



DECEMBER 2020

University of Paderborn, Germany

Brexit, the *Trump Wall*, and the Left-Right-Divide; it seems the bridges of the world are crumbling, and new barriers are put up every day. While retrogression apparently meets the current zeitgeist, the pursuit of progress has been one of humanity's main interests since the dawn of time. Whether it be the technological progress from the invention of the wheel to humanoid robots or societal progress from the development of the first democracies in ancient Greece to the implementation of human rights in international law; progress – both rapid and slow – has been the driving force that moved humanity in all areas of research. But progress does not always have to happen on a global or public scale, it is an integral part of our private lives as well: relationships we establish over time, things that we learn, and the self-concepts, identities, and mannerisms we develop; progress is a part of all of us.

However, progress always follows in the footsteps of tradition and heritage, and while the new derives its value from the old – either in opposition to it or as its advancement – the change involved in progression often motivates preservation efforts in turn. Certainly, there are just as many good reasons for preservation as there are for progressive actions. And yet, it is often ambiguous who or what determines what should be preserved and which direction progress should take.

The many relations and intersections between progress and preservation thus beg the question whether progress could constitute a barrier for preservation, and preservation *ceteris paribus* bar progress, or whether it is possible to build a bridge between trend and tradition. Are preservation and progress mutually exclusive? Is, for example, environmental preservation possible if human progression is the goal? Can the old be preserved while making space for the new? Is progress an eternal endeavor or will it someday come to a conclusion? Does progress always mean progression or can retrogression in some circumstances actually be the most progressive? And, can progress be measured at all or is it merely a matter of perspective?

We welcome paper submissions from across Aston's Humanities, Fine Arts, Economics, the Natural Sciences, and Information and Computer Science dealing with **Perspectives of Progress and Preservation** and the many relations and intersections between them. Papers, or short video presentations may be submitted by ALL Bachelor, Master, and PhD students.

We encourage papers about **Bridges and Barriers: Perspectives of Progress and Preservation** studying fields and topics including, but not limited to:

- Memory, Memorials, and Commemoration
- Progress and Preservation in Cultural Texts (Film, Literature, Music, ...)
- Information, Media, and Communications
- Politics
- Architecture and Architectural Heritage
- Myth, Mythology, Religion, and Cultural Heritage
- Historiography
- Feminism, Masculinity Studies, and Queer Studies
- Migration, Immigration, Integration, and Globalization
- Postcolonialism and Minority Studies
- Eco-Criticism and Environmental Sciences
- Ethics
- Economics
- The Psychoanalysis of Progress and Preservation
- Progress and Preservation in Education, Pedagogy, and Care

Bachelor, Master, or PhD students interested in submitting an approximately 6-page-paper for online publication please submit a 200–300-word, double-spaced abstract to Felix Behler (fbehler@mail.upb.de), Lisa-Marie Büsken (limabue@mail.upb.de), Yvonne K. Jende (ykJende@mail.upb.de), and Cecilie Kølsten Rasmussen (cille@mail.upb.de). Please include the author's name, institution, email address, a short biography (including your current study program and/or PhD thesis topic) on a separate page, and, as an optional add-on, a photograph of the author. Later in January/February 2020, we will have a series of short discussion panels on Zoom in which authors will have the opportunity to briefly present their paper and participants and guests to ask questions and engage in discussions.

Please note that the conference language is English.

Please send proposals by **December 4th, 2020**.

There will be **no fee**.

For more information please visit kw.upb.de/bridges2020 or contact us directly.

Felix Behler (University of Paderborn): fbehler@mail.upb.de

Lisa-Marie Büsken (University of Paderborn): limabue@mail.upb.de

Yvonne K. Jende (University of Paderborn): ykJende@mail.upb.de

Cecilie Kølsten Rasmussen (University of Paderborn): cille@mail.upb.de