



LOCATION

Universität Hamburg
Warburg-Haus
Heilwigstr. 116
20249 Hamburg

(Metro station "Kellinghusenstraße")

REGISTRATION

Limited number of places
Please register before April 30, 2017
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FAKULTÄT
FÜR WIRTSCHAFTS- UND
SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN
FACHBEREICH SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN

ORGANISATION

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<https://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/fachbereich-sowi/professuren/niesen/forschung/forschungsprojekte.html>

DFG-Projekt 'Reclaiming Constituent Power'

FAKULTÄT
FÜR WIRTSCHAFTS- UND
SOZIALWISSENSCHAFTEN



**PROTEST, DISOBEDIENCE,
OR CONSTITUENT POWER?**

**EMERGING COUNTER-NARRATIVES FOR
TRANSNATIONAL CONSTITUENCIES**

WORKSHOP

15.05.2017

Transnational social movements and campaigns, in reacting to the varieties of cross-border domination, have described their activities in the traditional vocabularies of political protest: as opposition, contestation, disobedience, or, in more vigorous conflicts, as dissidence, resistance, insurgency, or rebellion. Where strategies have involved illegal, well-publicised activities, the vocabulary of civil disobedience has become an activist *lingua franca*, highly amenable to its transnational adaptation. What all such descriptions have in common is that they paint a largely defensive picture of the politics of non-domination.

In contrast, the emergence of the 'global constitutionalist' paradigm in international law and politics has seen a renewed interest in the category of constituent power. Transnational initiatives such as DiEM25 and the World Social Forum have begun to frame their activities in a 'constitutive' and less in a 'reactive' language. In this, they may express a desire to reconfigure existing institutions, or they may aim to connect with Emmanuel Sieyès' view that *pouvoirs constituants* cannot be restricted in their forms of expression, or ever fully institutionalised. In countering the challenges of cross-border domination, hitherto non-existent collectives may grasp the chance for extra-institutional self-activation.



Like the categories of resistance and civil disobedience, the invocation of constituent power represents a claim to non-compliance with usurped authority. Protest movements thus seem to be able to choose between different vocabularies of varying ambition, and intellectuals and scholars describing their activities may be in a position to recommend to them certain descriptions over others. The workshop aims to assess and compare the features and the various strengths and weaknesses of the respective languages of critique and constitution. To that end, it brings together scholars of the competing paradigms.

PROGRAMME

09.45-10.00 Welcome & Introduction

10.00-12.00 Languages of Critique and Constitution

- Christopher Daase/Nicole Deitelhoff (Frankfurt/M.): "International Dissidence: Conceptualizing Resistance and Rule in the International System"
- Peter Niesen (Hamburg): "Beyond Resistance and Disobedience: Constituent Power"
- Comments: Antje Wiener (Hamburg)

12.00-13.00 Lunch Break

13.00-16.00 Varieties of Extraordinary Politics

- Robin Celikates (Amsterdam): "Politicizing Disobedience, or: How Extraordinary is Constituent Power?"
- Bill Scheuerman (Indiana): "Civil Disobedience and Constituent Power: Beyond the Nation State?"
- Markus Patberg (Hamburg): "Challenging the Masters of the Treaties: Emerging Narratives of Constituent Power in the European Union"
- Comments: Thorsten Thiel (Frankfurt)

16.00-16.30 Coffee Break

16.30-18.30 Self-Activation of New Collectives

- Christian Volk (Berlin): "Political Protest and the Transnational Constellation"
- Isabell Lorey (Kassel): "The Constituent Power of the Multitude"
- Comments: Frieder Vogelmann (Bremen)