

PRESS RELEASE

KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR 2023:

“A MATTER OF TRUST” – PROGRAMME PREVIEW

“A Matter of Trust” is the title of the fourth edition of the Kultursymposium Weimar, which will take place from May 10 to 12, 2023. The Goethe-Institut is once again gathering numerous guests from the fields of culture, science, economy, media and politics in Weimar. In a programme of lectures, discussions, interactive formats and artistic contributions, the Kultursymposium will examine the function of trust in social interaction, how it is destroyed or strengthened, what can be done to counter fake news, how democratic structures can be stabilized and how trust can be gained in legal or economic systems.

The Kultursymposium Weimar will focus on three main topics:

The Invisible Resource – Trust in Society, Politics and Media will for example be the subject of a conversation between the US technologist and human rights activist, **Sam Gregory**, and the journalist and founder of the Egyptian media start-up Egab, **Dina Aboughazala**, who will discuss responsible journalism and dealing with fake news. The activist, **Nathan Law**, the anthropologist, **Isabela Kalil**, and the political scientist, **Ali Fathollah-Nejad**, will talk about divided societies and the question of how eroding trust in different political contexts from Hong Kong to Brazil and Iran endangers cohesion.

A Delicate Flower – Trust and the Individual will include for example a conversation between **Abby Abinanti**, Chief Judge of the Californian Yurok tribe, and **Arne Kvernvik Nilsen**, former director of a Norwegian prison island. Against the background of different legal systems, they will discuss how to deal with people who have violated the law and what role trust can play in the rehabilitation of convicted people and in the prevention of crime. Journalist and queer activist, **Kevin Mwachiro**, will speak in a personal lecture about the importance of trust in the younger generation in African countries for a secure and liveable future.

Unknown Territory – Trust, Economy and Technology will present a panel on the application possibilities of blockchain technology, which relies on transparency instead of trust due to its decentralised structure. The author and social entrepreneur, **Flávia Gonçalves Macêdo**, the research director of the Africa Blockchain Institute, **Oluwaseun David Adepoju**, and **Henrik Hahn**, Chief Digital Officer at Evonik will discuss this issue.

The programme will also explore the theme of trust artistically and in interactive formats with the participants:



**GOETHE
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

February 21, 2023



Press Contacts

PR-Netzwerk | Annette Schäfer, Christine Gückel-Daxer
Tel.: +49 30 61651155
presse@pr-netzwerk.net

Jessica Kraatz Magri
Pressesprecherin
Goethe-Institut
+49 (0)89 15921-249
jessica.kraatzmagri@goethe.de



The images of the theatre in Mariupol went around the world as a sign of Russian annihilation and destruction. In response to the Russian war of aggression, theatre maker, **Magda Szpecht**, joined a group of international activists who tirelessly investigate news and social media channels for fake news and Russian trolls. In her lecture performance *Cyber Elf*, which is being shown in collaboration with the *Berlin Theatertreffen*, she will provide deep insights into this work – while at the same time reclaiming the theatre as a place of refuge.

With his work *Démocratie*, choreographer, **Yoann Bourgeois**, will invite the participants of the Kultursymposium to balance a moving platform as a symbol of our fragile democratic community. In her role-play *Welcome to Belarus*, game designer **Lena Mech**, on the other hand, will explore the relationship between trust and mistrust in authoritarian societies.

Das Blaue Sofa, Bertelsmann's literary forum, will once again be a guest at the Kultursymposium and will invite four well-known authors from Germany to talk about trust as a theme in their current books.

Initial **programme highlights** can be found online now at:
www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/programme

Tickets for all Kultursymposium events are available for 40 Euro / 20 Euros at: www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/ticketing

Starting in March 2023 and in advance of the Kultursymposium, eight Goethe-Institutes around the globe will be presenting contributions and events on the topic. For example, curator **Liisa-Rávná Finbog** will discuss "Trust in Difficult Times" with Sami artists at the invitation of the Goethe-Instituts in Helsinki, Oslo and Stockholm. In Bangalore, theatre director, **Karen D'Mello**, will be developing an interactive theatre format on the question of the role played by the WhatsApp messaging service in the distribution of (false) news in India and on what our trust in a message depends.

The Kultursymposium Weimar is a festival for new networks and ideas, for which the Goethe-Institut brings together several hundred participants from all over the world in Weimar every two years. Interdisciplinary and diverse, the Kultursymposium Weimar reflects global social issues and thus provides impulses for international cultural and social exchange. Each time, the festival format focuses on new thematic issues: 2016 "The Sharing Game", 2019 the major upheavals of our age ("Recalculating the Route"), 2021 "Generations" and 2023 "A Matter of Trust".

The Kultursymposium Weimar is made possible thanks to the generosity of the following companies from the Economic Advisory Board of the Goethe-Institut: Bertelsmann, Evonik Industries AG, Siemens AG and Adolf

Würth GmbH & Co. The media partners are 3sat, Brand Eins and Le Monde diplomatique.



Further information on the Kultursymposium Weimar 2023 can be found at: www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/en

Press contacts and accreditation:

PR Network | Annette Schäfer, Christine Gückel-Daxer
presse@pr-netzwerk.net | T: +49 (0)30 61 65 11 55

Goethe-Institut

Jessica Kraatz Magri | Press Officer

jessica.kraatzmagri@goethe.de

T: +49 (0)89 15921-249

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. With 157 institutes in 98 countries, we promote the study of German abroad, encourage international cultural exchange and convey a contemporary image of Germany. Through partnerships with institutions in numerous other locations, the Goethe-Institut has about 1,000 contact points worldwide. www.goethe.de/en