

Hope and Despair in the Ecological Crisis

An Interdisciplinary Study Day for Students of the Heidelberg University and the University of Education Heidelberg

02.07.2025, 09.30–15.00

Evangelisches Studienseminar Morata-Haus

Neuenheimer Landstraße 2

69120 Heidelberg

What significance do the two complementary emotions have in the face of the planetary ecological crisis, and what significance should they have? What exactly happens when individuals or collectives feel hope or despair? Should the aim of educational and political action be to promote one of these emotions or, if they are present, how should they be dealt with? On this interdisciplinary study day, we will address these questions from a psychological, anthropological, philosophical and theological perspective and relate the approaches of the individual disciplines to each other.

Organization: Tom Wellmann (PH HD), Dennis Dietz (HSE)

With:

Megan Arndt (Universität Heidelberg), Thomas Arnold (Universität Heidelberg), Dennis Dietz (Heidelberg School of Education), Annette Haußmann (Universität Heidelberg), Alfred Sköld (Aalborg Universitet), Matti Weisdorf (University of Copenhagen), Tom Wellmann (Pädagogische Hochschule Heidelberg)

PROGRAM

09.00-09.30 Arrival, coffee

09.30-09.45 Welcome and introduction - *T. Wellmann and D. Dietz*

09.45-10.45 Perspectives on the topic from four disciplines – *Introductory presentations by M. Weisdorf (Anthropology), A. Sköld (psychology), D. Dietz (theology), T. Wellmann (philosophy)*

10.45-11. Break/formation of working groups

11.00-12.15 Disciplinary working groups - *work in the groups with representatives of the respective discipline to deepen one of the four perspectives*

12.15-13.30 Lunch break - *self-catering in the Old Town of Heidelberg*

13.30-14.30 Interdisciplinary working groups – *consolidation of disciplinary perspectives, preparation of thesis papers*

14.30-15. Closing plenary session - *presentation of the thesis papers, final discussion*

- The study day is aimed at students of all disciplines at Heidelberg University and Heidelberg University of Education. Participation is free of charge. Please register with Roberta Tontini (tontini@ph-heidelberg.de).
- Teachers who are interested in participating with a seminar group are asked to contact the organizers at wellmann@ph-heidelberg.de.