ARBEITSVORHABEN DER FELLOWS
FELLOWS’ PROJECTS 2015/2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INHALT</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VORWORT</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAITH AL-SHAWAF</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DORIT BAR-ON</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TATIANA BORISOVA</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICTORIA A. BRAITHWAITE</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JANE BURBANK</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNA MARIA BUSSE BERGER</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIM CARO</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIRCEA CĂRTĂRESCU</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARBARA A. CASPERS</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANIEL CEFĂI</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNES CAMERON CUTHILL</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LORRAINE DASTON</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLÉMENTINE DELISS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOLGER DIESSEL</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELHADJI IBRAHIMA DIOP</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAULA DROEGE</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIETER EBERT</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINBARR BARRY FLOOD</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAGHAVENDRA GADAGKAR</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETER GARDENFORS</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LUCA GIULIANI</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUSAN GOLDIN-MEADOW</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL D. GORDIN</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEPHEN GREENBLATT</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIETER GRIMM</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEOR HALEVI</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INA HARTWIG</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HASAN JABAREEN</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL JARRELL</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANIEL JÜTTE</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARTIN VON KOPPENFELS</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VORWORT

In dieser Broschüre werden die Fellows des Wissenschaftskollegs im akademischen Jahr 2015/16 vorgestellt. Im Zentrum steht die Beschreibung der Arbeitsvorhaben, denen sie sich während ihres Aufenthaltes am Wissenschaftskolleg widmen wollen. Dazu kommen bibliografische Empfehlungen mit den Titeln einiger Aufsätze oder Bücher, die sie Interessenten zur Lektüre empfehlen, sowie kurze biografische Angaben.


Berlin, im Juli 2015

**PREFACE**

This brochure presents the Fellows of the academic year 2015/16. Each Fellow provides a short description of the work he or she plans to pursue during the stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg. Also listed are brief biographical notes as well as recommended reading.

The majority of the Fellows come for an entire academic year. The Wissenschaftskolleg invites most of its Fellows on the basis of their individual research plans. Some Fellows, however, are integrated in Focus Groups. Membership in a Focus Group and a shorter planned stay are noted for each Fellow, where applicable.

Between the submission deadline to this brochure and the beginning of the academic year on September 16, 2015, some minor changes may arise. Up-to-date information on the Fellows, their work plans, and the Wissenschaftskolleg in general is available on the Wissenschaftskolleg’s website wiko-berlin.de.

Berlin, July 2015

If not otherwise indicated, the Fellowships extend from September 16, 2015 to July 15, 2016.
LAI TH AL- SHA WA F
from February to July 2016
Fellow of the College for Life Sciences (see p. 137)
Ph.D., Psychology
Bilkent University (Turkey)

Born in 1988 in Abu Dhabi
Studied Psychology, Philosophy, and Cognitive Science at the American
University of Beirut and at the University of Texas at Austin

1. DISGUST, IMMUNOLOGY, AND HUMAN MATING
   (EMPIRICAL RESEARCH PROJECT)

2. UNPACKING THE PHILOSOPHICAL IMPLICATIONS
   OF AN EVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE ON THE HUMAN
   MIND (BOOK PROJECT)

Ad 1. This is an empirical research project investigating the relationship
between immune function and the emotion of disgust, as well as how these
physiological and psychological processes affect aspects of human life such as
sexual behavior, food preferences, and the psychology of human mating.

Ad 2. This is a book project exploring the consequences of the fact that the
human brain is a product of evolution by natural selection. This basic premise is
widely accepted, but its (many) philosophical implications are rarely unpacked.
In this book, which is still very much in its incipient stages, my goal is to unpack
the implications of this fact for areas of philosophy such as morality,
epistemology, philosophy of mind, the "self", and the question of free will. Many
thinkers have not paid sufficient attention to the fact that the human brain
evolved by natural selection, and others have proceeded uncautiously, drawing
unwarranted conclusions from this premise. My goal will be to avoid these
unwarranted conclusions while simultaneously shedding light on a number of big questions in different areas of philosophy and psychology.

**Recommended Reading**


The aim of *Expression, Action, and Meaning* (tentative title) is to provide a novel perspective on the philosophical project of “naturalizing” meaning. The early chapters of the book lay out a view I have defended in recent years, according to which communication through expressive behavior — as manifested by both humans and nonhuman animals — is the province of minded, social, and active creatures. Proper understanding of expressive behavior and the kind of communication it affords can help us ground one variety of so-called speaker meaning that is at once rich enough and modest enough to help us see how to bridge the gap Paul Grice identifies between “natural” and “non-natural” linguistic meaning (cf. Grice 1957, 1985). Relatedly, expressive communication among nonhuman animals, I have argued, represents a significant intermediary between communication that exploits natural signs, on the one hand, and communication through symbolic linguistic strings, on the other. Thus, it is in the domain of expressive communication that we should search for the most immediate natural precursors in the evolution of meaningful linguistic communication.

The task for later chapters is to tease out some of the consequences of my conception of expressive behavior and communication for several standing puzzles in the philosophy of language and mind. Specifically:
Semantic indeterminacy: How can words and sentences have determinate meanings, given that linguistic behavior is open to multiple and incompatible interpretations? (Cf. Quine 1960);

Rule following: How can we take a speaker to follow one rule in her use of words rather than any number of possible rules that are compatible with her past use, dispositions, intentions, etc.? (Cf. Wittgenstein 1955 and Kripke 1972);

Knowledge of meaning: How can speakers’ knowledge of what their words mean be at once propositional and practical? (Cf. Dummett 1996).

In earlier work, I argued that the puzzles arise as a result of an erroneous, though widely accepted, theory of linguistic competence and understanding, according to which in spontaneous linguistic communication, speakers intentionally provide evidence about what they mean to their hearers, and hearers need to select one of many alternative hypotheses concerning the correct interpretation of speech on the basis of available behavioral evidence. But reflection on expressive behavior suggests an alternative conception, according to which linguistic competence and understanding are to be modeled on the production and uptake of acquired expressive behavior.

Looking at the above long-standing puzzles through the lens of the expressive communication approach – I aim to show – promises to transform intractable skeptical conundrums into theoretical problems that can draw on rich conceptual and empirical resources for their solutions.

Recommended Reading


The gun problem is very much in focus today. The most recent legislative initiative in the Russian Parliament to legalize the carrying of firearms was in October 2014 and enjoyed considerable support from a number of very active regional and all-Russian NGOs promoting the right of the Russian people to bear firearms for self-defense. The claims of Russian gun enthusiasts are often based on “historical arguments”. However, the real history of the private possession of firearms remains unwritten.

I will consider the private possession of firearms in Russia in 1800–2000 from three main perspectives: formal rules, procedure, and ideology. I will collect and analyze regulative materials on bans on handguns, permissions to own firearms granted to particular social groups, hunting legislation, sentence exacerbation for the use of weapons, and legislation on self-defence. My research questions will be:

1. What was the theoretical basis for adopting a rather permissive, rather than restrictive approach to the regulation of the private possession of firearms?
2. What legal, political, and social concepts shaped private firearms regulations and conditioned their enforcement?
Recommended Reading


PAIN — WHEN DOES IT HURT?

Focus Group Pain (see p. 132)

While pain is no longer considered to be an exclusively human experience, we struggle to agree on which animals suffer from it. Yet if we are to provide appropriate care and welfare for the animals we interact with, we need to have a workable definition of animal pain and a way of determining which animals experience the hurt generated by pain processes. To date, studies in animals have relied on the definitions created to describe human pain, but with our uniquely complex nervous system this presents problems when we try to translate pain processes to animals. Pain is recognized as having two distinct phases; first an unconscious set of reactions, mostly reflex responses, followed by a conscious awareness of the emotions and discomfort. While it is clear that that first phase is observed throughout much of the animal kingdom, the second stage is limited to animals with emotional states. Recent advances in our understanding of the neural processes that underlie emotions as well as empirical evidence of empathy and changes in cognition associated with pain suggest that we now need to review and revise the criteria used to define animal pain. With this more refined approach, we can then start to explore which animals are aware of a negative emotional state induced by pain. My overarching goal is to devise a framework that will allow us to determine which animals experience the negative emotional effects associated with pain.
Recommended Reading


THE LEGAL LIFE OF THE RUSSIAN STATE, OR
SOVEREIGNTY SEEN FROM THE MIDDLE; KAZAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT, 1890–1917

Focus Group Russia: The Rule of Law in Question (see p. 130)

My project is a monograph about the operations and significance of the legal system in late imperial Russia. I focus on the “middle” level of the law – on appeals courts, district supervisors, police and administrative institutions – in Kazan province, a multi-ethnic, multi-confessional region on the Volga River. After the revolution of 1905 and the consequent restructuring of imperial sovereignty, middle-level authorities confronted disruptions initiated by both state reformers and radical opponents of the government. Litigation and legal supervision were mechanisms whereby basic elements of civic life – family and property – were to be managed and potentially reconfigured. Provincial officials charged with responding to civil disputes, as well as to crime and subversion, were critical intermediaries of imperial power at this time of economic expansion, political pressure, and extensive legal activism.

As middle-level authorities did their work, they articulated among themselves and to users of the legal system notions of sovereignty supposedly shared by imperial subjects. Their actions open to scrutiny the ways that people interacted with imperial law and what they expected of it.

Communications between governors’ secretaries, assistant prosecutors, gendarmes, policemen, and regional supervisors allow me to trace webs of connec-
tion among people from the bottom, top, and middle of the polity. My study challenges the conventional view of Russia as a lawless state, but also exposes particular qualities of Russian law in the last decades of Romanov rule. Having written on intellectuals and peasants in the past, I now focus on bureaucrats. Their practices, judgments, and expectations offer insights into strengths and weaknesses of the empire’s way of rule.

Recommended Reading


IN SEARCH OF MEDIEVAL MUSIC IN AFRICA

Throughout my scholarly career, I have worked on various aspects of the interface between orality and literacy in early European music. While in my previous books I have concentrated on notation, improvisation, and memory in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, I now want to enlarge the scope and see what happens when literate European missionaries are introducing East African oral societies to writing and Western music.

I have chosen to study four different missionaries from three denominations: two Moravian missionaries, one Lutheran from the Leipziger Mission, and one Catholic Benedictine from St. Ottilien. They all come from communities with vibrant music traditions and have left extensive publications and letters that describe their experiences.

Remarkably, most of these missionaries were exposed to two significant movements in early twentieth-century culture that shared a passionate interest in medieval music: the newly established discipline of comparative musicology and the Jugendmusik- and Singbewegung. Erich Moritz von Hornbostel and Carl Stumpf, founders of comparative musicology, established the Phonogramm-Archiv in Berlin in order to collect, analyze, compare, and classify recordings of orally transmitted music from all over the world. They were convinced that music in “primitive” cultures was similar to medieval music, and often drew far-reaching conclusions about medieval music based on what they observed in other cultures. All four of my missionaries made recordings of African music now preserved in the Berlin Phonogramm-Archiv.
Similarly, most of the missionaries were in some way involved in the German Jugendmusik- and Singbewegung, movements that tried to revive early music and folk music by editing and performing Gregorian Chant, Lutheran chorales, and Renaissance polyphony.

Now, my question is: how did comparative musicology and the Jugendmusik-bewegung influence the music in the mission stations? Did missionaries translate and publish the chorales they used in their missions? Did they introduce musical notation? Did the missionaries ask members of the communities they visited to create new hymn verses and melodies they would understand better and find more attractive? Was there any room for improvisation? If they were open to local culture, what room was there for its music? For example, were they able to teach the new congregations how to sing polyphony? And if so, how did this polyphonic practice relate to local polyphony? Did they do ethnographic work and try to relate what they found to medieval and Renaissance music?

Recommended Reading


THE COLOURS OF ANIMALS

Focus Group Colouration in Animals (see p. 134)

At the turn of the 19th century, Alfred Russel Wallace, the undoubted father of the field, constructed a scheme for thinking about colouration. He viewed colouration as being intimately concerned with protecting prey from predators (two of his categories); the first of these we now call background matching. His second category fulfilled the same function but in a different way: colouration warns predators not to attack (aposematism). His third category was sexual colours, which, contrary to Darwin who focused on ornamentation in males, he saw as being linked to protection in females. His fourth was “typical” colours – a sort of ragbag that includes signalling between conspecifics and lures. These ideas about colouration were developed by Edward Poulton in regards to aposematism and by Abbott Thayer in relation to countershading and disruptive colouration (breaking up the animal’s outline), but then the field went quiet. In 1940, Hugh B. Cott published his benchmark volume called Adaptive Colouration in Animals, in which he painstakingly documented the different ways that animals conceal themselves, including disruptive colouration and masquerade. But again there was a 30-year hiatus until the late 1970s, when behavioural ecologists interested in mating systems started to think about one aspect of colouration, bright ornamentation in (principally) male birds, in the context of sexually selected traits. Finally, in the early 2000s, a different group of scientists began to systematically test century-old hypotheses about background
matching, disruptive colouration, countershading and warning colouration. At Wiko we are convening a Focus Group that will attempt to integrate modelling exercises, observational work, experimental studies and comparative analyses in order to consolidate understanding and formulate new exciting directions in explaining colouration in nature. We will address questions like: why do chameleons change colour? Why do butterflies have wing spots? Why are parrots so brilliantly coloured? And why are zebras black and white? We hope to engage both humanities colleagues and the public in the excitement of understanding the beauty of nature.

