

Theory Conference: Backsliding, Resilience, Renewal? Democracy in Eras of Transformation, October 5–7, 2026, Passau

From October 5–7, 2026, the second Theory Conference, themed “Backsliding, Resilience, Renewal? Democracy in Eras of Transformation,” will take place in Passau. Now that the panels have been finalized, [registration](#) is open on the conference website.

Further information and the program can be found on the [webiste](#). The conference will be held in both English and German.

The conference addresses questions of democratic regression, social resilience, and paths to renewal.

In a present marked by multiple crises, democracy—its flaws and authoritarian tendencies, but also the potential for democratic resilience and opportunities for renewal of popular rule—is increasingly coming into focus. This calls for a critical analysis through political theory and the history of ideas—one that examines established interpretive frameworks, assumptions, and concepts; incorporates historical comparative perspectives; and addresses current challenges and potential reform proposals in a problem-conscious manner. The conference aims to address contemporary assessments of current changes in democracies as well as historical perspectives on past crises and transformation processes, and conceptual analyses of democracy, transformation, resilience, and renewal. Representatives from all subdisciplines of political theory and the history of ideas, as well as related disciplines, are welcome.