



Institutional Resilience and Its Failures: Authoritarianism, Totalitarianism, and New Forms of Power

Workshop with Krystian Wiciarz (Warsaw)

Tuesday, 28. January 2025, 9:00–17:30
PTH Brixen

Programme

9:00 – 9:30 **Ludger Jansen** (PTH Brixen):
Welcome & Introduction

9:30 – 10:30 **Krystian Wiciarz** (Pilecki
Institute, Warsaw): Is the
Concept of Totalitarianism Still
Relevant? From the Second
World War to the Present

Abstract: According to Juan Linz, the 20th century can be called both the century of totalitarianism and the century of democracy: The century saw the birth of the most oppressive political systems in history and the eruption of violence and terror on an unprecedented scale, as well as the collapse of totalitarian and authoritarian regimes, decolonization and the blossoming of democracy on an unprecedented scale. For the 21st century it is already apparent that the old debate about the concept of totalitarianism and its explanatory power is again becoming relevant. The presentation will briefly trace the evolution of this concept starting from the Second World War and then discuss the criticism of the concept and try to explain why this concept is still important and worthy of further conceptualization.

Krystian Wiciarz is head of The Center for Totalitarian Studies at the Pilecki Institute in Warsaw. Political scientist and philosopher, specialist in management. Working on social and political change, political systems, political theory and political thought.

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee

11:00 – 11:45 **Elisa Piras** (Eurac Bolzano):
Totalitarian Tools for Annihilating
Public Opinion. A theoretical analysis

11:45 – 12:30 **Hannes Obermair** (Eurac Bolzano):
Poisoning languages and images.
Manifestations of two dictatorships
in South Tyrol

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:45 **Gabriele de Anna** (University of
Udine): Political authority in
totalitarian regimes

14:45 – 15:30 **Ilaria Riccioni** (Free University
of Bolzano): Totalitarianisms and
irrationalism, with an eye to the
avant-gardes

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee

16:00 – 16:45 **Christian Illies** (University of Bamberg):
Manipulation and mind-control

16:45 – 17:30 **Konrad Werner** (PTH Brixen &
University of Warsaw): Totalitarian
systems — when the pursuit of
institutional resilience goes wrong

17:30 Conclusion & Aperitivo

19:00 Dinner

For coffee breaks and the vegetarian lunch we ask for a contribution of 18 Euro, and 10 Euro for the workshop dinner. Meals can be paid onsite in cash. Please register by email to sekretariat@pthsta.it (communicating your dietary requirements and whether you want to participate in the joint dinner).

The workshop is part of the mobility project
„Foundations of Institutional Resilience“, funded
by the Autonomous Province South Tyrol.

