

18th Meeting of the German-Japanese Society for Social Sciences (GJSSS)

Social Relationships in Transition: Perspectives from Germany and Japan

Conference Venue: FernUniversität in Hagen, Campus Bonn

Date: Thursday, September 17 to Friday, September 18, 2026

Call for Abstracts

Social relationships are at the core of societal life. They connect generations, shape families and communities, and influence social and political cohesion. Yet many societies are currently experiencing significant shifts in how people relate to one another. Demographic change, ageing populations, digital communication technologies, growing diversity, and increasing polarization are transforming everyday interactions as well as broader social structures.

For our upcoming meeting, we invite contributions under the theme “Social Relationships in Transition”, we welcome abstracts which address this topic from various angles. This may include (but is not limited to) intergenerational relations and family dynamics in ageing societies; changing roles between parents and children; questions of care and solidarity; the form and impact of digital interaction, including social media and AI; experiences of loneliness and social isolation; or the implications of social inequality, diversity, and polarization for social cohesion.

As a society committed to dialogue between Germany and Japan, the GJSSS particularly encourages comparative perspectives, while also welcoming contributions that focus on one country or take a broader theoretical or empirical approach. Our aim is to create space for exchange across disciplines and methodologies and to continue our ongoing conversations on contemporary social change.

➤ **Deadlines**

Submission of abstract (up to 350 words) by May 10, 2026. (ORIGINAL DEADLINE WAS EXTENDED)
(Acceptance notification by May 31, 2026)

Please submit your abstracts via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/TA6KtUhtwyMzSM4k6>

➤ **Program and Activities**

The program will consist of individual talks as well as interactive sessions to foster new research collaborations. Social activities include a conference dinner and a visit to the Beethoven Haus in Bonn.

➤ **Conference Fee**

For members of the GJSSS participation in the conference, including the conference and the conference dinner on September 17, is free.

Non-members pay €75 or join the GJSSS (annual membership fee: €40/¥8,000).

Participation in the visit to the Beethoven Haus in Bonn on Sep 18 needs to be paid individually by both members and non-members (participation fee: €15).

➤ **Registration: June 1-July 31, 2026**

Registration is necessary for accepted speakers as well as for participants who do not present.

While we will communicate all updates on registration and program via email to accepted speakers and GJSSS-members, please also check our website: <https://gjsss.org/>

If you have any questions, please reach out to the organizing team via:

[laura.froehlich\[at\]fernuni-hagen.de](mailto:laura.froehlich@fernuni-hagen.de)

➤ **Conference Organizers**

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