The European Union and the United States are often depicted as global forerunners for human rights and equality. However, careful examination from the perspective of LGBTQ+ couples reveals gaps in human rights protection laws, along with serious flaws in the judicial systems and governments. In her lecture, Natalie Hungate examines the current state of LGBTQ+ couples’ rights in the EU and the US, demonstrating that despite vast achievements in the last decades there are still challenges to overcome on the path to real equality.