WZB Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung

AE | ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

# "Statecraft in an Age of Fracture"-Berlin-Conference (13-14 July 2026)

Academic Exchange Conference at
Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)
3rd Floor Conference Room
(A310)

## SUNDAY, 12 JULY

**Arrival** in Berlin at Marriott-Hotel

**07:30** meeting in the hotel-lobby & walk to optional dinner at Grimm's

**08:00** Grimm's Restaurant (Flottwellstr. 45, 10785 Berlin)

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## MONDAY, JULY 13

**9:30-09:45** **Welcome and introduction**

*Charles Kupchan, Jack Snyder, Peter Trubowitz, Michael Zürn*

**09:45-11:45** **Panel 1: Polarization and Ideological Fixation**

*Chair Peter Trubowitz*

**Nicole Deitelhoff & Jonas Wolf:** Polarization Going Global? Patterns and Effects of Polarization Dynamics

**Azar Gat:** The Phenomenon of Ideological Fixation

**Yotam Margalit:** Polarization and the New Politics of the Center

**Lena Röllicke:** Beyond Black-and-White: Reducing (different types of) Affective Polarization in Times of Rising Illiberalism

**11:45-12:00** **Coffee break**

**12:00-14:00 Panel 2: Polarization and Right-Wing Populism: Foreign Policy Implications**

*Chair Michael Zürn*

**Tanja Börzel:** From Contestations to Erosion and Bloc Building? Polarization and the Future of the Liberal International Order

**Nils Kumkar:** Right-wing Populism, Communicative Polarization, and Foreign Policy

**Murat Somer**: Pernicious Polarizers, Statecraft and Foreign Policy: Causes, Risks and Correctives

**Eran Shamir-Borer**: Rule of Lawlessness: How Domestic Hostility to the Rule of Law Shapes Foreign Policy toward the International Legal Order

**14:00-15:00 Lunch**

**15:00-16:30 Panel 3: A Practitioner's View**

*Chair: Charles Kupchan*

Input by **Dr. Norbert Röttgen**, MdB

**19:00 Dinner (tbc)**

(Likely: Restaurant Acht& Dreißig or other location)

**TUESDAY, JULY 14**

**9:30-11:30 Panel 4: The Dynamics of Polarization**

*Chair: Jack Snyder*

**Margit Cohn**: Post-February Developments in Israel: War, Future Elections and Continued Democratic Backsliding

**Marina Henke**: Zeitenwende or Continuity? Germany's Quest for a Grand Strategy

**Kenneth Schultz:** Hegemonic Decline under Polarization, Illiberalism, and Democratic Erosion

**Gayil Talshir**: Ideological Realignment in Times of Populism in Power: Internal Transformations, External Consequences

**11:30-11:45 Coffee Break**

**11:45-13:15 Panel 5: Strategy Ahead?**

*Chair: Charles Kupchan*

**Lauren Sukin**: Designing U.S. Nuclear Policy Under Enduring Polarization

**Shaul Shenhav:** Toward a Narrative Approach to Mapping and Reducing Polarization in Political Rhetoric

**Jennifer McCoy:** Mitigating Pernicious Polarization that Divides Both Domestically and Internationally

**13:30-14:15 Light Lunch, Lessons and What's Next**

*Chair Michael Zürn*

**19:00 Dinner for Those Who Stay at Michael's Place** (Fabeckstr. 73A, 14195 Berlin)