

Call for Applications

Life After Death: Feminist and Queer Perspectives on the Global Now

A Politics and Gender Research Group Workshop

Institut für Politikwissenschaft (IPW), University of Vienna | 28–29 May 2026

Public Keynote lecture by Eva von Redecker:

“‘Rage against the dying of the light.’ Fossil fascism and foreclosed futurity.”

About the Workshop

The present feels haunted by the exhaustion of old promises: the collapse of liberal hopes, the hollowing of democracy, the erosion of care, the re-emergence of fascism, the persistence of colonial logics, and the expansion of global precarity. At the same time, new feminist and queer vocabularies of living, imagining, and organizing are taking shape—often fragile, experimental, and defiantly alive.

Life After Death: Feminist and Queer Perspectives on the Global Now brings together scholars who diagnose our moment of crisis and probe the possibilities of renewal. Drawing on feminist, queer, anti-racist, decolonial, and ecological thought, the workshop aims to think about collapse and what comes *after* collapse, exploring how life, care, and politics might be reconstituted from exhaustion.

Panels will address five key conjunctures shaping our global present, convened by members of the Politics and Gender Research Group, of the Institute for Political Science (IPW), at the University of Vienna.

Panels and Organizers:

1. Illiberal Biopolitics? Family, Gender, Social Reproduction, and the New Radical Right

Convened by: [Katharina Hajek](#)

The family and policies of social reproduction are central to the emerging New Right. Across national contexts, right-wing movements have politicized motherhood, fatherhood, abortion, migration, and welfare as tools for enforcing “natural” hierarchies and authoritarian notions of society. Yet the erosion of the material foundations of the traditional family complicates this narrative. This panel examines contemporary right-wing reproductive and biopolitics—from social policy to techno-utopian eugenics—and asks how we might conceptualize these

transformations: as intensified neoliberalism, selective welfare restructuring, or a “fascistization of social reproduction.”

2. The Demise of Feminist Promises? Queer/Feminist Entanglements with neoliberalism and nationalism

Convened by: [Lucie Naudé](#)

Feminism’s entanglement with neoliberal logics has long been debated. Once co-opted into empowerment discourses compatible with market individualism, feminist and LGBTQ+ politics now coexist uneasily with nationalist, authoritarian, and anti-gender mobilizations. Some right-wing actors even claim feminism for exclusionary ends. This panel explores feminism’s entanglements, complicity, and contradictions at the crossroads between the reconfiguration of neoliberalism and the consolidation of authoritarian-nationalism.

3. Life After Liberalism? Feminism, Neoliberalism, and the Politics of Abandonment

Convened by: [Dorit Geva](#)

Liberalism has long been a contested terrain for feminist and queer projects—a framework that offered partial rights while sustaining capitalist, racialized, and patriarchal orders. As neoliberalism hollowed out liberalism’s egalitarian promise, the right has further hollowed out liberalism’s core. This panel explores the gendered consequences of liberalism’s crisis: what happens to feminist and queer politics when both right and left abandon the liberal project? Can equality, freedom, and pluralism be reimagined within liberalism, or must we leave liberalism behind?

4. From Caring to Careless Democracy? Approaching Care through the Lens of Democracy—and Democracy through the Lens of Care

Convened by: [Ayse Dursun](#)

Amid a deepening global care crisis and democratic decay, this panel investigates the conceptual and structural entanglements between care and democracy. What forms of “carelessness” mark contemporary democracies, and how might a “caring democracy” look? Through feminist political economy, intersectional, and democratic theory perspectives, we examine how care—its organization, denial, and potential—reveals the moral and political fault lines of the present.

5. Feminist Futurities and Futures of Feminisms

Convened by: [Firoozeh Farvardin](#)

When the far right offers seductive visions of order and belonging, what futures can feminists imagine instead? This panel reclaims feminist and queer futurity against both neoliberal exhaustion and fascist dreams. Building on movements from *Ni Una Menos* to Kurdish women’s resistance, from anticolonial and communitarian imaginaries to trans-Marxist feminisms, we

ask: what is the *potencia* of feminisms today? How can feminist politics articulate and prefigure new forms of life amid planetary crises?

Format and Participation

The workshop will take place over two days (May 28 and 29, 2026) at the **University of Vienna**, hosted by the [Politics and Gender Research Group](#) (PI: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dorit Geva).

- Panels are **closed sessions**, designed for sustained discussion.
- The keynote lecture by **Eva von Redecker** will be a **public event** on May 29.
- We particularly welcome early-career scholars (doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers). We can provide some financial support to scholars traveling to/from Europe and its immediate neighbourhood, according to our budget.
- Participants will circulate short papers (c. 3,000 words) three weeks before the workshop.

How to Apply

Please send your proposal to our email address: liferafterdeath2026.ipw@univie.ac.at

Your submission should include:

1. **Abstract** (max. 250 words) describing your proposed paper
2. Indicate **which panel** you believe is a best fit for your proposed contribution
3. **Short bio** (max. 150 words) with institutional affiliation and contact details
4. Please provide a budget overview for your participation, including:
 - **Estimated travel costs**
 - **Available financial support**, if any — please indicate the amount.
 - **Requested financial support**, if applicable — specify the amount needed and provide details on travel costs, considering environmentally friendly options (e.g. train travel where possible).

Application Deadline: January 11, 2026

Notifications: End of January 2026

For queries, please contact: liferafterdeath2026.ipw@univie.ac.at

Practical Details Recap:

- Application deadline: January 11, 2026
- Workshop dates: 28–29 May 2026
- Venue: University of Vienna
- Format: Closed workshop + public keynote
- Public Keynote by Eva von Redecker
- Language: English