

# editorial

dear readers,  
dear colleagues and friends,

It gives us great pleasure to see this very first issue of *static* published – both in print and digitally. *static* is the bi-annual bulletin of the Käte Hamburger Research Centre *global dis:connect*. It is a forum to present and share the work done at the Centre by fellows and resident staff while it is still in the making, while it grows and develops, before it is put in the moulds of scientific publishing in the narrower sense of the word and needs to fit these moulds.

Accordingly, what you find on the following pages is everything but static. On the contrary, the research on which all of the following contributions build is very much in motion. You will find ideas that are just about to flourish, projects that are very much works-in-progress, visions that need to be developed over the next few years. As such, *static* and its contributions stand *pars pro toto* for our newly founded Käte Hamburger Research Centre, which has only just begun to explore the interplay between global connectivity and disconnectivity and to rethink and reconfigure many assumptions we used to hold about globalization.

We are breaking new ground here, and *static* is one of the first outlets to share what we find. So, if this is all very dynamic and unfolding as we go along, why call our bulletin ‘static’? Is there some counterintuitive twist by which we seek to draw attention to the role of disconnections in processes of globalisation? Maybe,



You can also find our new  
bulletin *static* online at  
[www.globaldisconnect.org](http://www.globaldisconnect.org)





but if so it has been a subconscious move. Rather, the term alludes to the static you always get when you try to tune an analogue radio or television receiver to a particular frequency, the so-called ‘white noise’ you get as a by-product when looking for a particular signal. And even when that signal has been found, a certain amount of static remains. It is easy to discard such static as noise that does not carry any information and interferes with the actual signal. This is what the dichotomy of signal vs. noise plays with.

In fact, static carries all sorts of information. It is the joint product of what remains of other signals sent on different frequencies, of electrical processes in the atmosphere and of the thermal interference produced by the receiver’s circuits. If we learn to understand it, static, thus, tells us about other signals, about signal environments, about the inner workings of our instruments. Static draws our attention to the less obvious, to that which is often overlooked or discarded too early. *static* the bulletin takes up this noble cause and seeks to apply it to the study of process of globalisation.



*static* aims to gather new ways of thinking and contributions that challenge the established notion of globalisation as ever-increasing interconnectedness. With the concept of dis:connectivity, we assume there are ruptures in this interconnectedness, even de-globalisation. Therefore, we see connectivity and non-connectivity in a productive tension, as ongoing reciprocity and balancing – be it in the relationship between the local and the global, be it in the simultaneous interruption of human mobility and the intensification of digital exchanges, as we experienced in the years of the pandemic. Now the war in Ukraine, while having massive consequences for global trade flows, has brought the EU closer together.

With the publication of the first issue of *static*, the BMBF-funded Käte Hamburger Research Centre *global dis:connect* looks back on 12 months of intensive development, which started work on 1 June 2021. We look forward with curiosity and anticipation to the coming years of the Research Centre, the fellows who will bring new research approaches under the umbrella of the Centre and hopefully return to their home institutions enriched. *static* will reflect the results of the Centre’s work.

Come dis:connect with us!

Christopher Balme  
Burcu Dogramaci  
Roland Wenzlhuemer

