Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

ARBEITSVORHABEN DER FELLOWS
FELLOWS’ PROJECTS 2019/2020
# Inhaltsverzeichnis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beitrag</th>
<th>Seite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vorwort</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zaid Al-Ali</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta Auer</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xóchitl Bada</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyanne M. Brayboy</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Brisch</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alastair M. Buchan</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blythe C. Daniels</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine Daston</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicolas Dodier</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dieter Ebert</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elena Esposito</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RagHAVENDRA Gadagkar</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giovanni Galizia</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luca Giuliani</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgi Gospodinov</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altay Goyushov</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dieter Grimm</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alon Harel</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirk Helbing</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marie E. Herberstein</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Jehne</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Karayanni</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David W. Kikuchi</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanne Kormina</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felix Körner, SJ</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Efrain Kristal</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tijana Krstic</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaroslaw Kuisz</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krystian Lada</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Lelliott</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VORWORT


Die meisten Fellows kommen für ein volles akademisches Jahr und verfolgen ein individuelles Forschungsvorhaben. In jedem Jahr gibt es aber auch einige Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler, die in eine Schwerpunktgruppe eingebunden sind. Die Zugehörigkeit zu einer solchen Schwerpunktgruppe sowie gegebenenfalls eine kürzere Aufenthaltsdauer sind jeweils vermerkt.


Berlin, im Juni 2019

This brochure presents the Fellows of the academic year 2019/2020. 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 a Focus Group. Membership in the 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 1, 2019, some minor changes may arise. Up-to-date information on the Fellows, their projects, Fellows’ events and the Wissenschaftskolleg in general is available on the Wissenschaftskolleg’s website wiko-berlin.de.

Berlin, June 2019

If not otherwise indicated, the Fellowships extend from September 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.
ARAB CONSTITUTIONALISM AND PEACE PROCESSES

Since 2011, more than half the countries in the Arab region have replaced, amended, or reconsidered their constitutional frameworks. A number of these countries have degenerated into full-blown conflict, and many others have not seen any appreciable difference in standards of living for large segments of people.

During my time at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I will be researching and writing on the factors that have contributed to these failures, with a view to possibly identifying better ways of proceeding that will increase the likelihood of success in the future. This will include a focus on the process through which constitutional negotiations are organized and on their substantive content. I will also focus on peace negotiations, with a view to drawing lessons from all of the processes that have taken place during the previous few years.

The research that I will be doing will build on my own personal experiences. I was involved in various capacities in virtually all of the processes that have taken place in the region since 2011. It will also build on research that I started at Princeton University, where I was a Law and Public Affairs Fellow in 2016.
Recommended Reading


hergebrachte Dingontologie, die in den rechtlichen Kategorien des klassischen Sachenrechts abgebildet ist, an ihre Grenzen. Ziel meiner Arbeit ist es, all diese verwandten Phänomene und die damit verbundenen Probleme in einer übergreifenden Phänomenologie der Rechtsinstitutionen der digitalen Moderne als sozial und rechtlich signifikant zu beschreiben.

Lektüreempfehlung


TRANSNATIONAL APPROACHES TO IMMIGRANT
LABOR RIGHTS ADVOCACY

As migrant populations across the globe continue to cross borders and immigrant communities become established with and without documentation, both origin and destination countries are now involved in managing immigrants. State and local governments frequently enact domestic laws expanding or contracting immigrant rights. Consequently, in the last 30 years, immigrant advocacy organizations have demanded protections in various areas, including employment, health, and education. The strategies these organizations employ transcend the geographical container of states as they push government bureaucracies to be accountable to the needs of these populations. The relationships these organizations establish on various government scales in the countries of origin and reception to challenge systems of governance are not well understood.

Taking Mexico and the United States as entry points and using a comparative frame, this project addresses empirical case studies ranging from domestic labor rights enforcement practices to transnational labor advocacy. I analyze support and pressure tactics in transnational migrant civil society organizations and how these practices are constituted on different scales, ranging from the local to the transnational. The study design offers equal importance to government bureaucracies, subnational diplomacy, worker centers, labor unions, and other
migrant-serving nonprofits. By focusing on the strategies that these organizations pursue to expand their influence across borders, I question the meaning of associating effective communicative power with civil society forums that do not necessarily correlate with sovereign states. I aim to identify challenges arising from transnational public spheres with distinctive institutional actors in labor rights arenas in which the interlocutors are not fellow members of a political community, but are constantly attempting to gain equal rights.

Recommended Reading


LYNAE M. BRAYBOY
from September 2019 to February 2020
Fellow of the College for Life Sciences
M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology
Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island

Born in 1980 in St. Petersburg, Fla., USA
Studied Medicine at Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University

DYSFUNCTIONAL MDR-1 DISRUPTS MITOCHONDRIAL HOMEOSTASIS IN THE OOCYTE AND OVARY – AN EXPLANATION FOR POOR OOCYTE QUALITY?

Infertility is a common disease affecting 11% of reproductive-age women in the United States, and it has been reported that 90 million couples around the world experience infertility. Infertility increases as women age, due to a decreased number of oocytes and poor oocyte quality; however, young women also suffer from gynecologic diseases, i.e., endometriosis associated with poor oocyte quality.

In my work, I am studying a potential model for poor oocyte quality in mice that have dysfunctional multidrug resistance transporter-1 (MDR-1) and abnormal oocyte quality. MDR-1 is a plasma membrane transporter that effluxes compounds out of the cell. Our data show that loss of MDR-1, a single membrane transporter expressed on oocyte mitochondria and plasma membrane, leads to toxicant vulnerability, oocyte oxidative stress, abnormal ovarian metabolism, aberrant oocyte mitochondrial physiology, and differential expression of mitochondrial genes in mdr1a/- mice. Approximately 25% of Americans (63% of Ashkenazi Jewish) have single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) that render carriers susceptible to disease, including inflammatory bowel disease, breast cancer, and Alzheimer’s. Infertility via poor oocyte quality may be a harbinger of long-term health sequelae associated with the loss of MDR-1.
However, the impact of MDR-1 SNPs on human oocyte quality and mitochondrial function is unknown. These findings led to my hypothesis that MDR-1 impacts mitochondrial function and protects oocytes from oxidative stress and that its loss may contribute to poor oocyte quality and infertility. I plan to take the Fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg to work to revise a grant to support my pathway to independence. I will also prepare and submit a manuscript, learn new techniques to study mitochondria in oocytes in vivo from my mentor Markus Schülke, and begin new collaborations with oocyte biologists at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics.

Recommended Reading


RELIGION IN ANCIENT IRAQ: RITUAL AND DIVINITY IN EARLY MESOPOTAMIA

This project will analyze the worship of divine statues in ancient Iraq from an indigenous Mesopotamian perspective. At the center of this study is the daily ritual of feeding the gods, which will offer an entry into discussing central aspects related to religious worship, beliefs, gender, and socio-economic contexts of religious systems. A detailed study of this ritual will allow a new understanding of the Mesopotamian notions of divinity, society, gender, and economics.

Modern scholarship of ritual food offerings has been heavily influenced by Biblical polemics against idol worship. Therefore, this project has the potential to illuminate and further our understanding of a wide range of information on key aspects of ancient Mesopotamian religion, society, and economy:

1) Divinity: It was not only the numerous gods and goddesses in their various aspects who received foods; sacred objects, too, were presented with foods. This indicates that in ancient Mesopotamia, divinity could not only inhabit (or be embodied in) divine statues, which became the deity, it could also be transferred to other objects that were in proximity to the god. This observation needs to be studied further to fully comprehend its significance.

2) Economics: The economic and bureaucratic administration of food offerings required an enormous organizational effort. Who provided the food offerings? What happened with the food offerings after they had been consumed by
the gods? There are indications that foods were redistributed to dignitaries within the ancient communities, yet it remains to be determined whether redistributions were economically or religiously significant (or both).

3) Society and Gender: Many of the most important priestly offices in ancient Mesopotamia were held by women. In fact, some of the complex administration of food offerings was the task of priestesses. The important role of women in religion has often been dismissed; in fact, male scholars designated many priestesses “temple prostitutes” instead of trying to understand the religious and economic roles that these elite women occupied in early Mesopotamian society. Thus, a fresh look at the evidence allows for a critical re-evaluation of priestesses and their importance for ancient Mesopotamian religion and society.

Recommended Reading


UNDERSTANDING THE VULNERABILITY OF BRAIN CELLS TO ISCHAEMIA AND AGING

As we live longer lives, it is critically important that we find explanations for the susceptibility of brain cells to injury. We have known for almost 100 years that some cells are much more sensitive to injury than others; it has always been the hope that understanding this selective vulnerability would lead to an understanding of mechanisms of cell death that might be tractable and become targets that would, if the right interventions were deployed, increase the tolerance of brain cells to the aging process.

Critically important to memory and personality is a well-functioning hippocampus. Within the hippocampus, highly connected groups of cells, so-called CA-1 to CA-4, express different vulnerabilities. These cells have been discovered to be the most sensitive cells in the brain; and in particular, those in the CA-1 sector, while being the most highly connected to CA-3, the dentate gyrus and the cortex, are extremely susceptible, whereas CA-3 are the most resistant. Following ischaemia, as a result of aging as a result of epilepsy, the interconnections are easily lost, and my thinking relates to the selective deafferentation and loss of interconnections that might influence cellular vulnerability.

The only thing we can currently do for patients to stop brain cells dying in the face of adversity is by changing temperature (such as cooling); this changes
the susceptibility of brain cells, prevents them from dying and allows them to recover following a toxic insult. By changing metabolism and up-regulating mechanisms that utilize high cerebral metabolic rates, we can change the susceptibility of brain cells to ischaemia, and this has implications for the acute treatment of stroke and the prevention of dementia. Techniques that will be engineered to reduce energy demands will, if deployed in acute situations, allow us to protect the brain during stroke injury and help the brain cells to recover during stroke intervention with endogenous neuroprotection. It is hoped that, if we can extrapolate from these observations, we can find ways to sustain cells in more chronic neurodegenerative situations such as in Alzheimer’s disease, dementia and neurodegenerative conditions. There is now a need to define specific criteria that will be much more predictive of true reproducibility to avoid unconscious bias, in order to predict what should go forward for effective clinical trials.

