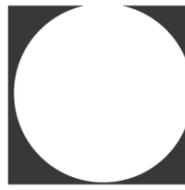




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Public Lecture

# The Long Arc of Debating Norms: an Ideal, an Instrument or an Episteme?

Navnita Chadha Behera (Delhi University)

Photo: UHH/Denstorf

Please join us for a thought-provoking public lecture by Professor Navnita Behera on the complex role of norms in International Relations (IR). Traditionally viewed as foundational to the post-Second World War liberal order—encompassing concepts such as reason, liberty, and human rights—norms have often been relegated to instruments of realpolitik.

This lecture will explore how positivist and post-positivist scholarship has approached norms, often neglecting the Eurocentrism embedded in their theories. Navnita Behera will discuss a transformative perspective emphasizing relational ontologies, examining how a relational worldview can fundamentally shift our understanding and practice of existence. Drawing on global relational cosmologies, including dharma, Buddhism, Ubuntu, and the beliefs of indigenous communities, this lecture will reveal the ethical dimensions of a more interconnected approach to knowledge, action, and existence.

This lecture is organized in cooperation with the CSS working group “Doing theory”, the Chair of Political Science, especially Global Governance (Professor Antje Wiener), and the German Political Science Association thematic network “IR norms research”.

**Thursday, 15 May 2025**

**6:15 PM**

**ESA J (Magdalene-Schoch-Hörsaal),  
Edmund-Siemers-Allee 1**

CSS Direktorium

Prof. Dr. Frank Adloff  
Prof. Dr. Stefan C. Aykut  
Prof. Dr. Kerstin Lopatta



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