

Information for English-speaking participants at EUV 2014

The conference language for the European University for Volunteering is German. Either an English manuscript or simultaneous interpreting will be available for more than half the lectures.

Wed 10.9.14 9:30-11:00	“Is everyone really welcome?” Exclusion processes in civic involvement Lecture in German with simultaneous interpreting into English Prof. Chantal Munsch , the University of Siegen
Wed 10.9.14 9:30-11:00	“I cooperate, so I’m.....human!” Lecture in German with an English manuscript Prof. Alexander Trost , Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus
Wed 10.9.14 11:30-13:00	Social participation and democracy – unused opportunities Lecture in German with simultaneous interpreting into English Prof. Roland Roth , Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences
Thu 11.9.14 9:30-11:00	Can human dignity be divided? A look at humiliation and responsibility Lecture in German with simultaneous interpreting into English Prof. Joachim Söder , Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus
Thu 11.9.14 11:30-13:00	Involvement in a repressive environment – the role of the civil society in Turkey Lecture in English with simultaneous interpreting into German N.N., Istanbul

The seminars and workshops will also be held in German. We will try to organise an interpreter for you if you’re interested in attending one of these events.

Registration:

If you would like to attend the European University for Volunteering, please register electronically with the Diocesan Caritas Association for the Archdiocese of Cologne using the following link: www.efu2014.de/index.php

Attendance costs (excluding accommodation)

The **total cost** for attending the European University for Volunteering from 9th to 12th September 2014 is **€150.00**. This includes

- The opening ceremony on 9.9.2014
- Your selected lectures and seminars
- Participation in the leisure activities on 10.9.2014 and 11.9.2014
- The closing event in Aachen on 12.9.2014
- Three midday meals and three evening meals, plus tea and coffee during in the breaks
- Two Rolduc-Aachen transfers on 11.9.2014 and 12.9.2014

Students (people enrolled at a university) pay a reduced fee of €35.00. (Student ID cards must be presented when registering here.)

Day guests

pay €85.00 per day (incl. meals and drinks)

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Accommodation (normal rate)

There are plenty of rooms available at the conference hotel.

- Single rooms with a bathroom and breakfast:
€61.40 per night
- Double rooms with a bathroom and breakfast:
€43.90 per person per night

Registration (normal rate)

You can register online directly using a credit card by following this link:

<https://www.homepage.myfidelio.net/Rolduc/Inquiry.aspx> Please enter the promotion code **EFU1** on the form.

You can also register by phone or by e-mail. To do this, please call 0031 45 5466888 or send an e-mail to info@rolduc.com.

For students

We're offering accommodation at a reduced rate for students.

(Student ID cards must be presented when registering here.)

- Double rooms with access to washbasins and toilets in the corridor and breakfast:
€17.00 per person per night
- Single rooms with access to washbasins and toilets in the corridor and breakfast:
€26.50 per night

Registration (student rate)

You can register online directly using a credit card by following this link:

<https://www.homepage.myfidelio.net/Rolduc/Inquiry.aspx> Please enter the promotion code **EFU2** on the form.

You can also register by phone or by e-mail. To do this, please call 0031 45 5466888 or send an e-mail to info@rolduc.com.

European University for Volunteering 2014 in Aachen and Rolduc

Lectures on Wednesday, 10th September 2014

First block 9:30 to 11:00

Second block 11:30 to 13:00

“Is everyone really welcome?” Exclusion processes in civic involvement
(9:30 to 11:00)

Lecture in German with simultaneous interpreting into English

Prof. Chantal Munsch of the University of Siegen

The call for citizen involvement is getting louder all the time, but we have to realise that even in this area certain groups of society are being excluded. Civil societies also have a structure in which both economic and political power balances are reflected. Civil societies are not neutral zones in which everyone playfully grapples for power and opportunities to have an effect with equal chances. The increase in challenging opportunities to participate in particular causes political inequality to grow. Participation is naturally not a “weapon of the weak”, but a “weapon of the strong”. Sections of the population that have better education and stronger resources also have additional privileges if this is not counteracted. It is clear that we can't just rely on a political social inclusion process that is based on voting. Without civil society mobilisation and solidarity, political changes towards social inclusion are very unlikely – but how are maximum participation and self-organisation that is as extensive as possible brought about successfully? What do we have to do to break down institutional barriers and societal hindrances, to strengthen the perspective of the people concerned and to open up socio-spatial perspectives? How can a culture of welcome and recognition be shaped so that it is inviting to everyone?