Recommended Reading


THE THEORY OF COLLECTIVE DECISIONS

In quantitative biology, a major challenge is understanding the core drivers of functional collective behavior. Examples include evasive movements of fish schools that foil predators, power structures supporting conflict management in monkey societies, gene interactions producing distinct cell types, and neurons combining information to make a decision. In each case, control lies with individual components, but adaptive consequences are a property of the aggregate.

There is an urgent need to find theories of collective behavior that can operate in complex, data-rich environments. To tackle this problem, my research begins with biological data, uses model inference to discover predictive mechanisms, and then abstracts away from them to analyze collective function.

This project focuses specifically on binary decision-making, arguably the simplest form of collective computation. What forms of information sharing produce reliable decisions, and what mechanisms allow for adjusting and controlling these collective computations?

We are starting to see commonalities in collective decision-making across multiple systems. For instance, fish schools collectively encode the risk of predators, dynamically changing to allow a startle decision to spread quickly during periods of high risk (by condensing the school into a smaller area), while avoiding false alarms during periods of low risk (by spreading out). Similarly, in neurons driving a decision in a macaque brain, we see evidence of regulation of
the distance from a symmetry-breaking transition that creates the two decision states.

Intriguingly, these results suggest that collective decisions typically involve dynamically varying the distance from a point of aggregate instability. In this way, I seek to better understand how systems regulate their position relative to such instabilities. In this way, I aim to discover fundamental tradeoffs that underlie adaptation and the control of collective decisions.

Recommended Reading


A vague but consequential division of labor governs the relationship between laws, rules, and customs. Laws are explicit, general, and authoritative in their formulation and jurisdiction; rules, although also usually explicit, are specific, detailed, and circumscribed in both their content and application; customs, usually implicit, are still more local but also more supple than the laws and rules they complement and sometimes contradict. From the late 17th through the late 18th century, the relationships between these three categories of norms were in creative flux: in both theology and natural philosophy, the most general and inviolable regularities of nature were conceptualized as edicts – “natural laws” – promulgated by the divine legislator; absolutist monarchies promulgated laws for entire kingdoms that superseded local customs; rapidly expanding cities like Amsterdam and Paris pelted residents with thousands of rules regulating everything from traffic to trash disposal to gold buttons.

These developments are the subject of the final chapter of my book on the history of rules. Earlier chapters have traced rules in cookbooks, numerical calculation, monastic orders, the arts and crafts, games, casuistry, natural philosophy, and much else, with the aim of understanding the rule as an epistemic category: a form of regularity and instruction with its own distinctive grammar and domains of application, somewhat between the singularity and arbitrariness of the individual case and the grand generality of the law.
Against the background of newly defined universal laws, whether ordained by God for the realm of nature or by the absolute monarch for the kingdom, the inferior sort of merely local, partial regularities came to be called rules. And nowhere in early modern Europe were rules more plentiful, more maniacally detailed, and arguably more ineffectual than in the ordinances, issued with increasing frequency and urgency, meant to bring order to expanding metropolises like London, Amsterdam, and Paris.

My chapter on rules and regulations will focus on three cases of regulation mania, taken from three contexts chosen to represent differing degrees of efficacy in getting people to obey them: first, sumptuary laws in late medieval Italy, Provence, and southern Germany (close to zero efficacy, as near as I can make out – no surprise to anyone who attended a high school with a dress code); second, traffic and sanitary regulations in early modern Paris and London (moderate efficacy, especially by the latter half of the 18th century); and third, the standardization of orthography in 19th-century Germany and Italy (high efficacy, even the draconian Italian decision to sacrifice the classical “ph” in words like filosofia). Throughout, my question will be: When and how do mere rules and regulations become internalized as genuine norms?

Recommended Reading

THE MECHANISMS OF REDRESS: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

The construction of mechanisms ensuring the proper redress for the harm suffered by people, individually or collectively, as a result of detrimental events is an important issue in any society. In contemporary societies, this means looking into areas of study as diverse as judicial institutions, private and public compensation systems, victims’ rights groups, the media, memorial devices, and medical and psychological care, all of which contribute to redress, albeit in different ways. Various scientific disciplines (psychology, psychiatry, neurosciences) have sought to precisely analyze victims’ responses and to identify the general patterns characteristic of these responses. Economics provides tools to reveal the preferences of individuals faced with the various options offered to them after an accident. Legal science develops normative frames to organize and control redress practices. My current research aims to contribute to this field by using the tools offered by sociology, as well as those provided by anthropology and history. The project seeks to shed light on the complex normative work victims carry out around each of the mechanisms they are faced with. Based on an inquiry on the victims of a public health disaster in France and on a comparative approach to frameworks of redress, it aims to spark further studies on other domains (political violence; environmental and technological disasters).
Recommended Reading


DIETER EBERT
Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg
Dr. phil., Professor of Zoology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Basel

Born in 1961 in Saarburg, Germany
Studied Biology and Chemistry at the Technische Universität München, the
University of South Alabama, and the University of Basel

THE PROCESSES GOVERNING ANTAGONISTIC COEVOLUTION

My research interest is in understanding biological diversity, i.e., the evolution of traits that make organisms look and function differently. In particular, I am interested in how processes of coevolution contribute to this. In my project, I will focus on a review of the population genetic and biological concepts that underlie coevolution in antagonistic relationships, mainly the coevolution of hosts and parasites. During coevolution, hosts evolve to minimize the costs associated with parasitism, for example by evolving mechanisms to avoid parasites, by resisting parasites, or by tolerating parasites. In contrast, parasites (including pathogens) evolve to maximize transmission to the next host as well as reproduction and survival within a host. The parasite’s means of maximizing its fitness usually causes costs for the host, which forms the core of host-parasite conflict, the driving element of antagonistic coevolution. In the last 40 years, simple models have been developed to describe this reciprocal process, but empirical work is still in its beginnings. Existing models are, however, metaphors of the actual process and do not go beyond the minimal concept. In the last few years, a number of new findings, technologies, and concepts have appeared, which have moved the field forward and allow us to refine the existing models. These refined models allow for more specific tests of hypotheses, by making testable predictions possible. In my project, I will introduce the new developments in the field and show how they contribute to moving it forward.
will then incorporate these concepts in the existing models and derive specific predictions and hypotheses. This project will incorporate aspects of
- infection biology: the infection process is a series of steps, each regulated by different genes, some of which are directly involved in coevolution;
- population genetics: coevolutionary interactions leave traces of the evolutionary history in the genome, which can be analyzed with statistical genomic tools;
- coevolution at the level of the interacting genes: coevolution is the reciprocal interaction between traits of two species. These interactions are expected to be visible at the level of the genes underlying the phenotypic traits. The signatures of the changes in these genes can be used to infer on tempo and mode of coevolution.
- ploidy level: models assume simple genetic systems with simple (haploid) genomes, while most host organisms we are concerned with are diploid (have two sets of all genes).

With my project, I hope to gain a better understanding of how coevolution works and which models can explain the process best. I want to explore whether there are general rules determining the coevolutionary processes and whether they result in patterns we can predict and observe in natural systems. Furthermore, I want to explore whether coevolution is a universal process that happens everywhere and in each system, or if it is specific to a limited set of conditions. Answering these questions would be a major step forward in understanding biodiversity.

Recommended Reading


Algorithmic Prediction: A Study of Its Relationship to Probabilistic and Divinatory Forms

Building on recent research on algorithmic forecasting and on my ongoing empirical project on its social consequences, my work at the Wissenschaftskolleg will focus on a theory of prediction for contemporary society. Recent techniques of prediction are radically changing the relationship with the future and with uncertainty in many areas of our society. Since the beginning of modernity, we address the indeterminacy of the open future with probabilistic tools. The new digital techniques rely on statistics, but both conceptually and practically, algorithmic prediction is very different from the probabilistic attitude and the corresponding form of rationality. I want to focus my research on this breakthrough, which has not yet been investigated in detail.

My analysis will be guided by the observation that the new techniques of algorithmic prediction surprisingly show a fascinating parallelism with the techniques investigated by studies of divination. My purpose is not to disclose the irrationality of algorithms, but on the contrary to investigate a more extensive form of rationality.

I intend to analyze in particular the following characteristics of algorithmic prediction that differentiate it from probabilistic forms and instead recall the divinatory tradition that was supplanted by modern scientific rationality:
- algorithmic forecasting does not address averages and general trends, but wants to give precise indications about the future of a single event or individual;
- with their operations, algorithmic predictions act on the future they anticipate. Similarly, in ancient divination, the formulation of the response produced a condition of circularity leading to self-fulfilling tendencies (think of Oedipus);
- the prediction is obscure and requires an interpretation to make it useful;
- the indications are based on the discovery of patterns and correlations, not on the identification of causal relationships;
- predictive efficacy does not depend on explanation.

Recommended Reading


DESIGNING EXPERIMENTS IN ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

I am now in the midst of writing a monograph with the working title “Interrogating an Insect Society”, summarizing my long-term research on the primitively eusocial wasp *Ropalidia marginata*. During the current year, I have planned to put this project on the back-burner and write a different book tentatively entitled “How to Design Experiments in Animal Behaviour”. This book is aimed primarily at young students interested in and curious about nature. I will describe several classic experiments in animal behaviour and some of my own, in a manner that readers can attempt to perform the experiments by themselves and design new ones, based on their interest and feasibility in their situation. My aim is to focus on how to design experiments so as to unambiguously answer specific questions about how and why animals do what they do. It is also my aim to choose the simplest possible experiments, even while they help to answer profound questions, and those that can be performed with little or no research facilities. The Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore is publishing individual chapters, as I write them, in *Resonance – Journal of Science Education* and will put them together as a book after I complete 10–12 chapters – I have already written three chapters.
Recommended Reading


I posit that much of what makes animals “intelligent” is caused by an interplay of many learning circuits on varying levels. A classical reductionist approach to the study of learning aims at controlling as many variables as possible, in order to isolate (ideally) a single learning mechanism and study it in detail. While this approach has proven extremely powerful, we need to add new approaches that allow us to study experimental settings in which many parameters remain open, to allow for multiple memory traces that thus create complex memories and behaviors. This is sometimes done in behavioral analyses (in particular in open field observation studies), but not yet on an analytical level that would allow us to record neural activity in dedicated physiological experiments.