**Recommended Reading**


THEODOROS (A NOVEL)

My project is to write “Theodoros”: a historical novel describing the fantastic life and destiny of a Greek-Romanian character born in 1818 in Wallachia, the southern part of what is now Romania. Teodor is the lowborn child of two servants at the court of a great boyard. At birth, it is prophesied that he will become an emperor. This prophecy becomes his greatest obsession. The first part of the novel deals with his childhood and adolescence in Wallachia.

At the age of 17, he disappears from Wallachia for good, and the second part of the novel begins. At greater and greater intervals, his mother receives his letters from disparate locations in the Levant and Orient – the Greek Archipelago, Palestine, Petra, Baalbek, Alexandria – describing his adventurous life and the cruel, audacious actions he takes in search of power and wealth. He signs these letters with the Greek variant of his name, Theodoros.

The prophecy is indeed fulfilled in the third part of the book. After twenty years of wandering over the sea and through picturesque lands, he arrives in Abyssinia, takes part in the “war of the princes”, exchanges his name and personality with the most important Abyssinian warlord, and finally takes power, becoming the famous emperor Tewodros II of Abyssinia. He dies fighting Queen Victoria’s soldiers in 1868.

This is the novel’s “realistic” framework, but the meaning of this novel lies in its vision. I would like to create a whole miraculous world involving the story of King Solomon, the Queen of Sheba, and their legendary son Menelik, who, according to the sacred book Kebra Nagast, stole the Ark of the Covenant from Jerusalem and brought it to Abyssinia. As I envision it, in the end the whole
novel will resemble Albrecht Altdorfer’s painting “Alexander in the Battle of Issus”: a large, all-encompassing, and fascinating panorama of a magnificent time.

**Recommended Reading**


Since my Ph.D., I have been fascinated by the use of odours for social communication, including kin recognition. Kin recognition is often based on olfactory cues and it has been shown that olfactory kin cues are present early in life, i.e. closely related individuals smell more similar than unrelated individuals. The potential of an olfactory kin cue has been completely ignored in birds, as most birds have been thought to lack the sense of smell. Therefore it is widely accepted that, specifically in songbirds, parents are unable to distinguish between related and unrelated offspring early in life. However, evidence is accumulating that birds are able to recognise kin based on olfactory cues. If birds are able to recognise their kin, why are there so many evidences of misdirected parental care, i.e. parental care for unrelated offspring?

Parental care for unrelated offspring is widespread across the animal kingdom, with birds being no exception. In contrast, the vast majority of social monogamous bird species has been shown to be genetically polyandrous, i.e. at least one parent cares also for unrelated offspring. From an evolutionary point of view, investment in unrelated offspring is maladaptive. It comes with costs in terms of energy and resources that cannot be invested in related offspring at the same time.
But why do individuals care for unrelated offspring?

If parents are able to recognize their own offspring, it is assumed that parental care for unrelated offspring is intentional, with potential fitness-relevant benefits. In group-living animals, for example, predation risk for one’s own offspring decreases with an increasing group size. This dilution effect may induce parents to provide additional care to unrelated offspring in order to increase their own offspring’s chances for survival. Interpretations of parental care for unrelated offspring differ with respect to the presence/absence of a kin cue. Given the finding that parents as well as offspring of songbirds may also be able to distinguish between kin and non-kin at a very early life stage, we may have to start thinking about the potential functions of parental care for unrelated offspring, as has been done in mammals or fishes.

During my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg I aim to address the question how the potential existence of a kin cue in birds may influence interpretations of the phenomenon.

**Recommended Reading**


Daniel Cefaï
Dr., Directeur d’études
École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris

Born in 1961 in Bordeaux
Studied Anthropology and Phenomenology at the EHESS, Paris


During my stay at the Wiko, I intend to move forward in writing two books, both linked with the history of social science at the University of Chicago. On the one hand, we are working with Howard Becker on *L’Enquête sociologique à Chicago 1945–1960*, a history of the Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago between World War II and the 1960s. The objective is to describe the shifts in the practices of inquiry among young researchers and Ph.D. students at this critical moment of the invention of participant observation and fieldwork in sociology. Howard Becker was the contemporary of the generation of Erving Goffman, Joseph Gusfield, Eliot Freidson, and many others who invented many of the options in what would be called later “qualitative sociology”. We combine Becker’s personal records with data from the Special Collections and University Archives, Chicago, the 200 dissertations defended during the 1945–1960 period, the transcripts of seminars on field research that took place there, and the Department professors’ correspondence and personal documents in the writing of a new narrative on what is commonly called the Second Chicago School of Sociology. Doing a prosopographic and a network analysis of this cohort, we hope to renew hypotheses on the ecology of research.

In parallel, I will keep on working on a second book: *The Public: Pragmatism, Ecology, and Politics*, in the area of history of sociology and political science in the 1920s–30s at the University of Chicago – the so-called Chicago Schools of Sociology and Political Science. The twenties and thirties were a crucial mo-
ment for the professionalization and institutionalization of these disciplines. My project is to investigate their political dimension, focusing on the different uses of the concept of "public": public/crowd, public interest, public polls, public problems, public opinion, public administration etc. At the same time, I will try to make explicit the connections of these new sciences – with a special focus on Robert E. Park and Charles Merriam – with pragmatist philosophy, mainly William James, John Dewey, and George Herbert Mead. My question is: how did the birth of urban ecology, electoral sociology, and ethnic studies involve specific conceptions of the public sphere? Through this movement back to the 1920s, I hope to highlight a conception of the “public” different from those of Arendt, Habermas, and their followers.

**Recommended Reading**


DEFENSIVE IRIDESCENCE

Focus Group Colouration in Animals (see p. 134)

“Brilliantly changeable or metallic colors are among the strongest factors in animals’ concealment” (Thayer 1909).

Read in the light of 100 years of research on animal and military defensive colouration, this statement by the father of camouflage theory now seems absurd. Camouflage works by blending with the background, disruption of form or mimicry of irrelevant background objects. Iridescence on the other hand is a form of structural colour— an optical phenomenon that usually produces vivid metallic colours, as seen in peacock feathers and morpho butterflies. While there has been some discussion of iridescence as camouflage, this has primarily been in terms of the mechanism of background matching, which ignores the primary feature of iridescence: it changes its hue at different viewing angles. The aim of my project, in line with a new major UK Research Council grant, is to determine if this changeability can function as camouflage, by disrupting object identification and/or interfering with targeting and attack.

Why bother?
Camouflage is interesting…
- to biologists: The major selective force shaping the evolution of camouflage is perception by other individuals, of the same or different species. However, our understanding of which perceptual mechanisms animal camouflage “exploits” is limited.
to psychologists: How you “break” camouflage revolves around two major issues in visual perception, target-background segmentation and feature “binding”.

to computer scientists: Researchers in artificial vision must tackle the same issues: feature detection, feature binding, target-background segmentation, and object recognition.

Apart from addressing fundamental questions about biological structure and function, an understanding of the ways natural iridescence is deployed to attract, deceive and distract will help inform the strategic use of such materials in safety, commercial and security applications.

Recommended Reading


RULES: THE PREHISTORY OF AN INDISPENSABLE AND IMPOSSIBLE GENRE

Rules – in the form of everything from traffic regulations and government directives to etiquette manuals and parliamentary procedures – structure almost every human interaction. Increasing use of computers has intensified a trend that began in the eighteenth century of ever more, ever more stringent rules for ever more domains of public and private life, as we intuitively adapt our behavior and perhaps also our thinking to the algorithms of search engines, stock market trading, social media, and myriad other online activities. We moderns cannot live without rules. But we also cannot live with them, at least not comfortably. We chafe at their complexity, their inflexibility, their inefficiency, their sheer prolixity. On a more abstract level, many of the fault lines that run through the landscape of modern thought oppose rules to some other elusive desideratum, such as interpretation, judgment, creativity, discretion, or simple common sense.

These are characteristically modern oppositions. Premodern rules, for the over two millennia spanning Greco-Roman Antiquity through the European Enlightenment, built experience and discretion into rules; words for “rule” and “pattern” (or “paradigm”) were used as synonyms in several major European languages. Drawing upon diverse genres – astronomical tables, traffic regulations, law codes, game manuals, handbooks of parliamentary procedures, cookbooks – I would like to reconstruct the history of the premodern rule as both a
concept and a practice in order to better understand our own modern ambivalence about rules.

Recommended Reading


PERFORMATIVE GHOSTS:
TRANSFORMING THE ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM INTO
A FUTURE MUSEUM-UNIVERSITY

Ich will ja die Museen zu Universitäten machen, die dann praktisch ein Department für Objekte haben. (Joseph Beuys in Das Museum. Ein Gespräch über seine Aufgaben, Möglichkeiten, Dimensionen, ed. Joseph Beuys and Frans Haks. 1993.)

Based on five years of experience directing and transforming the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt, I would like to prepare a publication that draws together possible models for a “post-ethnographic” museum. Here I argue for a new form of “museum-university” marked by interdisciplinary inquiries led by artists, writers, lawyers, and anthropologists and based on experimental assemblages of historical collections. In Germany today there exist approximately fifteen ethnographic museums that control – administratively, legally, and pedagogically – more than five million objects from Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas. Beyond contested proprietary rights, their sheer scale impedes a mass restitution from taking place, be this back to their original source or, more controversially, to new, twenty-first century diasporic homelands. Indeed, where is “home” for these material migrants from the nineteenth century or earlier? How is indigeneity verified today if more and more individuals chart new geopolitical routes forging synthetic alliances that creolize colonial, ethnic, and gender identifications from the past? How does an ethnographic collection with
its apparent anachronism become incisive and operational in the twenty-first century? How can new models of appropriation be forged? Why is the circulation of these objects within European institutions so restrictive today? What constitutes a research collection today? With interviews and analyses, the publication aims to push the parameters of museum anthropology beyond the superficial revisionism of world cultures toward interdisciplinary innovation, heterodox knowledge sharing, and experimental production methods.

Recommended Reading


—. *Foreign Exchange (or the stories you wouldn’t tell a stranger)*. Zürich: Diaphanes, 2014.

USAGE-BASED GRAMMAR

Focus Group Biological, Cultural and Social Origins of Language (see p. 127)

Since the beginning of the 20th century, it has been a standard assumption of linguistic research that the study of the linguistic system needs to be separated from the study of language use. In the structuralist and generative paradigm, language, notably grammar, is seen as a self-contained system that includes discrete categories and combinatorial rules that are independent of usage. However, this view of grammar has been called into question by a new line of research that has become known as the usage-based approach. In this new approach, grammar is seen as a dynamic system consisting of emergent categories and fluid constraints that are in principle always changing under the pressure of general cognitive mechanisms involved in language use (i.e., communication and the processing of linguistic information). Challenging the structuralist dictum that the (synchronic) study of the language system must be separated from the study of language development, usage-based linguists take an evolutionary approach in which linguistic structure is generally analyzed in light of its development – in language history, language acquisition, and language evolution.

Research relevant to the usage-based approach has appeared in various quarters of the language sciences, e.g. in functional and cognitive linguistics, linguistic typology, psychology, philosophy, and computer science. However, as it stands, the various strands of research are only loosely connected. As a Wiko
Fellow, I will work on a project that seeks to integrate the various strands of usage-based research into a (more) unified approach. The project will be organized around two general themes. First, it will be concerned with the various cognitive mechanisms that cognitive linguists and psychologists have proposed to explain how linguistic structure is shaped by communication and processing; and second, it will be concerned with the nature of emergent categories and the dynamics of the linguistic system (i.e., the evolution of grammar). Combining evidence from synchronic and diachronic corpus studies, the project will elaborate some central hypotheses about the relationship between usage, structure, and development and the underlying cognitive mechanisms of grammar evolution.

**Recommended Reading**


EUROPÄISCHE AUFKLÄRUNG UND DIE MODERNE IN AFRIKA: ZUM GEGENWARTSBEZUG DER ENTWICKLUNGSTHEORIEN DER AFRIKADISKURSE DER AUFKLÄRUNG

Implementierung von Traditionen aus dem Erbe der Aufklärung in Afrika ist noch unerforscht. In dieser Arbeit soll aufgezeigt werden, dass die Kritik an der Aufklärung eine Kritik an der Moderne in Afrika ist.

