

re:constitution

Call for Applications

re:constitution fosters exchange and analysis on democracy and the rule of law in Europe. The programme invites applications for up to 10 Fellowships for the upcoming academic year from October 2022 to July 2023.

Deadline: 10 May 2022, 12 noon (CEST)

Forum
Transregionale
Studien

 DEMOCRACY
REPORTING
INTERNATIONAL

Funded by

STIFTUNG
MERCATOR

2022/2023 re:constitution Fellowships

Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe

Call for Applications

re:constitution is a joint programme of Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien and Democracy Reporting International, funded by Stiftung Mercator.

Forum Transregionale Studien invites applications for up to 10 re:constitution Fellowships for the upcoming academic year from October 2022 to July 2023, subject to the approval of funds for the re:constitution programme from 2023.

Deadline: 10 May 2022, 12 noon CEST

Stipend: €2,500 per month for a 6-month mobility period during the 2022/2023 academic year

The rule of law is a prerequisite for the protection of democracy, fundamental rights and other common values in the European Union. It is essential for the functioning of the European Union, but has been recurrently breached in some member states for years. Therefore, the active protection and the ways and means of safeguarding and promoting the rule of law have become much-discussed political, legal and social issues.

The re:constitution Fellows pursue their own topical projects to address these developments and challenges to democracy and the rule of law in Europe, adding their voices to this European discourse. They become part of a European exchange network of scholars and practitioners, building bridges between diverse personal backgrounds, disciplines and countries.

For more information about current and previous Fellows and the programme itself, please visit reconstitution.eu. Follow us on Twitter [@reconstitutEU](https://twitter.com/reconstitutEU) for up-to-date programme news.

You are in the early stages of your career as

a **SCHOLAR** holding a PhD in

- law/legal studies and/or political sciences, social sciences, philosophy or other neighbouring disciplines (focusing on legal issues and/or the rule of law in Europe).

Your PhD project should have been completed no more than 10 years ago. Scholars who are still working on their dissertation may be eligible if their PhD is close to completion.

a **PRACTITIONER**

- government official (e.g. policy advisor),
- judge or practicing lawyer,
- NGO legal / policy expert working on rule of law and democracy in the EU,
- journalist reporting on the rule of law and/or democracy in the EU,
- general researcher/legal expert working on questions pertaining to the rule of law and/or democracy in the EU (this list is non-exhaustive).

For practitioners, comparable work experience is expected, but a PhD is not required.

Eligibility

Residents of the European Union, non-EU EEA countries, Switzerland and the United Kingdom are eligible to apply.

You are seeking

- more insight and exchange about various questions of democracy and the rule of law in Europe,
- new ways to work on your own topical project in a high-quality and flexible environment of debate and learning among scholars, legal practitioners and journalists from across Europe,
- to become part of a diverse group of Fellows to debate and learn from each other,
- to engage with a unique European network of experts,
- to pursue new personal and remote work opportunities at institutions in other EU countries,
- more approaches to engage in multi-faceted exchange about questions on democracy and the rule of law with experts from all over Europe, from different sectors and with different political backgrounds.

Benefits

INDEPENDENCE

We provide re:constitution Fellowships for one academic year, starting from 1 October 2022 to 31 July 2023, offering the freedom to pursue your own project on a topic of your choice.

Fellows work towards project outcomes during their Fellowship. These will be **re:constitution Working Papers**. Alternatively, other outputs are possible (e.g. policy papers, reports, podcasts, blog entries). **Please specify in your application!**

For applicants working outside academia, a Fellowship could be a form of sabbatical.

EXCHANGE and DEBATE

There will be three **Fellows' Exchange Meetings** over 2-3 days each in different EU countries or online, depending on travel restrictions.

- First meeting: September or October 2022
- Second meeting: February 2023
- Third meeting: June 2023.

Additionally, there are opportunities to attend and organise events with emphasis on specific aspects and topics of the programme.

