

**Podiumsdiskussion, Donnerstag, 27. September, 19:30 Uhr**

**Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Hausvogteiplatz 5-7, 0109**

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## **Repression of Academic Liberty and Freedom of Research in Turkey**

Within the context of debates on the uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa, Turkey has been rendered by Arab and international media as well as by political and academic observers in European countries as a role model of democracy and modernization. In Turkey itself, it was already the reform process pursued by the AKP government since 2002, which caused hope for change after the massive repressions of the 1980s and 1990s. However, this reform process had come to stagnation at the latest in 2006. Recently, Turkey experiences again increased repression of the rights to freedom of expression. Under the pretext of counter-terrorism operations countless academics, translators, lawyers, and journalists have been arrested; most of them are involved in activities to achieve a peaceful solution of the Kurdish-Turkish conflict. An example is the political scientist Büşra Ersanlı. After more than eight months in prison, she was released in July 2012. However, she still faces a trial and up to 22 years of prison, according to Article 314 of the Turkish Penal Code.

The panel discussion seeks to shed light at the elements of repression in the academia. In doing so we ask whether the current wave of repression is an outcome of the Islamic character of the AKP or rather a consequence of the – continuous - nationalist structure of Turkey's society. Taking a historicizing and contextualizing approach we want to discuss the changing 'nature' of control mechanisms and strategies serving to exercise violence. The panel also aims at an evaluation of chances and limits of solidarity with the oppressed actors in Turkey.

### **Participants:**

**Prof. Dr. Büşra Ersanlı** (Political Scientist, Marmara University Istanbul)

**Prof. Dr. Hans-Lukas Kieser** (Historian, University of Zurich)

**Prof. Dr. Christoph K. Neumann** (Historian, Ludwigs-Maximilians University Munich)

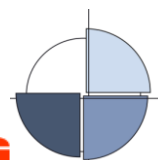
Chair: **Dr. Corry Guttstadt** (Historian, Berlin)

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Eine Veranstaltung der International Working Group 'Academic Liberty and Freedom of Research in Turkey' (GIT), Berlin. Unterstützt von:



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