Lektüreempfehlung


PAULA DROEGE
from September to December 2015
Ph.D., Senior Lecturer in Philosophy
Pennsylvania State University

Born in 1963 in Chicago
Studied Philosophy of Children at Montclair State University and
Philosophy at the University of Connecticut

WHY NOW? HOW CONSCIOUSNESS TRACKS TIME

Focus Group Pain (see p. 132)

How does a brain manage to produce conscious pain? This is partly a theoretical question and partly an empirical one, and the two parts are best explored in dialectic with one another. My project as part of the Pain working group involves the theoretical question: what it means for sensory representations to be selected, what ways a brain functions such that its relations might count as selecting a representation for consciousness. I propose that consciousness has the unique function of keeping track of time. While every interaction in the world, even unconscious actions like walking while engaged in deep conversation, involves appropriate timing, conscious interactions track the world as it is now. The current situation constitutes the content of the representation, not just its cause. Time plays a particular role in consciousness by means of the selection and coordination of features that form a representation of the present moment.

This way of thinking about consciousness is supported by consideration of its adaptive value. The need for a representation of the present moment arises when alternative actions are possible in response to the current environment. In order to switch goals to exploit an unexpected resource or to experiment with alternate methods of reaching a goal, an animal must be able to determine what is happening now in relation to the desired goal state. Function differentiates unconscious response – automatic, stereotyped action – from conscious response
– controlled, flexible behavior. The phenomenological structure of consciousness requires a representation of the present moment, and flexible behavior also requires a representation of the world as it is now in order to assess progress toward goals. Function connects phenomenology with behavior, providing a means for third-person evaluation of the capacity for consciousness.

Recommended Reading


THE EVOLUTION OF STEPWISE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESSES

My research interest is to understand biological diversity, i.e., the evolution of traits that make organisms look and function differently. In my project, I will focus on the biological defense against pathogens. A host may defend itself against a pathogen by a stepwise defense cascade: it may avoid contact with the pathogen, hinder it from entering the body and – if the pathogen has entered the body – kill it with the help of its immune system. The steps of such a sequence depend on each other, as an evolutionary change in one step has consequences for the evolution of the other steps. I want to understand the underpinnings of the evolution of such structures, with a focus on the specific processes of defense cascades against natural pathogens. Such defense systems are relevant not only in biology, but also to many aspects of past and current human interactions, such as the walls of a medieval city protecting against an invading army, a computer system that needs to be protected against hackers, and a government that needs to prevent taxpayers from escaping paying taxes. The principles underlying such defense cascades are rather general and can be applied to biology as well as human interactions. A victim may protect itself by installing multiple walls, each with specific features aimed at repelling the enemy. On the other hand, one step of defense might be enough to protect the victim. But which one? Would it be the strongest wall, the most expensive, or maybe the first one in place? How do compromises between quality and costs contribute to
the decision-making? What role do rare, but potentially devastating attacks play? What role does the aggressor play in coming up with new strategies of aggression (in biology this is called coevolution). Under which conditions does the victim need to invent new defense steps?

With my project I hope to gain a better understanding of how such complex stepwise systems evolve. I want to explore whether there are general rules determining the evolutionary processes at work and whether they result in patterns we can predict and observe in natural systems. Furthermore, I want to explore whether it is possible to make predictions about the evolution of such a system when it is disturbed, for example when the environment changes or when new pathogens invade. Answering these questions would be a major step forward in understanding the biodiversity of defense.

**Recommended Reading**


1. ISLAM AND IMAGE: MATERIALS FOR A HISTORY
(BOOK PROJECT)

2. COPYING THE KA’BA: SURROGACY AND SANCTITY
IN MEDIEVAL ISLAM (BOOK PROJECT)

Ad 1. In recent European debates on immigration and assimilation, Islam’s relationship to the shibboleths of secularism has sometimes been emblematized by a problematic relation to the image. The articulation of notions of cultural and religious alterity around incommensurate concepts of the image has a long history in European representations of Islam. This book project opens by tracing that history across the longue durée. It then considers a range of normative textual materials for the history of attitudes toward images in Islam, including aspects of hadith and fiqh (jurisprudence), attempting to relate the norms promoted in such texts to the world of artistic and quotidian practice. The final section of the book considers the reception of new modes of the image (such as monumental public statuary) and new imaging technologies (such as lithography and photography) in the Islamic world and its implications for both histories of the image and discourses of modernity.

Ad 2. This project addresses tensions between presentation (or “presentification”) and representation, between originals and copies, doubles and substitutes as they relate to the materiality of devotional practice in the Islamic world. It engages questions of animacy, efficacy, and materiality, as well as more prosaic
questions of circulation, transmission, and reception, topics that are of contemporary interest across a range of disciplines and fields. The aim is to explore three distinct but interrelated aspects of devotional practice, building toward a reevaluation of mimesis itself: copies of the Ka’ba, the focal shrine of Islam; the replication of certain relics of the Prophet as images; and associated practices of devotion that involve the ingestion of texts (logophagy) and images (iconophagy). The project aims to explore the materiality of devotion comparatively, considering similar objects and practices in Christianity and Judaism, for example, in relation to tensions between being, imitating, and becoming that all three phenomena engage in different ways.

Recommended Reading


THE EVOLUTION OF ALTRUISM IN INSECT SOCIETIES:
DO WE NEED A PARADIGM SHIFT?

Many insect species, particularly those of ants, bees, wasps and termites, live in societies resembling and, in some respects, surpassing human societies. The most striking feature of these societies, especially for an evolutionary biologist, is that usually one or only a small number reproduce while the rest work altruistically for the welfare of their colony. The mechanism of evolution of such altruistic behaviour has been an enduring paradox, ever since Darwin first noticed it. A dominant paradigm for formulating and testing theories for the evolution of altruism has been the idea that, under certain conditions, altruism can be favoured by natural selection if it is directed to close genetic relatives – variously labeled as kin selection, inclusive fitness theory and Hamilton’s rule. All my research using the primitively eusocial wasp *Ropalidia marginata* which occurs in Southern India, has been and continues to be firmly embedded in this paradigm. I believe that this paradigm has served us well in demystifying the altruism of our wasps (1, 2).

In recent years however, E. O. Wilson, perhaps the most prominent exponent of this paradigm (3), has teamed up with a group of mathematicians and has claimed that this paradigm has outlived its utility and perhaps was wrong from the beginning. These “rebels” have proposed simple, “old-fashioned” natural selection, often called individual selection, as a better, more universal paradigm (4). In addition, E. O. Wilson himself has often turned to group selection, at the
other extreme, as a powerful explanatory framework (5). The mainstream kin selection community has reacted very negatively, denouncing this heresy and swearing by the validity of the kin selection paradigm (6). I find this response problematic and have written an article calling for all possible support and encouragement to the "heretics" to try to prove the mainstream wrong, if at all possible (7). But the strong opposition continues and I have now written a second article describing and interpreting the response of the mainstream scientists (8). This year I propose to take the next logical step in my journey and that is to re-examine all our data on the wasps with an open mind to see how problematic kin selection really is and to what extent we can and need to turn to individual and/or group selection to better explain the behaviour of our wasps (9). This will complete a trilogy of sorts, if I may be so immodest as to use that word.

8. Gadagkar, R. [submitted]. "Can naïve biologists test controversial mathematical theory?"
Focus Group *Biological, Cultural and Social Origins of Language* (see p. 127)

Theories of language evolution tend to focus on syntactic structures. In contrast, I plan to study the evolution of semantics. Based on my earlier analyses of the connections between the evolutionary basis for cognition, collaboration and communication, I want to work on some topics that are important for the evolution of semantics: division of labour; collaboration for future goals; and the foundations for conventions and contracts. There are two kinds of cooperation typical among humans: cooperation towards future goals and indirect reciprocity. Reciprocal altruism ("you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours") is found in several animal species. Indirect reciprocity is a more extreme form of altruism: "I help you and somebody else will help me." The game-theoretical conditions for this to evolve as an evolutionarily stable strategy have recently been modelled. The crucial aspect for my argument is that these conditions presume complex forms of intersubjectivity and communication.

The central cognitive requirement for conventions is that they presuppose enduring joint beliefs or common knowledge. In general, joint beliefs form the basis for much of human culture. Commitments and contracts are special cases of cooperation about the future involving joint beliefs. When you commit yourself to someone to do some action, you intend to perform the action in the future; the other person wants you to do it and intends to check that you do it;
and you and they have joint beliefs concerning these intentions and desires. Commitments cannot arise unless the agents have the capacity for cognitive foresight and can form joint beliefs. A contract also depends on the possibility of future sanctions.

For the semantic theme, I build on a cognitive model of events that I have developed together with Massimo Warglien and use it to explain thematic roles and the emergence of word classes as semantic structures. This will generate cognitively motivated constraints on semantics and syntax. I utilize this event model to analyze the communicative functions of different word classes. I will combine this analysis with the results of the analysis of cooperation. The objective is to show that the communicative demands of planning for future goals, for indirect reciprocity and for the formation of contracts motivate the natural division of the symbols used in communication into nouns, verbs, adjectives etc. Thus my goal is to show how the evolution of semantics, rather than syntax, can provide a cognitive grounding for the word classes that are found in almost all languages. Furthermore, the thematic roles that have been in the focus of much research in linguistic semantics will turn out to be natural components of the event model. Thus, the event model will be central in deriving semantic and probably also syntactic constraints on a language. My work in the development of these analyses will tie in closely with the themes of Holger Diessel and Luc Steels.

Recommended Reading


SOKRATES ALS SATYR


In enger Beziehung dazu stehen zwei Dialoge, die denselben Titel tragen: *Symposion* (Gastmahl). Der eine stammt von Platon, der andere von Xenophon. In beiden Dialogen wird (überraschenderweise) die Physiognomie des Sokrates thematisiert, und wieder geht es um dessen Ähnlichkeit mit einem Satyrn.

Das frühere Bildnis kann kaum älter als 387 sein, als Platon nach längerer Abwesenheit wieder nach Athen zurückkehrte. Die Zeitstellung der beiden Dialoge ist unklar und umstritten, aber mit Sicherheit grenzender Wahr scheinlichkeit geht keiner von beiden der Errichtung der Bildnisstatue voraus. Es hat also den Anschein, als sei dieses satyrhafte Bild des Sokrates erst geraume Zeit nach dessen Tod entstanden, als vermutlich keiner sich mehr genau daran erinnern konnte, wie der reale Sokrates zu Lebzeiten genau ausgesehen hatte.

Lektüreempfehlung


FROM SPONTANEOUS SIGN SYSTEMS TO SIGN LANGUAGE

Focus Group Biological, Cultural and Social Origins of Language (see p. 127)

Deaf children whose hearing losses prevent them from accessing spoken language and whose hearing parents have not exposed them to sign language are effectively deprived of input from a conventional language. Despite their lack of linguistic input, these children develop gesture systems, called homesigns, that have many of the properties of natural language. The fact that children can develop certain linguistic properties under relatively impoverished language learning circumstances provides strong evidence for the resilience of these properties. But homesign does not exhibit all of the properties of natural language. The goal of this project is to explore the conditions under which homesign becomes a full-blown language and, in particular, to explore the impact of age, community, and transmission across generations on three aspects of sentence structure – how the verb is structured, how arguments are marked, and how the sentence is modulated.
Recommended Reading


EINSTEIN IN BOHEMIA

Albert Einstein taught at the German University in Prague from the late spring of 1911 to the summer of 1912. This particular sojourn has not greatly impressed his biographers. Einstein had passed through his *annus mirabilis* in Switzerland in 1905, and he would not hit on the right track for his theory of gravity, General Relativity, until his return to Zurich from Prague. This year, Einstein’s first as a full professor, is relegated to a few paragraphs at best, largely consisting of quotations about how much Einstein disliked his time there. Historians of Prague likewise have little to say about this epoch, sandwiched as it is between the high drama of the Czech Renaissance of the late nineteenth century, on the one hand, and the Great War and the creation of the First Republic of Czechoslovakia, on the other. This project aims to take this relatively unremarkable period and deploy it to two ends. First, the relative quiescence of this period for Einstein and for Prague – both extremely well documented historical entities – provides the potential for a counter-history of these two subjects that are most often treated teleologically (toward General Relativity and world fame for Einstein; toward a monoethnic and monolinguisic nation-state on the other). Second, although Einstein’s social and scientific contacts in Prague were minimal – the German University, which had been created alongside the Czech University in 1882, was relatively isolated, and Einstein learned no Czech – one can still follow the tracks of the few he did make to paint a series of portraits of Prague as a scientific city across several centuries, ranging from the foundation of Charles University, to Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler’s collaboration in the Rudolfine city, to the scientific careers of both Christian Doppler and Ernst
Mach, to the fate of Jewish scientists in the Czech Holocaust, to the growth of the philosophy of science in both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Recommended Reading


THE RISE AND FALL OF ADAM AND EVE

I am writing a book about the rise and fall of Adam and Eve, perhaps the greatest story ever told, or at least the story with the most far-reaching consequences. The account of the first man and the first woman – central to all three of the world’s monotheistic religions and the object of innumerable representations by painters, sculptors, and poets – was for thousands of years the dominant origin story of the human race. And, though we know it from Genesis, Adam and Eve’s fate cannot be understood only as a piece of religious ideology. Much older than Christianity and Islam and older even than any recognizable form of Judaism, it helped innumerable generations to explain to themselves who they were, where they came from, and why they were forced to work, bear children in pain, and suffer death.