The long-term goal is to understand intentionality and sentience. I define intentionality as a process used by animals for action selection. When an animal is in a situation in which several behaviors can be selected from, and the animal has to choose (in a simple case, for example, fly West or East), action selection is necessary. This can be based on past experience, inherited algorithms, randomness — or any combination. Alternatively, the animal could “visualize” the future outcome of its actions for each alternative. (“Visualize” is a poor word here, because it refers to the visual system only; “experience” is better, but easily misunderstood.) If an animal gauges alternative future outcomes internally, it uses intentionality. Intentionality entails an internal representation of the outside world and the capacity to evaluate a “virtual reality” therein. Intentionality — or
the capacity for it – may relate to properties that are more complex: the internal representation of self, self-awareness, sentience (the capacity to feel subjectively), and consciousness. I believe it is important to include these in our thinking, but at the same time to keep them clearly and explicitly distinct.

My hypothesis is that these capacities (including action selection, intentionality, self-awareness, sentience, consciousness) do not come automatically with increased complexity. I will focus on the honeybee as a social, experimentally amenable insect. Experimental designs can then be extended to other species at a later stage.

Recommended Reading


Als *narrativ* bezeichne ich Bilder, die nicht bloß das zeigen, was in der Welt üblicherweise der Fall ist, sondern auf eine ganz bestimmte Geschichte zurückgreifen. Im antiken Griechenland kommen solche Bilder erst im frühen 7. Jahrhundert v. Chr. auf. Ihre Präsenz auf mobilen Objekten, die für den Handel produziert worden sind, setzt einiges voraus:


Bilder dieser Art gibt es natürlich nicht nur in Griechenland, sondern auch in anderen Kulturen. Insgesamt allerdings sind sie – so mein Verdacht – doch wesentlich seltener, als man vielleicht vermuten würde. Lessing hätte sich über einen solchen Befund nicht gewundert. Im Zentrum der von ihm entwickelten Medientheorie im *Laokoon* steht die These, wonach Bilder (im Gegensatz zu sprachlichen Texten) strukturelle Schwierigkeiten damit haben, sich auf narra-
tive Stoffe einzulassen: Es dürfte sich lohnen, diese These noch einmal auf breiter Basis zu überprüfen und zu differenzieren. Wie verhält es sich damit im Vorderen Orient, im alten Ägypten, in Indien und in China?

**Lektüreempfehlung**


How do fears change over a century …? How do fears shape our century …?

What I’ve started is a novel of exploration, but also a personal book on the great fears, historical and deeply intimate, and their evolution during the 20th century and in the new millennium. Fear keeps alive the child in each of us. So the question of fear is also a question of childhood. How do our basic fears change against the backdrop of history? That is what I will try to find out through the characters and the plot lines of this book.

Childhood has a special power to observe, a capacity to see the world in detail, perhaps because in the beginning the child’s point of view is as tall as a tulip. We know that childhood is a relatively recent phenomenon. In Antiquity and the Middle Ages, children were perceived as smaller adults. But in turbulent historical moments, including in the 20th and 21st century, childhood disappears again. The (hi)story of the century could be written based on the child on the run, the abandoned child, the refugee child of today and their fears.

A few years ago, I was invited for a semester at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. I proposed a course “Childhood and Ideology in Traumatic Moments of the 20th Century”, a theme that has always haunted me and my writing.

One day, I assigned my students the task of describing their first childhood fear – half a page, maybe more, as much as the fear would allow them. The next assignment was to gather their mothers’ and fathers’ childhood fears. The third stage was to question their living grandparents. Thus, we reached fears from another age. Many of the students had heard their parents’ and grandparents’ fears for the first time. We gathered a small corpus of three generations’ memo-
ries of fear: the current dreads, the Cold War anxieties of the parents, the war and post-war traumas of the grandparents. A small drawer of fear. A fear file.

I imagine this real situation fictionally developed in the future novel, accumulating various personal voices and stories.

Recommended Reading


DASHED HOPES FOR DEMOCRACY: THE HISTORY OF POST-SOVIET AZERBAIJAN

In 2021, Azerbaijan will celebrate 30 years of independence, which this young nation gained after the fall of the Soviet Union. During these years, Azerbaijan has gone through various transformations and landed somewhere that could not have been imagined in the early years of independent life. Once touted as the first Muslim democracy in the world, Azerbaijan has become the first post-Soviet nation to establish a dynastic family rule. Instead of liberal democracy, a consolidated authoritarian regime has emerged from the ashes of the Soviet Union.

What were the internal dynamics and external factors that paved the way to this failure? What should be blamed: the Soviet legacy, Islamic culture and identity politics, corrupt elite and rulers, geography and geopolitics, or a complicated combination of all of the above? The purpose of my project is to try to answer these questions, i.e., to write an account of post-Soviet Azerbaijani history.

Given the current political climate in Azerbaijan and particularly the regime’s control of universities, publishing houses, and intellectual activities, it is nearly impossible to publish objective accounts of Azerbaijani history inside the country. While all humanities disciplines are strongly controlled by the state and are used as ideological tools in state propaganda, history is increasingly the most restricted of these fields. It is used as a primary ideological tool in state propaganda, and the government does not tolerate any interpretations of the nation’s
history other than the official one, which was changed and adapted to the ideological preferences of the ruling Azerbaijani elite after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

However, there is great interest and even demand for an impartial account of events of the last 20 to 30 years in Azerbaijan, especially among the young generation, who have grown up during the last couple of decades. These young people are hungry to read accounts of national history different from the state’s version. As a historian well known in the country, I have personally received many letters and messages asking me to write this history. In fact, these requests are among the primary reasons why I decided to embark on this difficult, probably controversial, but greatly needed task.

Recommended Reading


CONSTITUTIONALISM AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

I am working on questions around the achievement of constitutionalism: the history of modern constitutionalism, constitutional theory, constitutional law – German and comparative, and constitutional adjudication, constitutionalism beyond the state (especially in the European Union, but also on the global level).

Currently, I am writing a small book on the place of Germany’s constitution, the Basic Law, and of the Federal Constitutional Court and its jurisprudence in recent books on the history of the Federal Republic from the end of World War II to (and sometimes beyond) German unification.

The project was induced by a striking difference between, on the one hand, the extremely high esteem for the Basic Law and the Constitutional Court in the general public and in the self-perception of legal scholars and, on the other hand, the virtual absence of constitutional law and constitutional jurisprudence in historiography.

How can this difference be explained? Has the role of the constitution changed compared with the 19th and the first half of the 20th century? Does the emergence of judicial review make a difference? Do legal scholars overestimate the importance of their subject or do historians miss an important aspect of their subject?
Recommended Reading


THE MORALITY OF PRIVATIZATION

My project rests on the premise that the desirability of legal institutions and procedures is not merely instrumental and does not hinge merely on the prospects that these institutions are likely to result in valuable ends. Instead, various legal institutions and legal procedures matter as such; they have intrinsic value. I defended this claim in my book *Why Law Matters*.

I intend to apply this observation to examine the relationship between the private and the public sphere. It is traditionally believed that the division of labour in providing goods between the state and the individual rests on instrumental considerations such as which entity can provide these goods more efficiently. Hence, in principle, all goods can be provided by either private or public entities and the choice between these two rests merely on the question of who is most likely to provide the goods more efficiently. This influential view does not account for our intuitions. Most people believe that punishment, legislation or decisions to go to war are all decisions that cannot be delegated to private individuals, even if those individuals are particularly smart or capable.

The primary claim of the manuscript I am currently writing defends this intuition. I argue that there are some goods that can be provided only by the state. Some governmental decisions cannot be successfully made (or executed) by private entities, as the goodness of the goods resulting from these decisions can be realized only by the state. I further defend the view that performance by the state requires the direct involvement of public officials. Only public officials can act in the name of the members of the political community.
The book aims at challenging the instrumental premise underlying the debates concerning privatization. Public provision of certain goods is necessary, not because the state is better at providing these goods, but because these goods should be provided in our name as members of a political community. In doing so, the book will examine questions such as who can act in the name of the state (or its citizens), what counts as representation, what it means to be a public official etc. It is therefore a research concerning the foundations of the legitimacy of the state and its role in public life.

Recommended Reading


THE DIGITAL REVOLUTION: A FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR SOCIETY

In connection with the digital transformation, many imagine computers, the Internet, smart phones, and a more comfortable life. In reality, however, a perfect storm is brewing that could even surpass the impact and scale of the industrial revolution. In recent years, many new digital technologies have spread. Any of these technologies – such as Uber, AirBnB, digital currencies like BitCoin, or self-driving vehicles – could turn entire business models and business sectors upside down. Even established institutions are currently being challenged: besides traditional money, data has become a new currency. Suddenly, we live in an "attention economy", which is fueled with personal data collected by "surveillance capitalism". The fact that "code is law" currently allows one to surpass the legislation of parliaments, and with the methods developed for neuro-marketing one tries to exert behavioral and social control. Taken together, this changes the monetary and economic system, legislation and politics substantially. What are the opportunities and risks for businesses, democracy and human rights? What are the choices that are to be made to ensure that technology helps people manage the challenges of the future successfully and that we will create a trustworthy digital society that respects and protects human dignity? My planned book project will try to reconstruct the technological shifts, politics and discourse related to digitalization as well as the disruptive developments that have resulted from it. It also dares a look into our possible future(s).
Recommended Reading


GLOBAL PATTERNS OF WARNING COLOURS — HOW VARIABLE ARE THEY?

Focus Group Integrating Mimicry into Community Ecology

Many species of toxic prey advertise their distastefulness through conspicuous warning colours such as red and yellow dots or stripes. Naive predators quickly learn to associate warning colours with an unpleasant taste and avoid future encounters with such prey. Certain colours that contrast strongly against the natural background are commonly observed in warning signals: yellow, orange, and red in combination with darker colours, such as black and blue.

Theory predicts conspicuous and invariant warning signals, but surprising variation exists not only between populations and species but also within populations. The existence of such signal polymorphisms or less conspicuous warning signals in toxic prey is a puzzling and unresolved question in evolutionary biology.

In this project, I will investigate how warning colours in insects vary globally, across broad ecosystem regions. I propose to conduct a broad-scale review of warning colour patterns across global and climatic regions. I intend to utilise guidebooks and diversity databases to characterise warning signal colour and size in known aposematic insect groups.

