

Where Did We Go from There? Roots, Ruptures, and Reiterations in the Black Freedom Struggle

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“Black Lives Matter,” both as a statement and a demand, was initiated in 2013 by the Black activists Alicia Garza, Topal Omet, and Patrisse Khan-Cullors after George Zimmerman’s acquittal of his killing of Trayvon Martin. This movement for Black equality gained renewed momentum after the police officer Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd in May 2020. Across the globe, an unprecedented number of people rallied for the cause. Commentators mused on how #BlackLivesMatter continued Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy in the twenty-first century. Two years later, support for the movement has waned, and politicians have increasingly negated #BlackLivesMatter’s legitimacy, distinguishing it sharply from prior forms of Black civil rights activism. This lecture will critically assess the long trajectory of the Black Freedom Movement from the mid-20th century until today, re-evaluate classical narratives, and question how #BlackLivesMatter’s goals and methods fit into it, as well as uncover sustained white supremacist resistance against Black equality, then and now.

Monday
MLK Day Lecture
January 17, 2022
6:00-7:30 pm

Zoom Event
Register at:
nas.uni-bonn.de/Events

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