“I cooperate, so I'm.....human!” (9:30 to 11:00)

Prof. Alexander Trost, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus
Lecture in German with an English manuscript

Humans are born with a natural ability to cooperate, and it is an absolutely essential skill when it comes to civic involvement. Despite this, we often find it difficult to cooperate “well” with other people, groups and institutions. Why is this and what needs to be done?

The neurobiological and attachment theory principles of cooperation, which is closely linked to empathy, will be introduced to start with. Empathy is the ability and willingness to adopt another perspective in the place of a purely egocentric

perspective. The results of comparative behaviour research come into play here, as do systemic-constructivist aspects of being human.

In his salutogenesis research, Aaron Antonovsky showed that sustained commitment to others is impossible without certain ways of thinking that mainly become instilled in us early childhood. Why do people decide to support something, fight against something or support something in spite of arguments telling them not to? Which motivational structures promote or hinder this commitment? And how can we ensure as many people as possible develop attitudes that will encourage them to cooperate and get involved?

Social participation and democracy – unused opportunities (11:30 to 13:00)

Lecture in German with simultaneous interpreting into English

Prof. Roland Roth, Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences

In recent times, an erosion of the societal principles of democracy has been mourned under the term “post-democracy” (Colin Crouch). At the same time, we are seeing a reinvention of democracy that goes beyond its representative forms. There are good reasons to support a democratic welfare society that strengthens the specific importance of a civil society and its mobilisation by offering scope for greater self-determination and self-development opportunities to individuals and voluntary unions between individuals. The “reinvention of the citizen” in terms of civic involvement in citizens’ initiatives, social movements, self-help groups and social initiatives, which is promised every now and then, is an essential requirement here. Entities such as these are particularly important when it comes to going against the pincer movement of state domination and marketisation, and highlighting the “social” in the social services sector, i.e. the wilful and self-determined shaping of lifestyles. This process poses the challenge of how the shaping demands in civic involvement, which are a democratic breeding ground for sophisticated, deliberative and direct forms of democracy, can be expanded for the mobilisation of neglected interests as well.

Civic involvement in a migration society – a dialogic perspective (11:30 to 13:00)

Lecture in German

Prof. Jesus Hernández Aristu, University of Pamplona

Every democratic society is dependent on the plurality of its people. The different lifestyles, beliefs, and political convictions and ideologies offer effective potential despite their ambivalence. The varying definitions of freedom among individuals have an active impact on social organisations or institutions they have been made part of to or chosen to belong to. The plurality of life is described by the key terms “patchwork identity” and “cloakroom identity”. This lecture will focus on all these factors, which affect people’s involvement in the same way regardless of whether or not they have a migration background. Is differentiating between immigrants and natives still relevant when looking at civic involvement? Which effects of the migration background should be taken into consideration in a migration society? What do these mean for the potential and success of civic involvement in a plural society? These are just some of the issues that will be examined in this lecture.

Lectures on Thursday, 11th September 2014

First block 9:30 to 11:00

Second block 11:30 to 13:00

Can human dignity be divided? A look at humiliation and responsibility (9:30 to 11:00)

Lecture in German with simultaneous interpreting into English

Prof. Joachim Söder, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus

Although it's hardly been noticed by the general public, a fundamental change has taken place in the legal view of human dignity in the last ten years: Seen as a basic legal standard that the state and even the constitution were in subjection to for fifty years, the new basic law opinion now places it in the area of positive – i.e. changeable – law. According to M. Herdegen, this has left the concrete protection of dignity “completely open to differentiation”, and the claim to human dignity therefore no longer needs to be honoured. The change is demonstrated clearly by a social policy that differentiates between services according to political or economic feasibility and that uses honorary involvement to plaster over the wounds caused by socio-economic processes which deliver fresh blows to people every day. According to Avishai Margalit, a society whose institutions humiliate people by not protecting their dignity regardless of the cost is not decent at all and is socially unjust. Resisting the cynicism of power is one of the democratic responsibilities of civic involvement.

