

# re:constitution

## Call for Applications

re:constitution fosters exchange and analysis on democracy and the rule of law in Europe. The programme invites applications for 20 Fellowships for the upcoming 2021/2022 academic year.

**Deadline: 6 April 2021, 12 noon (CEST)**

Forum  
Transregionale  
Studien

DEMOCRACY  
REPORTING  
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## 2021/2022 re:constitution Fellowships

### “Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe”

#### Call for Applications

Forum Transregionale Studien invites applications for 20 Fellowships as part of the re:constitution programme for the upcoming academic year from October 2021 to July 2022.

**Deadline:** 6 April 2021, 12 noon CEST

**Stipend:** €2,800 per month for a 6-month period during the 2021/2022 academic year

The re:constitution Fellows pursue their own topical projects on current developments and challenges regarding democracy and the rule of law in Europe. As one of the common values of all EU Member States, the rule of law has come under pressure in recent years, and the ways and means of upholding it have become much-discussed political, legal and social issues. By addressing these developments in their projects and debates, the re:constitution Fellows will participate in this European discourse and become part of a European exchange network of scholars and practitioners.

re:constitution is a joint programme of Berlin-based Forum Transregionale Studien and Democracy Reporting International, led by Christoph Möllers, who is Professor of Public Law at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. The programme is funded by Stiftung Mercator.

For more information about previous Fellows and the programme itself, please visit [reconstitution.eu](https://reconstitution.eu). Follow us on Twitter [@reconstitutEU](https://twitter.com/reconstitutEU) for up-to-date programme news.

#### You are

in the early stages of your career as

a **SCHOLAR** holding a PhD\* in

- law/legal studies and/or
- political sciences, social sciences, philosophy or other neighbouring disciplines (focusing on legal issues and/or the rule of law in Europe),

or a **PRACTITIONER**

- legal expert (i.e. judge or court employee, in NGOs),
- government official,
- researcher working on questions pertaining to the rule of law and/or democracy in the EU,
- journalist reporting on the rule of law and/or democracy in the EU.

Residents of the European Union, non-EU EEA countries, Switzerland and the United Kingdom are eligible for the Fellowship.

\*Your PhD project should have been completed no more than 10 years ago. Scholars who are still working on their dissertation may be eligible if their PhD is close to completion. For practitioners, comparable work experience is expected, but a PhD is not required.

#### Your motivation

- You are interested in specific questions of democracy and the rule of law in Europe,
- You are looking for new ways to work on your own topical project in a high-quality and flexible environment of exchange and debate among scholars, legal practitioners and journalists from across Europe,
- You want to be part of a group of Fellows to debate and learn from each other,
- You are keen to pursue new personal and remote work opportunities at institutions in other EU countries,
- You want to engage in multi-faceted exchange about questions on democracy and the rule of law in Europe with experts from all over Europe, from different sectors and from across the political spectrum.

## Benefits

### INDEPENDENCE

We provide re:constitution Fellowships for one academic year, starting from 1 October 2021 to 31 July 2022, offering the freedom to pursue your own project on a topic of your choice.

Project outcomes can be academic articles, essays, policy papers, books, reports, podcasts, feature stories, analyses, etc.

For experts working outside academia, a Fellowship can be a form of sabbatical.

### EXCHANGE and DEBATE

There will be three in-person Fellow Exchange Meetings over 3 to 5 days in different EU countries: The first meeting will take place in late October 2021, the second and third in February and June 2022. The programme for these events will be developed by the re:constitution team in collaboration with the Fellows.

Additionally, there are opportunities to attend and organise events with emphasis on specific aspects and topics of the programme.

### MOBILITY via REMOTE and IN-PERSON COLLABORATION

The Fellowship consists of a mobility period of six months (the so-called 'stage') during the 2021/2022 academic year.

Fellows are hosted by institutions of their choice in academia and practice in EU countries. The host institutions must be in a different location to your current EU country of residence. The 'stage' should be divided between a research institution and a legal practice institution.

Due to the pandemic, remote collaboration with host institutions can replace travelling there in person for the foreseeable future.

A monthly stipend of €2,800 is provided during the 'stage' (plus an additional allowance depending on personal circumstances).

### NETWORK

Fellows are given access to a European network of scholars and practitioners who are interested in and working on questions on the current state of democracy and the rule of law in Europe.

