

marburg
27.-29.10.17

call for
contributions

konferenz von unten

who are I?
? who am we

perceptions. practices. constructions.

A conference on identities
in and around us.

The conference from below (kvv) is a gathering of people who like to approach subjects by new means and in joint dialogues. This autumn we want to deal with "Identities". Therefore we are looking for your workshop ideas: We wonder where identities come from and how they affect us. However, we do not solely want to bother about ourselves or others but also question if we need a fixed idea of us and others. And maybe there are even other possibilities of (self-)perception? Your contributions decide where the journey takes us!

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<https://konferenzvonunten.de/>

What are identities? And what do you perceive it as? Where do they come from and how do they influence us?

Identities seem to be omnipresent – and result time and again in conflicts and contention: Discord and division are thus to be seen alongside constructive self-reflection and mutual understanding. We want to look into the apparently rigid concept of individual and collective identities and try to go beyond it. Do we require such a concept for the perception of ourselves and others? How do identities affect our encounters and demarcations? What power do identities possess and what power structures are they subject to?

The conference from below 2017 aims to approach these and other questions with as many diverse and critical perspectives as possible. We do not want to adhere to gridlocked problems, perspectives, and disciplines but want to unravel and dissolve them in order to re-imagine identities from fresh viewpoints. For this purpose we are also looking for your questions – and possibly answers! Never mind from which sphere of life your interests and experiences stem, be it activist or academic, practical or theoretical, be it from longstanding expertise or spur-of-the-moment flashes of inspiration: We are looking forward to getting to know your ideas, the more colourful the better!

For inspiration some more questions we are currently occupied with:

- When, where and how do we perceive identities in our everyday lives?
- How and where are identities being (re-)produced? What social practices and power structures contribute to these productions?
- Are there inclusive identities or are demarcations unavoidable? Do identities contribute to security? Or are they rather constructed through threats?
- (How) Can we explore alternative forms of subjectivity? And – given the conflictive potential of identities – do we even have to do this?

Methods

Concerning the structure of the conference, it is important to us to create an interactive space in which theoretical and practical experiences can be linked. We want to approach the topics within a framework of workshops and open discussion rounds in order to enable a nonhierarchical exchange of ideas, to let your thoughts run freely, and to transform new inputs into energy. Artistic-creative approaches to the above mentioned topics and questions are also welcome. These could be, for example, through the creative use of images, movies, musical contributions and role-plays. However, we would like to renounce the use of traditional frontal panel discussions.

The conference is planned on the weekend 27th to 29th October 2017 in Marburg. We can pay the travel expenses of all contributors at least in parts and also a small remuneration. Additionally, we are going to organise couches and other sleeping possibilities.

In case you are interested in a content-related or organizational contribution to this conference or if you have any further questions, feel free to contact us. Please send us a draft of your concept no later than 15th of July 2017, including a topic proposal (title), a short description of the content as well as your methodological ideas. For organizational purposes, it would be useful for us to know how much time the contribution would take and what else you would need from us (e.g. spatial particularities, materials, etc.). Your proposal should not be longer than 2-3 pages.

Entry deadline is the 15th of July 2017

Please send your questions, suggestions and proposals to the following email-address:

hallo@konferenzvonunten.de

Organisational Matters



The conference from below 2017 is organized by students from the MA Peace and Conflict Studies Marburg and some other keen peoples. The conference aims to offer a place free of hierarchy and barriers for transdisciplinary exchange among people with diverse professional, academic, practical or activist backgrounds.

In contrast to conventional conferences we set a focus on interactive workshops realized by students and anyone else interested. Thereby we want to achieve an exchange at eye level with every voice being heard. The event shall further offer a place to share experienced-based knowledge and learn with one another.

In 2015 the kvu was organized for the first time under the slogan "conflict. power. creativity."