

# 30 hours

## #resistingcurrentbarbarisms

'Resisting Current Barbarisms', a seminar and lecture series at GTAS, explores current crises, declining trust in democracy, deep political divisions, but also multiple forms of resistance to today's 'barbaric' political and economic forces (Stengers, 2015), which we see as not only necessary but imperative. Through open debates, which draw on feminist theories, climate justice and hacker movements and radical activism, we examine relationships of power, identity, and the built environment to envision other futures and strategies for collective organisation and resistance.

We do so, as we do not want to sit back and watch the rise of far-right ideologies, wars destabilising regions, the spread of hoaxes and fake news, while oligarchs manipulate social media platforms—promoting extreme dichotomies and eroding the very possibility of dialectical discussions, the cornerstone of democratic societies.

How did we get here? How do we confront these challenges?

Instead of waiting for catastrophe, we want to actively shape new futures by resisting barbarisms in everyday life, a concept that, as Isabelle Stengers argues, demands both opposition and the simultaneous imagination of other ways of living.

Architecture and spatial practice, as both a manifestation of societal values and a tool of power, can either reinforce dominant ideologies or serve as a form of resistance. However, we do not propose to simply oppose and resist destructive dominant systems but to compose new alliances, practices and forms of being together.

The Stegreif #resistingcurrentbarbarisms asks you to spend 30 hours exploring this thematic complex—and to read, listen, watch closely and critically to different voices, disciplines, fields of knowledge.

Begin with one of the positions below. Consider the context in which each of these positions arose, the specific practices of resistance that are articulated, as well as the other ways of living and doing that these practices already enact or make imaginable.

Use the following questions as a guide: What are the topics of discussion? What is the context in which a

position emerged? What controversies and conflicts are openly addressed, and which are implicit? What triggered the practices and in which social, political and ecological areas are they situated? In what spatial or architectural settings are they located and carried out? What aspects of these environments can be understood as 'barbaric' and for whom? What characterises the 'resistant' nature of a practice? Who is in opposition to whom or resisting what? What forms of organisation are being created among which actors? What relationships are being questioned or demanded here? What other ways of doing are articulated through these resistant practices? What ideas for present and future societies do they advocate, explicitly or implicitly?

Use the links provided below as a starting point for your exploration—and start 'strolling'.

- If you are interested in documentary and archival practices around anti-authoritarian protests, start with 'Karolina Gembara: Archive for Public Protest'. Michał Adamski, Karolina Gembara, Agata Kubis, Michalina Kuczyńska and Rafał Milach in interview with Dorota Borodaj, 'Archive of Public Protests (A-P-P): The Protest Is Visual', *Zachęta Online Magazine*, no. 33 (29 October 2021), <https://zacheta.art.pl/magazyn/en/archive-of-public-protests-a-p-p-the-protest-is-visual/>.
- If you are interested in decolonisation of infrastructures start with 'Shehrazade Mahassini: Water/Bodies/Colonial Continuum'. Adelita Husni Bey in conversation with Shehrazade Mahassini, 'Water Infrastructures—Within the Colonial Continuum', Nero Editions, 10 March 2025, <https://www.neroeditions.com/water-infrastructures/>.
- If you are interested in the politics and practices of foraging, start with 'Marina Resende Santos: Ground rules—The politics of ecology and the right to forage'. [An interview with Marina Resende Santos](#), 2024. You may also browse through the [website](#).
- If your heart beats for notions of regenerative architecture and critical discussions of climate, read Janna Bystrykh's lecture. Janna Bystrykh, 'Generation Regeneration', Inauguration lecture as head of the Master's program in Architecture, Academy of Architecture Amsterdam, 10 March 2022, <https://www.bouwkunst.ahk.nl/en/research/publications/publication/generation-regeneration/>.

- If you are interested in radical action art and activism, and how rebellious, artistic methods can enhance political participation, start with 'Cesy Leonard—Radikale Töchter: Courage comes from Action!' Florian Dobenecker, 'Wie Kunst politisches Engagement der Erfurter stärken soll', *Thüringer Allgemeine*, 10 March 2025, <https://www.thueringer-allgemeine.de/kultur/article408482369/wie-kunst-politisches-engagement-der-erfurter-staerken-soll.html>. You may also have a look at the documentary 'Die Macht der Aktionskunst'.
- If you are interested in how art and architecture can critically engage with ecological and political collapse, check Pelin Tan's lecture on artistic research along the Tigris River. *Research Methodology of Entanglement: Tigris Phenomenologies* by Pelin Tan, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gc8boyiTE3k>.
- If you are interested in radical humanism and political resistance in the public realm in the 21st century, take a look at this video by Zentrum für politische Schönheit. *Höckes Holocaust-Mahnmal*, 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZaCmu-cc3Q>.

## SUBMISSION

- 1 Wanderkarte (a map documenting your research): Mark, explain and define your starting point. Document your stroll (through texts, videos, conversations, images—wherever your research takes you). Note down every step of the way meticulously. Highlight descriptions, reports and statements that you find particularly interesting and explain—in keywords or short sentences—what you consider relevant and why. Reference your quotes properly. Document context (where and why?), the specific practices of resistance (how?) as well as their ideas for futures that have a future. Comment briefly about the decisions you make during your research. What makes you move from one news item to the next, from one article to something else? Where can you draw connections to your own position, to your own environment? What in this or that article caught your attention, determined your further search, or evoked associations, reflections, or questions? Where does your research become more focused, and where does it reach dead ends?
- 2 Transfer: From your research, identify a specific practice of resistance that you consider significant. Describe this practice (a group, collective, or organisation) in a short text of 1,800 characters. State clearly the context in which it arose. Explain what the practice does and how it composes new futures. Supplement this with a quote or an image that you have found.

## TO BE CONSIDERED

Use the full time of the Stegreif. Read, listen and watch as much as you can and concentrate as much as possible on the content. Whilst you read, listen, and watch, take notes and collate these notes in a comprehensive and comprehensible way.

- Conduct your research thoroughly, critically, and with an open mind.
- Format your Wanderkarte (research map) on DIN A1, and the second part of the submission, the 'Transfer' on DIN A4, both as a .pdf-file with max. 20 MB each
- Make sure that the title and your name are clearly legible on the documents.
- Name the files as follows:  
S09\_Surname-First name\_Wanderkarte  
S09\_Surname-First name\_Transfer

A selection of submitted entries will be published on the institute's website. If you do not agree to this, please indicate this when submitting your Stegreif.

## FURTHER COMMENTS

On the GTAS website you find examples of previous Wanderkarten: [#landtagswahlen](#) and [#blacklivesmatter](#).

## DATES

- 15.05. Handout of assignment, 15:00, <https://www.gtas-braunschweig.de/ongoing>
- 19.05. Submission of assignment, until 12:00, via [Stud.IP](#)