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Announcements - Ankündigungen

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR GESTALT THEORY AND ITS APPLICATIONS

invites submissions for the

WOLFGANG METZGER AWARD 2022

This award is named after **Wolfgang Metzger**, student of Max Wertheimer and one of the leading members of the second generation of the Berlin Gestalt School.

Applicants for the Metzger Award 2022 must submit a scientific paper **(in English or German)** inspired by Gestalt theory. The paper must contribute to the research or the application of Gestalt theory in the natural sciences, humanities, social and economic sciences as well as other fields. Hence, the paper could deal with a subject from psychology, philosophy, education, medicine, arts, architecture, linguistics, musicology or other fields of research or application of research as long as it is inspired by a Gestalt theoretical approach.

Since 1999 the Wolfgang Metzger Award is granted by the board of directors of the GTA based on an international public award contest and a screening and review of the submissions by an international scientific Award Committee.

Members of the Award Committee 2022 are: Hellmuth Metz-Göckel (Dortmund/FRG; chair), Geert-Jan Boudewijnse (Montreal/Canada), Silvia Bonacchi (Warsaw/Poland), Baingio Pinna (Sassari/Italy), Ugo Savardi (Verona, Italy).

The first prize winner will receive € 1000 and will be invited as the award speaker to the 21st international Scientific Convention of the GTA in June 2022. The paper will be published in the international multidisciplinary journal *Gestalt Theory* (https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/gth/gth-overview.xml) in the submitted version or in an adapted form.

Submissions for the Metzger Award 2022 are due by the end of June 2021

The submission must be sent as a Word or a PDF document to the Metzger Award committee at: metzger-award@gestalttheory.net.

Die internationale
GESELLSCHAFT FÜR GESTALTTHEORIE UND IHRE ANWENDUNGEN

lädt ein zu Einreichungen für den

WOLFGANG – METZGER – PREIS 2022

Dieser Preis ist nach **Wolfgang Metzger** benannt, Schüler von Max Wertheimer und führendem Vertreter der zweiten Generation der Berliner Schule der Gestalttheorie.

Für Bewerbungen um den Wolfgang-Metzger-Preis 2022 ist ein wissenschaftlicher Beitrag **(in Englisch oder Deutsch)** einzureichen, der sich auf die gestalttheoretischen Grundannahmen und ihren Weiterentwicklungen in Forschung oder Anwendung in den Naturwissenschaften, den Humanwissenschaften, den Sozial- und Wirtschaftswissenschaften oder auf einem anderen Gebiet bezieht. Einreichungen können also beispielsweise aus den Bereichen Psychologie, Philosophie, Pädagogik, Medizin, Kunst, Architektur, den Sprachwissenschaften, der Musikwissenschaft oder auch aus anderen Fachgebieten kommen, solange sie sich in der Behandlung ihres Themas kompetent an der Gestalttheorie orientieren.

Der **Wolfgang-Metzger-Preis** wird seit 1999 international öffentlich ausgeschrieben und vom GTA-Vorstand auf Grundlage der Begutachtungsergebnisse und Empfehlungen eines internationalen wissenschaftlichen Preis-Komitees vergeben. Mitglieder des **Wolfgang-Metzger-Preis-Komitees 2022** sind: Hellmuth Metz-Göckel (Dortmund /Deutschland; Vorsitz), Geert-Jan Boudewijnse (Montreal/Kanada), Silvia Bonacchi (Warschau/ Polen), Baingio Pinna (Sassari/Italien), Ugo Savardi (Verona/Italien).

Die Gewinnerin / der Gewinner des **Wolfgang-Metzger-Preises 2022** erhält ein Preisgeld von € 1000 und wird zum Preisträgervortrag bei der 22. Internationalen Wissenschaftlichen Arbeitstagung der GTA im Juni 2022 (Triest, Italien) eingeladen. Die eingereichte Arbeit oder der Preisträgervortrag wird in der internationalen multidisziplinären Zeitschrift *Gestalt Theory* (https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/gth/gth-overview.xml) veröffentlicht.

Einsendeschluss für den Metzger-Preis 2022 ist Ende Juni 2021.

Einreichungen richten Sie als Word- oder PDF-Dokument an das Preis-Komitee: metzger-award@gestalttheory.net.

Young Academics Achievement Award

Of the International Scientific Society for Gestalt Theory and Its Applications

Since its foundation in 1978, the **Society for Gestalt Theory and its Applications** has served as an international and multidisciplinary association established for the purpose of promoting the Gestalt theoretical perspective in research and practice. The main theoretical grounding of Gestalt theory comes from the so-called Berlin School as developed by Max Wertheimer, Wolfgang Köhler, Kurt Koffka, Kurt Lewin, Karl Duncker and Wolfgang Metzger from the 1910s onwards, at first mainly in psychology but later also in various other sciences. According to the GTA statutes, international scientific conventions are held every two years. Since 1979, current issues concerning Gestalt theoretical research and applications have been presented (in German and English) in the international multidisciplinary scientific journal *Gestalt Theory*, since 2012 also as an open-access journal at http://www.gestalttheory.net/cms/archive/, since 2017 at https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/gth/gth-overview.xml

Since 1987 the GTA awards the Wolfgang-Metzger-Price for outstanding scientific achievements related with Gestalt theory. In 2016 the board of directors has decided to write out, in addition, an **Young Academics Achievement Award** for collegiate works. Since 2017 six young scientists has already been honoured at the GTA-Conventions in Vienna and Warsaw for their works.

