

Presenter: Juliane Wetzel, Technical University of Berlin

Title: “**Antisemitism in Germany today – an analysis and concepts of prevention**”

Panel: Contemporary History

In April 2017 the Independent Expert Group on Antisemitism installed by the German Parliament presented its report on Antisemitism in Germany today. This lecture will introduce the main outcome of the intensive work of the nine academics and NGO representatives who compiled the 300 pages report in identifying and analyzing the state of antisemitism in the Federal Republic. New in this report are the perspectives of those affected by antisemitism as well as the initial findings on possible antisemitism among refugees. Also considered in detail are developments in the Internet and in social media, which have become central instruments for the spread of hate and antisemitic agitation. The expert group gave special attention to the theme of prevention; in addition to projects oriented towards youth, they focused on the long-neglected topic of adult education.

Further on a study was commissioned to provide insights into an area that has been at the center of media attention for years, through qualitative interviews with imams on antisemitism among Muslim congregants. Rather often the impression is given that »the Muslims« are the main bearers of antisemitism in Germany. With the arrival of refugees, these ascriptions have become more acute. One result is that right-wing extremism as the central milieu of antisemitic content in the societal confrontation with antisemitism in Germany has slipped into the background. In particular, Muslim associations and mosque congregations are looked at unreflectively as breeding grounds for antisemitic agitation and imams characterized as »preachers of hate.« As of yet there have been very few investigations into antisemitic attitudes in Muslim religious milieus that could support such assumptions; the study on imams is a first approach to the topic.

According to the *Independent Expert Group* it is important to study antisemitism among Muslims and undertake to strengthen prevention efforts, but also to keep an eye on anti-Muslim discrimination. At the same time, the expert board warns explicitly against neglecting or even implicitly trivializing antisemitism among right-wing extremists and in the societal and political mainstream, while focusing on antisemitism among Muslims.