Honorary posts and organisation – the gain of full-time employees as the crucial issue when it comes to voluntary work (9:30 to 11:00)

Prof. Paul-Stefan Roß, Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University, Stuttgart

Institutions and organisations embark on a far-reaching transformation process when supporting the honorary post and the evaluation of voluntary involvement in their areas of activity. Images and functions of the honorary post that have been passed on over the years are losing their relevance, and the professionalisation of paid work is increasing all the time. The question regarding how much the honorary post is worth and new forms of participation is an identity question that is also a question for the future for social organisations. Are volunteers actually wanted? Are their opportunities regarding recipients, employees and managers even seen and acknowledged professionally? Institutions and organisations that start to reintegrate voluntary work experience turbulence to begin with, but then enhance their impact and image in the long term. It is a strenuous process that has to integrate motives that will inspire people as new “stakeholders” to get involved voluntarily and also has to take the reservations of paid employees into consideration. The coordination of

honorary posts in organisations plays a key strategic role as an institutional process. The gain and learning process experienced by the full-time employees is the crucial issue when it comes to voluntary work.

Involvement in a repressive environment – the role of the civil society in Turkey
(11:30 to 13:00)

Lecture in English with simultaneous interpreting into German

N.N., Istanbul

Governmental and non-governmental repressions always affect civil societies in two different directions. In addition to the depoliticisation and the adaptation of large sections of the population targeted and caused by the repression, there is always civil society resistance in nearly every section of the population as well. Repression also always produces networking and political action organisations. In the case of self-organised responsibility, an alternative democratic and social utopia is the aim and triggers various types of action. On one hand Turkey has a democratic tradition and a constitutional history, but it has also seen some striking break-ups and regressions to totalitarian patterns of governmental repression. This lecture will provide an insight into the current civil society processes and civic resistance patterns and also the types of action that occur during these.

Civic involvement as a contribution to the de-escalation or escalation of violence dynamics – food for thought from the perspective of development cooperation (11:30 to 13:00)

Lecture in German with an English manuscript

Prof. Norbert Frieters-Rermann, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus

Violent conflicts, crises and wars are responsible for immense human suffering in many parts of the world. And in addition to all the terror and war in fragile countries, there are societies all over the world, including in Europe, that are affected by violence dynamics, escalating conflicts and massive minority exclusion tendencies. This is why civic involvement too is facing the challenge of dealing with these conflict and violence dynamics globally and recognising the reciprocal effects between them and independent actions.

We're not saying that every instance of civic involvement has to directly contribute to the de-escalation and peaceful transformation of conflicts, but civic involvement shouldn't indirectly or accidentally contribute to the escalation of violence or the exclusion of minorities either. This is exactly what can happen, however, if existing divides are ignored or trivialised.

With this in mind, it makes sense to use experience gained in the area of conflict-sensitive international development cooperation, because strategies have been being developed for several years in this field to evaluate how social interventions and civic involvement can deal with current violence and conflict dynamics sensitively.

Civic involvement actors all over the world can benefit from this experience.

Seminars and Workshops on the Afternoon of Wednesday 10.9.2014

(14:30 -18:00)

International volunteer services – involvement worldwide

There is constant interest in involvement from a certain group of young people in worldwide networks. But what motives, targets and personal interests inspire this group of citizens to invest their time and energy in other people in other countries? Volunteer services are designed as learning services with the aim being international development and peace work – but even here there are exclusions and access is restricted. This seminar will examine how these volunteer services are designed and critically reflect on who the beneficiaries of this form of involvement are. Is the perspective selected really involvement and international partnerships at eye level, or is it the continuation of Eurocentric restriction of an individual learning programme for children of privileged classes, which is controlled and promoted by the state? Is it a cultural one-way street or is there give and take in the agreeing of common goals? The seminar will also give participants and guests from reverse projects the opportunity to speak and to share about their learning experiences and the effects they've seen of volunteer services, so that these can be discussed.

Speaker(s): **Prof. Josef Freise**, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Cologne campus

Presenter(s): **Jenny Vest**, Freiwillige Soziale Dienste (Voluntary Social Services), Aachen, N.N. from practical examples of "Weltwärts" and "reverse" projects

Opportunities and the shaping of child and youth involvement

Children and young people should get involved voluntarily more often according to a popular political slogan. This workshop will focus on the promotion of successful involvement among the next generation. Child and youth involvement has to play a key role here. Many approaches still follow a concept based on recruiting for specified targets for groups and roles in associations and initiatives. These established strategies for including children and young people no longer work, because they don't take the needs of the target group seriously and often revolve around the practice of instrumentality. The workshop will incorporate the experiences of participants and practical examples shared by guests. Essentially, it will look at how a stance and practice based on participation and active involvement can become normal. The great willingness of children and young people to take on social responsibility means it is only right and necessary to look at exactly what sort of involvement from them is desired and how it can be promoted continuously in the long term.

