

Repression, Conflict and Trust

Workshop organized by "ConTrust. Trust in Conflict. Political Coexistence under Conditions of Uncertainty" – a cluster project of the State of Hesse
in cooperation with the

Research Center "Transformations of Political Violence" (TraCe)

6 June 2023, 1pm-5.30pm

Normative Orders building, Max-Horkheimer-Straße 2, 60323 Campus Westend, Frankfurt / Main, Room 5.01

Conveners: Irene Weipert-Fenner & Jonas Wolff

Trust can grow in and through conflict – this is the main research hypothesis of ConTrust that the workshop likes to discuss for conflicts that involve state repression. When does repression create trust in state actors, when does it destroy it? What are broader trust dynamics in regard to in- and outgroup trust as well as social trust more general? In order to break new ground, the workshop brings together experts on two sub-fields of repression research: the repression-mobilization nexus and police violence.

The sub-fields of repression research have both seen a trend towards disaggregation of actors, leading to more sophisticated, fine-grained analyses of developments also beyond the national level, i.e. including the trans- and sub-national as well as the local level. Furthermore, temporal and spatial dimensions of repression have been developed further. These research trends allow for a deeper understanding of how repression has transformed over time. They also match the conceptual understanding of trust within the ConTrust research initiative that builds on a relational approach to trust and on trust building based on experiences and learning processes.

Considering repression as a particular context of trust relations, the workshop aims are therefore threefold: first, to enrich the ConTrust working group on coercion with the cutting-edge research on repression, and second, to assess what we know about trust dynamics in contexts of state repression. Third, we aim at developing a truly comparative research agenda on repression, trust and conflict by bringing together contributions that cover several world regions and different political regime types.

13.00 – 13.10 Welcome

13.10 – 15.10 Mobilization and repression

- *Violence against social activists in Colombia*
Juan Albarracin, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), and TraCe Fellow
- *Protest and repression in Jordan*
Jillian Schwedler, Professor of Political Science, City University of New York's Hunter College and the Graduate Center
- *Comment: Trust and the repression-mobilization nexus*
Irene Weipert-Fenner, Research Fellow at PRIF & ConTrust PI

15.10 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 17.30 Police violence

- *Police violence in Germany*
Tobias Singelstein, Professor for Criminology, Goethe University Frankfurt & ConTrust PI
- *Police violence in Brazil and the Philippines*
Ariadne Natal and Peter Kreuzer, Research Fellows at PRIF
- *Comment: Transformations of police violence and the question of trust*
Jonas Wolff, Professor of Political Science, Goethe University Frankfurt, PRIF & ConTrust PI & TraCe PI:

Dinner for active participants