This Colloquium draws on the analytical resources of various disciplines and public policy approaches to reflect on the current crisis of liberal democracy. Its point of departure is the widespread concern about the recent rise of illiberal democratic forms and its relation to processes of globalization, as well as the way these processes have been addressed in academic and policy research of the past decades.

Staging an interdisciplinary inquiry that brings together diverse geo-political perspectives, our purpose is to examine the concept of ‘illiberal democracy’ and its usefulness as an analytical lens through which to assess pressing social and political questions for the practice of liberal democracy today. We hope that reexamining the tensions between liberalism and democracy in a robustly comparative framework will help us better understand these tensions and imagine ways of allaying them.

The panels will be structured around the following set of questions:

- Is the concept of “illiberal democracy” fruitful for comprehending our current situation?
- How to understand the recent rise of illiberal models in different geo-political contexts? What structural parallels and substantive interrelation exist between them?
- How does the perceived failure of liberal policies and institutions in one region impact the global standing of liberal democracy?
- Are there identifiable ways to stem the rising tide of ‘illiberal democracy’?

**PROGRAM**

Friday, April 27
Location: Hertie School of Governance, Forum, 1st floor

12.30pm
**Opening Keynote: Claus Offe (Hertie School)**

The liberal ‘democracy cube’ under the onslaught of populist politics

Liberal democracy can be framed as a ‘cube’ – a three-dimensional institutional arrangement made up of popular sovereignty, constitutional order and adequate governing capacity. What are the defining characteristics of these three faces that shape liberal democracy? Drawing on current literature on populism and its authoritarian implications, Hertie School Professor Emeritus Claus Offe argues in a keynote lecture that the core assumptions of populist politics conflict with all three of these dimensions. Populist policy-making, with its features of isolationism, protectionism, unilateralism, and exclusionary nativist nationalism, weakens, rather than enhances, the key resource that is in short supply in globalised capitalism – namely, ‘state capacity.’

Welcome remarks & introductions by Mark Hallerberg (Hertie School)

Comment from Boris Vormann (Bard College Berlin) and discussion together with Claus Offe, moderated by Kerry Bystrom (Bard College Berlin)

Followed by a reception

Prior registration is required: events@hertie-school.org

Saturday, April 28
Location: Bard College Berlin, Lecture Hall

9.30am
Refreshments

10.00am
**Welcome**
Catherine Toal (Bard College Berlin)

10.15 - 11.45am
**Session 1 - Conceptual and Historical Perspectives**
Chair: Ewa Atanassow (Bard College Berlin), Anna-Bettina Kaiser (Humboldt Universität), Ira Katznelson (Columbia University), Christine Landfried (Universität Hamburg/Hertie School)

12.00 - 1.00pm
Lunch

1.00 - 2.30pm
**Session 2 - North Atlantic Comparisons: The United States and the European Union**
Chair: Boris Vormann (Bard College Berlin), Jonathan Hopkin (London School of Economics), Christian Lammert (Freie Universität), Elena Stavrevska (Bard College Berlin)

Refreshments

2.45 - 4.15pm
**Session 3 - ‘Illiberal Democracy’ and the Middle East: Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria**
Chair: Michael Weinman (Bard College Berlin), Yassin Al-Haj Saleh (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin), Amr Hamzawy (Stanford University; via videoconference), Nil Mutluer (Humboldt Universität)

4.15 - 5.00pm
Refreshments

No prior registration necessary