Speaker(s): **Prof. Hans Hobelsberger**, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Paderborn campus, practical examples: Young Caritas Luxembourg, N.N.

Presenter(s): **Rebecca Ebel and Alexandra Sandmann**, both from the Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus

Climate change between generations? – How intergenerational learning and civic involvement can be combined

In many civic involvement organisations and initiatives, different generations and age groups are brought together. The demographic change and move away from traditional family forms are having various effects on relationships between generations and the learning culture between generations, however. Everyday and family intergenerational meeting, dialogue and learning processes are becoming less and less common. These processes are essential though if a sustainable society that is worth living in is to be created, and they are also vital to global sustainable development. Development is only sustainable if the needs of current generations are satisfied without the risk of future generations no longer being able to satisfy their own needs being taken.

With this in mind, this workshop will focus on current theories, concepts and practical experience of an intergenerational education for sustainable development. Special attention will be given to the following questions:

How can people in different generations enter into a learning process and break down possible tension and prejudices between generations by doing so?

How can education work promote solidarity between generations and promote sustainable shaping of society that is fair to all generations?

How can those taking part in intergenerational learning processes and forms of involvement be sensitised to participative joint learning in which every generation is treated the same?

Speaker(s): **Prof. Norbert Frieters-Reermann**, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus; **Prof. Andreas Wittrahm**, Diocesan Caritas Association of Aachen and Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Cologne campus, and guests

Presenter(s): **Mischa Kraus and Claudia Wassen**, both from the Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus

Monetisation of the honorary post? – When money plays a role in involvement

Money is playing an increasing role in nearly all voluntary involvement fields. The German Survey on Volunteering of 2009 showed an increase of 5% compared to 1999. 23% of volunteers received some sort of payment for their “honorary post” in 2009, proving that this is becoming more and more common. So does this mean the end to unpaid volunteering is in sight? This seminar will harmonise and bring competing ideas together for participants in a conceptual manner and give them an insight into the current trend towards monetisation. Political framework conditions that target widespread civic involvement in local communities seem to encourage monetisation. The goals here will be discussed. Another objective of the seminar will be to discuss political conclusions concerning involvement with participants and to have them specify criteria for their personal fields of involvement. Based on the experiences and questions of the workshop’s participants, key terms such as culture of recognition, transparency and information will be talked about. The final main aspect covered in this seminar will be the question regarding to what extent and how

payment or “monetary recognition” affects the interpersonal dimension between the volunteer and the “client” in services.

Speaker(s): **Prof. Gisela Jakob**, Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences for Social Services; **Karen Sommer-Loeffen**, Diakonie Rheinland (Protestant church social welfare organisation), Düsseldorf

Presenter(s): **Margret Rutte**, Diocesan Caritas Association of Aachen

Commitment as a prerequisite for cooperation

Every instance of interpersonal cooperation and of people taking responsibility for each other is based on the ability to commit to relationships. This seminar will reveal the principles of the human ability to commit and will point out the possible effects of both hindering and helpful factors that can occur as a result of the ability to commit and that continue to influence social interaction. This will be connected with a look at the consequences for social involvement and honorary posts, and key terms ranging from egocentricity, autism, narcissism and altruism to self-harming involvement will be critically discussed here. Social involvement that starts in childhood or youth is closely related to commitment experiences and confirmatory recognition. With this in mind, important experiences and practical examples from child and youth welfare will be included in the seminar. No reflection on volunteering and honorary posts and in particular on the voluntary work of people in organisations, services or initiatives can be successful without taking the effective factors of commitment into consideration. Really it's about understanding people on a deep level.

