

Professor Lynn Morris, Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation,  
cordially invites you to the

# INAUGURAL LECTURE OF PROFESSOR KARL VON HOLDT

Society, Work and Politics Institute, Faculty of Humanities



## TITLE

The making and  
unmaking of social  
order: disorder,  
violence, trajectories

We are living in a society which is continuously being made and unmade, made and remade, in a dynamic, contested set of processes that generate confusions, disorder and confrontations – frequently violent. Thinking about this poses problems for sociology (and the social sciences more generally). We are trained to see the pattern in things, to try and discern their underlying structures and forces. We tend to be more comfortable with thinking through a frame of social structure and social order rather than rupture, confrontation, breakdown. Perhaps we need to rethink our categories and concepts, to destabilise them and remake them as well so that they are adequate to the task of understanding the world. In this lecture I reflect on the development of my thinking through 30 years of research on trade unions, communities, violence, corruption and the state, which has also been 30 years of activism to remake the world.

**Date:** Thursday, 26 May 2022 | **Time:** 17:00

**Platform:** Online and in person | **Online:** Zoom

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

### In person attendance venue

Senate Room, 2nd Floor,  
Solomon Mahlangu House, Braamfontein Campus East

**Enquiries:** [Kelebogile.Tadi@wits.ac.za](mailto:Kelebogile.Tadi@wits.ac.za) | **Proof of vaccination will be required.**