

Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association 2024
University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland, Basel (MuttENZ),
September 9-11, 2024



Call for Papers

Workshop: "To trust, or not to trust, that is the question". Vulnerability to information as a risk of modern society

Organizers:

Roman Smirnov (Freie University Berlin)

In the 2020s, the world faced a series of crises that exposed and exacerbated the problems of people's vulnerability in various aspects: physical and mental health, wealth, political participation, social stability, etc. However, the COVID-19 pandemic that has lasted for several years and the Russian war against Ukraine that followed immediately after the pandemic have shown another type of vulnerability in the information society – vulnerability to information.

Pluralism of opinions and wide availability of information on the Internet not only did not solve, but in some ways exacerbated people's vulnerability to information. Conspiracy theories have taken on an even larger scale and have become a factor in the division of societies into opposing groups. In addition, vulnerability to information has made people "easy prey" for populists and demagogues. This is fraught with great danger and significant destructive political potential, an example of which is the modern Russian society, which, exactly under the influence of state information policy, massively supported the war. Thus, scientists are faced with the task of analyzing vulnerability to information as a significant political and social risk of modern society.

The workshop will discuss the vulnerability to information of various groups of the population as a significant risk of modern society in the light of current socio-political processes (for example, the Russian-Ukrainian war, the COVID pandemic, etc.).

Workshop format. Presentation of the results of current sociological, political and media research followed by a discussion.

Important information:

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 5 January

Length of abstracts: max. 2000 characters

Languages of the workshop: English, German

Email address to which proposals must be sent: r.smirnov@fu-berlin.de