

Dr. Fathima Nizaruddin, Dr. Gustavo Robles, Prof. Dr. Wolfram Schaffar, Dr. Ülker Sözen

Chair of Development Politics, University of Passau

Platformization, Forms of Authoritarianism, and the Future of Democracy: Perspectives from the Global South

1 February - 3 February 2024

From 1 to 3 February 2024, the workshop ***“Platformization, Forms of Authoritarianism, and the Future of Democracy: Perspectives from the Global South”*** took place at the University of Passau and marked the start of a three-year research project funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation. The workshop - additionally funded by PICAIS (Passau International Centre for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies) - was organized by the Chair of Development Politics at the University of Passau and brought together scholars from various disciplines to examine how the growing influence of platform-based economies is changing the political landscape, particularly in the Global South, and potentially paving the way for authoritarian shifts that challenge the development of democracy.



Discussion on the plenary

Under the leadership of project researchers Dr. Fathima Nizaruddin, Dr. Gustavo Robles, Dr. Ülker Sözen and Prof. Dr. Wolfram Schaffar, three key topics were discussed: the critique of the political economy of platforms, perspectives from the Global South and the transformation of labor in platform economies. These topics were discussed in a series of roundtables in which scholars shared insights and perspectives on topics such as the impact of platformization on post-welfare cities and the importance of perspectives from the Global South for understanding these dynamics.



Final group photo

The workshop began with an opening speech by the President of the University of Passau, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bartosch, and provided the framework for three days of intensive discussions. Prof. Dr. Julieta Haidar (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina), Niels Van Doorn (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands), Simon Schaupp (University of Basel, Switzerland), BÖrries Nehe (Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, IRGAC, Germany), Ergin Bulut (Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK) and Bruce Mutsvairo (University of Utrecht, Netherlands) analysed various aspects of platformization and its effects in their

presentations. Particular attention was paid to methodological and ethical considerations, which were led by Prof. Dr. Fabian Schäfer (FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany) and Prof. Dr. Florian Töpfl (University of Passau, Germany).

Overall, the workshop provided ample space for interdisciplinary dialogue, networking and cooperation and laid the foundation for future research efforts aimed at comprehensively understanding the complex interplay of platformization, authoritarianism and democracy in the Global South and beyond.

[The detailed programme of the event is available at this link.](#)