That its credibility has collapsed in the modern age makes it possible – as it would not have been in the past – to understand it as an act of inspired storytelling, whose apogee came in the High Renaissance, and possible too to consider what it means to shift uncertainly, as we have done, toward a different story. To probe our relation to our own origins – our ways of imagining the *Australopithecus afarensis* “Lucy”, our understanding of our genetic inheritance, our intimation of the secret links that tie us to our primate ancestors – is to grapple with what it means to live now, on the other side of the great myth that once told us who we were.
Recommended Reading


DIETER GRIMM
Permanent Fellow des Wissenschaftskollegs
Dr. Dr. h.c. mult., LL.M. (Harvard), Professor (em.) des Öffe
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Bundesverfassungsrichter a. D.

Geboren 1937 in Kassel
Studium der Rechtswissenschaft und Politikwissenschaft in Frankfurt/Main,
Freiburg/Breisgau, Berlin, Paris und Harvard

VERFASSUNG UND VERFASSUNGSGERICHTSBARKEIT


Zugleich mit der weltweiten Verbreitung der Verfassung hat sich in der zweiten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts auch die Verfassungsgerichtsbarkeit als

Die Antworten auf diese Fragen verlangen eine vergleichende Verfassungslehre, die aber erst in ihren Anfängen steht. Darum geht es mir bei den Forschungen am Wissenschaftskolleg.

Lektüreempfehlung


FORBIDDEN GOODS: CROSS-CULTURAL TRADE IN ISLAMIC LAW

My broad project, a two-volume work, examines historically Muslim legal perceptions of non-Muslim commodities during the rise of Islam and in the modern age. In the medieval period, many experts on Islamic law earned their livelihood as merchants and thus appreciated the benefits of cross-cultural trade. Yet, they worried that through such trade they would expose their bodies and communities to impurity, and so they proposed ideological restrictions to regulate this commerce. This resulted in a productive tension in Islamic legal thought between an economic interest in porous communal boundaries and a religious interest in social exclusivity. As medieval jurists reflected on non-Muslims and their worldly goods, they also sought, in different ways in different historical circumstances, to define an Islamic social identity.

In modern times, high-ranking jurists known as muftis have continued this medieval legacy in some respects. They have cultivated a religious identity and calibrated their gauge of modernity through sentences against new technological objects made in the West. Yet, the strength of revivalism in the twentieth century has resulted in the elaboration of arresting juxtapositions between modern things and sacred laws.

My topic has been neglected due to the disciplinary boundaries that tend to confine academic research in the humanities and social sciences. Economic historians have paid little attention to pious Muslim ideals concerning trade with
non-Muslims, either because it is difficult to measure the impact of religious interests on economic behavior or because of a neoclassical tendency to dismiss religious interests as economically irrelevant. Religious scholars, for their part, have paid no serious attention to the ethics of cross-cultural trade. Perhaps this is due to the impression that an economic topic such as trade lies outside of the proper study of religion. But the Shari’a, Islam’s sacred law, includes legislation not only about purity rites and scriptural dogmas, but also about commercial transactions, behavior in the marketplace, and the production of worldly goods. Studying this moral economy will lead to a deeper methodological understanding of the impact of economic exchange upon religion.

**Recommended Reading**


GERÜCHT UND/ODER WAHRHEIT: DER FALL
INGEGORG BACHMANN

die vorhandenen Werkausgaben, Archivalien (soweit zugänglich), die Medien ihrer Zeit (Fotografie, Film, Magazine, Zeitungen) sowie Zeitzeugen. Meine Arbeit über den „Fall“ Ingeborg Bachmann ist bestrebt, die spezifische, durchaus beunruhigende Energie dieser Persönlichkeit neu zu fokussieren. Wer war Ingeborg Bachmann? Die Frage führt zu dem zurück, der sie (sich) stellt.

Lektüreempfehlung

HASSAN JABAREEN
LL.M., Founder and General Director
Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel

Born in 1964 in Nazareth, Israel
Studied Law and Philosophy at Tel Aviv University and International Human Rights Law at the American University, Washington College of Law

PAST, PRESENT, AND THE RULE OF LAW: THE LEGAL STATUS OF PALESTINIAN CITIZENS OF ISRAEL

My project is to conduct research for a book about Israeli law and Palestinian citizens of Israel. For this project, I will analyze Israeli law, including Supreme Court case law, regarding the civil and political rights as well as the economic, social, and land rights of the Palestinian citizens. The research will also examine group rights protections such as for language, culture, and religion. The special significance of this book is that there is no thorough, updated, legal research analyzing the legal status of the Palestinians in Israel. Comprehensive legal research, which covers the Palestinian citizens’ fundamental rights (as individuals and as a national community), will add significantly to the understanding of their citizenship and political status in Israel. My methodology will include examining the constitutional foundational values of Israel, as laid down in 1948–1949 with the state’s establishment, and assessing their influence and effect on the law regarding the Palestinian citizens’ status in the past and in the present. Since there is no national reconciliation yet between Israel and the Palestinians, and thus there is no “new beginning”, the constitutional principles and values set forth at the state’s foundational moments are significant for any constitutional discussion regarding the Palestinians’ citizenship and national minority rights.
Recommended Reading


DEUX PROJETS D’ÉCRITURE …

Écriture d’un concerto pour viola et grand orchestre. Cette pièce sera écrite pour la soliste Tabea Zimmermann. J’aimerais continuer un certain nombre de recherches sur de nouveaux modes de jeu (en particulier sur les harmoniques). Dans mon concerto de violon écrit pour Isabelle Faust, j’ai déjà travaillé sur la production d’harmoniques doubles ainsi que des trémoles d’harmoniques et de leurs fondamentales. Les cordes plus graves de l’alto permettent évidemment beaucoup plus de possibilités, mais ceci ne serait que le début du travail de recherche, car j’aimerais suivre certaines autres pistes.

Lié à ce projet d’écriture, j’aimerais approfondir certaines recherches que j’avais commencées sur une grammaire musicale générative et sur certains outils de la CAO (composition assisté par ordinateur).

Depuis les premières publications sur le langage-L (formalisation développée par le biologiste Aristide Lindenmayer pour modéliser le processus de développement et de prolifération des plantes (L-System)), plusieurs compositeurs ont travaillé sur ce sujet. Pour ma part, il ne s’agit ni de créer des procédés de composition automatique, ni de constituer une théorie totalisante, mais de faire usage d’une grammaire principalement dans le but de trouver des cohérences à un problème qui se pose régulièrement pendant le travail de composition, à savoir, dans quel ordre temporel doit-on enchaîner des événements musicaux et suivant quelles relations causales devront-ils se succéder ?

Il s’agira, par ailleurs, de développer des outils de calcul de haut-niveau pour les classes, les cribles et pour d’autres opérations combinatoires. Beaucoup de ces
outils existent déjà, mais ont une limite importante, l'absence de l'élément temporel ou plus exactement le fait qu'il est actuellement difficile d'effectuer un certain nombre d'opérations où les contraintes se développent et se transforment elles-mêmes dans le temps.

Le deuxième projet d'écriture est le début de la composition d'un opéra autour de « Bérénice » de Racine. Celui-ci sera créé à l'opéra de Paris en octobre 2018, sous la direction de Philippe Jordan et dans une mise-en-scène de Katie Mitchell.

À écouter


If a twenty-first-century historian were to take a walk through a medieval or early modern European city, he or she would probably be struck by the amount of attention and the weight of symbolic significance assigned to liminal spaces such as windows, doors, and gates. Far from being regarded as solely or primarily functional, these sites of passage were highly charged with cultural, social, and political significance, in ways that would be rather alien to the modern observer. An examination of the cultural practices associated with these transitional spaces can provide us with unique insights into perceptions and uses of space in the past.

This project explores the history of domestic and urban space through the lens of the changing, multifaceted story of windows, gates, and doors (ca. 1300–1800). I adopt a pan-European perspective, but I also intend to investigate the role and symbolism of transitional spaces in two other cultures that lend themselves as interesting points of comparison — namely, early modern Islamic and early modern Japanese culture. The project draws on a broad range of archival, printed, and visual sources as well as material objects. One of my goals is to demonstrate that the cultural history of sites of passage can open new and unexpected vistas not only on the history of everyday life but also on the emergence of concepts such as privacy, security, and — not least — on the idea of interior versus exterior.
Recommended Reading


POETIK DES ALPTRAUMS

Lektüreempfehlung


WHY DOES PEER VICTIMIZATION GET UNDER THE SKIN? EXPLORING PHYSIOLOGICAL AND EPIGENETIC PATHWAYS

Experiencing peer victimization in childhood and adolescence can have severe negative consequences for psychological, social and behavioural adjustment later on, but our understanding of the biological mechanisms through which this form of social stress gets under the skin needs to be advanced. For instance, individual differences in physiological stress response have been suggested and cortisol baseline levels and variations over the day seem to show non-normative patterns in peer-victimized adolescents. Importantly, individual differences in physiological responses to stress have been implicated in psychopathology. Moreover, epigenetic changes as a result of peer victimization concern DNA methylation and telomere length, both of which have been linked to psychopathology. Thus, a model in which the associations between peer victimization and psychopathology are explained by physiological and epigenetic changes is plausible. So far, findings on this topic appear nonsystematic, which poses a problem for intervention design. In other words, we can prevent young people from developing psychopathology in response to peer victimization only if we have a detailed understanding of the different mechanisms involved. During my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I intend to summarize and systematize these studies to create a stable foundation for future research. As such, my work in
Berlin will form the groundwork for a grant application to study in depth the biological pathways from peer victimization to psychopathology.

Recommended Reading


WOLF LEPENIES
Permanent Fellow (em.) des Wissenschaftskollegs
Rektor des Wissenschaftskollegs (1986–2001)
Dr. Dr. h.c. mult., Professor (em.) der Soziologie
Freie Universität Berlin

Geboren 1941 in Deuthen, Allenstein, heute Polen
Studium der Soziologie, Philosophie und Publizistik
in München, Münster und Berlin

DER EUROPÄISCHE HIMMELSRICHTUNGSSTREIT


Lektüreempfehlung

CULTURES OF DELIBERATION IN APEX COURTS

Cultures of deliberation in apex courts, national and transnational, differ in many respects. Deliberations are prepared in quite different ways and with different degrees of thoroughness. Different courts take different amounts of time for deliberation among the judges. Some courts deliberate in public while the great majority have confidential deliberations. In many courts, judges discuss in the presence of clerks or registrars; in many others, only the judges are allowed to be present. Some courts deliberate in a very consensus-oriented manner, with elements of compromise in the decision-making process, others don’t. Some courts seem more or less split into political (including ethnic or religious) factions, others seem to operate in a less politicized, more integrative manner.

The project will explore such differences in a more systematic way than has been done, so far, with a particular view to identifying aspects of the institutional framework that are likely to help prevent political polarization and to contribute to constructive deliberation. This will include comparing rules and traditions concerning the composition of courts and the recruitment of judges, the role and powers of presidents, the role of non-judicial court personnel, the internal process of decisionmaking, including rules for deliberation and voting, the admissibility of separate judicial opinions etc. Besides analyses of the relevant literature, interviews with judges will help to understand how these and other framework conditions bear upon the functionality of judicial deliberation.
Recommended Reading


Le Taittirīya-Āranyaka est le complément « forestier » (ésotérique) du Taittirīya-Brāhmaṇa, un des Traités du sacrifice qui forment la partie en prose du corpus du Veda. Le livre I a pour thème une forme spéciale du rite appelé « empilement du feu » (agnicayana). Dans sa forme normale, ce rite consiste à empiler cinq couches de briques en les disposant de telle sorte que la configuration d’ensemble soit celle d’un oiseau aux ailes déployées; une fois cet « empilement » effectué, on allume sur la surface que forme la couche supérieure un feu dans lequel on verse, en offrande, le jus extrait de la plante soma qui est pour les dieux boisson d’immortalité, la mise en place d’un certain nombre de ces briques s’accompagne de la récitation de formules. Les Traités du sacrifice expliquent le symbolisme inhérent à la relation entre telle brique et telle formule. La particularité du rite enseigné dans le Taittirīya-Āranyaka est que les briques d’argile cuite y sont remplacées par des poignées d’eau que les officiants puisent dans des récipients pour les verser dans une fosse : à l’assemblage d’éléments solides et discrets se substituent donc des quantités successives de liquide qui, en s’ajoutant les unes aux autres, finissent par former une masse continue sans limites internes. Chacune de ces « briques d’eau » a cependant une individualité, signalée par la formule que l’on prononce au moment où on la verse.

