PLURALISTIC SOCIETY AND ITS ENEMIES
The title of the 21st Karlsruhe Dialogues refers to the famous work by the philosopher Karl Popper, *The Open Society and Its Enemies* (1945). The model of society described in that work is closely linked to democratic forms of government, and takes a stand against totalitarianism. More than 70 years after its publication, Popper’s work has remained highly up-to-date, even if today, other ‘enemies’ are threatening the heterogeneous, pluralistic, and open society. 

Democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, freedom of expression, the protection of minorities: these and other achievements of civil society, which have been arduously acquired over decades – and sometimes over centuries – are now often taken for granted. Yet, recent developments show that these achievements are by no means self-evident. The re-emergence of ideologies, the spread of conspiracy theories and simple ‘truths’, the indifference toward distinctions and the neglect of an adequate level of complexity: all of these are symptoms of, and simultaneously reinforce, a negative attitude toward knowledge-based, critical, and open pluralistic societies. Without the firm adherence of citizens to the aforementioned values and laws, there is a danger that these will lose their fundamental meaning. It is essential to avert this danger by a conscious examination of the achievements of constitutional and democratic forms of government.

The 21st Karlsruhe Dialogues will controversially discuss the positions of old and new enemies with experts from science, politics, and praxis. What are their origins and what threat do they pose? To what extent can political disinterest and mistrust against the elite be reduced through new forms of democracy? In what way do the media and the established parties not sufficiently live up to their roles? How
should we respond to those who do share our pluralistic values?

The three-day event features international participants and examines the subject from different perspectives for a broad audience in keynote addresses, discussions, and roundtables. The symposium will be accompanied by cultural events, adding to the analytic discourse by offering further perspectives from an artistic point of view. The programme includes a thematic film night in cooperation with the television channel ARTE and the ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien Karlsruhe (Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe), a reading and a scenic reading at Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe (State Theatre of Baden, Karlsruhe) as well as a film contribution of the Wissenschaftsbüro of the Stadtmarketing Karlsruhe GmbH (the science office of Karlsruhe city marketing).

The ZAK is honoured to be partnered since 2005 by the Foundation for Education and Social Affairs of Sparda-Bank Baden-Württemberg, the main supporter of the Karlsruhe Dialogues together with the city of Karlsruhe. The ZAK wishes to express its thanks for its partners’ generous support and is looking forward to the continued partnership.

→ MOST EVENTS WITHIN THE KARLSRUHE DIALOGUES CAN BE ATTENDED WITHOUT AN ENTRANCE FEE. WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU!
→ CONFERENCE LANGUAGES: GERMAN, ENGLISH; SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING
→ SUBJECT TO ALTERATIONS

PRESENTED BY:
ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

Registration for the opening reception as well as the reading on Sunday necessary via: www.zak.kit.edu
Info line: +49 (0) 7 21/608-4 43 84

CONCEPT AND SCIENTIFIC CONVENORSHIP:
Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha

ORGANISATION:
Christine Melcher Dipl.-Angl.
FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2017
OPENING EVENT OF THE 21ST KARLSRUHE DIALOGUES

AUDIMAX OF KIT, BUILDING 30.95, STRASSE AM FORUM 1, KIT CAMPUS SOUTH

WELCOME ADDRESSES

Prof. Dr. Alexander Wanner
Vice President of KIT for Higher Education and Academic Affairs

Dr. Frank Mentrup
Lord Mayor of the City of Karlsruhe

Martin Hettich
Chairman of the Board of Sparda-Bank Baden-Württemberg eG

INTRODUCTION

Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha
Director of the ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies, KIT

OPENING KEYNOTE LECTURE

Pluralism and Its Enemies: Challenges for Shared Societies

Prof. Dr. Zlatko Lagumdžija (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Former Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Member of Club de Madrid, Founder of the Foundation Shared Societies and Values, Sarajevo
MUSICAL PROGRAMME

Ensemble CLARIBEL
Aleksandra Manic (violin), Frol Golivets (clarinet), Stanislav Novitskiy (piano) and Paul Cervenec (contrabass)

The repertoire of the ensemble CLARIBEL includes works and arrangements from baroque to modern music. In its particular composition, the ensemble captures its audience with a unique sound, various playing techniques, and its enthusiasm for making music.

The musicians are graduates of Karlsruhe’s and Mannheim’s University of Music and winners of national and international music competitions.