The initial hypothesis I want to test is that warning colours have a greater proportion of black to yellow/orange/red in colder climates than in warmer climates. However, the power of this type of global analysis is in generating new hypotheses as to why warning signals vary.
Recommended Reading


GESCHICHTE DER ANTIKE

Vor einigen Jahren habe ich die Aufgabe übernommen, eine Gesamtgeschichte der Antike zu verfassen, von der homerischen Zeit bis zum Ende der Spätantike. Während der Zeit am Wissenschaftskolleg möchte ich gerne Kapitel zur späten römischen Republik und zu einem Teil der Kaiserzeit niederschreiben, also wenigstens bis zum Ende des 1., möglichst aber auch noch bis zum Ende des 2. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. gelangen.

Ziele verfolgten, aber die Öffentlichkeit der Politik formte wohl nicht nur die Grenzen des Sagbaren, sondern beeinflusste auch die des Machbaren. So musste die reiche Führungsschicht ihren gemeinsinnigen Worten oft auch Taten folgen lassen – etwa im sog. Euergetismus, der Spendenbereitschaft reicher Privatleute zur Finanzierung von Gemeinschaftsangelegenheiten, die gerade die Stadtkultur, die ja die Antike dominierte, in besonderer Weise prägte. Die Zähmung, aber nicht Lähmung des Eigensinns als Daueraufgabe einer Gesellschaft, die sich nicht mit der weiterhin wirksamen Utopie der automatischen Entstehung des Gemeinschaftsnutzens als Nebenfolge der Fixierung auf individuelle Gewinnmaximierung erledigen lässt, ist in der Antike in vielfältiger Weise versucht und betrieben worden.

Lektüreempfehlung


A MULTICULTURAL ENTRAPMENT: RELIGION AND STATE AMONG THE PALESTINIAN ARABS IN ISRAEL

In the nation state structure that assumes an official status for the majority religion, as is the case in Israel, there is a dominant constitutional force deeming the jurisdiction of minority religions a form of multicultural “accommodation”. This accommodation, in turn, gives rise to a unique, acute, undetected and heretofore unstudied individual predicament for vulnerable minority members who are subject to the patriarchal religious norms of their respective religions. This is the “multicultural entrapment” that emerges, first, in light of the substantive jurisdictional authority held by the minority religious communities. Second, the Israeli nation state structure actively boxes individuals in their respective religious identities, thus severely limiting the civic sphere that seeks to compete for the well-being of all citizens alike and to offer an alternative to which minority members can at least opt out to. Moreover, evaluated in reference to what I call “multicultural qualifications”, the religious jurisdictional authority of the Palestinian Arab minority does not qualify as multicultural, but is in fact a control mechanism. Nonetheless, institutional interests, including those of minority leadership, work to mask this jurisdictional authority as a liberal minority accommodation. Identifying the individual predicament that results from religious jurisdiction over individual personal status as a multicultural entrapment enhances the prospects of offering mechanisms to alleviate it. By addressing this multicultural entrapment, the proposed project departs from
the existing discussion, as it focuses on individual predicaments of religious minority members in the context of a nation state, rather than in the usual context of a Western liberal democracy; and it departs from the discussion of religious minorities in nation states by exposing oppression as a consequence of over-accommodation, rather than in the usual context of under-accommodation.

Recommended Reading


THE ECOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SPECIES

Focus Group Integrating Mimicry into Community Ecology

Our spotty knowledge of the ecological impacts of communication is often remarked, but seldom investigated. Perhaps the best understood cases are the formation, maintenance, and coordination of mixed-species groups and the recruitment of parasitoids by plants that have been attacked by herbivorous insects. Yet even for these instances, we have little information on how the transmission of information changes the sizes of the populations of species that participate or the composition of their communities. Answering these questions is critical to understanding how the information that flows between species affects the architecture of their communities.

This project will produce a synthesis of current knowledge to establish the state of the art, identify major directions for research, and articulate a vision for the ecology of communication. Focusing on signals that are sent between species, it includes the following: warning signals, Batesian (dishonest) and Müllerian (honest) mimicry, alarm calls, mixed-species flocks, herbivore-induced plant volatiles that recruit parasitoids, flowers that signal to pollinators, territorial signals that function between species, and displays of aggression. I will leverage both ecological interactions and network theory to create a holistic view of the way that species interactions are regulated by signals, and the
consequences that their exchanges of information have for the structure of biodiversity.

Recommended Reading


ANCESTORS AND GHOSTS: THE SOVIET PAST IN THE RUSSIAN RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION

Contemporary Russian society – political elites, social activists, and common people – works constantly and persistently with the public memory of the Soviet past. One of the central projects in this field concerns practices of commemoration and material aspects of dealing with relics of the victims of the Soviet regime. The exemplar personages of this “usable past” are the last Russian tsar’s family, killed by the Bolsheviks in July 1918, found near Ekaterinburg in 1991 and canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church as saints in 2000. Despite this canonization, the Russian Orthodox Church has not recognized the authenticity of the “Ekaterinburg remains”. This situation of uncertainty opens doors for creating conspiracy theories and other mythologies in which the Soviet past is re-imagined in all ways possible. The political dispute over the Romanovs’ deaths and public debates on the posthumous destiny of their remains reveal some key points of political imagination in Russia today, as well as a surprising combination of secular and religious arguments. How are we to interpret this event? Was it a political act and the beginning of the Great Terror or a mystical event? Who were the murdered – victims who still cry for worldly justice or maybe the holy saviours of the nation that will resurge after a collective prayer of repentance? The project focuses on debates about the authenticity of the Romanovs’ remains and analyses different “regimes of truth” supported by the opponents.
Recommended Reading


DEUTSCHSPRACHIGE ISLAMISCHE THEOLOGIE: HERMENEUTIK UND KRITIK


Die interdisziplinäre Auseinandersetzung kritisiert, dass Vertreter der islamischen Religionsgemeinschaften die Wissenschaftsfreiheit einschränken. Die öffentliche Debatte moniert dagegen mitunter, dass es so etwas wie islamische Theologie gar nicht gebe oder dass der akademische Betrieb realitäts-, nämlich gemeindefern sei.

Ich untersuche die deutschsprachige islam-theologische Entwicklung unter dreierlei Rücksicht: 1) in Form einer Methodenbeschreibung, 2) einer Kontextualisierung in Europa und in der islamischen Welt sowie 3) in Form einer begrifflich-inhaltlichen Auseinandersetzung. Dreimal kann das Leitmotiv dafür „Hermeneutik und Kritik“ lauten.

Zu fragen ist nämlich genauerhin: 1) Welche hermeneutischen und kritischen Verfahren kommen in den Textwissenschaften, der historischen Selbstreflexion, der systematischen Darstellung der Glaubenslehre und der gegenwarts-

Lektüreempfehlung


EFRAÍN KRISTAL
Ph.D., Professor of Comparative Literature, Spanish, and French
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Born in 1959 in Lima
Studied Comparative Literature at the University of California, Berkeley,
Philosophy at the École normale supérieure de Paris, and Spanish Literature at
Stanford University

JORGE LUIS BORGES AND WAR

Borges and war is not a topic that has captured the imagination of many literary
scholars, but it was a central concern for the Argentine writer himself throughout
his literary career. At the Wissenschaftskolleg, I propose to write a book on
Jorge Luis Borges and war, addressing his formative years in Geneva from 1914
to 1918, the care with which he followed the rise of the Third Reich and the
Second World War when he returned to his native Argentina, and the promi-
nence of the two world wars in his literary works. I will also address Borges’
stories and poems set in Latin American wars of the 19th century and in several
other wars from Antiquity to the present. I will show how Borges wove his
concerns about war into the fabric of his fictions, including his most philo-
sophical ones, and how an ethical dimension in his literary world comes to the
fore when his attention to war is recognized.

I am envisaging a monograph of five chapters along the following lines. An
initial chapter will explore Borges’ earliest writings featuring poems, parables,
and translations about the First World War (WWI). The second chapter will
show the extent to which Borges read and reviewed a considerable number of
books on WWI in Buenos Aires after his return from Switzerland and how our
understanding of his fictions is enriched when we realize the extent to which a
number of them are informed by his detailed knowledge of WWI. The third
chapter will show how Borges followed the rise of National Socialism in Ger-
many; his participation in polemics with fellow Argentine intellectuals sympa-
thetic to Hitler; and how several of his signature tales chronicle the vicissitudes of the Second World War. This chapter will also show that Borges continued writing stories with affecting references to the two world wars until the end of his life. The fourth chapter will explore Borges’ writings about the wars of Spanish-American independence in the 19th century and other wars in the period that gave rise to the nations of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

The fifth and final chapter will discuss other stories by Borges about war from Antiquity to the present. It will also address the work of several Latin American and European writers who have written novels on war inspired by Borges’ legacy, or whose works can be fruitfully compared to his.

Recommended Reading


THE FASHIONING OF A SUNNI ORTHODOXY AND THE ENTANGLED HISTORIES OF CONFESSION-BUILDING IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 15TH-18TH CENTURIES

How and why did the Ottoman Empire evolve from a 14th-century polity where ambiguity between Sunnism and Shiism prevailed into a state concerned with defining and enforcing a “Sunni orthodoxy” by the early 16th century? What were the social consequences of this process and who were its agents as well as its discontents between c. 1450 and 1750? Was this phenomenon in any way related to the religio-political developments in other communities in the Ottoman Empire and beyond during this period? During my Fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I plan to co-author a monograph together with my colleague Derin Terzioğlu that would sum up the results of our five-year-long research into these questions. We argue that the Ottoman engagements with the Sunni tradition and attempts to define a Sunni orthodoxy and orthopraxy were decisively shaped by the changing political and intellectual dynamics of post-Mongol Eurasia and the Ottoman experience of empire-building. However, they were also in dialogue with the dynamics within non-Muslim, especially Christian communities, both in the Ottoman Empire and beyond (via missionaries, converts, and all sorts of “trans-imperial subjects”), which were, in turn, informed by the new push to articulate confessional orthodoxies in the wake of the Reformation. In our book, we make a case for an “entangled history of confessional polarization” that spanned early modern Eurasia, and we explore its social consequences in different communal and geographical settings across the Ottoman Empire. Our goal is not only to shed light on the nature of these
entanglements in the Ottoman context, but also on how they affect our understanding of early modern history and the role of religion in this era. My own research explores normative genres, such as Ottoman Sunni catechisms, sermons, and anti-Shii polemics to examine how “Sunni-ness” was defined and taught by various Ottoman authors, as well as how the discourses on “true” faith and “correct” practice were embedded in various strands of the Ottoman debate on moral authority and imperial governance. At the same time, I also study Sunni, Shii, Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant catechization strategies, as both social and textual practices, shedding light on the dialogue and “borrowing” among various agents of confession-building who were active in the Ottoman Empire.

