(Re)Framing Settler-Colonialism: A Materialist Perspective on the Genocide in Gaza

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4.15—5.45 pm
ÖFSE Alois Wagner-Saal, Sensengasse 3,
1090 Vienna
Chair: Helmut Krieger (University of Vienna)

The Genocide in Gaza – when recognised at all – is largely explained in terms of the specific actions of Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies, the irrationality of Israeli and Western policy makers, or short-term political responses to conflict.

Instead, this lecture proposes to approach the genocide through the wider framework of settler colonialism, both in general and specifically in Palestine. In doing so, it identifies structural conflicts over land, resources, and populations as foundational to settler colonial regimes the world over.

It argues that it is precisely out of these conflicts over the last century in Palestine that the area we have come to describe as 'the Gaza Strip' emerged. Genocide is then better understood not as a short term, irrational, or leader driven outcome, but as the latest expression of a century of settler encroachment on Palestinian land, resources, and people – and an attempt to resolve the irreconcilable contradictions that emerge from it.

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