



Einladung  
zum Vortrag von

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## Justice after the Holocaust: Hannah Arendt's and Judith N. Shklar's political-legal reflections in historical and theoretical perspective

**Zeit:** Montag, 19.6.2017 um 18.15 Uhr (s.t.)

**Ort:** SZ 15.22

RESOWI-Zentrum | Gebäudeteil G | 2. OG

### Zum Vortrag:

We locate Arendt's and Shklar's political and legal writings within what Ira Katznelson has identified as an attempt to create a new language for politics and society after the cataclysm of the twentieth century, and Mark Greif has called the new 'maieutic' discourse of 're-enlightenment' in the 'age of the crisis of man'. More specifically, we compare and contrast two related, but in many ways also differing, ways of thinking about totalitarianism and its legal repercussions. To this end, we examine Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A report on the banality of evil* (1963) and Shklar's *Legalism: An essay on law, morals, and politics* (1964). Both the *Eichmann* book and *Legalism* dealt with the question of whether and how justice is possible after the extreme experience of totalitarianism. We argue that the maieutic impulse led Arendt and Shklar to find distinct routes to address a common concern. Our paper ends with a discussion of some of the surplus meaning that was generated by the different maieutic performances of the two thinkers. Our discussion of Arendt and Shklar aims beyond a potential application to politics and is not limited to legal aspects either. It aims at the heart of what it means to live together and what can reasonably be expected in terms of safeguarding institutions after the totalitarian experience.

### Zu den Vortragenden:

SAMANTHA ASHENDEN is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics at Birkbeck College, University of London. Her current work focuses on guilt, violence, and conditions of political legitimacy, as well as reproductive technologies and the governance of families. Together with Andreas Hess she is currently preparing Judith Shklar's lectures *On Political Obligation. Lectures in Moral Reasoning for publication* (forthcoming, New Haven: Yale University Press 2018).

ANDREAS HESS teaches sociology at University College Dublin and is a Faculty Fellow at Yale's Center for Cultural Sociology. His interests are mainly in historical sociology and intellectual history. His monograph *The Political Theory of Judith N. Shklar. Exile from Exile* was published in 2014 (New York: Palgrave Macmillan). Together with Samantha Ashenden he is currently preparing Judith Shklar's lectures *On Political Obligation. Lectures in Moral Reasoning for publication* (forthcoming, New Haven: Yale University Press 2018).