**Recommended Reading**


JAROSŁAW KUISZ
from September to December 2019
Ph.D., Senior Lecturer of Law, journalist
University of Warsaw

Born in 1976 in Warsaw
Studied Law and Philosophy at the University of Warsaw

THE END OF THE OCCUPATION MENTALITY:
SELECTED ASPECTS OF THE POLITICAL, LEGAL AND
CULTURAL HISTORY OF POLAND SINCE 1989

For the first time in two centuries, a generation of Poles was born and came of age in an independent country. This fact, which has not yet been fully appreciated, has enormous consequences for Polish culture and politics. Moreover, the myth of the West as the Promised Land, which reigned in Poland’s social imagination in the post-communist period after 1989, has faded. The future of politics in Poland, therefore, is radically undetermined, which made the victory of illiberal populists possible. In my project, I would like to examine various aspects of the end of the occupation mentality in Poland.

Recommended Reading


Throughout its long history, the genre of opera both reflected and actively influenced the major political developments, social issues, and shifting gender roles of its day. At the Wissenschaftskolleg, I will examine how opera could reassert this role within contemporary society by working on the staging concepts for my upcoming productions of Sigismondo (Rossini), Król Roger (Szymanowski), Agrippina (Händel), Il Ritorno d’Ulisse in Patria (Monteverdi), and Symphony of Expectation (Berio, Schönberg). Throughout my artistic work as an opera stage director, I have consistently explored how opera – as an art form and as an institution – can become a vital engine for the evolution towards a more inclusive society. By drawing on recent feminist and postcolonial perspectives on the classical repertoire, I seek to question the operatic tradition from within and rethink a genre that is historically entangled with imperial exoticism and the violent undoing of women.

Such an approach requires innovations both in the aesthetic and narrative strategies of opera staging and in the very mode of opera production. My inquiry into forms of opera that speak to contemporary concerns and struggles thus unfolds in three connected threads. First, I seek to question the traditional framework of opera direction, which is based on the depiction of a storyline on stage. Instead, I want to examine opera as a social event (involving a public, an institution, and a critical reception) and a cultural artefact produced within a
specific socio-political constellation. Where opera staging has mostly stressed the universal scope of its stories and music, I am interested in how operas could also be very deliberate interventions in the debates and power relations of their societies. Second, I will research the (often hidden) politics of opera aesthetics: what are the real-life sources and repercussions of classical operatic archetypes? Given the centrality of male/female love relations in the repertoire, the representation of gender on stage is especially pertinent in this regard. In my upcoming stagings, I seek to uncover the pieces’ implicit gender expectations and work towards the representation of non-binary identities within opera.

Finally, I believe that such new perspectives in the finished staging are dependent on changes in how operas are produced. From a system centred on the individual (director, singer, intendant …) that I would describe as an ego-system, I am working towards a more collective process of opera creation. With the Belgium-based opera collective “The Airport Society” that I founded in 2017, we are exploring more collaborative ways of working in opera by bringing specialists in the different aspects of production – from lighting design to musical direction – into a fruitful dialogue. I want to further develop this collaborative model through working sessions and by considering possible forms of partnerships between opera professionals, independent producers, and the big opera houses. Only by fostering a more diverse and collaborative eco-system of production can opera truly become a more inclusive and compelling art form in our heterogeneous societies.

Stage Directing Works

Bellini’s I Capuleti e i Montecchi (youtube.com/watch?v=yMkEBqHLyjY) and Verdi’s Nabucco as an open-air spectacle for Opera Wrocławska (youtu.be/84DzfOKq2fE).

Unknown, I Live With You (based on poems by Afghan women) and Aria di Potenza (combining opera arias and speeches by contemporary politicians) for Nuit Blanche Brussels (vimeo.com/313548240).
Neutrophils are the most common white blood cells in the circulation. Despite this, they are relatively poorly understood. Until recently, neutrophils were thought to respond to invading pathogens in only two major ways: phagocytosis and degranulation. In 2004, a third process was discovered, the release of large web-like structures, termed neutrophil extracellular traps (NETs), that ensnare, immobilize, and destroy invading pathogens.

NETs are now known to be important for the immune defense against bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi. On the other hand, excessive and uncontrolled NET formation has been found to play a key role in cardiovascular disease, deep vein thrombosis, cancer metastasis, autoimmune diseases, and even death by sepsis. Understanding NET formation is therefore vital to understanding human disease.

My project will examine tens of thousands of images of individual neutrophils at different stages of artificially induced NET formation, obtained by imaging flow cytometry. For each cell, a high-magnification, high-resolution picture is available. This huge array of data requires a novel approach to data analysis. I will be attempting to apply methods such as machine learning and deep learning in order to identify groups of cells with similar characteristics and to discover new features and types of NET formation. These methods use artificial intelli-
gence to identify distinguishing details in images that may not be noticeable to the human eye, working with principles similar to those used in facial recognition and fingerprint analysis.

If successful, this project may identify key features of NETs and allow us to gain new insights into the behavior of neutrophils, which will be important in preventing NET pathology and its associated diseases in the future.

Recommended Reading


1. NEW DEAL, MARSHALLPLAN UND MONTANUNION – WIE UND WANN WAR „GROSSE POLITIK“ MÖGLICH?

2. DIE MACHT AM MITTELMEER – ERGÄNZUNGEN


Ad 2. In meinem Buch Die Macht am Mittelmeer: Französische Träume von einem anderen Europa habe ich die Versuche Frankreichs und anderer südeuropäischer...


**Lektüreempfehlung**


COMMUNICATION IN COMPLEX COMMUNITIES; ECOLOGY MATTERS

Focus Group Integrating Mimicry into Community Ecology

From the simplest cells to the complex societies of bees or humans, life thrives on communication. Often, the fate of organisms hinges upon communicating with other species. For example, prey with defenses can evolve warning signals to prevent predators from attacking them. Although theory and data show how signals arise in simple interactions between a few species, there are large gaps in our understanding of how communication evolves in the rich communities we find in nature. Even more strikingly, we have little theory and little data on how signaling between species affects the population dynamics of their communities. I am going to dedicate my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg to advancing our understanding of how communication evolves in communities that feature multiple trophic levels, differences in biodiversity, and how one species indirectly affects another.

Recommended Reading


ANTHROPOLOGIE DES UNGREIFBAREN: DIE MENSCHLICHE GESTIK ALS GEGENSTAND DER MODERNEN HUMANWISSENSCHAFTEN


Lektüreempfehlung


—. „Gradiva’s Gait: Tracing the Figure of a Walking Woman.” *Critical Inquiry* 38, 3 (Spring 2012): 554–578.

CHRISTOPH MÖLLERS
Permanent Fellow des Wissenschaftskollegs
Dr. iur., LL.M., Professor für Öffentliches Recht und Rechtsphilosophie an der
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Geboren 1969 in Bochum
Studium der Rechtswissenschaft und Komparatistik in Tübingen, München und Chicago

1. ORDNUNG UND VERGLEICH

2. LAW’S LEGITIMACY

Ad 1. Mein letztes Buch Die Möglichkeit der Normen führte mich über eine
Reflexion des Begriffs der sozialen Norm hin zu Fragen gesellschaftlicher Ordnungsbildung. Das Buch hatte ein komparatistisches Erkenntnisinteresse: Eine
begriffliche Grundlage für den Vergleich verschiedener sozialer Normen unter-
schiedlicher Provenienz aus Recht, Religion, Kunst sollte entwickelt werden. Bei der Niederschrift wurde mir deutlich, dass das Vergleichen selbst eine
Kulturtechnik darstellt, die für die Operation von Ordnungen, seien sie norma-
tiv oder nicht, von großer Bedeutung ist. Um diesen Zusammenhang soll es nunmehr im vorliegenden Projekt gehen. Dabei wird eine doppelte Unterschei-
dung einzuziehen sein: einerseits zwischen normativen und kognitiven Ord-
nungen, andererseits zwischen den elementaren kognitiven Operationen, die
auf Vergleichen beruhen, und andererseits der Kulturtechnik des Vergleichs, die
erst zu einem bestimmten historischen Moment in verschiedenen Diszipli-
nen Einzug hält. Das Ganze ist als zweiter Teil einer Trilogie über Normen
und normative Ordnungen geplant, als deren dritter eine Theorie des Rechts
verfasst werden soll.

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 because we
understand the law 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 external grounds, be it the political legitimacy of a parliament or the moral claim of a specific rule. Second, otherwise quite different institutional arrangements that are typical for legal systems, 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 realization. These two features, dependent justification and buffered execution, have to be studied in order to understand law’s legitimacy.

Lektüreempfehlung


CONFLICT AND FORM

In 2018/2019 I will start a multi-year research project on tragic collision – that is to say, on the kind of conflicts that arise within a homogeneous culture (the same city, state, or family), and that, after having radicalized, can end only with the death of one (or both) of the antagonists. Tragedy is a small-scale model of this complex chain of actions and reactions and is thus ideal to try to achieve a synthetic understanding of these uncanny conflicts – most radically, civil wars – that are one of the salient aspects of human societies.

In this first year, I will focus on the shifting historical relationship between the context and the content of conflict. As the dramatic “scene” modifies from the Greek polis to absolutist courts and modern households, the reasons for strife also change, from the one-sided demands of the state and the family described in the Phenomenology of the Spirit and the Aesthetics, to the irreconcilable extremes (the tyrant Macbeth and the martyr Lear) that sever the figure of the sovereign, all the way to the class oppression that haunts Büchner’s “proletarian” Woyzeck and the misery of bourgeois legality denounced by Ibsen’s “feminist” Nora.

