



# THE POLITICS OF VOLUNTARINESS

*Global and Postcolonial Perspectives*

## LECTURE SERIES BY THE RESEARCH UNIT VOLUNTARINESS AND

**THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY** • Seven talks and discussions explore and critique established views on the Enlightenment, on subjectivity and self-ownership, on personal and political agency, on work and social reproduction, on migration and security – through the lens of voluntary action and in global and postcolonial perspectives. Featuring the approach that acting voluntarily is always situational and grounded in conditions of possibility they discuss how people's voluntary action takes on very different shapes across different times and societies.

**15.04.2026 • 18:15-19:45 • C19.00.02**

**NIKITA DHAWAN** (TU Dresden)

*Followed by Semester Opening Reception  
of the Department of History!*

Unvoluntary Subjects of Enlightenment: The Postcolonial Conundrum

**MI, 22.04.2026 • 18:15-19:45 • C19.00.02**

**GURMINDER K. BHAMBRA** (U Sussex, Brighton)  
Modern Subjectivity and the Political Economy of  
Colonialism

**MI, 06.05.2026 • 18:15-19:45 • C19.00.02**

**PHILIPP WINTERHAGER** (HU Berlin)  
Verantwortung abgeben, Verantwortung übernehmen.  
Freiwilligkeit im mittelalterlichen Amtsverzicht

**MI, 20.05.2026 • 18:15-19:45 • C19.00.02**

**REGULA LUDI** (U Fribourg)  
„We Are Fed up with Unpaid Housework and Sick of Altruism.“  
Second-Wave Feminism, Unpaid Work, and Volunteering

**MI, 03.06.2026 • 18:15-19:45 • C19.00.02**

**TAHIRE ERMAN** (Bilkent U) | **PIERRE MONFORTE** (UIC Barcelona)  
**FLORIAN WAGNER** (U Erfurt)  
Roundtable Discussion: Is Migration ever Voluntary? Migration  
Between Agency, Coercion, and Power

**MI, 17.06.2026 • 18:15-19:45 • C19.00.02**

**PEER ILLNER** (Groningen U)  
The Mutual Aid Dilemma: Disasters, Crises and Social  
Reproduction

**MI, 01.07.2026 • 18:15-19:45 • C19.00.02**

**EDUARDO ABOULTAIF** (U Kaslik) | **MARA ALBRECHT** (U Erfurt)  
Between the State and the Street: Qabadayat as Voluntary  
Security Actors and Agents of Political Mobilization  
in Lebanon (1943-1980s)



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*For more info  
check our website...*