The Young Academic Achievement Award is now announced also for 2022:

The International Scientific Society for Gestalt Theory and its Applications grants a Young Academics Award in support of collegiate graduation papers (Diploma-, Master's- or Bachelor's Thesis) and papers from graduates from other post-secondary educational institutions which use Gestalt theoretical basic principles or applications.

Submitted papers will be judged by an scientific committee. The award winners will be invited to the biennial scientific GTA convention to be honoured with an appraisal certificate and a prize of 250 €.

We ask academic teachers to advise interested students of this opportunity.

Student submissions must be sent till 31st July 2021 as a Word or a PDF document togther with an expert opinion of the responsible tutor to the 1st chairman of the GTA, Prof. Dr. Hellmuth Metz-Göckel, via email: hellmuth.metz-goeckel@tu-dortmund.de

Nachwuchs-Preis

Der Gesellschaft für Gestalttheorie und ihre Anwendungen

Die Gesellschaft für Gestalttheorie und ihre Anwendungen e.V. (GTA) besteht seit 1978 und dient als internationale und multidisziplinäre Organisation der Förderung und Weiterentwicklung der Gestalttheorie in Wissenschaft und Praxis. Unter Gestalttheorie wird dabei insbesondere das von der sog. Berliner Schule der Gestalttheorie (verbunden z.B. mit den Namen Max Wertheimer, Wolfgang Köhler, Kurt Koffka, Kurt Lewin, Karl Duncker und Wolfgang Metzger) ab den 1910er Jahren entwickelte Theoriegebäude in der Psychologie sowie im Gefolge auch in vielfältigen anderen Wissenschaften verstanden. Dem Satzungsziel der GTA entsprechend werden alle zwei Jahre internationale wissenschaftliche Arbeitstagungen veranstaltet. In der Zeitschrift *Gestalt Theory* – seit 2012 auch als open-access-journal unter http://www.gestalttheory.net/cms/archive/, seit 2017 https://content.sciendo.com/view/journals/gth/gth-overview.xml - erscheinen seit 1979 aktuelle Beiträge zu den Forschungs- und Anwendungsfeldern der Gestalttheorie in deutscher bzw. englischer Sprache.

Seit 1987 vergibt die GTA den Wolfgang-Metzger-Preis für besondere wissenschaftliche Leistungen mit Bezug zur Gestalttheorie. Der Vorstand der Gesellschaft hat 2016 beschlossen, zusätzlich einen Nachwuchspreis für studentische Arbeiten auszuschreiben. Seit 2017 wurden bisher sechs Nachwuchswissenschaftler auf den GTA-Tagungen in Wien und Warschau für ihre Arbeiten ausgezeichnet.

Der Förderpreis wird hiermit auch für 2022 ausgeschrieben:

Die Gesellschaft für Gestalttheorie und ihre Anwendungen vergibt einen Nachwuchspreis für studentische Abschluss-Arbeiten (Diplom-, Master- und Bachelor-Arbeiten und Arbeiten von Absolventen anderer post-sekundärer Bildungseinrichtungen), die einen Bezug zu gestalttheoretischen Grundlagen oder Anwendungen erkennen lassen.

Eingereichte Arbeiten werden von einem wissenschaftlichen Komitee begutachtet. Der/die ausgewählten Preisträger werden zur kostenlosen Teilnahme zur folgenden wissenschaftlichen Arbeitstagung der GTA eingeladen und erhalten eine Würdigungs-Urkunde und ein Preisgeld in Höhe von 250.- €.

Hochschullehrer sind gebeten, Studierende auf diese Möglichkeit hinzuweisen und eventuell bei Themenvergabe und Betreuung darauf hinzuarbeiten.

Studierende bewerben sich bis zum **31. Juli 2021** mit Angabe des Themas, einem Abstract und einem Gutachten des Betreuers bzw. der Institution an den 1. Vorsitzenden der GTA, Prof. Dr. Hellmuth Metz-Göckel (hellmuth.metz-goeckel@tu-dortmund.de)

BTWS 3 Real, Imagined and Displayed Fragility

Vulnerable Positions and Positioning in Society

A Conference Series on Contradictory Discourses of Marginality

March 25th–27th, 2021 in Warsaw, Poland (online)

A research network at the University of Warsaw, University of Bremen, Åbo Akademi University (in Åbo/Turku) and Stockholm University addresses questions of social positions and positioning in a conference series on contradictory discourses of marginality and demarginalizations.

