

Erfahrungsbericht zur Vigoni Autumn School 2024 von Nemer Shaheen (Doktorand der Wasatia Graduate School)

The Autumn School on "Europe and the Post-Global World: Re-thinking Identity and Democracy in the EU" was a kind of academic opportunity worth experiencing. Organised by the German-Italian Centre for European Dialogue at Villa Vigoni in cooperation with the Europa-Universität Flensburg, the Universität Hamburg, the Università Bocconi, the Università del Salento and the Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, academics and researchers from all over the EU, but especially from Germany and Italy, gave presentations, discussed, met over meals and made valuable contacts and academic plans in the beautiful town of Menaggio. The concepts of 'identity and democracy' were discussed from political, legal, economic and historical perspectives. Thirteen presentations were given and discussed over the three days of the Autumn School. This was followed by a final day of student working groups, each consisting of four to five students, who gave their presentations based on the concepts covered during the Autumn School. As a PhD student with a background in Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies, I found the Autumn School to be a valuable opportunity both to network with other academics and to discuss fascinating concepts such as identity and democracy and relate them to other parts of the world outside the EU, while also highlighting some of the outcomes and potential conflicts of the EU's various policies. Everyone was engaged and involved in the discussions. In addition, the Villa Vigoni staff provided a very welcoming atmosphere. In particular, from the first day and the shuttle from Milan to Lake Como to the last day and the shuttle back to Milan, the discussion and dialogue between professors and students never stopped, making Villa Vigoni the perfect environment for motivating debate and cross-cultural exchange. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be connected with so many brilliant minds and contribute to the conversation about the future of Europe, and I'm excited to take these valuable insights forward.