Concretely, I will concentrate my investigation on two main objects: dramatic networks and rhetorical confrontations. Networks are ideal for visualizing tragic structure as a whole system of alliances, clashes, and different regions: they offer a simple and powerful approach to the “macro” dimension of drama. At the opposite end of the spectrum lies the study of the “micro” strategies that major characters adopt when putting into words the principles they stand for: from the stichomythia so characteristic of Greek plays to Hamlet’s puns when
talking to the King, Calderon’s cosmic monologues, Racine’s symmetrical exchanges, Schiller’s face-to-face confrontations, Büchner’s out-of-control metaphors, or Ibsen’s prose. In this respect, the project will also have a methodological ambition – that of achieving a synthesis of traditional literary hermeneutics with the new possibilities opened up by computational criticism.

**Recommended Reading**


—. *Canon/Archive*, 2017.

During my year at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, I will work on a book entitled *Spectacles of Sovereignty: Persian Shahs in Imperial Europe*. It will examine the European tours of the Qajar monarchs Nasir al-Din Shah (1873, 1878, and 1889) and Muzaffar al-Din Shah (1900, 1902, and 1905) in the era of high imperialism. Both monarchs were received with full pomp by the emperors, kings, and statesmen in St. Petersburg, Istanbul, Berlin, London, Vienna, Paris, and Brussels. A global microhistory, the study will offer a reinterpretation of the relationship between European and non-European rulers in an age of European domination. It will explore how participation in the rituals and ceremonials of a state visit—such as gift-giving, the exchange of decorations, and military spectacle—gave expression to the non-European monarchs’ dynastic legitimacy and their country’s sovereignty. It seeks to show that state visits provided non-European monarchs with a way of integrating themselves and their countries into a system of international relations that was dominated by the European powers. The work draws on sources from British, French, German, Austrian, Belgian, Dutch, Swiss, Russian, Turkish, and Iranian archives, including the Persian travelogues (*safarnamas*) of the shahs.

Moreover, I will use the year at the Wissenschaftskolleg to complete an edited volume on the expansion of international society in the long 19th century, entitled *Struggles for Sovereignty: Non-European Powers in the Imperial Age*, which is closely related to my work on the shahs. The book will explore the relationship between the few nominally independent non-European states and the Concert
of Europe. It will examine how countries such as Abyssinia, China, Japan, the
Ottoman Empire, Persia, and Siam managed to keep European imperialism at
bay, whereas others, most notably Hawaii, Korea, and Morocco, struggled, but
ultimately failed, to maintain their sovereignty. Bringing together historians
with different regional expertise, the volume aims to give agency to the non-
European actors and to connect this history with wider debates on sovereignty,
territoriality, and hierarchy in the modern world order.

Recommended Reading

Motadel, David, ed. *Islam and the European Empires*. Oxford, Oxford University
Press, 2014.

—. *Islam and Nazi Germany’s War*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University
Press, 2014.

GUOXIANG PENG
Ph.D., Qiu Shi Distinguished Professor of Chinese Philosophy, Intellectual History, and Religions
Zhejiang University, Hangzhou

Born in 1969 in Jiangsu, China
Studied Chinese Philosophy at Peking University and Political Science at Nanjing University

THE ENTANGLEMENT OF CONFUCIANISM AND POLITICAL CULTURE IN CONTEMPORARY CHINA

The vicissitudes of Confucianism in contemporary China raise a challenging question that deserves careful deliberation: what role does Confucianism play in contemporary Chinese political culture? In other words, how should we understand the entanglement of Confucianism with political power and ruling ideology in contemporary China? It is my contention that parsing the contents and meanings of this entanglement is one of the keys to understanding what is going on in today’s China with its many pressing issues, political, intellectual, social, and even economic. In short, the purpose of my research is to dissect and analyze the complex interaction between Confucianism and political power in contemporary China.

Recommended Reading


THE DEEP EVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

The origin of intelligence and consciousness has long captured human imagination. We are gradually acquiring the molecular analytical tools and data to disentangle the evolutionary origins of the nervous system. The first nervous system emerged early in the evolution of animals and led to the physiological and behavioral complexity that characterizes animal life. Neurons, the basic building blocks, evolved as specialized cells interconnected by synaptic junctions, transmitting signals by electrical and chemical means. The system diverged in the various metazoan lineages together with their specific traits and adaptations. The study of the biochemistry of the nervous system, as well as of eukaryotic diversity, by means of systematic sampling efforts and genome sequencing projects, is providing the comparative basis to look at the problem from an evolutionary perspective. Core synaptic proteins have been found in single-celled and colonial organisms, suggesting that the origin of part of the molecular machinery of the neuron predates the emergence of the neuron itself. As in all major biological transitions, in the first steps, preexisting modules, combined with innovation within a novel context, resulted in increased complexity. During my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I intend to establish a framework for the study of the evolutionary origins of the nervous system, through the history of its molecular components. I imagine the system broken down into a) a proteome...
component widely shared across animal phyla and beyond, of more ancient inferred origin, b) an animal-specific component, emerging together with the proto-neuron and the proto-synapse, and c) lineage-specific components of more recent origin. Based on the corresponding genes incorporated in the different stages, my objective is to reconstruct a timeline of the distinct functionalities integrated during the evolution of the animal nervous system.

Recommended Reading


One hundred years ago, in World War I, thousands of soldiers across Europe suffered neurological symptoms such as tremors or paralysis due to “shell shock” (known as “Kriegszitterer” in Germany). Initial theories suggested minor brain injury sustained from distant explosions, but soon the disorders were correctly identified as psychologically determined. While the study of functional neurological symptoms (also known as psychogenic or conversion disorder) used to be a major topic in neurology, it was later pushed to the margins of academic and clinical inquiry. However, one in six patients who come to see a neurologist nowadays will have a functional problem. Common manifestations include dissociative seizures, functional dizziness and psychogenic movement disorders. A specialist book that could help practicing neurologists to better understand, diagnose and treat functional neurological disorders would seem to be a useful addition to the German medical literature. My project at the Wissenschaftskolleg will be to write that book.

Several recent advances have moved functional neurological disorders back into the focus of academic neurology. Specific diagnostic signs have been systematically validated and can now replace the exclusion principle that used to guide the diagnostic process. Experimental studies using advanced brain scanning and other modern technology have shed some light on the underlying...
neurobiology and contributed to the formulation of illness models based on modern neuroscientific frameworks. Lastly, advances are being made in the treatment of these disorders, demonstrating the importance of multidisciplinary approaches. Many of these developments are reported in specialized journals and have yet to reach everyday practice. I aim to prepare a book that will provide state-of-the-art clinical advice rooted in modern neuroscience and evidence-based medicine.

Recommended Reading


THE ROLE OF CIRCADIAN RHYTHMS DURING INFECTION

I want to continue to explore the intersection of disease ecology, chronobiology and evolutionary ecology. I have so far been investigating how malaria parasites synchronise to the daily rhythms of the host and how rhythms help the parasite establish and maintain infections.

I plan to use the fruit fly, *Drosophila*, to investigate how the host’s circadian clock, immunity and metabolism interact during infections. There are differences in survival rates when infection occurs at different times of day. This is thought to be under the control of the circadian clock, with time-of-day differences in infection outcome disappearing in mutant flies lacking circadian rhythms. Differences occur due to tightly controlled rhythms in host physiology, which follow a 24h pattern (e.g. immune activation), but how these rhythms are affected and interact to control the infection once an organism is infected is an understudied area of research. Specifically, I want to explore whether different circadian clocks and rhythms within an individual continue to act together during infections or if rhythms fall apart. If so, is this adaptive and does it enable infections to be cleared faster, or is it merely a consequence of virulence? I will first ask if aligned rhythms are important for determining infection outcome and second ask if circadian regulation of the immune response is only important prior to acquiring infection.
I am looking forward to interacting with Fellows of the Wissenschaftskolleg and, to consolidate my ideas, gleaning the insight and expertise from colleagues at the Freie Universität and the Max-Planck-Institut für Infektionsbiologie in Berlin, as well as other labs further afield. I will use my time at Wiko to make connections and find collaborators in Germany while developing a hypothesis-driven fellowship proposal.

Recommended Reading


ULRICH RUDOLPH
Dr. phil., Professor für Islamwissenschaft
Universität Zürich

Geboren 1957 in Offenbach am Main, Deutschland
Studium der Islamwissenschaft, Geschichte und Philosophie an der Goethe-
Universität Frankfurt am Main, der Ruhr-Universität Bochum und der
Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

KONZEPTE VON PHILOSOPHIE IN DER ISLAMISCHEN WELT

Seit die islamische Philosophie im 19. Jahrhundert zu einem Gegenstand der
Forschung geworden ist, gab sie immer wieder Anlass zu Debatten. Sie betrafen
nicht nur einzelne Denker und Sachthemen, sondern auch die grundsätzliche
Frage, wann überhaupt eine Philosophie in der islamischen Welt bestanden
habe und wie diese inhaltlich zu beschreiben sei. Die Antworten darauf diver-
gieren stark. Einige Autoren favorisieren einen Philosophie-Begriff, der ganz an
die griechische Tradition angelehnt ist (woraus sie in der Regel folgern, dass die
islamische Philosophie um 1200 mit Averroes endete), andere sprechen von
einem spezifisch „islamischen Denken“ (das dann erst ab dem 12. Jahrhundert
nachweisbar sein soll), wieder andere von „orientalischer Weisheit“. Allen
gemeinsam ist jedoch, dass sie jeweils von einem einzigen Konzept ausgehen,
auf das die gesamte Philosophie in der islamischen Welt reduziert werden soll.

Dieses restriktive und methodisch problematische Vorgehen stellt mein Pro-
jekt infrage. Es geht von der Annahme aus, dass philosophische Traditionen
immer eine innere Vielfalt aufweisen. Das gilt für die europäische Philosophie-
geschichte ebenso wie für jene in der islamischen Welt oder anderswo. Konkret
dürften sich zwei Achsen von Pluralität unterscheiden lassen, die durch die Er-
gebnisse der neueren Forschung zunehmend Bestätigung finden: eine dia-
chrone, die besagt, dass im Verlauf der islamischen Geschichte unterschiedliche
Konzepte von Philosophie entwickelt wurden und dominierten. Und eine
synchrone, insofern jede Epoche – auch die Zeit bis 1200, die stark vom griechischen Erbe geprägt war und deswegen häufig als Einheit betrachtet wird – für sich noch einmal eine Binnendifferenzierung von Konzeptionen erkennen lässt. Das zu reflektieren und auf die historiografische Praxis anzuwenden ist Ziel meines Projekts, das seinen Niederschlag in Publikationen, einem Workshop mit Fachkolleg*innen und öffentlichen Veranstaltungen finden soll.

