Panel on antidemocratic and antimodern social movements

We place this call in the framework of the **DiscourseNet Congress 2027 "Discursive Imaginaries of Change: Heterotopias, PowerKnowledge, and the 'Great Transformation'"** that will take place from 19–21 July 2027 at the Philipps-University Marburg, Germany. (For details please check the general call for the DiscourseNet Congress 2027: https://discourseanalysis.net/sites/default/files/2026-06/DNC2027_Call-final.pdf)

We agree with the organisers of the general conference that "transformation is [not] a settled concept, nor that it always points in progressive directions" and that antidemocratic and/or antimodern social movements "offer their own powerful imaginaries of transformation".

As organisers of the suggested panel on antidemocratic and/or antimodern social movements, we argue that societal transformation and change cannot solely be understood in terms of progress- and future-oriented or as pro-democratic processes. Progressive social movements call counter-movements and their neo-traditional future imaginaries to the stage of mobilisation.

With this panel, we will pay attention to those antidemocratic counter-movements, their supposed criticism and the discursive contexts and ideological settings in which they develop. Among others, we would like to investigate some of the current major discourses that are also included in the context of the conference in regard to three major antidemocratic movements or bridging ideologies for those movements: antifeminism, antisemitism, and the far-right.

We welcome contributions that can but not have to address the following topics:

- Normalization of far-right discursive positions; democratic backsliding and (narratives of) political polarization; the discourse on a "Kulturkampf";
- powerful narratives of the backlash, and the resurgence of antifeminist discourses and images;
- relationship of antisemitism and anti-Israelism; conspiracy myths and current forms of antisemitism; academic activism and their relationship to Israel and "Zionism";
- authoritarian tendencies in the fight against antidemocratic developments;
- etc.

Please send your abstracts to DNC-antidemocratic@uni-marburg.de

We look forward to your contributions!

The organisers: Rebekka Blum, Christina Brüning, Anja Schmidt-Kleinert and Sarah Wieners (Philipps-University Marburg, Germany)

Submission Guidelines

● Abstracts should be **250 words** (excluding title and references)
● Include the **title** of your paper, your **name**, **affiliation**, and **email address** in a separate **title page** (.doc or .docx format).
● Use **APA 7th** edition style for references.
● Presentations are expected to be in **English**. Multilingual panels may be considered if sufficient interest arises.

Important dates

● Abstract submission starts **15 June 2026**
● deadline: **16 October 2026**, Notification of acceptance: **15 December 2026**
● Registration deadline: **31 March 2027 (early bird fee) & 15 June 2027 (regular fee)**