

# Global Studies Retreat FS 2022

## Schloss Ueberstorf, May 20-21, 2022

### Information and Program for Participants

The Global Studies Retreat offers an opportunity for PhD candidates to exchange ideas about their current work outside the ordinary university environment and among an interdisciplinary group of peers. The retreat takes place at Schloss Ueberstorf, a historic castle surrounded by a natural park and located in the canton of Fribourg, a short train ride away from the city of Bern.



([www.schlossueberstorf.ch](http://www.schlossueberstorf.ch))

The group activities of the retreat comprise three parts.

**A.** We start with the experiment of “elevator speeches”: each participant presents a description of her/his own research project in a simple and coherent way, understandable to a diverse audience, in a very short period of time (the time span of an elevator ride, up to max. 120 seconds). The participants are encouraged to point out the global aspects/issues involved in their dissertations. The aim is to assess together the global dimension in which the ongoing projects are being placed.

**B.** Each participant provides a short text (up to 10 pages) of their own that she/he wants to discuss with colleagues. Work in progress (e.g., a dissertation chapter, a conference papers, etc.) is very welcome. Participants are expected to read all of the texts provided by their peers in advance in order to discuss them during the retreat (30 min. for each text).



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For this text work, participants are encouraged to speak their own language. The passive understanding of English, French, German, Spanish is welcome (simultaneous translations will be provided where necessary).

**C** Group discussion based on global topics. In the last years and, indeed, in the last months, the question of the future course of world history has gained a new urgency. Are we entering a new phase of our shared global destiny or are we merely experiencing a temporary crisis? These questions invite us to reflect on the way we organize time in distinct epochs and on how we construct pivotal events on a global scale. Such divisions are never innocent and always reflect an implicit or explicit ‘politics of time.’ In this sense, they always manifest present concerns, even when they address periods in the distant past, such as the Bronze Age, or even the (mythical) origin of humankind. Drawing on short selected texts by Francis Fukuyama, Kathleen Davis, and Mark Fisher, we will discuss the relevance of “global epochs” and their delimitation for the ongoing PhD projects in the doctoral program *Global Studies*. With the aim to reflect on concepts such as “politics of time” and “global epochs,” we propose to exchange our thoughts about the course of world history and its different interpretations.

### Program

#### Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

12:15	Departure from Bern main station, train S1, in the direction of Fribourg. In Flamatt, change to Bus 131 (direction Albligen, Dorf). Get off at Ueberstorf, Dorfstrasse. Arrival time: 12:36, 5 min. walk to the hotel and check-in.
13:15	Welcome/Introduction
13:30-14:30	Elevator speeches & feedback session (A)
14:30-15:00	Break
15:00-16:00	Text work (B1)
16:00-16:15	Short break
16:15-17:15	Text work (B2)
17:15-17:45	Break
17:45-19:30	Apero-Talk: Future course of world history (C)
19:30	Dinner

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Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

09:15-10:15	Text work (B3)
10:15-10:45	Break
10:45-11:45	Text work (B4)
11:45-12:00	Final discussion
12:00	Lunch
14:00 approx.	Return journey

### Preparation

- Upload a text of your own on ILIAS at least **two weeks** before the event startdate (by May 7, 2022). Please note that any kind of text (also work in progress) up to 10 pages can be uploaded (abstracts, section of the thesis, drafts, presentations, etc.)  
Link to ILIAS: [https://ilias.unibe.ch/goto\\_ilias3\\_unibe\\_crs\\_2419571.html](https://ilias.unibe.ch/goto_ilias3_unibe_crs_2419571.html)
- Each participant is expected to have read all the texts in advance and to bring printed versions. While reading, mark the texts with:
  - + or ++ for sections considered interesting, successful
  - ? or ?? for sections considered unintelligible, unclearFor every text: Think about one or two core arguments of the text
- Students are required to read the texts which form the basis for our discussion on the evolution of human societies and on the possibility of the end of history.  
Link to ILIAS: [https://ilias.unibe.ch/goto\\_ilias3\\_unibe\\_crs\\_2419571.html](https://ilias.unibe.ch/goto_ilias3_unibe_crs_2419571.html)

### Further information

- Please note that no lunch is offered on Friday
- Charges for accomodation, dinner, lunch (except alcoholic beverages) and refreshments during the event are covered, as well as the costs of the train ride (2<sup>nd</sup> class) from Bern and back. For reimbursement, participants must hand in a train ticket/receipt
- Address: Schloss Ueberstorf, Schlosstrasse 14, 3182 Ueberstorf
- Questions: Please write to Virginia León Torrez, [virginia.leontorrez@unibe.ch](mailto:virginia.leontorrez@unibe.ch)
- If you have any troubles while traveling you can reach us under the following number:  
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