of resistance, organization, or solidarity, with particular attention to structural and symbolic constraints, emerging organizational and identificatory logics, or temporal trajectories.

The workshop is organized out of the doctoral program “Human Rights and Social Justice”. It is designed to allow emerging researchers to present and discuss their ongoing work with peers and senior colleagues from Hochschule Fulda and Goethe University Frankfurt. We welcome contributions that explore the phenomenon of collectivity in protests and resistance across empirical fields and theoretical traditions, and encourage reflections on the conceptual and methodological challenges that accompany such research.

Specific guiding questions for contributions include:

- > *How can we grasp the emergence, transformation, and dissolution of collectivity in a social science framework?*
- > *What emotional, symbolic, or structural dynamics shape collective formations?*
- > *How are disparate acts of “resistance” translated and solidified into collective organization?*
- > *What role, if any, do “moral economies” and their violation play in precarious workers’ collective mobilizations?*
- > *How do precarious workers’ collective protests and organization re-articulate or go beyond identificatory logics of class?*

The workshop will be held in English. Contributions are invited in the form of a presentation. We kindly ask you to send a short abstract of your input. Abstract submissions are possible in English and German. **Please send your abstracts** of 300 to 500 words to christina.fischer@sk.hs-fulda.de by **26.09.2025** (extended). Accepted contributors will be informed by 01.10.2025.

The workshop will take place from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Thursday, December 4th, 2025. Travel expenses within Germany will be covered. However, we cannot usually finance overnight stays in Fulda. If you have questions or special needs, please contact christina.fischer@sk.hs-fulda.de. We look forward to your contributions and to fruitful discussions.

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