

# THE FIGURE OF THE WOLF IN GERMAN FAR-RIGHT POLITICS: DELIBERATIONS ON NATURE AND NATIONALISM

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**INSTITUTE OF ETHNOLOGY, CAS**  
NA FLORENCI 3, PRAGUE 1  
CONFERENCE ROOM, 5TH FLOOR

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In this lecture, Julia Leser explores the intersection of socio-ecological transformation, far-right politics, and imaginaries of (un)governability. While renaturation efforts have transformed the post-industrial landscape in Lusatia, Germany, the return of wolves has become a focal point for political instrumentalization, particularly among far-right movements like the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD). The AfD instrumentalizes wolf populations as a symbolic parallel to migration, reinforcing xenophobic fears and violent imaginaries. With an ethnographic lens, this paper explores the far right's contemporary 'wolf politics' and situates the underlying imaginaries of these kind of politics within broader processes of nation- and nature-making, tracing, in particular, how the governance and extermination of species have historically mirrored colonial and nationalist endeavours. Leser shows how the far right's rhetoric on wolves reflects deeper entanglements of ecological transformation, territorial entitlement, and exclusionary identity politics. With 'wolf politics', histories of violence resurface in modern political discourse.

Joint Seminar of the Department of Mobility and Migration & the Department of Ecological Anthropology, IE CAS.