



Erasmus+

Hochschule Fulda
University of Applied Sciences



Call for Participation: Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Course
(Summer Term 2025)

Researching Precarization across Europe – Engaged Research & Vulnerability

We cordially invite you to participate in an international Master's course with students from Germany, Italy, Romania, and Spain. Together, we will examine the challenges of research on and with vulnerabilized communities (details below). Beyond online seminars between April and June, we will welcome you in Fulda – in the heart of Germany – for a week of workshops, lectures, and excursions in July. Your participation can be supported through Erasmus+ short-mobility stipends.

The resurgence of right-wing forces and the cost-of-living crisis across Europe have put groups ranging from migrants to feminist movements in a position of heightened material and affective insecurity. In the words of Pierre Bourdieu, once again, it appears “Precarity is everywhere today”. This sociological course scrutinizes processes and experiences of precarization – stemming from the flexibilization of work and the dismantling of welfare states – with a particular focus on the “multiple precarity” (Neuhauser and Birke 2023) faced by marginalized populations such as reproductive workers, refugees, labor migrants, and welfare beneficiaries.

The class inquires how precarity is produced and experiences of precarization are negotiated, subjectivized, and resisted across Europe. Key questions that we will address via comparison of our diverse contexts are: What novel forms of work, mobility and societal divisions produce precarity? How do insecure labor and legal status co-produce subjectivities? Do precarization processes merely result in societal division, or can they provide grounds for common struggle? In this year's edition, we want to focus on vulnerability as a dimension of precarization. This means not only a focus on research on and with vulnerable communities, but also practices that construct or overcome vulnerability, the formation of communities and solidarity by and with vulnerable communities. Last but not least, research ethics and reflexive methodology must be taken into account in this research. How can research be designed to enable reflexive and collaborative knowledge production in relation to vulnerability and precarity?

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Course Structure

The course consists of three parts. Following online lectures that introduce the project's thematic foci and methodological toolkit, students will work in small groups to carry out empirical mini-research assignments. These will be supervised by teaching staff via online consultations that provide methodological supervision (e.g., how to write field notes for participant observation/conduct qualitative interviews/collect discourse material). Finally, in July, an on-site week in Fulda will provide the opportunity to share and discuss research experiences, attend lectures and workshops, and take part in excursions to NGOs and labor unions in Germany, as well as an extracurricular program including a city trip to Frankfurt.



FAQs

When is the online component of the program happening?

The online component of the program starts on April 22, 2024. There will be four online seminar sessions between April and June 2024.

When is the on-site week in Fulda taking place?

The on-site week in Fulda will take place between July 14 and 18, 2025.

How can I fund my participation?

Erasmus+ short-mobility stipends are available for students. Get in touch with your Erasmus study advisor or international office.

Who can take part?

We are looking for MA-students enrolled in the social sciences or humanities. If places at your department remain available, advanced BA-students may take part.

How do I get more information?

Reach out to your Erasmus study advisor or international exchange office.

Will I get credit points for my participation?

Yes, you will receive 6 ECTS after course completion.