



**Colloquium Series
Sociology of Transnationalization
“The transnational lens”**

**Player or Payer?
German political foundations in a globalized world**

Katharina Konarek*
Haifa University, Israel

The presentation reflects on the impact of the six German political foundations towards German foreign policy by discussing the extent to which they reaffirm and reshape German foreign policy in a globalized world. What role do they play in foreign policy? Are they advising think tanks or independent political actors? The discussion will be based on the theoretical concept of foreign policy analysis (FPA) enhanced by the sociological approach of ‘world polity’ and a case study of their work in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The findings show that their political power has increased due to the shift from a bipolar, nation state system to a multipolar, post nation state system. In their shape of hybrids between non-governmental think tanks and state financed do tanks the German political foundations became role models for the promotion of soft power between knowledge-driven entities and governments. Today one of their main tasks is to promote alternative channels for foreign policy.

**Wednesday, 14th July, 2021
16:15 – 17:45**

**Zoom event, to register:
kerstin.schmidt1@uni-bielefeld.de**

*Katharina Konarek is a lecturer and a doctoral student of Political Science in the Haifa Center for German and European Studies at the University of Haifa, Israel. Before she completed her MA in Political Science and Intercultural Communication at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich.

Her first book – *The German Political Foundations’ Work between Jerusalem, Ramallah and Tel Aviv. A kaleidoscope of different perspectives* - (Springer 2018) explores the role of the German Political foundations abroad. She is currently working on a research project on “European Solidarity in times of pandemic” at Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.