An Invitation to co-create Democratic Futures Rooted in Belonging

OTHERING & BELONGING 2023 / BERLIN

Organized by the Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley, a research and action hub for identifying and eliminating the barriers to an inclusive, just, and sustainable society in order to create transformative change.

belonging.berkeley.edu/berlin2023
We are thrilled to be planning our first Othering & Belonging Conference in Europe, taking place Oct. 26-27, 2023 in Berlin. We are seeking support to help us bring this dynamic gathering to life and hope you will consider partnering with us.

Hosted by the Othering & Belonging Institute at the University of California, Berkeley, our conferences are uniquely curated to elevate innovative research, utilize the power of arts and culture, and strategize on the ideas, narratives, and practices that we need to together build a world where everyone belongs.

Having welcomed thousands of attendees since our first event in 2015, we are thrilled to be bringing this conference to Europe in 2023, building off work we are doing in Europe to connect civil actors and social justice leaders across Europe and North America to counter authoritarian-populism, othering, and fragmentation with belonging, justice, and care for each other and our earth.

From mainstage discussions to skills-building workshops, from movement and reflection spaces to time for facilitated conversations, the O&B 2023 Conference is designed to honor the many diverse modes of learning and being that people need to activate engagement and commitment.

We are committed to offering a number of scholarships for attendees otherwise unable to afford this event, and extending the reach of the conference through dissemination of video recordings and other conference proceedings to OBI's large, global, and growing audience. Support and partnership are essential components of these commitments.

We hope you will consider being part of our inaugural conference in Europe through a financial contribution, relaying information about the event to your networks, and especially through attending and participating in the discussions to co-create democracy and advance belonging.

With the future we want to build, it's going to take all of us.

“I feel like I'm evolving towards a new language to describe the radical love for humanity that I have, and I'm sure that many others have.”

–2017 O&B ATTENDEE

**John A. Powell**
Director, Othering & Belonging Institute, University of California, Berkeley

**Sara Grossman**
Program Director, Democracy & Belonging Forum, Othering & Belonging Institute

[belonging.berkeley.edu/berlin2023](belonging.berkeley.edu/berlin2023)
The **2023 Othering & Belonging Conference in Berlin** will bring together 400 participants drawn from different spheres of influence who share a broad commitment to both democracy and belonging, but who may have different ideological or subject matter priorities, approaches, or theories of change.

In particular, we aim to connect people working on issues of social cohesion and democracy with movement leaders and activists who are centrally concerned with issues of marginalization and justice.

This two-day gathering will feature mainstage sessions with leading thinkers, a set of breakout sessions developed in partnership with organizations in Europe, facilitated conversations, and neworking time for connection and strategy. Our programming will also highlight local artists and culturemakers.

**O&B 2023 in Berlin will feature discussions on the following topics:**

- **Reimagining what’s possible**
  - From authoritarianism and othering to democracy and belonging
- **Is democracy equipped for this?**
  - Renewing civic infrastructure in a time of populism and polycrisis
- **Turning towards each other, not against each other**
  - Bridging to counter authoritarianism and advance belonging
- **Same playbook, different players**
  - Charting shared tactics of anti-democratic movements from Türkiye to Texas
- **Countering the gender backlash**
  - Building coalitions against the populist playbook

Contact [Sara Grossman](#) if you are interested in becoming a supporter of our 2023 conference in Berlin. All contributions are deeply and will help strengthen the work and ecosystem to co-create democratic societies and belonging.