



## WISSENSCHAFTSGESPRÄCHE

Mittwoch, 5. Juni 2024, 19.00 Uhr

Bruno Kreisky Forum für Internationalen Dialog, Armbrustergasse 15, 1190 Wien

Anmeldung: <https://www.kreisky-forum.org>

Samuel Moyn, Herlinde Pauer-Studer, Alexander Somek, Fabio Wolkenstein

### LIBERALISM AGAINST ITSELF

#### The Cold War Roots of Liberalism's Present Crisis

By the middle of the twentieth century, many liberals looked glumly at the world modernity had brought about, with its devastating wars, rising totalitarianism, and permanent nuclear terror. They concluded that, far from offering a solution to these problems, the ideals of the Enlightenment, including emancipation and equality, had instead created them. The historian of political thought Samuel Moyn argues that the liberal intellectuals of the Cold War era—among them Isaiah Berlin, Gertrude Himmelfarb, Karl Popper, Judith Shklar, and Lionel Trilling—transformed liberalism but left a disastrous legacy for our time. In his new book “Liberalism Against Itself” Moyn outlines how Cold War liberals redefined the ideals of their movement and renounced the moral core of the Enlightenment for a more dangerous philosophy: preserving individual liberty at all costs. In denouncing this stance, as well as the recent nostalgia for Cold War liberalism as a means to counter illiberal values, Moyn presents a timely call for a new emancipatory and egalitarian liberal philosophy—a path to undoing the damage of the Cold War and to ensuring the survival of liberalism. Herlinde Pauer Studer, Alexander Somek and Fabio Wolkenstein will discuss with Samuel Moyn his findings and thoughts.



**Samuel Moyn** is Chancellor Kent Professor of Law and History at Yale University and author of many books on the history of ideas and politics in the twentieth century

**Herlinde Pauer-Studer** is Professor emeritus, Department of Philosophy, University of Vienna

**Alexander Somek** is Professor of Legal Philosophy at the Faculty of Law, University of Vienna

**Fabio Wolkenstein** is Associate Professor at the Institute for Political Science, University of Vienna

Samuel Moyn:

- *Liberalism Against Itself. Cold War Intellectuals and the Making of Our Times*  
*Yale University Press, September 2023, ISBN 978-030-0266214*
- *Der Liberalismus gegen sich selbst. Intellektuelle im Kalten Krieg und die Entstehung der Gegenwart*  
*Aus dem Amerikanischen von Christine Pries*  
*Suhrkamp Wissenschaft, 978-3-518-58816-1, erscheint 9. Sept. 2024*

Das Programm des Bruno Kreisky Forums für internationalen Dialog wird mit Unterstützung der Stadt Wien, der Republik Österreich (Bundeskanzleramt, Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft, Forschung und Innovation, Bundesministerium für Landesverteidigung) und mit Hilfe privater Sponsoren und Spender realisiert. Wir danken all unseren Förderern und unseren zahlreichen Partnern und Partnerinnen für die gute Zusammenarbeit.