

# Identity and Class in Times of Far-Right Populism

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

**Thursday, 27 May 2021 15:00-17:00  
online**

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 Hauke Dannemann (IGN). Departmental Research Seminars seek to facilitate and foster open and engaged discussions. Accordingly, significant space will be given to debate.

**Chair:** **Ingolfur Blühdorn**, Professor of Social Sustainability, Head of IGN

**Presenter:** **Silke van Dyk** is Professor of Sociology at Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena, Germany. Her research focuses on Political Sociology, Sociology of the Welfare State, Sociology of Demography, Critical Theory, Discourse Theory and Empirical Discourse Analysis, and Qualitative Social Research.

**Discussant:** **Hauke Dannemann, MSc** is PhD Candidate at the IGN. His research in Environmental Sociology and Politics focuses on Experimental Governance, Prefigurative Politics, Civil Society and the Far Right.

[Link to the webinar](#)