La traduction de ce texte difficile à beaucoup d’égards, avec le commentaire philologique et anthropologique qui viendrait l’éclairer, devrait être un point
d’appui pour une réflexion sur la manière védique de concevoir les procédures mentales à l’œuvre dans l’effectuation des rites.

Lecture recommandée :


Der Ausgangspunkt des Projekts ist die Erkenntnis, dass sich in Japan seit der Einführung des europäischen Gerichtssystems bis heute eine im europäischen Vergleich deutlich niedrigere Prozessrate feststellen lässt. Dieser Umstand wurde im Rahmen der Rechtssoziologie und des Vergleichenden Rechts im Zusammenhang mit Fragen von Rechtstransfers vielfach thematisiert.

Ich möchte auch der Frage nachgehen, ob wir Gerichte als das einzige Mittel zur institutionellen Konfliktlösung betrachten sollten. Durch einen Vergleich
der Schlichtungseinrichtungen beider Länder, die sich fast parallel entwickelten, kann die neuere Geschichte der Konfliktlösungen einer Gesellschaft umfassender und vielfältiger dargestellt werden.

Lektüreempfehlung


CHRISTOPH MENKE
Dr. phil., Professor der Philosophie
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main

Geboren 1958 in Köln
Studium der Philosophie und Germanistik an der Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg und an der Universität Konstanz

ZWEITE NATUR UND BEFREIUNG: GESETZ UND FREIHEIT NACH HEGEL


Die moderne Philosophie (seit Rousseau und Kant) hat versucht, diese beiden Seiten im Begriff der Autonomie zusammenzudenken. Das Forschungsvorhaben setzt mit der These ein, dass diese Lösung gescheitert ist. Es stellt daher die Frage, wie der Anspruch des Autonomiebegriffs, Gesetz und Freiheit zusammenzudenken, auf andere Weise eingelöst werden kann. Diese Frage soll auf dem Weg einer kritischen Rekonstruktion von Hegels Philosophie des Geistes beantwortet werden.

Hegels grundlegende Einsicht lautet, dass Gesetz und Freiheit als sozial konstituiert zu verstehen sind. Diese Einsicht ist grundlegend – aber nicht, weil sie schon die Lösung ist, sondern weil sie erlaubt, das gestellte Problem in hinreichender Komplexität zu formulieren. Hegels Geistphilosophie erscheint genau deshalb als der richtige Gegenstand, um die Frage nach dem Verhältnis von Gesetz und Freiheit zu stellen, weil sie mit der These ihrer sozialen Konstitution das Problem nicht gelöst zu haben behauptet, sondern es zum Paradox zuschickt. Dieses Paradox lautet, dass – einerseits – Gesetz und Freiheit

Lektüreempfehlung

I would like to do an extensive review of chemosensation in the living world for understanding how specialized chemosensory systems like smell and taste evolved from a general chemosensory system. I have not come across any review that considers the evolution of chemosensation as a whole. This topic is an extension of my present work where I am finding that the boundaries between taste and smell may not be as distinct as commonly believed. My hypothesis is that the need for communication between different unicellular organisms (as is seen in some bacteria and amoebae) followed by inter-cellular communication that arose with the rise of multicellular life set the stage for specialization of chemosensory systems to detect very low levels of chemicals. An important factor is the evolution of terrestrial life. In aquatic organisms, it is not always clear as to whether separate olfactory and gustatory systems exist, and I surmise that the ability to detect very low levels of chemicals became more enhanced with the rise of terrestrial life, leading to specialized olfactory systems tuned to detect airborne chemicals. Another area I want to explore is artificial chemosensation. The information gained about chemosensation in animals can be exploited to make biologically inspired engineering applications. For
example, it has been estimated that 1 mg of the trail pheromone of a species of ant can be used to lead a trail of ants around the world. If such level of sophistication can be incorporated into an electronic system, it will be a great advancement for artificial chemosensors. Hence I want to spend some time in comparing the mechanisms of biological chemosensation with the methods that are being tried out to build artificial chemosensors. This will help me to develop ideas about exploring new ways of proceeding with this line of work in the field of biomimetics and bio-inspired engineering.

Recommended Reading


1. HUBERS LETZTE FUSSNOTE

2. LAW’S LEGITIMACY


Ad 2. Why do we make use of law? There are two basic kinds of answers to this question: we do it because law has an inherent value or we do it as a means to an end. Both answers have a point, and both answers miss something. My own answer is based on two observations: First, we never treat a legal order as being legitimate as such, but accept its justification only on other grounds, be it the political legitimacy of a parliament or the moral claim of a specific rule. Second,
otherwise quite different legal institutions, like independent courts, rights or sanctions, all resist any direct connection between means and ends. They function as a kind of institutional buffer between the aim of a norm and its execution. These two features, dependent justification and buffered execution, have to be studied in order to understand law’s legitimacy.

Lektüreempfehlung


L'ÉCONOMIE THÉORIQUE OU LE SENS COMMUN MAGNIFIÉ

L'économie en tant que discipline (« économie politique », « science économique », political economy, economics, Volkswirtschaftslehre, Wirtschaftswissenschaften) a fait l'objet d'abondantes études critiques, relevant pour partie d'elle-même, pour partie des autres sciences sociales et pour partie de l'histoire et de la philosophie des sciences. Le projet reprend, mais réoriente cette tradition de questionnement. Il fait de l'élaboration théorique un trait différenciant de la discipline à l'intérieur des sciences sociales, ce qui suppose au préalable d'avoir construit une notion philosophique de théorie qui puisse s'appliquer comparativement. En accord avec cette option, le projet se fixe sur l'économie néoclassique dans sa phase de maturité, donc au-delà de ses débuts chez Walras, Marshall et Pareto, celle, plus précisément, qu'illustrent les traités de Hicks (1939), de Samuelson (1947) et, aujourd'hui, de Mas-Colell, Whinston et Green (1995). Il y rattache l'économie de l'information, qui est toujours en développement, certaines parties de la macro-économie contemporaine, et tout ce qui, dans la théorie de la décision et des jeux, est venu enrichir les conceptions néoclassiques de l'agent rationnel et de l'équilibre de marché.

Le projet tend vers plusieurs thèses dont il s'agira d'éprouver la solidité au cours de la recherche. En premier lieu, la théorisation économique procède contradictoirement à l'égard du sens commun, d'une part, en y enracinant ses concepts techniques, d'autre part, en rompant avec lui, chaque fois que les
exigences théoriques, et en particulier celles de la formalisation mathématique, prennent le dessus. Il en résulte une dialectique dont il faudra suivre le mouvement sur des exemples pris dans le corpus. En second lieu, et de façon cohérente avec son origine, la théorisation économique recourt massivement à des concepts évaluatifs, ceux de l’agent rationnel et de l’équilibre de marché tombant sous ce chef. En troisième lieu, malgré le pessimisme affiché par la philosophie à l’égard de la psychologie du sens commun (folk psychology), supposée inaméliorable, la théorisation économique manifesterait qu’il est possible de progresser par rapport à sa base triviale. En quatrième lieu, c’est par l’ensemble de ces traits, et non par une pertinence empirique qu’elle n’a malheureusement pas, que l’on peut expliquer le succès mondain de la discipline, et la singularité persistante qui conduit les gouvernants d’États et d’entreprises à choisir des économistes comme conseillers du prince.

Lecture recommandée

STUDYING LITERATURE IN THE LAB: AN INTERIM ASSESSMENT

Five years ago, the Stanford Literary Lab was founded with the explicit aim of importing into the study of literature some of the procedures followed by the natural sciences: hypotheses testing, quantification of results, distinguishing between findings and explanations, ongoing collective discussions, and more. Now the time has come to look at the results of our research so far and to draw some initial conclusions.

In 2015–16, I (along with various Lab teams) will be completing four to five projects that have been in progress for the past couple of years; alongside this empirical work, I will also attempt a conceptual clarification of some general issues we have encountered: from the role of abstraction in literary study to the hermeneutic asymmetry between corpus and text; from the relationship between quantitative and qualitative evidence to the perplexing gap that computational methods seem to have opened between cultural and social history.
Recommended Reading


—. “‘Operationalizing’; or, the function of measurement in modern literary theory.” *Literary Lab*. Pamphlet 6, December 2013.

Colour vision and colour communication in water

Focus Group Colouration in Animals (see p. 134)

Colour signalling is important to aquatic animals. We know this from the brilliant colours of many fish and invertebrates, from the fact that they evolved multiple spectral photoreceptors, allowing excellent colour vision, and from behavioural studies. But there is a paradox: on land, colour vision is important because colour (i.e. reflectance spectra) is a reliable signal for recognizing objects: when we look at an object it is relatively easy to identify the colour. In water, colour is much less robust, because water is a spectrally selective filter: pure water is blue, while dissolved organic matter colour water green or red. Consequently, viewing conditions, such as depth and distance, strongly alter colour, as is obvious in colour photographs taken in water. There are likely to be profound consequences both for the mechanisms of colour vision and for the operation of colour signals in water. I will use theoretical models of colour vision and colour constancy and empirical data to make predictions about how colour signals and colour vision should have evolved for communication in water and about the likely effects of failures of colour constancy.

Recommended Reading

I am interested in the cascade of mechanisms that has given rise to the diversity of avian visual communication signals. These mechanisms include physical, chemical, physiological, cognitive, developmental, and evolutionary processes. These interests have led to previous research on 1) the nanostructure, physics, and development of structural coloration in bird feathers and skin, 2) the chemistry and physiology of avian plumage pigments, 3) the development and taphonomy of melanin pigments and melanosomes in feathers, 4) quantitative, tetrahedral color space models of avian visual perception, 5) phylogenetic analyses of the evolution of color space occupancy by various clades of birds, and 6) theory of aesthetic evolution by sexual selection. The long-term goal is an integrated understanding of the origin and maintenance of color signal diversity in birds.

I am particularly intrigued by evolution as an aesthetic process, especially through mate choice. I have been critical of the assumption that mate choice is an adaptive process that provides honest indicators of good genes and direct benefits. I have advocated a return to a genuinely Darwinian, fully aesthetic concept of mate choice and the use of arbitrary mate choice mechanisms as the null model of evolution by mate choice.

Aesthetic evolution focuses on the fact that secondary sexual traits – including color signals – function through the subjective experiences of the observers – the
animals themselves. Subjective experience is the unique, internal quality – the “what-it-is-like” – of observing, cognitively evaluating, and making a choice. Mate choice is appropriately a science of subjective experience. The lack of a consideration of subjective experience has stunted the appreciation of mate choice as an aesthetic process and limited our capacity to understand the natural world.

My interests in aesthetic evolution have also led to new research in aesthetic philosophy at the interface of evolutionary biology and the humanities. I have recently published a paper proposing a coevolutionary aesthetic theory that spans the human and biotic worlds.

Recommended Reading


Anda Rottenberg
Dr. of Fine Arts, Art History; Curatorial Studies
Curator and Art Critic, Warsaw

Born in 1944 in Novosibirsk
Studied Art History at the University of Warsaw

Judith – Salome – Ophelia: The Representation of Some Female Characters in European Art in the Light of Contemporary Gender Studies

Besides the Virgin Mary and a few popular holy saints (like Anna, Barbara, Agnes, Maria Magdalena) who were depicted in a nice and peaceful manner, several other women characters drew special attention from artists for many centuries. They were represented in art from the Renaissance period to the 20th century in a great variety of poses and situations. The artists chose biblical heroines like Judith or Yael, real historical figures like Lucretia and Cleopatra or the personalities popular in the Christian tradition like Salome or St. Theresa d’Avila to become subjects of their art, mainly paintings and sculptures. The 19th- and 20th-century artists extended their interest to cover the only female character that was not derived from the religious Christian tradition, but from drama. Their heroine became Shakespeare’s Ophelia, the victimized fiancée of Hamlet.

In the course of five centuries, the representation of these characters differed not only in accordance with the changes of the consequent historical styles and particular schools, but also due to the different interpretation of the same tale drawn from the current philosophical and theological flows and possibly to political needs in the given period and place.

