

# **‘The Mamdani Moment’: The Next Generation of U.S. Political Leadership**

**Luzia Geier | Dr. Mike Cowburn**

‘The Mamdani Moment’ points to a shift in U.S. politics: a new generation of leaders is emerging and redefining political priorities, communication styles, and representation in an extremely polarized landscape. As the United States grapples with mistrust towards democratic institutions and deep dissatisfaction with politics in general, questions about the future of public leadership are becoming more pressing. Who are the rising stars within both the Democratic and Republican parties? Which issues do they focus on and which strategies do they employ? And how are candidate selection, factional competition, and political communication evolving?

Taking the book *Zohran Mamdani – Our Time is Now*, authored by Luzia Geier, as a point of departure, this discussion brings together two complementary perspectives: Geier’s work as a journalist closely tracing the rise of a new political figure, and Dr. Mike Cowburn’s research as a political scientist on intra-party factions, partisan polarization, and political communication. Together, they offer insights into the forces shaping the next generation of U.S. political leadership.



We kindly ask you to register via the QR-Code or [here](#).

**Wednesday**  
**10 June 2026**  
**6:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**(CEST)**  
**Adenauerallee 37**

After completing a Master’s degree in North American Studies at the University of Bonn, **Luzia Geier** moved to the U.S. and is currently working as a freelance journalist. She followed, among other things, the rise of Zohran Mamdani, leading to the publication of her book *Zohran Mamdani - Our Time is Now* (Quadriga, 2026).

**Dr. Mike Cowburn** is a research fellow at the Department of Political & Social Sciences at Zeppelin Universität, Friedrichshafen, Germany. His research focuses on intra-party factions, candidate selection, legislative politics, and political communication. His work has been published in leading peer-reviewed journals, including *Political Science Research & Methods*, *Political Communication*, and *Political Research Quarterly*.