



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

## **Call for Papers**

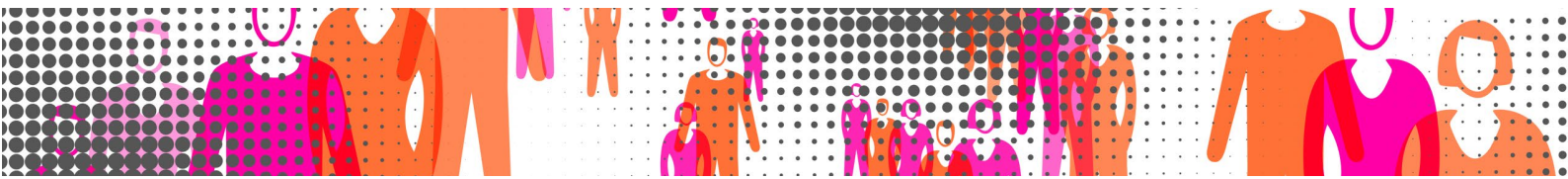
### **Doing Global Sociology *Practically***

**Session of the Ad-hoc-Group „Doing Global Sociology Practically“ at the 43rd Congress of the German Sociological Association (DGS) „Zukünfte der Gesellschaft“ from 28 September to 2 October 2026 at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz**

Against the backdrop of current debates on global sociology (cf. Hanafi 2020; Becker & Burchardt 2023), this ad hoc group aims to shed light on the *practical* side of global sociological research. Global sociology after the post-colonial critique proposes a middle ground between particularism and universalism of theory building. In the fashion of empirical informed theory building (Kalthoff et al. 2008) global sociology seeks to develop 'more global' sociological concepts by bringing theory and empirical social research into conversation across societies on a global scale. Global sociology therefore involves researching in and through global interrelations. Further, we believe that global sociology, in particular, requires and benefits from a reflexive research style that also examines the practical impact of the praxis of its knowledge production. With this ad hoc group we want to open a space to reflect on the *practical* aspects of doing global sociology and how it shapes theory building.

Global sociology is one strand of the decolonial endeavor, aiming at a reflexive decentering of one's thinking and scientific work through dialogical exchange. As this may irritate and innovate global sociology, we encourage researchers to reflect on their practical experience to advance theory building. This raises the question of how practices of 'doing global sociology' (Becker & Burchardt 2023) can work. We therefore invite researchers to advance theory building on the basis of empirically grounded irritations and methodological innovations.

By theory building we understand an open, tentative, and reflexive process of trying out, adapting, rejecting, and reconceptualizing. Conceptual work oscillates between theory and empiricism. On the one hand, concepts should help us see something in the 'thickness' of empiricism, i.e., sensitize us to certain phenomena. On the other hand, empiricism should irritate and challenge concepts, thereby contributing to their further development. This notion of conceptual work is well established in qualitative-interpretative sociology (Kalthoff et al. 2008). From the perspective of global sociology, however, the question arises as to how conceptual work changes when the points of reference become more global. Such a reflexive stance of doing global sociology can profit from incorporating the innovation potential by engaging with the ethno-theories of its 'empirical research objects'. Blurring the distinction between theory and empirical data can lead to "*epistemic partnerships*" (Fariás et al 2023, 27) and help flattening hierarchies in theory building.





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From the standpoint of an empirical theory of science (Knoblauch 2025) a reflexive global sociology could also turn to the institutional settings and global inequalities encountered in the field as well as within our home institutions. Funding structures, mobility options and unequal resource distribution at the different ends of the 'global interrelations' may lead to that the *'infrastructure' in which we do global sociology* does not only influence the distribution of our theories but may also shape theoretical conceptions themselves.

The ad hoc group aims to create an exchange forum for researchers to reflect on their practices of 'more global' conceptual work. The following questions, among others, may be addressed:

- How can we develop more global sociological concepts?
- How can existing concepts be adapted to make them more globally applicable?
- How can we apply concepts that originate from a specific local/regional/national context to other contexts?
- How can we build epistemic partnerships and what are their potential and limitations?
- How can dialogue between different sociologies be established to expand the repertoire of concepts?
- What institutional changes and organizational frameworks are required to provide global sociological research?

**We kindly request the submission of abstracts (maximum one page) by April 30, 2026**

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