

Call for Sessions – Forums “Shapes of Post-growth Societies”

*** Deadline: 16.12.2018 ***

“The Great Transformation: The Future of Modern Societies”

Final Conference of the DFG Research Group “Landnahme, Acceleration, Activation: Dynamics and (De-)stabilization of Modern Growth Societies” and the 2nd Regional Conference of the German Sociological Association

Friedrich Schiller University Jena, September 23 to 27, 2019

The starting point of the Jena Conference in September 2019 is the assumption that the old capitalist centres of Europe and North America are currently undergoing a transformation process, a “Great Transformation”. In times of flattening economic growth rates, the strengthening of authoritarian movements, the ongoing destruction of the environment, growing inequality, and the increasing number of refugees, the direction of the change process is by no means predetermined. Political action, social initiatives, and academic expertise will influence which elements of the transformation processes will be the focus of (public) debate and which direction the change will take.

With the conference in Jena we want to focus on change dynamics and think about *transformations*. The question to be discussed is how to shape the observable upheavals in an ecologically and socially sustainable way. Therefore, especially on the third day of the conference (Thursday, 26.09.2019), development options for important social fields will be illuminated with examples. Different social futures will be discussed not only sociologically but also interdisciplinarily and with the help of expertise from social practice – even if controversial.

Both in society in general and among sociologists there are diverse and divergent ideas about the development of the social future. For this reason, we ask for event proposals devised on the topic “Shapes of Post-growth Societies.” The subject of the discussion could be the outlines of future societies as well as diagnosed phenomena in present societies.

The events on the topic “Shapes of Post-growth Societies” can take a variety of forms and do not have to be based on the usual formats of academic conferences. They can range from classic discussion panels to films, excursions, and experimental games. We are looking forward to your ideas! In general, all formats have a designated time frame of 2.5 hours which can be shortened or extended as required.

We sincerely invite academics and socially engaged people to participate in the conference with their own event on the topic “Shapes of Post-growth Societies.” There will be events on a variety of possible topics. For example, we are interested in how mobility, work and income, caring and care work, the economy, energy systems, migration, North-South relations, housing, nutrition, agriculture, and cultural orientations should be shaped without reinforcing existing social inequalities and injustices. We are requesting event proposals that explore the framework and possible shapes of transition, including theoretical and methodological approaches to such diagnoses, and also those that discuss the possibilities and limits of change, including accompanying trade-offs and possible social conflicts.

The submitted event concepts are limited to a length of 6,000 characters.

Please also submit a brief description of the event with a maximum of 200 characters.

Please note that the title of the event, the names of the organisers, and the brief description will be used directly for public relations work if the proposal is accepted.

Please send your report in the following format: **the forum “Shapes of Post-growth Societies” with an event concept, a brief description of the event, the names of the organisers, and the title of the event** by **16.12.2018** at the latest to the DFG Research Group “Post-growth Societies” care of Kathy Kursawe: **Kathy.Kursawe@uni-jena.de**.