Speaker(s): **Prof. Alexander Trost**, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus

Presenter(s): **Theresia Heimes**, Caritas Aachen, / practical examples from youth welfare, N.N.; **Dr Klaus Esser**, Waldniel Children's Village (to be confirmed)

Family godparenthoods – voluntary involvement for children and families (may include a study trip)

In voluntary involvement, the special involvement form of godparenthood is becoming more and more popular both among volunteers and the beneficiaries themselves. The godparenthood model works primarily via the “medium” of establishing personal contact and a reliable relationship. In this workshop, godparents will explain and discuss this form of involvement using the concept of family godparenthood. Family godparents offer children in troubled families a resource of undivided attention and appreciation, and the mother and father a little time out and/or the advice of someone experienced that they can talk to. Assisted families are supported in a way that allows them to define what they need themselves. The specifics of the service will be presented and discussed by representatives who participate in it. The workshop will also reflect on the overall framework of the service. It is mainly about the provision of voluntary help in troubled situations that are in a societal context in which the political question of who is responsible for families is raised. The question of whether the

godparenthood model is misused as a cheap form of compensation for a lack of basic social care will also be examined.

Speaker(s): **Eva Wagner**, SKM Aachen (Catholic Association for Social Services in Aachen) and N.N.

Presenter(s): **Gaby Wienen**, Diocesan Caritas Association of Aachen

Gentrification – civil society resistance to the poor being driven out of towns (English)

As part of the process of urbanisation, which has accelerated around the world since the start of the 21st century, the phenomenon known as gentrification has become more and more noticeable. Towns are subjected to an insidious or even a controlled and concerted process in which poor and disadvantaged groups of residents are driven out of streets, districts and whole town centres. It is brought about by a combination of local town planning, the interests of the wealthy, large politically controlled projects (the Olympics and the World Cup are key terms here) and market pressure from the property sector. Civil society resistance is stirred up against this “enhancement of areas” and the driving out processes, which is made evident in various forms of action such as protests, citizen involvement and constructive cooperation. This seminar will present and discuss the social problem of gentrification, its forms of exclusion and the civil society resistance and forms of action that it is faced with. Voluntary involvement, civil society responsibility and the real effects of democracy all interlock with each other here. Examples from the Mediterranean region and Germany will be presented in the seminar.

Speaker(s): N.N., Istanbul; **Christophoros Pavlakis**, Greece

Presenter(s): **Prof. Joachim Söder**, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus

Between worlds – the civil society contribution of international relief organisations (includes a study trip to Misereor’s premises in Aachen)

International relief organisations make a major contribution to different people living peacefully alongside each other and to the construction of helpful structures in today’s globalised world. By doing so, they promote communication and the exchange of information between cultures. As NGOs, relief organisations are independent from states, but always have the tension created by state interests and the interests of donors to take into consideration. Relief organisations face the challenge of aligning their work with the principles of an open plural civil society. This workshop will focus on the “construction of a civil society” and on the transfer of knowledge. The extent to which the principles of participation and voluntary involvement can be effective will be discussed, as will whether or not they are constitutive of aid approaches. Are relief organisations and their projects a driving force behind civic self-organisation, and are they therefore contributing to worldwide democratisation? Is the contribution of relief organisations a one-way street? What can countries in the north learn from the forms of involvement used in projects, and how does international knowledge of voluntary involvement gained from practical

experience flow back? Relief organisation workers and volunteers will be available to talk to at this workshop.

Speaker(s): **Dr Karl Weber**, Misereor Aachen and guests from practical examples

Presenter(s): **Prof. Marianne Genenger-Stricker**, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus

Seminars and Workshops on the Afternoon of Thursday 11.9.2014

14:30 – 18:00

Charisma and spiritual dimensions in voluntary involvement

Voluntary involvement is based on inner motives and usually on very personal principles. These can be seen as a personal charisma and interpreted spiritually. The inner motives have an outward effect in the chosen forms of action, which in turn evoke approval, disassociation, a show of solidarity or even solidary coactive actions from other people.

This workshop will introduce and discuss three ways of understanding this. To start with, the theological and sociological principles of honorary posts and involvement will be looked at (D. Bethge), and one of the things discussed here will be whether or not there is a Christian “civic duty” to get involved. In the second part (the Reverend H. Russmann and B. Hillermann), the motives of volunteers with honorary posts at hospices will be examined. Along with the highest demands, volunteers are subjected to a deep encounter with another and with themselves in extreme experiences. This raises the question about the spirituality of the involvement without it necessarily having to be answered from a Christian or religious point of view. Secular spirituality is a reality alongside religious roots and interpretations. In the third part of the workshop (Dr E. Baldas), another solidary form of action in voluntary involvement that combines spirituality and participation will be presented. Here, the topic will be a welfare and social spirituality of sharing among people who get involved and, following St Martin of Tours’ (4th cent.) main idea, seek out “places of sharing” and make them accessible again in the name of inclusion.

