How Immigration can be made popular

20 May 2025 | 14:30-16:00 | Hybrid ▪ Hermann-Föge-Weg 11

Speakers: **MARC HELBLING** (University of Mannheim)
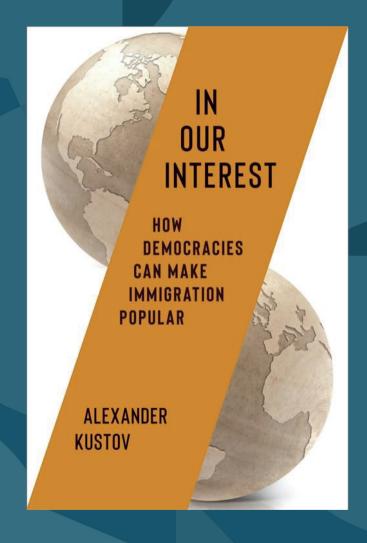**ALEXANDER KUSTOV** (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)
KAREN SCHÖNWÄLDER (MPI-MMG)

Moderator: **ULRIKE BIALAS** (MPI-MMG)

Stream Link: https://youtube.com/live/QS4XQdFMjk8 or in person (please register)

Immigration is a highly controversial issue. There is broad agreement among political actors that Germany, like other countries, needs immigration – likely at an increasing level – to sustain its economy and welfare state. However, large segments of the population oppose new immigration. Fearing voter backlash, major political parties appear to compete over how best to restrict immigration. Is there a way out of this dilemma?

In his new book, US-based sociologist Alexander Kustov argues that majority support for immigration is achievable and explains how politicians can accomplish this. In dialogue with Mannheim University professor Marc Helbling and our Institute's research group leader Karen Schönwälder, Kustov will share his insights. Moderated by the sociologist Ulrike Bialas from our Institute, the panel will explore public attitudes toward immigration across countries, the motivations behind these views, and how political and other actors shape them.

IN OUR INTEREST

HOW DEMOCRACIES CAN MAKE IMMIGRATION POPULAR

ALEXANDER KUSTOV

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