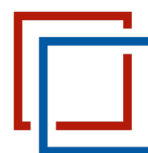




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ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
GESELLSCHAFT FÜR  
NEUGRIECHISCHE  
STUDIEN

Einladung zu einem Gastvortrag:

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**Ort: Institut für Byzantinistik und Neogräzistik der Universität Wien**  
Postgasse 9, 2. Stock, Hörsaal (barrierefreier Zugang über Schönlaterngasse 12 - Lift)

**Zeit: Dienstag, 18.3.2025, 18:30**

## **Between the *historical* and the *practical* past: the destruction of security files in Greece in 1989**

In August 1989, a few months before the fall of the Berlin Wall, Greece's only right-left coalition government of the twentieth century decided to burn approximately 17.5 million individual security files. Thus, at the dusk of the Cold War, Greece became the first and only country in the world to destroy this dark legacy of an authoritarian past. This study attempts to understand this particularity through two approaches. The first examines how the files came to be established in the first place, as well as their role, particularly in post-Civil War Greece, within a regime that discriminated against citizens based on their political affiliation. The second explores how Greek society during the period following the transition to democracy ("Metapolitefsi") dealt with the traumatic past of the 1940s, especially its material legacies. In this regard, special emphasis will be placed on the involvement of historians in the debate surrounding the destruction of these files, relating it to the formation of Greece's historical community and the role of history in the public sphere.

Im Anschluss wird zu einem kleinen Empfang eingeladen.  
Gäste sind herzlich willkommen!