



**ZUKÜNFTFTE DER GESELLSCHAFT 43. KONGRESS  
DER DEUTSCHEN GESELLSCHAFT FÜR SOZIOLOGIE  
JOHANNES GUTENBERG-UNIVERSITÄT JGU MAINZ  
28. SEPTEMBER – 02. OKTOBER 2026**

## **Call for Papers**

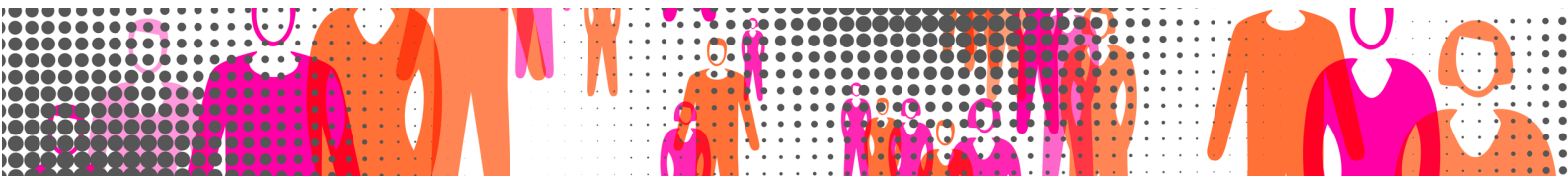
### **Futures in the Context of War and Military Rule**

**Sitzung der Ad-hoc-Gruppe „Zukünfte im Kontext von Krieg und militärischer Herrschaft“ auf dem 43. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie „Zukünfte der Gesellschaft“ vom 28.09.-02.10.2026 an der Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz**

According to recent sociological diagnoses, the current social situation is characterized by a personal and collective loss of future (e.g., Reckwitz 2024). The "polycrisis" enforces a "loss of future and a renewal of apocalyptic expectations" (Amlinger and Nachtwey 2025, 32). Within this discussion about future and social crisis, one "existential problem" (Scheffer 2021) of contemporary societies remains largely unnoticed. Like in other sociological debates (Joas and Knöbl 2008; Malešević 2012), it is war as a social reality that has been spared out. Although global military activities have nearly doubled since 2010 (Davies et al. 2025) and despite the fact that these "new wars" (Kaldor 2007) have devastating consequences for millions of people encompassing a large number of civilians, the social phenomenon of war has been paid little attention in the sociological debates about futures.

Nonetheless, experiences of and involvement in war are strongly influencing individual and collective future perspectives. Qualitative studies show how war-related figurations lead to ruptures in the temporal and spatial structures of everyday life (Koloma-Beck 2012, 125 f.), how they change social relationships and care arrangements (Uehling 2023), cause serious disruptions in family and life histories (Bogner and Rosenthal 2018), and influence psychosocial developments (Barber 2009). In short, direct and indirect experiences of war profoundly alter people's world-, social- and self-relations, and thereby affect the structures of their life worlds. As these structures are the basis of future projections (Schütz 1976, 281 f.), it is not surprising that war and military rule profoundly affect the ways in which people practically and interpretatively relate to their futures.

Despite this obvious connection, empirical studies illustrate that the relationship between war experiences and future projections is complex. How they affect each other varies widely and depends on socio-historical contexts and biographical, social, and cultural resources for coping with events of war and military rule. Research shows that war can both close off future possibilities (Langer 2020) and open up new futures (Askari 2023). While in some sociocultural contexts and historical situations, people are enabled to gain agency over warlike realities (Langer et al. 2021), in others, increasing uncertainties and experiences of existential threat result in the loss of future orientation and powerlessness.





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Furthermore, existing empirical studies in this field show that the practices and processes of research themselves are complex, too. Examining the contexts of conflict and war, often encounters difficulties. For ethnographic and other interpretative research approaches (e.g. biographical, discourse analytical) that deal with future-oriented projections and practices, this is particularly true, as they often work in close proximity to conflicts and their psychosocial effects.

By discussing current qualitative empirical research, we want to address the various questions raised by *futures in the context of war and military rule*. Foremost, we want to debate the following issues:

- 1) What methodological, ethical, and practical challenges does the study of futures in the context of war and military rule encounter, and how can they be addressed?
- 2) How are futures in the context of war and military rule empirically shaped? How are the “lived experiences” of war intertwined with personal and collective future projections? How do they mutually affect each other?
- 3) What implications do these empirical findings have for the sociological understanding of war as a collective and everyday phenomenon and for sociological concepts of the future?

Contributions on one or more of the questions are welcome. The session will be held in English.

**Please submit your abstracts (not more than one page)  
until the **03.05.2026**  
to [felix.rossmeissl@sk.hs-fulda.de](mailto:felix.rossmeissl@sk.hs-fulda.de)**

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