FILM CONTRIBUTION

What do you consider to be an open society?
Interviews with Karlsruhe citizens
Film contribution Wissenschaftsbüro of the Stadtmarketing Karlsruhe GmbH (the science office of Karlsruhe city marketing)

→ NO ENTRANCE FEE
→ REGISTRATION NECESSARY VIA WWW.ZAK.KIT.EDU.

NEW PUBLICATION

DIALOGUE IN PROGRESS.
Stimmen aus 20 Karlsruher Gesprächen

Publication will be available during the event weekend at the Audimax and IHK Karlsruhe venues (book price 29 €).
WELCOME ADDRESSES

Burkhard Freyberg
Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Karlsruhe

Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha
Director of the ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies, KIT

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

— Can Diversity Embrace Democracy?
  Dr. Kenan Malik (United Kingdom)
  Writer, journalist, broadcaster and university lecturer

— Pluralism in Urban Society: Illusions, Realities, Conflicts
  Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kaschuba (Germany)
  Director of the Berlin Institute for Integration and Migration Research (BIM)

— Women and Sharia Law: The Impact of Legal Pluralism
  PD Dr. Elham Manea (Switzerland/Yemen)
  Department of Political Science, University of Zurich

— Democracy and Media Freedom: New Polish Unfreedom
  Bartosz Wieliński (Poland)
  Political journalist, Head of the International News Department of the second largest national Polish daily newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza, former correspondent in Germany

— Interventional Politics: Mistakes Made, Lessons Learned?
  Emma Sky, OBE (United Kingdom/USA)
  Lecturer on Middle East Politics at Yale’s Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, and Director of the Yale World Fellows fellowship programme

LUNCH BREAK
— Populism: Democracy’s Achilles Heel?
Prof. Dr. Jan-Werner Müller (Germany/USA/Austria)
Professor of Politics, Princeton University, currently Visiting Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna

— The Rise of Authoritarianism: Global Trends against Democracy
Suat Kınıklioğlu (Turkey)
Executive Director of the Center for Strategic Communication (STRATIM), Ankara, currently Senior Fellow at the Institute for Security and Development Policy, Stockholm

— Rising Anger at ›The System‹: Why the European Union Is in Crisis
Prof. Alan Johnson (United Kingdom)
Senior Research Fellow, Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (BICOM), and editor of the journal »Fathom«

— Racism and Radical Nationalism: On the Current Situation in Poland
Prof. Dr. Rafał Pankowski (Poland)
Political Scientist, Collegium Civitas, Warsaw, deputy editor of the magazine »Never Again«

— Countering Extremisms: Women’s Role after the Arab Spring
Hajer Sharief (Libya)
Co-Founder of the NGO »Together We Build It«, Advocate for the Kofi Annan Foundation on Countering Violent Extremism, Member of the UN Advisory Group of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security

— The Enemies of Pluralistic Societies: Youth, and the Challenge It Represents
Dr. Tom Junes (Belgium)
Historian, Member of the Human and Social Studies Foundation Sofia, Bulgaria, Visiting Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy

→ NO ENTRANCE FEE. ADMISSION ONLY AS LONG AS SEATS ARE AVAILABLE. WE HOPE FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.
→ THE ›STEPHANUS-BUCHHANDLUNG‹ WILL BE OFFERING A SELECTION OF BOOKS FOR SALE.
FILM
ZKM | CENTER FOR ART AND MEDIA KARLSRUHE,
LORENZSTRASSE 19, ZKM_MEDIA THEATER

ARTE FILM NIGHT

Presentation of documentaries, short and feature films in cooperation with ARTE and ZKM | Karlsruhe

Is democracy under threat? The ideal of a democratic, diverse, and multicultural society is no longer shared by all. Right-wing populist parties are on the rise, the confidence of citizens in politics is declining, the threat of terrorist attacks is approaching. The ARTE film night addresses the dangers that pluralistic society is confronted with.

Populist.
A search for the motives and causes of right-wing populist movements across Europe: Rechts, Zwo, Drei. Driftet Europa ab? (Rightwards. Is Europe Drifting Off?)

Aggressive.
A group of cocky teenagers pass the time randomly attacking schoolmates and strangers – and proudly post videos of their deeds on the Internet: Happy Slapping

Willing to negotiate.
How can different religions coexist peacefully – young Muslims from all over Europe participate in the debate: Islam in Europa: Integration gleich Assimilation? (Islam in Europe: Integration Equals Assimilation?)

