

DR. MICHAL SALITERNIK

**"The Occupation
of Gaza –
Past, Present,
and Future"**

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The withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza Strip in 2005 has sparked heated debates regarding the legal status of Gaza and the corresponding obligations of Israel towards the Gaza population. While some scholars have contended that belligerent occupation ended with the Israeli disengagement, others opined that it continued due to Israel's lasting control over Gaza's airspace, waters, and borders. The Israeli invasion of Gaza in October 2023 did not settle these disputes, which now mainly revolve around the duties of Israel to provide or facilitate humanitarian aid to the local population. The invasion has also raised crucial questions regarding the future status of Gaza, with the options on the table ranging from full or partial Israeli control to international administration to an independent Palestinian state. In her lecture, Dr. Saliternik will examine these options as well as other questions concerning the past, present, and future of Gaza from international law and international relations perspectives, while also discussing the broader implications of the Gaza case for the law and politics of occupation in the twenty-first century.

The **GILDS** is founded and chaired by **Professor Erika De Wet**, Head of the Department of International Law and International Relations. erika.de-wet@uni-graz.at

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