



Institutskolloquium DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR



Wednesday, 29 October 2025 · 16:00 c.t.
Room 124, Institut für Politikwissenschaft
Or join online via Zoom: 930 8975 0663
(Meeting ID), 142311 (Passcode)

The Contested Use of *Staatsräson*: Against the Backdrop of the Gaza Conflict

This talk probes the meaning-in-use of *Staatsräson* and its changes since being reactivated in the German political discourse on October 7, 2023. It presents the development of this norm as the case of a dormant norm that has been changed through a process of normative awakening. Wiener argues that, in the absence of meaningful behavioural or ethical instructions 'on the norm' and under the conditions of the ongoing and now expanding conflict, both the number of contestants and the number of sites where contestations take place are growing and diversifying.

By retracing the often-conflictive engagements with the *Staatsräson*, Wiener observes an emerging norm bundle including neighbouring norms such as 'from the river to the sea', 'genocide', and so on. In the absence of offering meanings 'on' the norm of reason of state, the bundle provides the meaning by adding layers of meaning 'to' the norm. With this, Wiener raises a larger question about responsible norm-use by politicians in times of security crisis.



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