



Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

Faculty
of business, Economics
and Social Sciences



HAMBURG POLITICAL SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES – HPS³

INVITATION

Please be invited to the Hamburg Political Science Seminar Series - HPS³ in Winter Semester 2025/2026.

The HPS Seminar Series features international speakers presenting cutting-edge research in empirical political science and political economy. It takes place on Wednesdays. For further information about dates and speakers in WiSe 25/26 please refer to the [HPS³ Website](#).

We welcome on

December 10, 2025 17:15-18:45 CET in VMP9 B130

[Noam Gidron](#) (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Title: Resistance to Backsliding: The Role of Democratic Conceptions

(co-authored with Yotam Margalit, Lior Sheffer, and Itamar Yakir)

Abstract:

We examine who mobilizes against democratic backsliding, focusing on mass protests against the judicial overhaul advanced by the Israeli government in 2023. As contemporary subversion of democracy is often driven by governments that won an electoral majority, we posit that protesting against the government's actions requires people to have a thick conception of democracy that goes beyond majority rule. Drawing on panel data collected before and after the overhaul's announcement, we show that citizens vary substantially in their conception of democracy, and that a thick conception not only predicts protesting against backsliding but also moderates the role of other key factors in mobilizing against democratic erosion. The findings highlight the role of small-d democrats in safeguarding democracy.

We invite everyone interested to attend!