

## POWERst Summer School 2022

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### Monday

13:30 - 14:00 **Admission**

14:00 - 14:15 **Official Greeting**

K. Wilhelm (University of Stuttgart)

14:15 - 17:00 **Let's Get to Know Each Other and Set the Scene for POWERst!**

S. Siegert, M. Münchbach, P. Scheurich (University of Stuttgart)

Setting the scene for the POWERst Summer School, this workshop provides the basis for working together in the upcoming week. You will therefore be given the opportunity to get to know the POWERst team and learn more about your fellow international POWERst peers and their motivations to participate in the POWERst Summer School 2022. We will focus on your expectations and wishes for the Summer School and provide you with a first thematic introduction, while addressing the questions of what it means to be a first generation student.

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### Tuesday

09:30 - 10:30 **Talk: Project POWERst: News, Insights and Goals**

R. Heiberger (University of Stuttgart)

"POWERst – emPOWERing first generation STudents" aims at building a more Inclusive Higher Education System in Europe. The purpose of the project is to facilitate access to higher education, especially for first-generation students, to improve study conditions and to highlight future prospects. The innovative aspect of POWERst is that students are involved and actively participate in the project from the very beginning. However, university employees and teaching staff are also to be sensitized to the topic and given tools for their everyday work through materials. In this presentation, first results of a university-wide survey on the educational background of students will be presented and discussed to create an outlook for a lasting effect.

11:00 - 12:00 **Seminar: Student Mobility among First Generation Students – From the main obstacles to concrete solutions**

E. Demerseman (YES - Forum)

While international mobility has become more and more common over the last decades, especially among higher education students, first-generation students remain far less likely to experience time abroad. In turn, this adds up to the disadvantages they face when entering the job market. What obstacles are the most common? How can first-generation students overcome these and "break the cycle"? Together, let's explore not only "top-down solutions" – i.e. institutional schemes which can help you tackling obstacles to your own international mobility – but also "bottom-up initiatives" – what you can do on your own to "help yourselves"!

14:00 - 17:00 **Workshop: One out of 27: How's life as a First-Gen student?**

J. Espenlaub (Arbeiterkind.de)

The educational path in Germany is still closely linked to the parental home: Out of 100 children whose parents didn't go to college, only 27 go on to study, although twice as many pass the Abitur. By contrast, 79 out of every 100 children whose parents have a college diploma go on to study. So how's life as a First-Gen student? What has helped you to move forward and what has held you back? What challenges and hurdles do you face? What skills do you have precisely because you were the first in your family to study?

Together with representatives of Arbeiterkind.de, we explore what unites us as first generation students and how we still each go our own way. We also find out what volunteering with ArbeiterKind.de looks like and how you can be a role model for other first-generation students.



## Wednesday

### 09:00 - 12:00 **Workshop: Class Matters!?**

T. Abou (University of Hildesheim)

"Class is the elephant in the room" said the great bell hooks. She described the vacuum of silence, that is perceptible and present - not only but especially - in academic spaces, where other categories of inequality are at least discussable, but when it comes to class there is often insecurity and silence. Moreover it is claimed that 'we' live in a class-less society and that whoever wants to make 'it' will make 'it'. In this impulse-talk we will take a look into the bootstrap myth and look at classism as well in society as in our personal lives.

### 14:00 - 15:30 **Workshop: Inclusion as an Imperative of Educational Equity**

K. Beck (Professional School of Education Stuttgart-Ludwigsburg)

What does inclusion mean and how is it related to educational equity? In this workshop you will learn about the basics of inclusive education from an international human rights perspective of the UN and determine what this means for school and higher education.

### 15:45 - 17:00 **Workshop: Imposter Syndrome?!**

R. Powers (Professional School of Education Stuttgart-Ludwigsburg)

Often successful people, for a variety of reasons, feel their success is due to "luck," or "coincidence," particularly if people don't have strong senses of identity and understand how it is formed internally and by external factors. This may lead to a sense of "I don't really belong here," or even guilt that "soon they will find out about me." The imposter syndrome is much more common than we think, and it's important to know about it to prevent it from keeping us reaching our potentials and celebrating ourselves for who we are and what we've accomplished.

This challenging, revealing workshop focuses on first-generation students who are succeeding at institutes of higher learning to help us become aware of the imposter syndrome, so we can deal with it appropriately in ourselves and others. You'll find that you do, indeed, belong, and have gotten where you are because of merit, goals and focus.

## Thursday

### 09:00 - 12:00 **Workshop: Experiences as a First Generation Student**

B. Schönberger, S. Siegert, M. Münchbach, P. Scheurich  
(University of Stuttgart)

After learning about privileges, classism and intersectionality, we will take the time to reflect on our own experiences. Therefore, methods for this reflection will be introduced and each participant will have the opportunity to draw, note or write down his/her/their own journey in order to open the doors for exchange and empowerment in the following afternoon session.

### 14:00 - 17:00 **Workshop: Empowerment! – Share and Exchange!**

R. Powers (Professional School of Education Stuttgart-Ludwigsburg)

We've had a busy week filled with energy and excitement as we journeyed together through this week's Project POWERst activities, making new friends, addressing the challenges for first-gen students and our universities with international mobility, conscious and unconscious classism, micro- and macroaggressions, self-deprecation & identity formation, privilege, the imposter syndrome, and other systemic and internal phenomena that can affect us. Exploring the momentum from this morning's workshop, this fun and dynamic afternoon workshop seeks to build us up, to share positive energy about who we are, where we've been, and where we're going, so we honor our families' pasts, presents and futures. Loving the lights that shine in all of us is an important step to empowerment as first-gen students, and this workshop helps us with tools, practices and sharing networks for our work this week to continue. Be brave, be bold, beYOU!



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## Friday

### 09:00 - 11:30 **Workshop: Utopia – What Should Universities Offer?**

B. Schönberger, B. D. Ehring (University of Stuttgart)

In this workshop, we will use the experiences, reflections, and content from the week to gather what support formats the university can offer to first-generation-students to ensure inclusive higher education. Here, students will present their findings previously collected in small groups. These will then be discussed together in order to find suitable support formats that could be integrated into the POWERst toolbox to make the start in higher education as easy as possible for first-generation-students.

### 11:30 - 12:00 **Take Home Message and Farewell**

B. Schönberger, B. Ehring (University of Stuttgart)