

**Please see below my short statement sent out in the afternoon on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2024:**

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE**

A few hours ago, the rectorate of the University of Vienna decided to no longer make the lecture hall for Rashid Khalidi's talk, who will join online, available. We will therefore be holding our event exclusively online.

Please use the following link to join our public lecture and discussion with Professor Rashid Khalidi starting on the 14th of May at 06.30pm CEST:

<https://univiena.zoom.us/j/62877795110?pwd=RmZvaVR6NEMxZmRtWkxuOWdFZ2NnUT09>

Code (if necessary): 213042

No prior registration necessary!

## **Ongoing Nakba? The War on Gaza and its Historic Roots**

with Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said Professor of Modern Arab Studies, Columbia University

Chair: Helmut Krieger, Department of Development Studies, University of Vienna

**Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 06:30-08:00pm CEST, ONLINE**

The rectorate's decision not only illustrates once again a repressive understanding of academic freedom including teaching, but also makes clear how much it fears an open and differentiated debate on the war on Gaza on campus itself.

By defending academic freedoms, I emphasize again that fear and suppression of critical voices can never be part of a university that has yet to be democratized and decolonized.

In view of the rectorate's decision at very short-notice, I will ensure as far as possible that everyone who doesn't receive this message in time can still experience hearing and seeing the online event in front of the lecture halls C1/C2 on campus.

I am sorry for the inconvenience caused by the rectorate of the University of Vienna and I hope you will enjoy the public lecture! Please forward this message to colleagues and friends.

Thank you and all the best,  
Helmut Krieger