

## 3<sup>rd</sup> UNESCO MOST Winter School

### How to be a citizen?

#### Citizenship and responsibility in the new world of uncertainty

The **notion of citizenship** is undergoing a profound change as the tensions between global, regional, and national **forms of belonging** and integration are becoming increasingly clear. The taken for granted relationship between a citizen and the **nation-state**, even if enduring as predominant form of political relation, is evermore challenged by the evolving trends of economic, political, and social **globalization**. At the same time, emerging economic decline, climate change, and environmental devastation have not only resulted in the rise of **precariat and denizens** within the core of the world-system, but have likewise led to an increase in **migration** flows towards Europe by the marginalized populations of global peripheries. While these two trends, forming part of the same process, emerge as the most obvious symptoms of global distress, the questioning of contemporary (dis)order is articulated from various sides of political spectrum.

Along these lines of socio-political transformations, two contradictory political tendencies emerge. On the one side, calls for **global citizenship**, underwritten by proponents of globalization, have attempted to radically transform the notion of (national) citizenship. On the other side, a number of political movements display a strong opposition to these increasingly integrationist forces. As a consequence of the two oppositional political projects, societies around the world are becoming increasingly divided and polarized, making consensus over the future difficult to reach. In this context, divisions forged around the notion of citizenship have become a fertile ground for systemic disruptions, and are evidenced in the rise of **populism** of both left and right, emerging **radicalism**, lack of institutional and social **trust**, normalization of political disillusionment, and general voter apathy.

It is our belief that these conflicting tendencies, despite speaking distinct political languages, remain united in a sense that both offer solutions to the unresolved issues of advanced capitalism. Thus, at the same time as the emergence of the first ever truly global pandemic heightens the unresolved symptoms of unregulated globalization, the issues of differential **inclusion and democratic participation** on both local and translocal levels of governance remain more pressing than ever before. Convinced how these issues offer a solid ground for a new type of dialogue, the 3<sup>rd</sup> UNESCO MOST Winter School invites all interested parties to join us in Kőszeg to address the following questions:

- How to conceptualize citizenship in contemporary world?
- What does it mean to be a citizen today? What are the implications of the contemporary global order for the notion of citizenship?
- How to reimagine a model of participatory citizenship in what have become increasingly alienated political systems of governance?
- How can we counter the decline in trust in political institutions? How to ensure higher levels of responsibility among both national and supranational bodies and institutions? How to advance their more proactive involvement in the resolution of social and political issues?

- How to reconcile the national and supranational modes of belonging? How to construct new forms of political solidarities within increasingly divided societies?
- What is the impact of the climate change on the emerging political sphere? How to think issues of citizenship in the times of pandemic? How to build more resilient societies?
- What is the role of the media and fake-news in the construction of contemporary citizenship?
- What role can civil society play within emerging political spheres? How can it advance more participatory forms of democratic citizenship?

Having in mind the complexity and interdisciplinary nature of the questions at the center of the UNESCO MOST Winter School, as well as our own continuing commitment to an ever more inclusive academia, we welcome contributions from a variety of intellectual traditions. Likewise, due to the global importance of this topic, the UNESCO MOST Winter School encourages applications from all parts of the world.

Eligibility: Advanced MA and PhD students and young researchers, young professionals, policymakers, and social entrepreneurs, who have a keen academic or professional interest in the topics.

**Deadline for application: 1 February 2021**

Application Form

Applicants should send the following documents to [winterschool@iask.hu](mailto:winterschool@iask.hu)

- completed application form
- CV
- motivation letter

Online platform: Zoom after personal invitation

Certificates will be awarded for those who have completed the whole program.