### SUPPORT

Exchange between the Fellows is supported by a secure digital working space provided by Forum Transregionale Studien.

### COMMITMENT

Fellows are expected to publish a (working) paper, analysis, report, etc. during their Fellowship.

Fellows ensure their participation in regular Fellow Talks and the three Fellow Exchange Meetings.

**We are monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic closely. In the interest of the health and safety of our Fellows and to comply with government regulations, we have introduced more flexibility into the programme. Remote and digital exchanges have replaced in-person meetings for now. Nevertheless, we will go ahead with the Fellowships as announced in this call.**

## How to apply

Please submit your application via our **secure online application platform by 6 April 2021, 12 noon (CEST):**

[application.trafo-berlin.de](https://application.trafo-berlin.de)

**Applications by e-mail will not be considered.**

**As part of your application, you will be asked to prepare and upload the following:**

- **Curriculum vitae** including publications (2-3 pages),
- **Project outline** (2-3 pages),
- **Short abstract of your project** (max. 300 words),
- **Two references** (university faculty members or practitioners in a field relevant to the applicant's project) who can serve as referees (no letters of recommendation required),
- **Potential host institutions** (your preferred research or practice institutions in EU countries to spend part of your 'stage', ideally including an indication of preferred dates and/or existing personal contacts).

The working language of re:constitution is English.

The diversity of our society should also be reflected in the Fellowships. We therefore welcome applicants of all cultural and social backgrounds, ages, religions, world views, disabilities or sexual identities.

The applications will be evaluated by the members of the re:constitution Collegium. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation process by the end of June.

**If you have any questions, please refer to the FAQ on our website or contact the programme coordination team: [reconstitution@trafo-berlin.de](mailto:reconstitution@trafo-berlin.de).**

## re:constitution Partner Institutions

The Berlin-based **Forum Transregionale Studien** is a research institution that promotes the internationalization of research in the humanities and social sciences. It provides scope for exchange, debate and communication across national, regional or cultural borderlines. In cooperation with universities and research institutes in and outside of Berlin, the Forum appoints Fellows from all over the world, develops formats of transregional communication, and engages in research programmes and initiatives that examine contemporary questions in a comparative and inclusive manner. The Forum currently supports the research programmes: EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST—THE MIDDLE EAST IN EUROPE (EUME), PRISMA UKRAÏNA - Research Network Eastern Europe, and re:constitution - Exchange and Analysis on Democracy and the Rule of Law in Europe. It is part of the consortium of EUTIM: Europäische Zeiten/ European Times - A Transregional Approach to the Societies of Central and Eastern Europe, MECAM: Merian Centre for Advanced Studies in the Maghreb, and a founding member of the ACADEMY IN EXILE. The Forum is a registered society, its members are universities and research institutions in Germany. It is funded by the Land Berlin, its programmes and initiatives are supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the European Union and private foundations.

[forum-transregionale-studien.de](http://forum-transregionale-studien.de)

[trafo.hypotheses.org](http://trafo.hypotheses.org)

**Democracy Reporting International** (DRI) is a non-partisan, independent, not-for-profit organisation registered in Berlin, Germany. DRI supports and engages people who are working to build, preserve and defend democratic and accountable institutions. DRI believes that institutions play a critical role. People make change, but institutions preserve it. In a polarised world, DRI helps local actors to protect and expand the democratic space that we all share, independent of political opinions, religious beliefs or personal preferences. DRI's Berlin team works with country offices to implement projects in different countries (Tunisia, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Ukraine) and undertake policy-oriented research. Global projects and smaller country projects are also implemented directly from headquarters. Furthermore, DRI works thematically on democratic discourse, including social media & democracy, as well as rule of law in Europe.

[democracy-reporting.org](http://democracy-reporting.org)

**Stiftung Mercator** is a private, independent foundation with extensive academic expertise and practical project experience. With its work, it strives for a society characterised by openness to the world, solidarity and equal opportunities. To achieve these goals, it promotes and develops projects that strengthen democracy and the rule of law in Europe, foster integration and increase the educational success of disadvantaged children and young people, address the impact of digitalisation on democracy and society, and advance climate protection. Stiftung Mercator is active in Germany, Europe and worldwide. It has a particularly close relationship with the Ruhr region, the home of the founding family and location of its headquarters.

[stiftung-mercator.de](http://stiftung-mercator.de)