Shocking.
The Paris attacks caused shock and sympathy worldwide. This documentary examines their effects on politics and society: Je suis Charlie, je suis Paris

Grass-roots democratic.
Throughout Europe, the trust in elites is declining. Left- and right-wing populists are stirring up the landscape of political parties: Direkte Demokratie – aber welche? (Direct Democracy – But Which One?)
Violent.

August 1992, Rostock-Lichtenhagen: a refugee home is set on fire and right-wing hooligans shock politicians and citizens. An up-to-date drama: Wir sind jung. Wir sind stark. (We Are Young. We Are Strong.)

Populist.

7.30 p.m. RECHTS, ZWO, DREI. DRIFTET EUROPA AB? (Rightwards – Is Europe Drifting Off?) Documentary by Nicola Burfeindt, Tita von Hardenberg, Romy Strassenburg et al. ARTE/ZDF 2016

Aggressive.

9.15 p.m. HAPPY SLAPPING Short film by Yan Vega ARTE France 2009

Willing to negotiate.

ISLAM IN EUROPÄ: INTEGRATION GLEICH ASSIMILATION? (Islam in Europe: Integration Equals Assimilation?) Report ARTE/ZDF 2015

Shocking.

9.45 p.m. JE SUIS CHARLIE, JE SUIS PARIS Documentary by Benoît Bertrand-Cadi ARTE 2015

Grass-roots democratic.

10.45 p.m. DIREKTE DEMOKRATIE – ABER WELCHE? (Direct Democracy – But Which One?) Report ARTE France 2016

11.15 p.m. LATE NIGHT SNACK

Violent.

11.45 p.m. WIR SIND JUNG. WIR SIND STARK. (We Are Young. We Are Strong.) Feature film by Burhan Qurbani ARTE/ZDF 2014

→ FILMS SHOWN IN GERMAN
→ NO ENTRANCE FEE
SUNDAY 5 MARCH 2017
MORNING PANEL DISCUSSION

What Needs to Be Done?
Thoughts and Experiences for the Protection of Pluralistic Society

Welcome Address:
Prof. Dr. Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha
Director of the ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies, KIT

Moderation: Markus Brock
Moderator, 3sat and SWR

Prof. Dr. Zlatko Lagumdžija (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Former Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Founder of the Foundation Shared Societies and Values, Sarajevo

Mike van Graan (South Africa)
Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow, Robert Bosch Academy, and Technical Advisor for the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, Playwright

as well as further participants

READING

STUDIO, BADISCHES STAATSTHEATER KARLSRUHE,
HERMANN-LEVI-PLATZ 1

Güner Yasemin Balci
Das Mädchen und der Gotteskrieger

Nimet from Berlin is 16 years old when one day she receives a message on WhatsApp from Saed, a young man from Turkey. The two soon find themselves in constant contact over the Internet, Saed is always there for her, and at some point he starts calling her
his »wife«. She doesn’t know that Saed is a soldier for the Islamic State. One day nothing more is heard from him. She sets out for the Turkish-Syrian border. The stunning report about one girl’s path to becoming a jihadi wife.

5.30 p.m.

Safe Places
by Falk Richter
Scenic reading with following discussion
With members of the theatre company

What private and political strategies exist for dealing with the challenges of an open society in Europe – this electric mix of contradictions? How are these contradictions lived? How do we react to outbreaks of xenophobia and nationalist self-assertions? Is the search for a common European cultural identity the right answer, or does it only postpone the issue of drawing up borders?

THEATRE

STUDIO, BADISCHES STAATSTHEATER KARLSRUHE, HERMANN-LEVI-PLATZ 1

Theatre

NO ENTRANCE FEE
REGISTRATION NECESSARY VIA WWW.ZAK.KIT.EDU.
The reading is in German.

Theatre

THEATRE

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→ THE PERFORMANCE IS IN GERMAN.
→ ADMISSION: 5 €
→ TICKETS AT THE BOX OFFICE (PHONE: 0721-933 333) OR VIA WWW.STAATSTHEATER.KARLSRUHE.DE

Das ZAK bedankt sich bei allen Mitveranstaltern und Sponsoren für ihre großartige Unterstützung!
Pluralistic society finds itself in ever greater difficulties – be it by nationalism, populism, or xenophobia. The Karlsruhe Dialogues bring together international experts of various disciplines in order to controversially discuss the future of our society in diversity.

The ZAK is much obliged to all co-organisers and sponsors for their outstanding support. Thank you!