This year's conference focuses on positions and positioning of vulnerability in emerging discourses and in conversational exchanges.

Vulnerability theories are grounded in the deep changes of the human ecologies of our societies and in the sense of precarity and inequality that individuals feel in relation to mainstream groups and institutions. On the one hand, vulnerability is an intrinsic human condition related to our existence and being in the world—as thematised in recent studies about human fragility, body, and embodiment. On the other hand, the way vulnerability is felt and displayed depends on the way institutions create frames for resilience devices. Furthermore, an individual sense of being strong or being weak is widely dependent on the opportunity to join target groups which offer possibilities and feelings of belonging. In every situation in which individuals feel socially isolated (e.g., because of their non-normativity), positions of fragility open up. When people are fragile and exposed to attacks or even feel fragile, they try to find sustainment in groups and ideologies. Individuals and groups who feel fragile can make "vulnerability" their weapon for creating mechanisms of identification in a reversal of the relationship between the strong and weak, between oppressors and the oppressed,

and between the privileged and disadvantaged. An example of this would be "body positivity," in which a supposed flaw that leads to marginalization or to the self-perception of marginality is translated into a discourse position of empowerment.

The social positioning of being "weak" provokes a gamut of reactions which represent a challenge for our "solidarity societies": among them, the feeling that vulnerable subjects have to be "protected" leads to the position that these vulnerable subjects are "beyond" normally valid rules of society and ascribed a kind of "special status" which neutralizes regular social dialectics. This fact leads to a series of contradictions: in numerous cases, persons being perceived as "weak" or socially vulnerable (children, women, elders, people belonging to minorities, and socially or physically disadvantaged people) are denied to speak out or even silenced. Silencing encompasses harassment or intimidation. Shaming and humiliation are targeted at vulnerable subjects to prevent them from speaking and at the same time deny the legitimacy of their speech. These acts are designed to "shut up" subjects when they raise issues that are not accepted or claim interactional roles that are denied them. A reversal of this position can be a staging of aggression and attacks by vulnerable subjects who can claim for themselves special rights. Displaying one's own fragility at the level of conversational strategies ("I know, I am weak, but…", "I know, nobody cares about what I say but …") and even being silent and silencing can be a reactive as well as proactive behaviour which can give rise to forms of aggression and offence. This leads to a series of (self-)presentation mechanisms at all levels that conference participants are called upon to describe in a wide range of manifestations: among them physical vulnerability, psychological vulnerability, social vulnerability, sexual and gender vulnerability, linguistic vulnerability, institutional vulnerability, verbal aggression.

The epidemiological situation caused by the pandemic of COVID-19, which severely affected us during the preparatory work for this conference and imposed its postponement until spring 2021, has led to serious restrictions on social, economic and political life in various countries worldwide, laying bare not only the fragility of their health care systems but also the vulnerability of institutions and citizens. This experience of weakness and fragility lived directly in everyday life but not yet the object of academic reflection, strongly poses the theme of vulnerability as a challenge to our contemporary societies.

Starting from these observations, we are interested in theoretical and empirical research that analyses contradictory discourses based on vulnerability positions and positioning. These positions can be expressed in agendas, arenas and agencies:

Agendas: When are claims of vulnerable positions and positioning used strategically by individuals and groups for themselves or for others to gain rights, power, status, or resources?

Arenas: In which forums and through which media do individuals and groups negotiate their and others' belonging and stance as fragile individuals claiming special rights?

Agencies: What are the possible options for actions arising from real, imagined, and displayed/staged vulnerability positions? Which are the apparatuses ("dispositives") and narratives of vulnerability?

The organizers approach these topics from an interdisciplinary linguistic perspective and wish to invite researchers from all disciplines to contribute to disciplinary and interdisciplinary discussions. Not only linguists but also psychologists, sociologists, philosophers, anthropologists, psychotherapists and psychoanalysts, educational and social scientists, literary and cultural studies scholars, scholars of law as well as artists are welcome to provide their contribution to our conference, which wants to reflect on the phenomenology of vulnerability positions and positioning in the whole gamut of its implications and manifestations, as well as on how far this phenomenon has to be linked to contemporary perspectives and crises. The conference program will include lectures, working groups and poster sessions. Students and doctoral students are welcome with contributions in various open formats (posters, films, photos, science slam, fieldwork, etc.).

The languages of the third conference in the series are English and German.

If you want to participate, please contact Silvia Bonacchi (s.bonacchi@uw.edu.pl).

Confirmed Plenary Speakers

Mitchell Travis (University of Leeds)

Michael Buchholz (International Psychoanalytic University, Berlin)

Pascal Nicklas (University of Mainz)

Tomasz Basiuk (University of Warsaw) and Carsten Junker (Technical University of Dresden)

Actual information: http://vulnerability2020.uw.edu.pl

Warschau – Bremen – Turku – Stockholm – Dresden, June 2020

Silvia Bonacchi – Ingo H. Warnke – Hanna Acke – Charlotta Seiler Brylla – Carsten Junker