

# International Summer School 2026

## August 29 – September 3

### Germany / Mettingen – Osnabrück



# *The Economics of Fraternity*

## From Lived Reality to Measured Impact

This summer school explores fraternity as both a generative force already present within economic life and a horizon that can guide its renewal. While often treated as an inspirational moral principle, fraternity is also a lived economic reality: **it animates cooperation in workplaces, sustains trust in markets, and nurtures innovation through relationships of reciprocity and openness.** Yet, because it often operates quietly, like the mycelium beneath a forest floor, fraternity is frequently overlooked and rarely measured.

Drawing on theological and philosophical traditions, including the Franciscan heritage and Catholic Social Teaching, alongside contemporary economic theory, organizational studies, and behavioral sciences, **this program invites participants to broaden how they see and study economic relationships.** We will investigate fraternity as a relational good that already shapes institutions and enterprises, and we will

examine emerging empirical methods capable of detecting, quantifying, and comparing fraternal dynamics within and across economies.

Through lectures, workshops, field encounters, and collaborative research labs, **participants will learn to recognize where fraternity is already flourishing, where it is fragile, and how it might be strengthened.** Emphasis will be placed on relational indicators, inclusive governance, prosocial entrepreneurship, and measurement tools that make visible what is often felt but not counted.

Open to scholars, students, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and practitioners, **the program offers a space to refine our vision and methods,** equipping participants not only to promote fraternity in economic and business life, but to perceive and measure the fraternity that quietly sustains it today.



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