My interest is to trace these causalities in the light of contemporary gender studies.
Recommended Reading


THE SIGNALLING VALUE OF COLOURATION: A ROLE FOR PLEIOTROPY

Focus Group Colouration in Animals (see p. 134)

Establishing the links between phenotype and genotype is key to resolving questions about the evolution, maintenance and adaptive function of phenotypic variation. This is particularly interesting when a phenotype is positively selected in one sex but negatively in the other sex (sexually antagonistic selection). Identifying the genes responsible for variation in phenotypes selected in opposite directions in the two sexes is particularly interesting because these genes may have beneficial physiological effects in one sex but detrimental ones in the other sex. Using the cosmopolitan barn owl, I tackle the genetic basis of sexually antagonistic selection exerted on a melanin-based plumage trait. Because the melanocortin system is involved in the expression of melanin pigments and pleiotropically regulates a large number of physiological and behavioural traits, I look for polymorphisms in this system and measure the expression levels of these genes in relation to melanin-based colouration and their associated traits. This study is relevant from an evolutionary and biomedical point of view because the melanocortin system is highly conserved across vertebrates and implicated in many physiological functions and diseases.
Recommended Reading


WHERE IS THE JOURNEY OF MATHEMATICAL MODELING IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY HEADED?

For several years, we have been able to observe the trend that research in molecular biology is aiming to integrate mathematics. What is the reason for this development and how does it proceed? At first glance, the two disciplines do not seem to match.

The trend has two reasons. First, because of the technical advances of the last decades, the amount of raw data generated has increased enormously. Mathematicians, usually in their profession as statisticians or computer scientists, are expected to help store, manage, and analyze the data. This sort of application of mathematics in biology is nothing new: it is statistical data analysis as applied in any science that generates data.

There is, however, a second type of development in which mathematics is being integrated as a tool in molecular biology. This is historically new, and it is this aspect of mathematical modeling in biology that I want to investigate during my time in Berlin.

We have reached a phase in which the qualitative description of all cell components is largely complete. This means that all cellular structures have been discovered and described in their composition. While in former times we searched for “the secret of life” in the form of the identity of a particular mole-
cule (e.g. DNA), the question has now shifted to the quantitative interaction of the various cell components. This means that we are asking about the dynamics of processes and the functionality that arises from the quantitative interaction of the components, not from the mere existence of the components themselves.

During my time at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I want to investigate the current state of this synthesis of mathematics and biology and ask how the entry of mathematical thinking has shaped the way we look for explanations in molecular biology.

Recommended Reading


THE HETERO DOXY OF CHRISTIANITY: SACRIFICE, THEOLOGY, AND SACRED HISTORY

Christianity has never been as Christian as all that, and there is no clearer testimony to this than sacrifice. From the beginning of the tradition, sacrifice has been Christianity’s stumbling block, a theological center to the enterprise, yet also deeply inimical to it. My project takes up Christian troubles with sacrifice. It argues that these troubles, although ancient in their origins, came to a head in the early modern period, when Catholics and Protestants fought viciously over Christian theology and worship. From the Eucharist to the Mass to atonement to the cultic community of martyrs: the entire sacrificial apparatus of the Church, past and present, was subject to scathing examination. These controversies inserted a wedge between “Christianity as it was” and “Christianity as it should be”, a wedge between past and future that opened up spaces for new forms of sacred and secular knowledge. As the heat of religious war cooled, the polemic theology of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was disaggregated, and out of its pieces a new organization of knowledge was created, built on a distinction between a properly sacred discipline (theology) and the properly secular ones. The project, in short, offers both a new history of early modern Christianity and a new genealogy of the modern human sciences.
Recommended Reading


THE COGNITIVE BASIS OF ANTI-PREDATOR DEFENCE

Focus Group Colouration in Animals (see p. 134)

Objectives
Over the course of my three-month research fellowship, I propose to develop and explore a series of mathematical models to help understand why species evolve the anti-predator traits that they do. My approach will seek to understand decision making by predators from an adaptive perspective, and then elucidate its consequences for the evolution of prey defence. In so doing, I hope to provide some of the first evolutionary explanations for two well-known properties of predator cognition, namely overshadowing and innate aversion.

Methods
It has been widely observed that predators place far greater emphasis on some aspects of a prey’s phenotype than others when making discriminative decisions, a phenomenon known as “overshadowing”. Likewise, work in my laboratory has recently shown that birds show innate aversion to eye-like markings (“eye-spots”) on large caterpillars, but not on small caterpillars. First, I will attempt to elucidate the conditions under which both overshadowing and context-specific innate aversions will evolve by modelling predator behaviour from first principles. Overshadowing for example might be understood as a consequence of an adaptive model selection procedure in which simpler statistical models of the
world are preferred by predators over more complex ones. Likewise, innate aversions can be interpreted as a consequence of selection for appropriate Bayesian priors. Second, having developed a more complete understanding of when and why these key behaviours might evolve, I will attempt to explore the implications of the behaviours for selection on prey phenotypes, concentrating on understanding why certain species have evolved defensive traits (such as imperfect mimicry or eyespots), but not others.

Significance
Predation is one of the most universal and important agents of selection. This research project will attempt to understand predator behaviour from an adaptive perspective and evaluate a series of “big picture” hypotheses as to why organisms evolve the anti-predator colouration traits that they do.

Recommended Reading


Eugen Ehrlich has described the difference between what the law prescribes and the empirical reality of law enforcement. Since then, the mechanism of transforming laws into everyday practices has been studied in detail, but many questions still remain. The primary research question of the project lies between law and sociology: how do the provisions of laws that regulate key moments of criminal prosecution transform under the influence of the organizational structures of criminal justice (from police to courts) and how do they reflect interactions between criminal procedure participants?

The “criminal case” is constructed from a chain of actors’ actions in relation to the supposed crime from the moment the information about the crime appears on the radar of the police to the moment the court delivers a verdict. The global academic trend is to investigate the problem of prosecutorial discretion, i.e., the transfer of the primary locus of decision-making from the litigation to the pre-litigation stage. The aim of the project is to determine the key factors responsible for significant differences in the process of filtering criminal allegations and suspects, i.e., which cases to take to court and why, in the otherwise similar legal systems of Russia and Germany.
In order to assess the role and relative contributions of filters envisaged by formal (law) and informal factors (interaction with existing system), I will use the analysis of publications/reports on the work of police and prosecutors in Germany in combination with field work, e.g. nonparticipant observation of the work of German courts. I will describe the “criminal case trajectory” in Germany’s law and everyday practices of criminal justice by using traditional comparative-legal methods, as well as sociological methods (“thick description” and sociological reconstruction created on the basis of nonparticipant observation).

Recommended Reading


SOLVING THE RIDDLE OF LANGUAGE EVOLUTION

Focus Group Biological, Cultural and Social Origins of Language (see p. 127)

My Wiko project attempts to synthesize my work on language evolution over the past decade and to capture it in a monograph. I will focus specifically on the cultural evolution of complex grammar. The key idea is to generalize the well-known Darwinian framework, which has been enormously productive in evolutionary biology, and apply it to cultural language evolution. This framework suggests that we need to identify the units of evolution and find analogues for heredity, variability and selection. Once these ingredients are in place, a spiralling, ever-expanding complex adaptive system gets established. What are these analogues?

Many linguists have argued that the fundamental unit of language is the construction, a pairing of meaning and form through the intermediary of syntactic and semantic categorisations. I therefore propose that this is the unit of linguistic evolution. Heredity means then that constructions must be preserved and diffuse. At the individual level, constructions are preserved because speakers and hearers store them in their private construction memories. At the group level, constructions propagate through social learning. Variation is unavoidable, partly because learning grammatical constructions is not a copying process (rather, the learner has to formulate hypotheses based on partial evidence) and partly because speakers are creative: they regularly need to stretch existing constructions to satisfy new purposes or coerce words into novel usages. Constructions
compete. The main selection criteria are communicative success and reduction of cognitive effort.

With my group, I have already been carrying out plenty of simulation experiments to model language emergence and cultural evolution within this framework, focusing on the origins of colour terms, action words, spatial language, grammatical agreement, phrase structure grammars and so on. It will be an enormous challenge to capture all this work in a single monograph, but the time is ripe for it and Wiko is the unique place that can make this project a reality.

Recommended Reading


MICHAEL P. STEINBERG
Ph.D., Barnaby Conrad and Mary Critchfield Keeney Professor of History and Professor of Music and German Studies, Brown University, and Director of the Barenboim-Said Foundation, USA

Born in 1956 in New York
Studied History, European Cultural Studies, and Russian Studies at Princeton University and History at the University of Chicago

THE SCHOOL OF LISTENING: MUSICAL LEGACIES, GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

My project will use the methods and questions of the cultural history of music to examine the predicament of European cultural and intellectual history and historiography in the era of globalization. Both these contexts are concerned with the interrogation of boundaries: the cultural history of music with the boundaries between musical works and their cultural settings, motivations, and meanings; and the broader historiographic context with the boundaries of European subjectivities in a post-colonial age when cultural flows and disseminations may or may not be liberated from traditional patterns of domination and ownership (actual as well as symbolic). The project also has an engaged and practical dimension, accompanying ongoing involvements of mine in Berlin, Nazareth, Ramallah, and Cape Town (as well as in my capacity as Director of the Cogut Center for the Humanities at Brown University) that combine musical education with “education through music”, in other words with the building of new modes of civil society and citizenship through collaborative musical work. Listening, understood as a practice and an ethic and not as a metaphor, combines the aesthetic and political spheres at play in these endeavors. Finally, I am keen to use the fellowship time to read in two related fields in which I remain a beginner: neuroscience and attachment theory.
Recommended Reading


Es ist seit langem still geworden um Maria Theresia, ehemals die Verkörperung
des österreichischen Nationalmythos schlechthin. Sicht man genauer hin, so ist
das populäre Bild der Kaiserin-Königin heute immer noch in hohem Maße von
der Historiografie des 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhunderts geprägt, während die
jüngere Historikergeneration einen auffälligen Bogen um sie macht. Es scheint
daher an der Zeit, die Gestalt Maria Theresia zu historisieren und ihren Mythos
to entzaubern. Maria Theresia war nicht die treu sorgende, liebende Landes-
mutter, als die sie gemeinhin dargestellt wird, und ihr Appartement in der
Hofburg war kein gemütliches bürgerliches Wohnzimmer. Sie war auch keine
emanzipierte Frau avant la lettre und nicht die große weibliche Ausnahme in
einer allein von Männern betriebenen Politik. Die geplante Biografie will nicht
nur diese Meistererzählung dekonstruieren, sondern auch eine andere
Geschichte Maria Theresias entwerfen. Das kann allerdings nicht mehr wie im
19. Jahrhundert aus der Perspektive eines allwissenden auktorialen Erzählers
geschehen. Es sollen vielmehr eine Vielzahl sehr unterschiedlicher zeitgenössi-
scher Perspektiven miteinander konfrontiert werden: vom aufgeklärten Leib-
arzt zum kameralistischen Projektemacher, von der durchreisenden Engländer-
in zum alt-aristokratischen Obersthofmarschall, vom Prager Juden bis zum
Tiroler Bauernsohn. Dazu gehören selbstverständlich auch die Stimmen Maria
Theresias selbst und ihrer Familienmitglieder. Am Ende soll ein plastischer

**Lektüreempfehlung**


—. *Rituale*. Frankfurt/Main: Campus, 2013.

A PREDICTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING THE EVOLUTION OF COLOUR AND COLOUR CHANGE IN ANIMALS

Focus Group Colouration in Animals (see p. 134)

Animal colour patterns and ornaments are one of the most striking manifestations of nature’s extraordinary diversity. Explaining this diversity has been a fundamental motivation for generations of biologists, but there is still much we do not know. In particular, we still lack a general predictive framework for understanding the diversity and distribution of animal colouration. The proposed study will fine tune and test theoretical predictions regarding the prevalence of different cellular mechanisms (e.g. different pigment types, feather and scale nanostructures) generating colours used for sexual ornamentation. Predictions will be tested using meta-analyses of large datasets of colour patterns in different animal groups (compiled in collaboration with other members of the Wiko Focus Group). Examples of these predictions based on current theory include (but are not limited to):

1. colours generated by “physiologically costly” carotenoid pigments are more likely to be used as sexual signals than similar colours produced by different classes of pigment;
2. melanin-based signals in vertebrates are more prevalent in species with strong social dominance hierarchies;
3. the intensity of structural coloration is correlated with indicators of physiological stress.
The results of this study will allow us to understand how the diverse cellular mechanisms generating colourful skin, feathers and scales can explain general patterns in the evolution of animal ornaments.

Recommended Reading


MIGRATION IN THE EARLY MODERN WORLD: THE FRANCISCANS OF THE CUSTODY OF THE HOLY LAND AS A CASE STUDY

My research project sets out to investigate mobility among Middle Eastern parishes and from the Middle East to Europe, in order to propose a revision of current theories on migration in the Euro-Mediterranean region (1500–1800) and to propose a new methodology for the study of mobility in the early modern world.

