

Georg Harfensteller | BA MA

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🆔 0000-0001-8317-7095 • 🌐 Georg Harfensteller

Doctoral Researcher at **Universität Wien - Institut für Philosophie**

Education and Academic Positions

Friedrich-Schiller-Universität-Jena

Bachelor of Arts - Philosophie und Kunstgeschichte/Filmwissenschaften

Supervisor: Jens Bonnemann, Lambert Wiesing

Jena, Germany

2010–2014

Universität Wien

Master of Arts - Philosophie, Abschluss mit Auszeichnung

Supervisor: Georg Stenger

Vienna, Austria

2015–2018

Universität Wien

Doktorat - Philosophie, Titel: Performative Vergemeinschaftung

Supervisor: Georg Stenger, Michael Staudigl

Vienna, Austria

Since 2018

Universität Wien

VDP Teaching Fellow - External Teaching Position

Vienna, Austria

2021/22

Vienna Doctoral School of Philosophy

Thesis Completion Fellowship

Vienna, Austria

2024

Research

Areas of Research

Communitarization, performativity, affectivity, violence, phenomenology, religious experiences, political experiences, radicalization and extremism, Alfred Schütz, Bernhard Waldenfels

General Research Interests

Georg Harfensteller is a doctoral researcher at the University of Vienna with a strong focus on phenomenology, social studies, political theory and religious studies. His academic interests revolve around understanding the complex relationships between communal identity, religious practices, political experiences, violence and social behaviors. He has explored how communal belonging influences both the positive and negative aspects of political and religious engagement, such as fostering solidarity or leading to discord. Additionally, his research examines how shared beliefs and communal practices can both mitigate and exacerbate conflicts. His work is not limited to theoretical exploration; it also aims to develop a descriptive approach to social phenomena and addresses practical concerns about the role of religion and political engagement in modern societies. In addition to his focus on religious, political, and communal dynamics, Harfensteller also engages with broader philosophical questions concerning the nature of affects, emotions, consciousness, and subjectivity, drawing from phenomenological traditions and their most recent critical applications.

PhD-Thesis

In his PhD-Thesis, Georg Harfensteller is interested in embodied, performative and pre-reflexive forms of communitarisation and the resulting shared agency. He tries to develop a social-phenomenological approach to religious and political gatherings as a starting point for a descriptive analysis of group formation beyond the mediated content. The experience of the self and other, the structure and prerequisites of interaction, as well as shared pathos and response, are the cornerstones of the analysis.

Academic publications

Harfensteller, Georg (2021). „Affektivität religiöser Vergemeinschaftung. Phänomenologische Analyse gemeinsame Erfahrung in der religiösen Sinnprovinz“. In: *InterCultural Philosophy - Emotionalität und Intersubjektivität im interdisziplinären phänomenologischen Diskurs* 1.1. Hrsg. von Alexander Nicolai, S. 9–25. DOI: 10.11588/icp.2021.1.84396.

Harfensteller, Georg (2022). „Praying Together, Hating Together. Transforming Hostility through the Effective Direction of Religious Communitarization“. In: *Religions* 13.7. DOI: 10.3390/re113070630. URL: <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/13/7/630>.

Harfensteller, Georg (2023). „The Genesis of a Shared World Through Event Infrastructure. A phenomenological investigation of communitarisation in shared and extraordinary experiences“. In: *Events and Infrastructure: Critical Interrogations*. Critical Event Studies Research Series. London: Routledge, S. 131–144. DOI: 10.4324/9781003369165.

Harfensteller, Georg (2024). „Fragile Bezugsgewebe. Reflexionen über Gewalt als Gründungsmoment politischer Gemeinschaft mit Hannah Arendt und Alfred Schütz“. In: *Phänomenologien des Politischen: Konturen, Konstellationen, Kontexte*. Hrsg. von Michael Staudigl. Wiesbaden, Deutschland: Springer, In publication.

Additional Research Achievements

Organizational Scientific Activities and Public Relations

Co-Organizer - Conference	Vienna, Austria
<i>Den Finger in die Wunde legen - Kritische Phänomenologien der Gewalt</i>	2024
Editor - Proceedings	
<i>Kritische Phänomenologien der Gewalt - Zugänge, Perspektiven, Grenze, In submission</i>	2024
Interviewer	
<i>Gewalt ist kein Naturphänomen - Ein Interview mit Pascal Delhom</i>	2024
https://skug.at/gewalt-ist-kein-naturphaenomen/	
Project Team Member	
<i>Die Dunkle Kammer - Photoprojekt with „Die letzte Generation“</i>	2023
Funded by Zukunftsrat Verkehr, See https://skug.at/t/die-dunkle-kammer/	

Presentations (latest)

TU Darmstadt - Institut für Philosophie	Darmstadt, Germany
<i>Fragile Bezugsgewebe. Gewalt als Gründungsmoment politischer Gemeinschaft</i>	2024
InDebate: Darmstädter Tage für junge phänomenologische Forschung	
Universität Wien - Institut für Philosophie	Vienna, Austria
<i>Risse im Bezugsgewebe</i>	2024
Den Finger in die Wunde legen - Kritische Phänomenologien der Gewalt	
Deutsche Gesellschaft für phänomenologische Forschung	Heidelberg, Germany
<i>Performativität Politischer Gemeinschaftlichkeit</i>	2023
Doktorandenkolloquium zur Phänomenologie	

Center for Subjectivity Research

The Proven and the Unmanageable in Action.

Us and Them: Phenomenological Perspectives in Dialogue

Copenhagen, Denmark

2023

Interdisciplinary Coalition of North American Phenomenologists

Interrelation between Intersubjective Strangeness and Familiarity

Affect in Dialogue - A conference on phenomenology of affect

Copenhagen, Denmark

2023

Society for Phenomenology of Religious Experience

Hostility and the effective direction of religious communitarisation

In the Shadows of Religious Experience: Hostility, Violence, & Revenge

Webconferenz

2021