



Universität Hamburg  
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

FACULTY  
OF BUSINESS, ECONOMICS  
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



## HAMBURG POLITICAL SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES – HPS<sup>3</sup>

### INVITATION

Please be invited to the Hamburg Political Science Seminar Series - HPS<sup>3</sup> in Summer Semester 2025.

The HPS Seminar Series features international speakers presenting cutting-edge research in empirical political science and political economy. It takes place on Thursdays and Wednesdays. For further information about dates and speakers in SuSe 25 please refer to the [HPS<sup>3</sup> Website](#).

We welcome on  
July 02, 2025 17:15-18:45 CET in VMP9 B130

[Federico Zuolo](#) (University of Genoa)

## On Directness and Relevance: Civil Disobedience vs Direct Action

**Abstract:** Recent acts of civil disobedience in protest against politicians' inaction about climate change have often targeted works of art to provoke public opinion on the issue. Such initiatives have attracted criticism from those who object to this form of political dissent. Can civil disobedience be indirect and target objects that are unrelated to the problem at stake? This paper argues that indirect civil disobedience should comply with a criterion of relevance according to which the target should be in some sense related to the problem denounced by the action. Such a requirement draws on Grice's conversation maxims and ensures that civil disobedience be a proper communicative act. Relevance may be a component of disobedience without implying that radical protest should take the form of direct action.

All welcome!