

Reactionary Democracy?

Rethinking common conceptualisations of the populist right

IGN Research Seminar

with **Aurelien Mondon**

Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021, 15:00 – 17:00

Online via MS-Teams

The rise and further prospects of the far right and the related crisis of liberal democracy are hotly debated issues. Challenging approaches that focus on popular demand for far right-wing politics, Aurelien Mondon and Aaron Winter (2020) suggest that the success of radical right-wing parties may be traced back not least to the influence of liberal intellectual elites who have used liberal ideals to legitimise reactionary narratives. Liberal democracies, Mondon and Winter argue, have become consumed by a fight for survival against a threat they have themselves nurtured.

Aurelien Mondon's input on the book *Reactionary Democracy* will be followed by a short commentary by Hauke Danneman (IGN), who will highlight the socio-ecological dimension of the current rise of the far right in times of post-growth capitalism and climate change. Against the backdrop of these inputs we want to discuss:

To what extent may liberal intellectuals really be held responsible for the rise of the far right? How plausible are explanations pointing to an 'overly narrow focus in mainstream politics on identity politics and minority issues'? How useful is analysis in terms of backlash, retrotopia, regression and reaction? Is it helpful to think, instead, in terms of a dialectic of democracy and emancipation?

Chair: Ingolfur Blühdorn (IGN)
Presenter: Aurelien Mondon (University of Bath)
Discussant: Hauke Dannemann (IGN)