



Institut für Föderalismus
Institut du Fédéralisme
Institute of Federalism



30th Summer University on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution

▶ **Monday 12 August –
Friday 30 August 2024**

Institute of Federalism
University of Fribourg
Switzerland



Questions of minority protection, separation of powers, or inclusion through power-sharing are crucial to current conflicts in many states around the world – from Belgium to Ethiopia, from Iraq to Bosnia and Herzegovina, from Nepal to Ukraine. Federalism and decentralisation therefore continue to be discussed as instruments for resolving violent and non-violent conflicts, for dealing with state failure, and for contributing to democratisation.

However, federalisation processes are neither linear, nor do they always result in a fully functional federal system. How can federal and decentralised structures contribute to peace-building and democratisation? What do the cases of Ethiopia and India teach us about the advantages and disadvantages of federal structures? How do federal systems, including in countries such as Switzerland, adapt to new challenges? What is the future of federalism and decentralisation in the 21st century? These and other questions will be dealt with at the next Summer University on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution to be held in 2024.

Theories and practices of federalism and decentralisation are debated and put to the test throughout the world. Federal and decentralised structures are also a promising means for ensuring good governance, fostering democracy and contributing to economic development. During the last three decades, federalism and decentralisation have also become important instruments for conflict transformation and resolution and are often on top of the agenda in peace negotiations. Yet, in several cases dysfunctional federal structures have resulted in new conflicts and authoritarian tendencies.

The International Research and Consulting Center at the Institute of Federalism and the Chair for Constitutional and Administrative Law at the University of Fribourg offer a three-week course on Federalism, Decentralisation and Conflict Resolution. The course aims to provide a series of lectures, held by the Institute's staff and renowned guest lecturers, covering interdisciplinary theoretical perspectives and analyses of specific case studies from all over the world. The topics covered include:

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- ▶ Federalism and Decentralisation as Theoretical Concepts
 - ▶ Power-sharing in Theory and Practice
 - ▶ Multilevel Governance, Intergovernmental Relations and Fiscal Federalism
 - ▶ Conflict Resolution and Imposed Federalism
 - ▶ Fundamental Rights and Diversity Management
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In addition, a range of activities, including group work and simulations, will enable participants to apply the knowledge gained to real-life cases and discuss the trade-offs and challenges in the application of federal structures.

This year is also a special edition of our Summer University as it celebrates its 30th anniversary! To celebrate this achievement, we are organising a special 2-day conference which will be fully integrated into the Summer University's programme.

Prerequisites:

The minimum prerequisite for participation is a bachelor degree of law, political science, international relations, economics, history, journalism or other related subjects. Practitioners with professional experience in the field of federalism, decentralisation and conflict resolution with a keen interest in improving their academic understanding in this field may also be admitted (participation through application).

Tuition language: English

Evaluation and exams:

Graduation from the Summer University requires a written paper on a selected case study (to be submitted in June 2024) as well as a presentation of the paper during the course. At the end of the Summer University, participants will take a written exam. Participation in discussions and regular attendance are also evaluation criteria.

Application:

The online application form as well as information on required documents are available on the course website.

The application deadline is Thursday, **29 February 2024 at midnight Central European Time.**

Fees: CHF 4'500.–

The fees include tuition, course material, excursions, board and accommodation (half-board: breakfast and dinner), access to the library of the Institute and Internet access on campus. The fee does not include costs for travel, visa, health insurance and personal expenses. Special fees apply to BeNeFri-students. For more information, please refer to the course website.

Heads of Programme:

Prof Eva Maria Belser, Chair for Constitutional Law, Co-Director of the Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg

Dr Soeren Keil, Academic Head of the International Research and Consulting Center, Institute of Federalism, University of Fribourg

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More information is available on the course website.
unifr.ch/federalism/fr/formcont/summeruniversityf.html

