

## **Narrative Democracy:**

### **A Moral Economy of Divided Social Worlds**

Democracies today face an intensifying wave of political polarization, driven by profound disputes over the principles and values that should organize social life. This resurgence of polarization unfolds amidst interwoven global crises, including widening economic inequality, accelerating ecological degradation, disruptive technological shifts, and persistent armed conflicts.

This lecture examines polarization through a fresh lens, focusing on the central role of narratives in shaping the social boundaries that divide and connect us. Departing from traditional, survey-based approaches, it integrates social theory, literary insights, and empirical observations to uncover how divergent narratives of moral worth—embedded in stories about bodies, places, institutions, and events—fuel polarization.

We will explore how the narrative partitioning of the social world creates existential divides while also offering spaces for solidarity and resistance. The discussion culminates with the concept of "narrative democracy," a framework that emphasizes the importance of engaging with diverse, conflicting stories to address societal crises and repair the damaged social fabric of our shared world. Special attention will be given to the Chilean context as a case study.

## **Prof. Rodrigo Cordero:**

Rodrigo Cordero is a full professor of sociology at Universidad Diego Portales, Chile. His research is located at the intersection of critical theory, political sociology, and socio-legal studies. His work has been published, among other outlets, in the *European Journal of Social Theory*, *Distinktion*, *Constellations*, *Socio-Legal Studies*, *Journal of Law and Society*, and *Thesis Eleven*. He is the author of *Crisis and Critique: On the Fragile Foundations of Social Life* and *La Fuerza de los Conceptos: Ensayos en Teoría Crítica e Imaginación Política*.

## **Prof. Dr. Raimundo Frei:**

Raimundo Frei is assistant professor of sociology at Universidad Diego Portales, Chile, and Adjunct Researcher at the Millennium Nucleus on Digital Inequalities and Opportunities (NUDOS). His main areas of research are the sociology of culture, narrativization, memory and generations, social inequalities, and digital practices. His latest work has been published in *Memory Studies*, *Latin American Research Review*, *International Sociology*, and *Space and Culture*.



# **WIPPERMANN**

## **Lecture**

**The University of Hildesheim  
invites to the**

## **10. Wippermann Lecture**

**Tuesday 20 May 2025 at 6pm s.t.**

**Room N006 im Forum on the main campus**

**Universitätsplatz 1**

**Hildesheim**

**The president of the University**

**Prof. Dr. May-Britt Kallenrode**

## **Welcome**

**Prof. Dr. Martin Schreiner**

**Beauftragter für Stiftungsangelegenheiten**

## **Introduction of the speaker**

**Prof. Dr. Michael Corsten**

**Institut für Sozialwissenschaften**

**Abteilung Soziologie**

## **Lecture**

**Prof. Rodrigo Cordero, PhD**

**Prof. Dr. Raimundo Frei**

**Universidad Diego Portales**

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