Lektüreempfehlung


HOLGER SPAMANN  
Ph.D., S.J.D., Lawrence R. Grove Professor of Law  
Harvard Law School  

Born in 1974 in Hamburg, Germany  
Studied Law at the Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and the University of Hamburg, and Law and Economics at Harvard University  

A MODEL OF LAW  

My project aims to construct a mathematical, positive model of law’s binding force on judges. The model has three simple ingredients, all of which are widely accepted, fundamental elements of human behavior. I expect this model to clarify and unify divergent theories in legal theory and to reconcile a strong binding force of the law in most circumstances with well-known troublesome facts such as partisan judging on the US Supreme Court. It will generate new testable hypotheses regarding questions such as the role of legal education in imparting priors on legal (in)determinacy. I hope it will connect legal theorists and social scientists.  

Recommended Reading  


Contemporary organizations face three interrelated, but analytically distinguishable challenges. First, they should be alert to mistakes that could be catastrophic. Second, they need to allocate attention, especially to correct past mistakes and to make accurate predictions about future developments. Third, they should be innovative, able to stand out from existing categories while being recognized as outstanding. This project investigates these cognitive challenges with the aim of developing a comprehensive sociological approach to study the social properties of cognition. Research on error detection, attention allocation, and recombinant innovation has been conducted in three distinct settings strategically chosen so that the scale and complexity of the performance challenges increases across the cases. During my year at the Wissenschaftskolleg I will begin writing up the findings of this research.

The research question that cuts across the socio-cognitive challenges asks whether and how diversity contributes to performance. The nature of the research question requires an interdisciplinary approach. The project has three sub-goals, each addressed using different research designs:

1) We first test how the social context, understood at the most basic level as the composition of a small collectivity, affects behavior. To do so, we use experimental methods to test how ethnic and gender diversity affects decision-making.

2) The second study tests how the social structure of attention affects valuation. The activities involve error correction and accuracy of prediction in
estimates by securities analysts; the method is two-mode network analysis; and
the timing, intensity, and diversity of attention networks are the effects to be
tested.

3) The third study examines relations within and across collaborative teams.
In studying the network properties of creativity, the challenge is recombinant
innovation, the activity involves releases in the field of music, the method is
cultural network analysis, and the effects to be tested are the combined effects of
stylistic diversity and social structure.

Recommended Reading


—. “Game Changer: The Topology of Creativity.” *American Journal of Sociology*

—. “Structural Folds: Generative Disruption in Overlapping Groups.” *American
GRÄUSAMKEIT, DISZIPLIN UND VERZWEIFLUNG: FRIEDRICH WILHELM I. UND DER PREUSSISCHE MYTHOS


Eine aktuelle wissenschaftliche Biografie dieses Königs gibt es nicht; die letzte ist von 1941 und umfasst nur die Jugendjahre bis zur Thronbesteigung. Ich glaube, dass es heute auf neue Weise interessant sein könnte, sich einem Herrscher zuzuwenden, der die Rolle des Elitenverächters spielte und einen bizarren Außenseiterhabitus kultivierte. Ich stelle mir vor, Friedrich Wilhelm I.
in die Geschichte der Männlichkeit und des Körpers, der Emotionen und Verhaltensstile, der Hofkultur und der Frühauflärung einzuordnen. Dazu möchte ich zunächst einmal seine Rezeptionsgeschichte als ein Lehrstück historischer Mythenbildung analysieren.

**Lektüreempfehlung**


—. *Rituale.* Frankfurt/Main: Campus, 2013.
A POPULAR BOOK AND DATA SYNTHESIS

I will work on two projects: a popular book describing how many local human livelihoods and challenges are influenced by large-scale global processes. I also will undertake a data synthesis of long-term censuses of butterflies, plants, and birds from across Europe and the US.

My major project will be to write a popular book, tentatively entitled “Hitched to Everything Else in the Universe”, inspired by the words of the famous US naturalist John Muir, “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe” (1911). The book will describe some of the many astonishing ways in which humans all over the world are linked ecologically. I will focus on themes of movement, adaptation, migration, and climate change. The goal is to instill an appreciation of the interconnectedness of ecosystems on Earth by showing how local phenomena of fish catch, crop yields, antibiotic resistance, and disease prevalence can reflect complex global ecological phenomena. For example, dust from desert dust storms of the Gobi and Sahara is blown thousands of miles and fertilizes the oceans and Amazonian rainforests with scarce nutrients. These nutrients increase plant growth, and this growth moves up the food chain, affecting growth, carbon storage, and fishing yields. Through this and other examples drawing on large-scale animal migrations, the evolution of drug resistance, and more, I hope to impart a feeling of global ownership of Earth’s ecosystems.

I also plan to do some scientific work, synthesizing large datasets of long-term species abundances to understand whether evolutionary relatedness predicts co-
vulnerability or co-resilience to global change, and also to take advantage of other Fellows to perhaps explore the evolution of coloration patterns.

**Recommended Reading**


Between 1991 and 2000, inspired by and written for Pierre-Laurent Aimard, a former Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg, I composed the “First Book of Miniature Estrose”, a one-hour long cycle of seven pieces for “piano d’amore”, a term of my own invention that indicated an instrument some of whose strings sympathetically resonate while playing thanks to the use of a special pedal. Multiple revisions occupied me until 2010. Since then, this work became a milestone in the contemporary piano literature because of its use of the instrument, the force of the structure, and its implications for cognitive psychology and neurological research on the recognition of musical forms by our brain. From the beginning, a second book was planned and roughly sketched (seven pieces), but I could never find a concentrated period long enough to work on it. I will compose this cycle during my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg. I will also use this time to formalize my composition research using OpenMusic, a Lisp-based graphical programming environment developed by Jean Bresson at Ircam, with whom I have already collaborated. Several essays documenting the major research issues developed during the composition are also planned once the cycle has been ended.
Recommended Reading and Listening

CDs


“Traiettoria” (for piano and computer-generated sounds), Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano / “Spirali” (for string quartet projected into the space), Arditti String Quartet. Ricordi/Stradivarius, 2008.

Essays

Stroppa, Marco. “OMChroma: Composition Control of Sound Synthesis.”

“Subjectivity” is one of the most popular and yet at the same time most obscure terms in the modern human sciences, and nowhere is this more evident than in its use in relation to music. Though for at least two centuries music has commonly been understood as an art intimately bound up with our feelings of self and subjective being, it is decidedly unclear quite how musical sounds can be heard to create a sense of quasi-human agency or presence. One side effect of such methodological imprecision is that discussion of music and subjectivity is often vague and ambiguous, with a plethora of apparently distinct but related terms regularly being called upon (subjectivity, persona, agency, presence, etc.).

My proposed research seeks to interrogate the notion of musical subjectivity through a combination of musical, historical and philosophical perspectives. Conceived as part of an ongoing wider project on subjectivity in 19th-century music, the current proposal focuses on the production of a monograph-length study concentrating particularly on the music of Robert Schumann. This will combine close analysis of his music, consideration of the historical and cultural context in which it emerged, and broader philosophical discussion of the idea of subjectivity. Ultimately my aims are twofold: to achieve a critical refinement of how the concept of subjectivity is applied to music, and to investigate the importance of music in constructing a modern sense of self.
Recommended Reading


DERIN TERZIOĞLU
Ph.D., History
Boğaziçi University, Istanbul

Born in 1969 in Ankara
Studied History at Princeton University and History and Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University

THE FASHIONING OF A SUNNI ORTHODOXY AND THE ENTANGLED HISTORIES OF CONFESSION-BUILDING IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, 15TH–18TH CENTURIES

During my residence at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I will be co-writing a book with Tijana Krstić, that will present the results of our five-year ERC-funded research project (OTTOCONFESION) on the formation of a Sunni orthodoxy and the entangled histories of Muslim, Christian and Jewish confession-building in the core lands of the Ottoman Empire between the 15th and 18th centuries.

Sunni-Shii confessional polarization and its ramifications for the diverse Sunni, Alevi and confessionally ambiguous Sufi (and non-Sufi) communities in Anatolia and the Balkans constitute a principal focus of my research. I am particularly interested in the responses of members of these communities to religious indoctrination, be it in the form of compliance or resistance, subterfuge or indifference, and in the social and cultural codes that allowed certain forms and venues of cultural expression such as poetry to be relatively immune to confessionalizing pressures.

Secondly, I investigate the challenges that were presented to the Ottoman state-sponsored scholarly elites’ formulations of Sunni orthodoxy from among the ranks of the more “puritanical” Sunni scholars and the social, political and intellectual currents and dynamics that made these challenges more visible after the 16th century. Lay participation in scholarly debates and the role of preachers and preaching are among the topics that I plan to discuss under this rubric.
Thirdly, I look into the evolution of rival discourses on morality in both “public” spaces, such as mosques and coffeehouses, and in “private” or socially more exclusive spaces, such as the home. The impact of religious indoctrination and social disciplining on the formation of well-defined gender and generational roles within as well as outside the family, the maintenance and policing of communal boundaries, and cross-communal interactions and socializing are the principal topics that I shall be examining under this last heading.

Recommended Reading


THE FACES OF CRISIS: TOWARDS A TRANSNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF EUROPE IN THE 20TH CENTURY

My project is an attempt to rethink modern European intellectual history from the vantage point of the concept of crisis. Combining the methodology of conceptual history with a broader contextualist history of political thought and with a transnational perspective, I plan to focus on a number of key controversies that shaped European history and politics in the 20th century. Its complex conceptual history having been memorably explored by Reinhart Koselleck, crisis has emerged as one of the pivotal notions of political modernity. Thus, reconstructing the ways the discourse of crisis functioned in various contexts and historical moments gives us a unique insight not only into a series of conceptual transformations, but also into the underlying logic of key political and intellectual controversies. I am particularly interested in the way the perspective of crisis actually opened up the possibility to fundamentally rethink some of the key assumptions of the given historical moment, and also to look for possible solutions beyond the closely knit local/national milieu and thus both to discover transnational entanglements and to listen to voices from other cultural contexts. Crisis is thus not only a framework of temporalization, but also of spatialization, of modernity, and thus can be turned into a vantage point for a transnational analysis. Along these lines, I would like to use my inquiry into the
ways crisis is experienced, conceptualized, and negotiated to provide an even broader frame of understanding of how various visions of time and history shape political thinking and, conversely, how political reconfigurations frame our assumptions about temporality and historicity.

