EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
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Institut für Politikwissenschaft

Institutskolloquium / DEPARTMENTAL SEMINAR



Current Authoritarian Trends in the Middle East: A presentation of the Tyranny Tracker

Wednesday, 04 November 2026 · 16:00 c.t.

Room 124, Institut für Politikwissenschaft
Or join online via Zoom: zoom.us/j/93089750663
930 8975 0663 (Meeting ID), 142311 (Passcode)

The Tyranny Tracker, developed by the Human Rights Foundation (HRF), is a newly launched qualitative index that classifies countries as democratic, hybrid authoritarian or fully authoritarian. Instead of aggregated numerical scores, it assesses 45 indicators across three pillars: electoral competition, freedom of dissent and institutional accountability. Particular weight is placed on judicial independence as the decisive check on executive power. Our guests present the Tracker's approach and findings and ask what they reveal about current authoritarian trends in the Middle East. The panelists Malaak Jamal, Lynn Harfoush and Charles Sutherland will discuss how well the framework captures Middle Eastern realities, where the tracker complements or challenges existing measures, and what the recent authoritarian developments mean for research, policy and civil society.

Presenters and Panelists:



Malaak Jamal
Human Rights Foundation



Lynn Harfoush
Lebanese National Bloc



Charles Sutherland
Human Rights Foundation

in cooperation: Human Rights Foundation