The early modern world was a world on the move: people moved to escape persecutions, to flee famine, for business, and with a wide range of personal motivations. Short- and long-distance migration was common both in Europe and within the borders of the Ottoman Empire. Furthermore, scholarship has shed light on a constant flow of people moving between the two shores of the Mediterranean. In this research framework, my project aims at a deeper comprehension of the migration processes and at giving new answers to some still unresolved crucial questions on migration in the early modern period: Was migration in the early modern world a network-driven phenomenon? What was the role played by Catholic missionaries in addressing and facilitating short- and long-distance migration in the Mediterranean? What continuities and similarities are there between short- and long-distance migrations?

By analyzing the movements of people who passed by the houses of the Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land, I will investigate individuals’ and
groups’ mobility within the Middle East and toward “Christianity”. I am especially interested in contextualizing individual experiences in a wider regional framework, connecting the microlevel (individual: numbers of migrants, life-cycle stages, wealth/gender patterns), the macrolevel (political events, on an imperial and intercontinental scale; economic factors (taxation, trade)), and the mesolevel (networks, communities). In particular, I will use network analysis to examine the data on mobility furnished by the Franciscan documents (parish books, correspondence, chronicles), and I will conceptualize the Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land as a migration network.

Recommended Reading


BILD UND ORIENTIERUNG IN DER MODERNE

Wenn von der Orientierung eines Bildes die Rede ist, kann Verschiedenes gemeint sein: seine Platzierung im Raum; seine internen räumlichen Eigenschaften, die unabhängig von seiner Lage ein Oben und ein Unten, eine Vorder- und eine Rückseite erkennen lassen; und nicht zuletzt die doppelte Ausrichtung der dargestellten Objekte, die sowohl aufeinander wie auch auf die Blickachse des Betrachters bezogen sind. Bereits diese ersten Unterscheidungen lassen erkennen, dass die Frage, was es heißt, sich in einem Bild zu orientieren, weiträumige bildtheoretische und -historische Fragen aufwirft, denen sich die kunsthistorische Forschung in jüngster Zeit auch verstärkt zugewandt hat. In meinem Projekt werde ich untersuchen, worin die Bedeutung dieser Frage für die Kunst der Moderne bestand. Dass sie als dringlich angesehen wurde, belegt die von der Romantik bis zur Nachkriegskunst immer wieder aktuelle Auseinandersetzung mit dem menschlichen Körper als Grund der Orientierung. Mein besonderes Interesse gilt in diesem Zusammenhang der Lateralität, insofern sich im Richtungsgegensatz von links und rechts Symmetrien und Differenzen überlagern, die den künstlerischen Arbeitsprozess betreffen: die Inkongruenz der beiden Hände, ihr ungleiches Geschick, ihre verschiedenen Funktionen und Werkzeuge, aber auch die Lateralität des Bildfeldes, wie sie in der Verkehrung von Druckplatte und Abzug, Bildwerk und Spiegelbild auffällig wird.
Lektüreempfehlung


MAGNA MORALIA AS ARISTOTLE’S ETHICS

My short research project (it should be a review of a new book on the subject followed by a paper or two) is the result of my lectures on Aristotle’s ethics, in the course of which I suddenly recognised how insufficient the grounds are for denying Aristotle’s authorship of one of the three Ethics in Aristotle’s Corpus, the Great Ethics (Magna Moralia). Although its authenticity was defended in the 1920s by Hans von Arnim and then in the bulky and enormously learned commentary written by Franz Dirlmeier, what prevails in scholarship is still the negative and in part even dismissing view of it established by 19th-century scholars and later endorsed by Werner Jaeger and his pupils, who tried to build a line of evolution in Aristotle’s ethics (the Protrepticus – the Eudemian Ethics – the Nicomachean Ethics), considering the Magna Moralia post-Aristotelian. This evolutionary scheme is certainly wrong, but it is possible to maintain some doctrinal differences between Aristotle’s ethical treatises. I believe that Magna Moralia should be posited as being among Aristotle’s ethical treatises, as the earliest of them, but not as early as most of the supporters of its genuineness thought. I also hope to show that the really existent peculiarities of language and style are compatible with Aristotle’s authorship and that they shed light on the origin of the treatise.
Recommended Reading


Einen Krieg, eine Revolution, einen Aufstand, eine ethische Säuberung, eine bewaffnete Auseinandersetzung als Bürgerkrieg zu bezeichnen, ist keine unschuldige Definition. Es ist eine eminent politische Äußerung. Denn der Bürgerkrieg ist das, was unter keinen Umständen passieren darf. Politik zieht ihre Daseinsberechtigung daraus, ihn um jeden Preis zu vermeiden.


**Lektüreempfehlung**


Les récents événements politiques de Roumanie ont montré que, au-delà d’un esprit civique élémentaire et faible, la relation des roumains avec le droit est biaisée. Les ambiguités, toujours présentes dans les projets législatifs et retenus à travers les codifications, la négociation des normes, l’appétence pour les imitations des législations étrangères, sans passer par une adaptation au contexte typiquement roumain, ont abouti à l’impasse de juin 2012. Cette situation et plusieurs autres, si exposées dans le quotidien, me font penser à d’autres temps, à d’autres « interprétations » et « négociations » de la loi retrouvées dans un passé toujours proche.

Depuis une dizaine d’années, j’ai fouillé les archives judiciaires et criminelles de 1700 jusqu’à 1860. Les résultats de cette recherche ont arrivé à la rédaction de livres et d’études sur la famille, la modernisation, la religion ou sur l’usage du droit de punir. Et ces archives judiciaires parlent sans cesse de ce rapport ambivalent avec la loi, le droit, la justice. J’aimerais avoir le temps d’achever tout ce travail d’archives par une synthèse sur la manière dont les roumains considèrent le droit, sur les multiples interprétations données à la « justice », sur tout le travail imaginé pour contourner la loi. Je suis plutôt intéressée par cette ambiguïté législative qui donne constamment la possibilité d’aller dans toutes les
directions. C’est cela qui me donnerait envie de voir les racines de ce manque de respect envers le droit, envers la loi, envers la justice. C’est pourquoi, je voudrais analyser les modalités de penser le droit et la loi par les roumains à travers les XVIIIe–XIXe siècles, là où se bâtit la première modernité roumaine.

**Lecture recommandée**


Animal suffering is a central issue in animal welfare, but little work has examined the basis of suffering in animals. Human patients are more likely to say they are suffering if their condition prevents them from performing activities they consider important, if they experience concurrent negative feelings (including fear, anxiety and depression) and if they perceive a lack of control. I propose applying these criteria to the assessment of suffering in animals.

**Reduced performance of motivated behaviours.** I will argue that negative affect (such as pain) accompanied by a reduction in behaviours important to the animal increases the risk of suffering. Importance of behaviours to the animals may be assessed using motivational testing and other methods, distinguishing between behaviours that decline as a direct result of the pain (i.e. because performing the behaviour is now painful) and declines resulting from changes in mood, indicative of depression.

**Indicators of sadness or depression.** I will argue that negative affect (such as pain) accompanied by low mood increases the risk of suffering. People in sad moods rate their probability of success lower than do happy individuals in tasks involving some risk; a series of recent experiments has also shown evidence of such “cognitive bias” in animals, providing a method to ask how the experience of pain contributes to low mood in animals.
**Indicators of fear.** I will argue that negative affect (such as pain) accompanied by fear increases the risk of suffering. Animals may experience fear associated with poor facilities and handling during painful procedures (e.g. mustering and restraining prior to branding of cattle).

**Control.** I will argue that negative affect (such as pain) accompanied by lack of control increases the risk of suffering. For example, training animals using positive reinforcement to approach a handler who will take a blood sample will be less likely to result in suffering than if the same blood sample was taken using physical restraint.

This project builds upon my current research on the assessment of pain and other affective states in animals. Over the course of this Fellowship I plan to develop these ideas with others in the Pain team and to develop a proposal for empirical research that will test any emerging hypotheses.

**Recommended Reading**


WHAT KIND OF WORK FOR WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY?

Changes in the sphere of work over the last thirty years may be described as a continuous process of adapting companies and their employees to the quality, productivity and profit demands of the economic and financial markets. Competitiveness in a globalized market has become the major objective of all enterprises concerned with cost-effectiveness; organizational and human flexibility are the means to that end. The consequences in terms of work conditions, of income gap between workers, managers and shareholders, but also in terms of sustainable development – all these matters raise the question as to the meaning of work and its final purpose. Why do we work?

Not everyone attributes the same ends to work. For some it is a means of producing economic value, whereas others see it as a provider of social identity and recognition, while yet others value it as a source of self-expression, creativity and personal fulfillment. These contrasting meanings invite to study people at work not merely as producers of value but as creative and social beings as well.

The goal of this project is to analyze current societal transformations in light of work’s plurality of ends. At its epicenter is the question as to the fabric of the collective and the place occupied by work therein. The research design relies on empirical case studies ranging from affirmed places of capitalism, such as multinationals, to alternative anti-establishment forms or organizations such as cooperatives. This multilevel approach gives equal importance to globalized markets, public policy, companies’ practices and individual experience. Taking
France and Germany as its entry points, the analysis aims to develop not only a better understanding of the multiple and interrelated processes that converge to reshape the relationship between work, society and democracy but to identify the political challenges arising therefrom.

Recommended Reading


Die Ursprünge von Sprache in Biologie, Kultur und Gesellschaft

Die Ursprünge und die Evolution von Sprache bleiben eines der schwierigsten ungelösten Rätsel der Wissenschaft. Teils liegt das daran, dass eine Lösung viele verschiedene Perspektiven und die Beteiligung mehrerer Disziplinen erfordert, teils daran, dass Sprache außergewöhnlich komplex ist – sie ist die beachtlichste Leistung, die das Gehirn vollbringt. Die Schwerpunktgruppe geht dieses Problem von verschiedenen Seiten an und versucht folgende Fragen zu beantworten:


3. Kultur: Wie können wir die kulturelle Entwicklung von spezifischen begrifflichen und sprachlichen Strukturen erklären, etwa die Phrasenstruktur, die Kasusgrammatik, ein Tempus- und Aspektssystem, die Artikel oder grammatistische Kongruenzsysteme etc.? Welche Grammatiktheorien passen am ehesten zu einer evolutionstheoretischen Auffassung von Sprache als einem komplexen adaptiven System? Anhand welcher Strukturen können Sprechende Neuerungen einführen? Warum diversifizieren Sprachen sich und welche Mechanismen sorgen dafür, dass eine Sprache gemeinschaftlich genutzt werden kann?
Die Gruppe verwendet verschiedene Methoden zur Erforschung dieser Fragen:
1. philosophische Diskussionen, um ein besseres begriffliches Fundament zu legen;
2. Experimente der kognitiven Psychologie, um ein besseres Verständnis davon zu gewinnen, wie der Spracherwerb, einschließlich gestischer Symbole, bei Kindern funktioniert;
3. detaillierte, auf Datenkorpora gestützter empirische Analysen von menschlichen Sprachphänomenen;

Zur Schwerpunktgruppe gehören Dorit Bar-On, Holger Diessel, Peter Gärdenfors, Susan Goldin-Meadow und Luc Steels (Convener).

Luc Steels

Focus Group Biological, Cultural and Social Origins of Language

The origins and evolution of language remain one of the most challenging unsolved puzzles in science, partly because a solution requires many different perspectives and disciplines and partly because language is extraordinarily complex, the most remarkable activity achieved by the human brain. The Wiko Focus Group is tackling this topic from several different angles, trying to answer the following questions:

1. Biological: What kind of information-processing building blocks does the brain need to recruit for language? How does the recruitment process work and unfold in language development? What are the neurobiological and genetic bases for the building blocks and the recruitment process? What is the possible role of epigenetics in language evolution?

2. Social: What are the ecological conditions that justify the utility of human language? How do communicative needs push concept formation, increased expressive power and dialog complexity? What is the role of language in the emergence of cooperation and social institutions and, vice
versa, how does the emergence of social institutions foster the growth and propagation of language?

3. Cultural: How can we explain the cultural evolution of specific conceptual and linguistic structures, such as phrase structure, case grammar, a tense-aspect system, determiners, clause structure, agreement systems etc.? What grammatical frameworks are most compatible with an evolutionary view of language as a complex adaptive system? What are the strategies through which speakers introduce innovation? Why do languages diversify and what mechanisms allow a language to become shared?

The group will use various methodologies to explore these questions:

1. philosophical discussions to establish better conceptual foundations;
2. cognitive psychology experiments to better understand how children acquire language, including gestural symbols;
3. detailed empirical linguistic analyses of human language phenomena based on corpora;
4. mathematical models of evolution and modelling of language evolution using computer simulations and robotic experiments.

The members of the Focus Group are Dorit Bar-On, Holger Diessel, Peter Gärdenfors, Susan Goldin-Meadow, and Luc Steels (convener).