Speaker(s): **Daniela Bethge** (researcher at the University of Erfurt), **the Reverend Hans Russmann** (Caritas and hospice pastor, Krefeld), **Beatrix Hillermann** (Home Care Aachen); **Dr Eugen Baldas** (German Caritas Association Freiburg and member of the European University for Volunteering’s Board of Directors, Basel)

Presenter(s): NN

Migrant self-organisations (MSOs) – ways out of the niche (English)

Civil society involvement among migrants has increased in recent years both in general and in self-organisations, and has attracted the attention of academics and the public alike. Opinions on the subject vary widely, however. On one hand migrant associations are seen as institutions of ethnic colonies and on the other hand as public organisations in terms of participative democracy and self-help. This means that their societal function can be segregating, when close ties to the ethnic community can lead to mobility traps and to bad social positioning as a result of these. However, migrant self-organisations can make an important contribution to societal inclusion.

This workshop offers an insight into the landscape of immigrant self-organisations and looks at the participation opportunities local associations can use to build bridges between different societal groups and avoid exclusion and (self-)separation. Challenges being posed to future cooperation-based policies and practices and to shaping processes that encompass society as a whole will be discussed.

Speaker(s): **Prof. Sabine Jungk** (Catholic University of Applied Social Sciences Berlin) and representatives from MSOs

Presenter(s): **Markus Reissen**, Catholic Student Community, Aachen

How inclusive are social institutions? – The implementation of honorary work at institutions

Complete accessibility has become an ethical standard in the formation of inclusive societies and a practical test criterion for institutions. This workshop will focus on inclusion in the field of voluntary work. To start with, a study by Sibylle Studer (Basel) will be used as the basis for this. It will become clear that the inclusion of disadvantaged people in honorary work has still yet to really get off the ground in many places and that many conditions that would make it possible have to be specified so that it can be realised. In the second part (P.-S. Roß), the barriers that normally hinder honorary work at institutions will be pointed out and discussed. The first aim of the workshop is to recognise and identify the factors that make it difficult or possible to implement voluntary work at institutions. The workshop will also cover how a change at institutions can be achieved, so that honorary posts are given a proper place at organisations and their specific effect is allowed to be seen. Accessibility for honorary posts begins with the attitude of paid employees, who have to be gained as agents for honorary posts. Practical criteria for constructive working relationships between full-time paid workers and honorary workers should be worked out with all the parties involved present and having a say.

Speaker(s): **Dr Sibylle Studer**, Center for Philanthropy Studies, Basel, Switzerland; **Prof. Paul-Stefan Roß**, Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University, Stuttgart

Presenter(s): **Theo Damm**, Diocesan Caritas Association of Münster

Volunteer centres – the tension of subsidiarity and instrumentality

Volunteer centres or volunteer agencies now form the interface between individuals ready to get involved and non-profit organisations in nearly every community (throughout Europe in some cases). As the connecting link, they provide information, perform clarification processes and engage in direct communication for volunteers. This workshop will look at how volunteer centres can be described with regard to their individual (civil society and functional) tasks and at how they can be further developed. It will start with a comparative study involving eight countries (C. van den Bos) that identifies six basic characteristics of volunteer centres. As a result, it will become clear that it is not the simple function as a mediator that distinguishes the agents, but their civil society and democratic function. This is often seen differently when looked at from a political perspective. The second part of the workshop will be about the practical work of the agents and what they base their core areas of expertise on. Aachen Volunteer Centre will be used as an example here (K. Michels). The third part will be a presentation on service learning projects, with the University of Cologne (S. Wirtherle) used as an example. Here, students are able to combine personal involvement with learning experiences thanks to mediation in voluntary work task fields. The fundamental issue of the risk of agencies and their negotiation work being used as instruments will also be discussed in this workshop.

Speaker(s): **Dr Cees van den Bos**, University of Rotterdam; **Kathrin Michels**, Aachen Volunteer Centre, Caritas; NN. Professional Center, University of Cologne (to be confirmed)

Presenter(s): **Margret Rutte**, Diocesan Caritas Association of Aachen

“Right-wing civil society – destructive volunteering in the right-wing scene

Honorary involvement is in no way always harmless and positive for the public welfare. In the shadow of the civil society, there are groups who, with great commitment, release destructive forces, recruit for inhuman goals and brainwash other people. These groups are highly motivated and, influenced by their image of themselves as citizens, are out to achieve a better society. They see themselves as agents for positive developments. What are the consequences of honorary involvement that occurs under anti-democratic, racist and totalitarian circumstances, and that invites others to actively take part as well? Which civil society opposing forces are mobilised by this sort of honorary involvement?

