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If you want to register, please send an e-mail to: [veranstaltungen@wzb.eu](mailto:veranstaltungen@wzb.eu) by March 11, 2020, at the latest.

Our event location is wheelchair-accessible.  
If you need support, please e-mail to: [veranstaltungen@wzb.eu](mailto:veranstaltungen@wzb.eu)

The WZB provides child care during the lecture.  
Please respond by March 5, 2020 to: [veranstaltungen@wzb.eu](mailto:veranstaltungen@wzb.eu)



# WZB

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin  
für Sozialforschung

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## The End of Liberal Democracy? Symposium

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March 19, 2020

Room A 300

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## The End of Liberal Democracy?

Liberal democracy seems to be under more pressure than ever. Social polarisation, loss of trust between citizens and elites, widening gaps in representation – and right-wing populist movements that seem to be filling these gaps – are giving liberal democracy a hard time. Sometimes there is even talk of the end of liberal democracy. Whether such an end is really threatening is an open question. In fact, however, with the retirement of the director, Wolfgang Merkel, the research program of the WZB's Democracy and Democratization department is coming to an end after 16 years. On this occasion, an international symposium with distinguished experts will discuss central theses of the department's and its director's research.

Thursday, March 19, 2020

12.30 p.m. *Light Lunch*

1 p.m. Welcome by **Jutta Allmendinger**,  
President of the WZB

Introduction by **Bernhard Weßels**,  
WZB

1.10 p.m. **Wolfgang Merkel's Contribution to  
Democracy Research and Beyond,  
Laudatio**

**John Keane**, University of Sydney/  
WZB

1.35 p.m. - 3.40 p.m.

**Four Inputs to the Scholarly Work of  
Wolfgang Merkel**

Transformation and Embedded  
Democracy

**Aurel Croissant**, Ruprecht-Karls-  
Universität Heidelberg

Measuring the Quality of Democracy  
**Anna Lührmann**, University of  
Gothenburg

2.15 p.m. *Coffee Break*

3 p.m. Crisis of Democracy?  
**Jan-Werner Müller**,  
Princeton University

Cure against the Crisis of Democracy  
**Claudia Ritz**, Universität Trier

3.40 p.m. **Insights from Research of the  
Department Democracy and  
Democratization**  
Members of the Research Department

4.30 p.m. *Coffee Break*

4.45 p.m. **Roundtable on Crisis and Survival of  
Democracy**  
Moderator: **Gunnar Folke Schuppert**,  
WZB

Participants:

**Aurel Croissant**, **John Keane**, **Anna  
Lührmann**, **Wolfgang Merkel**, **Jan-  
Werner Müller**, **Claudia Ritz**

5.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Discussion**