Luc Steels

Schwerpunktgruppe Russland – Rechtsstaatlichkeit auf dem Prüfstand

stellung, dass Russland ein Ort der Gesetzlosigkeit sei, und der gegenwärtigen Realität – nämlich die Rechtstreue im russischen Alltagsleben – von Rechtswissenschaftlerinnen und Rechtswissenschaftlern produktiv thematisiert werden?


Focus Group Russia: The Rule of Law in Question

In popular imagination, Russian law is an oxymoron. Commentators bemoan corruption, criminality, and lawlessness as endemic to Russian life. But in the Russian Federation today, law is very much at work. The legal profession is burgeoning and caseloads of Russian courts have grown yearly since the early 1990s. Lawmaking is a major means of rule and a subject of discussion in the press and other media. Can scholars productively address the troublesome gap between the widespread notion of Russia’s lawlessness and the reality of law’s abiding presence in Russian life? Based on a series of workshops and discussions, the Focus Group will examine Russian legal culture, identifying and analyzing salient characteristics of Russian legal rule from imperial times through the present. The emphasis of our research will be on the law in action in the everyday – in the legal regulation and judicial processing of civil contention and small-scale crime. Researchers will use both ethnographic and archival sources to trace long-term patterns of legal activity in multiple regions and among different ethnic and confessional groups, focusing on the critical role of middle-level officialdom as well as on the thickest and lowest layers of legal process. We hope to uncover assumptions about law shared, or not, among elites, officials and subjects. The project will also explore the tension between Russian citizens’ ordinary engagements with the extant legal system and their belief that “real law” does not exist in Russia. Our assumption is that understanding the role of law in Russian governance and life has implications for the ongoing transformation of state power in the polity and elsewhere in former Soviet space.

These efforts to interpret the trajectory of Russian law connect the project to theoretical questions about rule of law. A starting point for our study is the recognition that the Russian legal system has many points in common with other traditions, but operates with its own set of structures and assumptions.
The dual challenge of this project is to bring fundamental qualities of Russian law to light and to open the category of “rule of law” toward a more pluralistic vision of legal systems in the world.

The members of the Focus Group are: Tatiana Borisova, Jane Burbank (convener), Maria Shklyaruk, and Constanța Vintilă-Ghițulescu.

Jane Burbank and Tatiana Borisova

Schwerpunktgruppe Schmerz

Focus Group Pain

Pain is a complex phenomenon that continues to elude our full understanding. It is an adaptive process that helps us to protect ourselves from damage. In humans, it is widely accepted that pain represents “an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience, associated with actual or potential tissue damage”. But what about pain in animals? While most of us are willing to accept that another person will feel and experience the hurt and suffering associated with pain, extending such capacities to animals is something that some people are reluctant to do, particularly for animals that seem quite alien to us such as fishes. In part, this is because to agree that animals can suffer means accepting that they are sentient creatures that are consciously aware of their feelings – a capacity that is challenging to demonstrate conclusively. We might accept extending the capacity for consciousness to the great apes, and possibly to other mammals, but it begins to feel awkward as we consider amphibians and fish. This Focus Group brings together researchers from diverse backgrounds spanning both science and the humanities to address key gaps in our current understanding of animal awareness and the capacity for pain and suffering.

The members of the Focus Group are Victoria Braithwaite (convener), Paula Droege, and Daniel M. Weary.

Victoria Braithwaite

Schwerpunktgruppe Färbung bei Tieren

Die natürliche Welt ist voller Farben – bei Blumen, Früchten, Blättern, Federn, Schuppen, Haaren und Haut –, doch obwohl die Farben von Pflanzen und Tieren für die Biologinnen und Biologen seit mehr als einem Jahrhundert eine
faszinierende Forschungsaufgabe darzustellen, gab es bis vor Kurzem an dieser Schnittstelle von Evolutionstheorie, Verhaltensforschung und visueller Ökologie nur wenig Fortschritte. Jetzt aber erleben wir plötzlich ein explodierendes Interesse an der Frage, warum Lebewesen so vielfältige und außergewöhnliche Färbungen zeigen. Eine Gruppe führender Forscherinnen und Forscher kommt am Wissenschaftskolleg zusammen, um die vorhandenen Informationen zu verdichten, wesentliche Leerstellen in unserem Wissen zu ermitteln und darüber nachzudenken, wie man sie füllen kann; sie führen neue Analysen durch und berichten der deutschen Öffentlichkeit von den spannendsten Aspekten der natürlichen Färbung.

Unsere Gruppe setzt sich überwiegend aus Short-term Fellows aus Europa, Australien und Nordamerika zusammen und besteht aus Verhaltensökologen, Sehphysiologen und Evolutionsbiologen. Sie kennen sich mit den Mechanismen aus, durch die äußere Farben entstehen, und mit den Sehsystemen von Spezies, die diese Farben wahrnehmen. Wir verstehen die funktionale Bedeutung von Farbmustern in der Natur. Um diese verschiedenen Stränge des Wissens zueinander zu bringen, zieht die Gruppe mehrere zusammenhängende Projekte in Erwägung, in denen wir uns mit der äußeren Färbung von Tieren befassen. Hier nun eine Auswahl der Fragestellungen und Themen, an denen die Gruppe arbeiten könnte:

1. Warum gibt es so viele Mechanismen zur Hervorbringung von Farbe in der Natur?
2. Auf welche Weise treiben Unterschiede in der visuellen Farbempfindlichkeit die Färbung von Tieren voran?
3. Durch welche Regeln wird die Kontrastierung bei Land- und Wassertieren gesteuert?
4. Die Zierfärbung bei weiblichen Vögeln
5. Die Evolution verschiedener Geschwindigkeiten der Farbveränderung (ontogenetische, saisonale und plötzliche Farbwechsel)
6. Durch welche ökologischen Faktoren werden Warnfärbungen begünstigt oder zurückgedrängt?
7. Kosmetische Färbungen bei Tieren und Menschen

Die Gruppe verspricht sich für die Arbeit am Wissenschaftskolleg eine intensive Zusammenarbeit: In einem ungezwungenen Kontext genügend Zeit zu haben,
um an gemeinsamen Ideen und Forschungsprojekten zu arbeiten, die unter anderen Umständen niemals entstehen würden. Wir möchten die Chance nutzen, ein sich rasch entwickelndes Feld in der Evolutions- und Verhaltensökologie aufzubauen – mit der Möglichkeit, vergleichende Analysen durchzuführen, zukunftsweisende Überblicksartikel zu schreiben, neue Richtungen auf dem Forschungsfeld einzuschlagen oder sogar ein gemeinsames Buch zum Thema Färbung herauszugeben.

Zur Schwerpunktgruppe gehören Tim Caro (Convener), Innes Cuthill, Daniel Osorio, Richard O. Prum, Alexandre Roulin, Tom Sherratt und Devi Stuart-Fox.

Tim Caro

Focus Group: Colouration in Animals

The natural world is full of colour – on flowers, fruits, leaves, feathers, scales, hair and skin – but although the colours of plants and animals have intrigued and challenged biologists for over a century, relatively little progress has been made at this intersection of evolution, behaviour and visual ecology until quite recently. Now, suddenly, we are witnessing an explosion of new interest in trying to explain the reasons organisms show such varied and extraordinary colouration. A group of leading academics are convening at Wiko to solidify existing information, identify major gaps in our knowledge and how to fill them, conduct new analyses and convey the most exciting aspects of natural colouration to the German public.

Our group, principally composed of short-term Fellows from Europe, Australia and North America, are behavioural ecologists, visual physiologists and evolutionary biologists who are experts on the mechanisms by which external colours are produced and the visual systems of species that see these colours; we are people who understand the functional significance of colour patterns in nature. To marry these different strands of knowledge, the group anticipates several interrelated projects that deal with external colouration in animals. Here is just a sample of topics that the group may work on:
1. Why are there so many mechanisms of colour production in nature?
2. How does variation in visual sensitivity drive animal colouration?
3. What rules govern countershading in terrestrial and aquatic animals?
4. Ornamental colouration in female birds.
5. The evolution of different speeds of colour change (ontogenetic, seasonal and rapid).
6. Which ecological factors promote and constrain warning colouration?
7. Cosmetic colouration in animals and humans.

The group hopes for an unique opportunity for lengthy collaboration. At the Wissenschaftskolleg scholars can share ideas in an informal and extended context; they can work together on research projects that would otherwise never emerge. We would like to seize the chance to synthesize a rapidly evolving field within evolutionary and behavioural ecology with possibilities of conducting comparative analyses, writing forward-looking reviews that identify new directions in the field or even co-editing a book on colouration together.

The members of the Focus Group are Tim Caro (convener), Innes Cuthill, Daniel Osorio, Richard O. Prum, Alexandre Roulin, Tom Sherratt, Devi Stuart-Fox.

Tim Caro
EURIAS Fellowship

Als Mitglied des Netzwerkes europäischer Institutes for Advanced Study nimmt das Wissenschaftskolleg am EURIAS-Fellowship-Programm teil. Im Rahmen dieses Programms werden vier zehnmonatige Fellowships durch die Europäische Union co-finanziert.

As a member of the Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study, the Wissenschaftskolleg participates in the EURIAS Fellowship Programme. In the framework of this programme, the European Union is co-financing four 10-month Fellowships.

EURIAS Fellows 2015/16

Leor Halevi  
Geschichte  
Nashville

Jonathan Sheehan  
Geschichte  
Berkeley

Maria Shklyaruk  
Rechtsoziologie, Ökonomie  
St. Petersburg

Felicta Tramontana  
Geschichte  
Palermo
Mit dem College for Life Sciences will das Wissenschaftskolleg jungen Forscherinnen und Forschern aus den Lebenswissenschaften Gelegenheit geben, in der anregenden Atmosphäre eines internationalen und multidisziplinären Institute for Advanced Study zu arbeiten. Je nach persönlicher Situation soll der Aufenthalt den ausgewählten Junior Fellows dazu dienen, sich neu zu orientieren, Ideen zu entwickeln, Forschungspläne zu entwerfen, frühere Arbeiten oder empirische Daten zu überdenken – jedenfalls für eine beschränkte Zeit aus der Routine der täglichen Arbeit, aus dem vorgegebenen Rhythmus des Labors auszusteigen, Umschau zu halten und dabei je nach Umständen mit Wissenschaftlern und Intellektuellen verschiedenster Fachgebiete und Traditionen zu interagieren.

Die Fellows des College for Life Sciences, die nach Begutachtung durch ein Expertengremium für eine Dauer von drei bis sechs Monaten eingeladen werden, sind im Übrigen den Fellows des Wissenschaftskollegs gleichgestellt und haben dieselben Rechte und Pflichten. Das Institut erwartet, dass sie für die Dauer ihres Fellowships in Berlin arbeiten und an der Gemeinschaft der Fellows teilnehmen (am internen wöchentlichen Kolloquium sowie an den Mahlzeiten). Das Wissenschaftskolleg stellt Stipendium, Unterkunft und Dienstleistungen zur Verfügung.


With the College for Life Sciences, the Wissenschaftskolleg wants to provide early-career researchers in the life sciences the opportunity to work in the stimulating atmosphere of an international and multidisciplinary Institute for Advanced Study. Depending on the personal situations of the selected Junior Fellows, the residency should serve to gain new orientation, develop ideas, project research plans, rethink earlier work or empirical data – at any rate, to drop out of the routine of daily work and the predetermined rhythm of the
laboratory, to take a look around, and thereby, in accordance with circumstances, to interact with scientists and intellectuals from the widest possible spectrum of fields and traditions.

Selected by a group of experts, the Fellows of the College for Life Sciences are invited to come for three to six months. They are on equal terms with and have the same rights and duties as the Fellows of the Wissenschaftskolleg.

The institute expects them to work in Berlin for the duration of their Fellowships and to take part in the community of Fellows (at the weekly internal Colloquium and at meals). The Wissenschaftskolleg provides the stipend, accommodation, and services.

The Fellows of the College for Life Sciences are free to engage in additional activities in their group. A Research Coordinator is ready to provide assistance and suggestions for organizing common undertakings and for establishing connections with Berlin institutions and colleagues.

Fellows des College for Life Sciences 2015/16

Laith Al-Shawaf  Psychologie  Ankara
Barbara A. Caspers  Biologie  Bielefeld
Tina Kretschmer  Psychologie  Groningen
Aniruddha Mitra  Biologie  Gif-sur-Yvette
Hannah Schmidt-Glenewinkel  Biomathematik  Rehovot

Scientific Committee des College for Life Sciences

Raghavendra Gadagkar  Biologie  Bangalore
Shakti Lamba  Anthropologie, Biologie  Exeter
Nikolaus Rajewsky  Systembiologie  Berlin
Constance Scharff  Verhaltensbiologie  Berlin
Paul Schmid-Hempel  Biologie  Zürich