This seminar offers an insight into the world of right-wing extremism and will reveal the inner motives behind destructive involvement. As part of this, how civil society criteria such as participation, identification and willingness can be reflected on and when they need to be combated in their negative forms will be discussed with participants. The civil society involvement used against right-wing extremism will be presented in the seminar and reflected on as a separate political form of involvement.

Speaker(s): **Prof. Martin Spetsmann-Kunkel**, Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus, **Silke Peters** (Integration Centre of the District of Aachen),

Presenter(s)/coordinator(s): **Jannik Dohmen-Heinrichs and Sophia Marquardt**, both from the Catholic University of Applied Sciences NRW, Aachen campus

Cyber volunteering – a new form of citizen participation (English)

For many social and non-profit organisations in Germany, online and cyber volunteering is a route that hasn't been used very much in social involvement. Online counselling is the most established form of involvement, but international developments show that, with people being able to access the Internet individually, completely new forms of participation, of opinion and coalition formation, and of direct support for people and projects are possible in the area of involvement too. Forums have long been created for involvement on the Internet. These are shaped by those actually affected by the issue(s) being discussed and work towards direct changes to lives such as those of people with disabilities. The possibilities offered by this involvement will be described in this workshop, with different forms of participation being suggested to suit different types of organisation. Cyber volunteering will be reflected on as a practical and independent form of involvement. In the case of inflexible and established organisations, the low participation threshold and the high degree of dynamism and self-organisation often lead to adjustment problems or resistance. This will be discussed as well.

Speaker(s): **Dr Viola Krebs** (University of Geneva), N.N. UNV online volunteers (Bonn, to be confirmed)

Presenter(s): **Sara Scholl**, Diocesan Caritas Association of Essen

Citizens' initiatives in the district – a district comes to life (includes a study trip to Aachen)

Living conditions in disadvantaged districts can be improved if active citizen involvement processes are developed. The potential for a life more worth living lies within the residents themselves if believe a perspective of change is realistic and see “profit” for themselves and their children. The only way to achieve this is through voluntary involvement that asks district questions politically and enables the people to network socially with each other. This workshop will focus on this form of social and political involvement, and practical examples of district work will be used to demonstrate how districts can be brought to life. Just as voluntary involvement can motivate a community to carry out district work, positive district work in a community can also lead to voluntary involvement or be combined to benefit the residents. During the workshop there will be a study trip to the district of Preuswald in Aachen and an opportunity to meet representatives from the Preuswald Citizens' Initiative.

Speaker(s): **Dr Mark Brülls** (Diocesan Caritas Association of Aachen), N. N. citizens involved in the Preuswald Citizens' Initiative.

Presenter(s): **Resi Conrads-Mathar** (Diocesan Caritas Association of Aachen)

Community organising and civic involvement

This workshop will focus on various approaches to citizen participation and networking in the social arena. Three somewhat different approaches with different priorities will be presented and discussed.

The first approach revolves around local support for people in need in social networks and incorporates the use of lots of volunteers. These networks have largely been created as a response to the changes in the Dutch social welfare system. SIZ Twente in the Netherlands offers professional support, so that volunteers can both do their work well and respond in a manner that's politically intelligent.

A similar second approach is demonstrated by the “carer network” for the Selfkant region. This is a new form of neighbourhood help that is organised locally for three municipalities close to each other. Its purpose is to enable residents to carry out honorary tasks for each other and help each other.

A third approach, which is known as community organising, refers to the setting up and development of citizen platforms. One citizen platform doesn't deal with all social grievances, but is limited to the issues that are of the greatest concern to its member groups. Processes used to decide which issues should be focused on give members the opportunity to express their personal worries and needs. After a period of consultation and research, the members decide together which matters should be pursued and (politically) dealt with.

Speaker(s): **Marcel Garritsen** (Stichting informele zorg, Hengelo, NL), **Bärbel Windelen** Caritas Heinsberg (Carer network for Gangelt, Selfkant and Waldfeucht), **Team Leo Penta**, Berlin (to be confirmed)

Presenter(s): **Dr Thomas Möltgen** (Diocesan Caritas Association of Cologne)