

## The Haifa Center for German and European Studies Guest Lecture

# Social Movements vs Political Parties in Germany Today: The Anti-Immigrant Activism of Pegida and the Anti-Coal Activism of Ende Gelände and their relationship to AfD and the Greens respectively

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New grassroots civil society uprisings against institutions like the anti-coal movement Ende Gelände on the left and the anti-immigrant movement PEGIDA on the right legitimate their actions with reference to the government's failure to protect people, from climate change/environmental destruction and

from mass migration/economic hardship respectively. Both sides advocate for radical change: Ende Gelände demands "System Change, not Climate Change". PEGIDA challenges the traditional party system: "Parteien gute Nacht, Bürger an die Macht! [Parties, good night; citizens must lead]." Politically, their goals align most closely with the Green Party on the one side and Alternative for Germany (AfD) on the other. Yet while AfD was able to mobilize PEGIDA voters to show up at the polls in 2017, the young climate activists of Ende Gelände chose not to mobilize voters for the Green party out of disdain for the party's perceived complicity with the status quo. Similarities and differences between the developments on both sides will help tease out what role they are likely going to play in German politics going forward.

**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**12:00 – 14:00**

**Library Auditorium, Room 146, University of Haifa**

The lecture will be held in English and will be open to the public

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