

# Identity and Class in Times of Far-Right Populism

**Department Socioeconomics Research Seminar  
- with Silke van Dyk, Friedrich Schiller University Jena**

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020 17:30 – 19:30**  
**D4.3.106, Welthandelsplatz 1, WU**

Instead of uniting emancipatory factions, the search for explanations for the success of right-wing populism has led to fierce controversy within the political and academic left. It is disputed whether the turn to the right is primarily a "self-defence" of the lower classes against (neo-)liberalism and the liberal elites or whether it is rather a matter of defending privileges from members of the middle class. Where racism is regarded by some as an important explanatory force, for others it is only the errant expression of a politically (to the right) misguided, but fundamentally justified struggle for social justice and recognition. At present, liberal, social democratic and left-wing forces alike are complaining that the over-accentuation of left-wing identity politics (the advocacy of the interests of women, migrants, LGBTQI\* or blacks) has driven workers and economically less privileged people into the arms of the right. Internationalist and cosmopolitan positions that rely on transnational solidarity and justice are declared the playground of privileged intellectuals. The presentation critically examines these diagnoses and raises the question of how an emancipatory perspective beyond the problematic re-nationalization of the social question and opposition of class and identity politics can look like.

Silke van Dyk's input will be followed by a short commentary by Felix Butzlaff (IGN). IGN Departmental Research Seminars seek to facilitate and foster open and engaged discussions. Also in this event, great space will be given to the latter.

**Prof. Dr. Silke van Dyk** is professor of sociology at Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena, Germany. Her research is focused on Political Sociology, Sociology of the Welfarestate, Sociology of Demography, Critical Theory, Discourse Theory and Empirical Discourse Analysis, and Qualitative Social Research.

**Dr. Felix Butzlaff** is a post-doctoral researcher at the IGN. His research explores the Transition(s) of Democracy, Democracy Theory; Social Movements, Civil Protests and Participation; Populism; Political Parties, Membership and Party Reforms; History of Social Democracy.

At the start of the event, the Institute will award its Best Dissertation Award for the year 2019 to **Laura Spitz** for her BA thesis on "Inclusion of Employee Values in Employer Branding".

Please register at: [IGN@wu.ac.at](mailto:IGN@wu.ac.at)