

## **Abstract**

In three Chapters, this thesis develops a theoretical framework of climate-related civil disobedience, justifies such protest by drawing on climate-justice theory, and finally applies it to contemporary climate justice protests in Germany. Chapter I critically reviews selected civil disobedience literature, to frame out what is called the constitutional account of civil disobedience (importantly, Rawls, 1999; and Bedau, 1961). This account is used to legitimize civil disobedience in liberal democracies and establishes a stabilizing role for it (e.g., Rawls, 1999, p. 336), but its idealizing conditions are shown to face serious shortcomings (Celikates, 2016; Çıdam et al., 2020). Therefore, an alternative radical democratic account of civil disobedience is proposed, and its advantages in application presented (Celikates, 2016, 2022). Chapter II substantiates this account to a climate-related one. The urgent need for action imposed by climate change (IPCC, 2023) to face the serious international and intergenerational concerns of justice (Umbers & Moss, 2021), combined with the inability of the individual to distinctly influence carbon emissions (Ritchie et al., 2020), and insufficient state action internationally (Celikates, 2021), are taken to constitute a case for justifying climate-related civil disobedience. This result of the theoretical part of this thesis, in Chapter III is applied to contemporary protest in Germany. Thereby, youth, direct and symbolic climate-related protest are identified, differing in the strategies applied, turnout, public reception, and their effectiveness. The controversial protest of ‘Letzte Generation’ is analyzed more closely, to show that justification of climate-related civil disobedience is not equal to it being the most prudent, and effective means to climate protection.