MOBILITY via REMOTE and IN-PERSON COLLABORATION

The key element of the Fellowship is the **mobility period of six months**, which can be taken flexibly between October 2022 and July 2023. During their mobility phases, Fellows collaborate with two host institutions of their choice in academia and in practice in EU countries. The host institutions must be in a different location to your current EU country of residence. The mobility phase must be divided between a research institution and an institution working in a practical context.

Due to the pandemic, remote/virtual collaboration with host institutions can replace in-person work placements for the foreseeable future.

A monthly stipend of €2,500 is provided for 6 months during this mobility phase. The timing of payments corresponds with the two work placements.

Fellows are given access to a European network of scholars and practitioners who are interested in and working on questions on the current state of democracy and the rule of law in Europe.

SUPPORT

Exchange between the Fellows is supported by a secure digital working space provided by Forum Trans-regionale Studien.

COMMITMENT

Fellows are expected to publish their project outcome in a suitable format.

Fellows ensure their participation in regular Fellow Talks and the three Fellows' Exchange Meetings.

We are monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic closely. In the interest of the health and safety of our Fellows and to comply with government regulations, we have introduced more flexibility into the programme by offering a combination of digital, hybrid and in-person exchange formats.

How to Apply

Please submit your application via our secure online application platform by **10 May 2022, 12 noon CEST**: <https://application.trafo-berlin.de/>

Applications by e-mail will not be considered!

As part of your application, you will be asked to prepare and upload the following:

- Curriculum vitae including publications (2-3 pages),
- Project outline (2-3 pages),
- Short abstract of your project (max. 300 words),
- Two references (university faculty members or practitioners in a field relevant to the applicant's project) who can serve as referees (no letters of recommendation required),
- Potential host institutions (your preferred research and practice institutions in EU countries to spend part of your mobility period, ideally including an indication of preferred dates and/or existing personal contacts).

The working language of re:constitution is English.

The diversity of our society should also be reflected in the Fellowships. We therefore welcome applicants of all cultural and social backgrounds, ages, religions, world views, disabilities or sexual identities.

The applications will be evaluated by an evaluation committee of scholars and practitioners working in the fields of democracy and the rule of law. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation process by early July.

If you have any questions, please refer to the FAQ on our website or contact the programme coordination team: reconstitution@trafo-berlin.de

re:constitution Partner Institutions

The Forum Transregionale Studien is a platform for the international cooperation between scholars of different expertise and perspectives on global issues. The Forum provides scope for exchange on questions of science policy, epistemology and ethics, and develops infrastructures and formats that allow transregional research ideas and projects to be tested, implemented and communicated. The Forum is constituted by its members and the diversity of their research expertise and networks. It is committed to strengthening regional studies and to the principle of non-hierarchical research. It appoints scholars from around the world as fellows and engages in joint research programs and initiatives with partners from universities and research institutions in and outside Berlin. The Forum is funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health, Long-Term Care and Gender Equality.

forum-transregionale-studien.de

trafo.hypotheses.org

Democracy Reporting International (DRI) is a non-partisan, independent, not-for-profit organisation registered in Berlin, Germany. DRI supports and engages people who are working to build, preserve and defend democratic and accountable institutions. DRI believes that institutions play a critical role. People make change, but institutions preserve it. In a polarised world, DRI helps local actors to protect and expand the democratic space that we all share, independent of political opinions, religious beliefs or personal preferences. DRI's Berlin team works with country offices to implement projects in different countries (Tunisia, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Ukraine) and undertake policy-oriented research. Global projects and smaller country projects are also implemented directly from headquarters. Furthermore, DRI works thematically on democratic discourse, including social media & democracy, as well as rule of law in Europe.

democracy-reporting.org

Stiftung Mercator is a private, independent foundation with extensive academic expertise and practical project experience. With its work, it strives for a society characterised by openness to the world, solidarity and equal opportunities. To achieve these goals, it promotes and develops projects that strengthen democracy and the rule of law in Europe, foster integration and increase the educational success of disadvantaged children and young people, address the impact of digitalisation on democracy and society, and advance climate protection. Stiftung Mercator is active in Germany, Europe and worldwide. It has a particularly close relationship with the Ruhr region, the home of the founding family and location of its headquarters.

stiftung-mercator.de