



## **"The street is ours!"**

# **Political graffiti and wall slogans as a form of protest for democracy and human rights**

### **Lectures, film screening and discussions**

2021 will mark the tenth anniversary of the so-called "Arab Spring", a time when many - especially young people - took to the streets en masse, hoping for political and social change. A few years earlier, in 2009, it was the so-called "Green Movement" in Iran and in 2013 it was the protests in Istanbul's Gezi Park.

All these protests were accompanied by slogans and graffiti on the walls and in the streets. It was not just a physical and visible appropriation of the public space, it was an important attempt to create a public counter to the prescribed "truth", at least for a certain period of time.

In addition to these events with international experts on the situation in Tehran, Beirut and Istanbul, we shed light on the importance of political graffiti in Graz. This is also about resistance, partly against the rulers, but partly also against certain social groups.

## 8. February 2022, 6.00 pm CET (online lecture and discussion, in english)

**Are there limits to freedom of expression? - "Hate Speech" on the walls of Graz.**

Input by **Joachim Hainzl** (XENOS Association, Graz), followed by a discussion with **Daniela Grabovac** (Head of the Styrian Anti-Discrimination Agency, Graz).



On behalf of the Styrian Anti-Discrimination Agency, Joachim Hainzl researched in the public space of the Austrian city of Graz in 2021 for graffiti, stickers and slogans that could be viewed as racist, sexist or defamatory.

But what about the fight for justice and human rights in a democracy? Is everything allowed, should everything be allowed? What about insults against those who think differently or representatives of state authority? Are there limits to anti-fascist or anti-sexist slogans as well?

*Photo: Joachim Hainzl, „More dead cops!“, at a wall in Graz, close to a police station*

**The event takes place ONLINE via Zoom.**

**The link to the event:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83032616256?pwd=TGF-WUVh6U0FNTXBCMzkvSFBjV2RBQT09>**

A publication will appear on the lecture series in spring 2022!

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