

Presenter: Alex Feuerherdt, Cologne

Title: **“The BDS movement: Why Israel?”**

Panel: Israel Studies

Israel is not only confronted with terrorist attacks by Islamist organizations but also with campaigns aiming at its demonization and delegitimization. The BDS movement, for example, which is active in Europe and in the United States, calls for a global boycott of the Jewish state, for divestment and sanctions in all areas. BDS alleges to engage in human rights, but its real aim is to “liberate all of Palestine”, which is an euphemism for the destruction of Israel.

BDS activists have built a world-wide network, they influence even important Non-Governmental Organizations and human rights’ organizations as well as in the bodies of the United Nations Organization. In November 2015, the BDS movement reached one of its main goals when the European Commission recommended to label goods from Israeli companies produced in the West Bank, in East Jerusalem or on the Golan Heights. It was the preliminary stage to an open boycott.

In my lecture, I shall analyze the ideological background of the BDS movement and have a look at its political, economic, academic, and cultural significance. An overview will be given of the movement’s protagonists, their methods and ideas, and most important, I shall explain why BDS is a form of modern anti-Semitism. Besides, I shall examine the understanding of human rights the BDS movement has.