Recommended Reading


BOUNDARIES: FROM GEOGRAPHY TO METAPHYSICS

There is a basic distinction in geography between “natural” boundaries (borders, frontiers) and “artificial” ones. The former are just the physical boundaries of old, such as mountain ranges, coastlines, river banks, etc. The latter are exemplified by boundaries defined by human decisions and conventions and lie askew to any physical differentiations in the underlying territory, as with the frontier between Mexico and the US, the borders of Niger, and the imaginary lines separating the German portion of Lake Constance from the Swiss and Austrian portions. There is, I think, a lot to be said about the important role of this distinction in the history and dynamics of our political culture. But we can say more, for boundaries are not a prerogative of geography. They are at work in articulating every aspect of the world around us. Boundaries stand out in every map we draw, from the contents of perception to the scientific modeling of reality in terms of objects, kinds, and properties, and this ubiquity of boundaries goes hand in hand with the natural/artificial opposition. Indeed, once the opposition has been recognized, it can be drawn across the board: not merely in relation to boundaries, but also in relation to those entities that have boundaries. If something enjoys a natural boundary, its existence and identity conditions appear to be independent of us; it is a bona fide, mind-independent entity of its own. By contrast, if its boundary is of the artificial sort, then the entity itself is to some degree a fiat entity, a construct, a product of our worldmaking. In short, the natural/artificial distinction betokens the general opposition between what is found or discovered and what is made or created, and this takes us straight to the metaphysical debate between realism and antirealism. My project is to
investigate the antirealist stance corresponding to the limit case: What if there were no natural boundaries? What if all boundaries — hence all entities — were on closer examination to some extent the result of a fiat articulation reflecting our cognitive and social practices?

Recommended Reading


I am writing a book-length interpretation of one of the most fantastical works of decorative art in early modern Europe, *The Throne of the Great Mogul*, created at the beginning of the 18th century by the top Baroque jeweller, Johann Melchior Dinglinger, for his Saxon prince. Set on a tabletop-size, stage-like scenery are 160 moveable miniature pieces – human figures, animals and inanimate objects: exquisite pieces of jewellery-work made with some 5,000 gemstones and endless enamel work. Each piece individualized with amazing care, together they represent the court of the Indian Mughal emperor Aurangzeb during his birthday celebrations. The overall effect is overwhelming.

And so is the puzzlement of the historian. In both form and content, the Throne of the Great Mogul seems to come straight out of a magical and beautiful fairy tale. And yet the narrative requirements of fairy tales are not the same as those of history. As historical actions by actual agents in a real historical situation, this story appears to make no sense. Why did the jeweller spend eight years of his free time to create this model? Why did the prince, broke after a humiliating military defeat, pay a small fortune to buy it? Why this particular theme of the *Thron des Großmoguls* – a representation of a living foreign potentate on the other side of the globe? And why represent this theme in such an impossibly intricate, unprecedented form, with many unique and often mysterious features? In short, how can we make sense of this work of art, of this trans-
action, of this tremendous artistic investment and effort? What does this object mean?

My effort to answer these questions proceeds in a kind of floral pattern, in the manner that a child draws a flower. At the centre stands the *Thron des Großmoguls*. Each book chapter begins at the centre and traces, in petal after petal, a movement away from the model and then back again. Each detour carefully unpacks one element of this complex object, keeping in mind the peculiarities of form and content, and takes the analysis into a different aspect of European and global history and art at the beginning of the 18th century.

Recommended Reading


THE TEMPORAL LIFE OF STATES: SOVEREIGNTY AT THE ECLIPSE OF EMPIRE

“The Temporal Life of States” recasts the modern transformation of the world of states from the pivot point of Central Europe. It tracks a recurring set of questions about the legal birth and death of states, from the cradle of Austro-Hungarian constitutional law into the interwar international order and, beyond that, to the crisis of global decolonization that followed the Second World War.

The collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918 sparked what we might call the 20th century’s first jurisprudence of decolonization. As the empire gave way to a series of independent states, debate raged about whether these polities were “new” states or “old” states, with all that implied for the succession of rights and duties. Yet the arguments leveled for and against sovereign discontinuity turned out to be the internationalization of a longstanding imperial jurisprudence on the status of the empire’s component polities. Had formerly independent units like Hungary preserved a sort of suspended sovereignty through the long centuries of imperial rule—sleeping sovereignties that could be reawakened at the moment of empire’s eclipse? By the era of global decolonization, such questions about the temporal life of states—about the legal meaning of their mortality and their endurance, their continuity and discontinuity—became central conundrums for international order. Tracing the problem of states-in-time from the mid-19th century through to the mid-20th, the project presents an unfamiliar prehistory of the international law of decolonization, as well as new ways of understanding Central Europe in the world.
Recommended Reading


EMOTIONS IN POLITICS

Emotions are an ever more important component of contemporary politics. This is partly due to the rise of illiberal politics where the use of emotion-based strategies is typical, and partly to a broader emotional turn in politics in general: a phenomenon that Pierre Hassner has called the “revenge of passions”. Strategies based on fear, disgust, nostalgia, hope or love, are used by politicians all over Europe to mobilize people socially.

The number of studies of emotions has been growing rapidly since the 1970s. Some of these studies have been devoted to emotions in politics – the most important are the works by Jon Elster, Robert Solomon, Martha Nussbaum, and Ronald de Sousa. There are, however, no comparative studies of emotions-based strategies used in various countries in the European Union within a given framework and political context. Also, the humanities and mainstream comparative politics have been slow to explore the role of emotions in political competition among actors.

During my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg I will focus on a project that fills these gaps 1) by providing a novel theoretical framework for understanding the importance of emotions in comparative politics and 2) by using this framework to analyse a few case studies, understood as speeches of leading politicians, involving the politics of emotions within four nation states in relation to the refugee crisis – Austria, Germany, Poland, and the UK. My research objectives are these: 1) to articulate a new theoretical framework for understanding the
importance of emotions for politics; 2) to document, from a comparative European perspective, the extent to which emotion-based strategies shape the pursuit and exercise of power.

**Recommended Reading**


THE POETICS OF MEMORY: WANG ZHAOMING (1883−1944) AND CHINA’S WWII COLLABORATION

My monographic project investigates the poetry of Wang Zhaoming (1883−1944) and China’s WWII memory. Better known by his pen name Jingwei, Wang was seen as a man who fell from being a founder of Republican China to become the arch-traitor of the nation. Perhaps in anticipation of a posthumous controversy, he declared on his deathbed that his collection of classical-style verses alone would be his testament – implying that he believed his poetry to contain his truest portrait. In these poems, Wang consistently portrays himself as a martyr and a romantic figure who was ready to sacrifice not just his life, but even his posthumous reputation, for the salvation of the nation. Written entirely in classical forms, Wang’s poetry features a learned and lucid style, highly acclaimed by literary critics. By encoding China’s cultural memory and integrating it into Wang’s personal memory, it serves to construct a literary persona in continuation of the classical literati tradition, especially the politics of moral integrity. It suggests that Wang’s collaboration was motivated by his belief in the world-transforming effect of an individual’s self-cultivation – a fundamental principle in Confucian ethics. Still being published and read to date, these poems pose a series of exegetical, ethical, and historiographical questions. This project explores these poems, together with other types of texts such as essays, epistles, memoirs, and archival materials, to examine the life of the most controversial figure in modern Chinese history. It attempts to investigate the thorny question of wartime collaboration, especially the perceived treason of
China’s cultural elites. The three disparate academic fields – literary, memory, and history studies – will be brought into collision and dialogue. Given that no full biography of Wang is available in English, and arguably no objective biography in Chinese, the first section of the book tries to delineate Wang’s life as a politician and poet in three chapters. The second section will focus on his poems written during the period of collaboration to investigate the functions that poetry plays in writing the memory and the history of its author. At the end, I ask whether the study of poetry and historiography can be truly integrated, so as to write a history with human temperature.

**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. The consequences in terms of work conditions, of income gap among workers and shareholders, but also of sustainable development raise the question of the meaning of work and its final purpose. Why do we work?

The ends of work are diverse; this diversity encourages us to consider people at work not merely as producers of economic value but also as creative and social beings. The goal of this project is to analyze current transformations of work and society in light of these multiple meanings of work. Taking France and Germany as cases in point, the analysis aims, first, to develop a better understanding of the various and interrelated processes that converge to reshape the relationship between work, society, and democracy, and, second, to identify the political and social challenges arising from them.
Recommended Reading


EINFÜHRUNG IN DIE SCHWERPUNKTGRUPPE

Introduction to the Focus Group

Schwerpunktgruppe Zur theoretischen Integration von Mimikry in die Ökologie von Lebensgemeinschaften

Wir verfügen über umfangreiches Wissen darüber, wie sich Signale zwischen Individuen derselben Spezies oder zwischen zwei verschiedenen Spezies evolutionär entwickelt haben. Wir wissen aber nur sehr wenig darüber, wie sich artenreiche natürliche Gemeinschaften auf die Evolution von Signalen auswirken. Noch bemerkenswerter ist, dass wir kaum theoretische Ansätze und wenig Daten darüber haben, wie sich die Signalgebung zwischen den Spezies wiederum auf die Dynamik ihrer Lebensgemeinschaften auswirken kann. In unserer Schwerpunktgruppe wollen wir die dynamische Rückkoppelung zwischen der Kommunikation und der Struktur ökologischer Gemeinschaften untersuchen.

Dabei möchten wir uns auf Themen konzentrieren, die bisher weitgehend ignoriert wurden. Im Einzelnen werden wir folgenden Fragen nachgehen:

- Wie sich die evolutionäre Entwicklungsdynamik von Mimikry verändert, wenn die Populationen von Vorbildern und Nachahmern um dieselben Ressourcen konkurrieren oder nicht konkurrieren (letzteres wird in der klassischen Müllerschen Mimikry-Theorie angenommen).
- Ob die indirekten Interaktionen zwischen Beutetieren mit Warnfärbung und ihren Fressfeinden die Populationsdynamik beeinflussen (über offensichtliche Konkurrenz und ähnliche Mechanismen).
- Wie sich Mimikry in der Evolution entwickelt, wenn Räuber Informationen darüber teilen können, welche Beuteähnlichkeiten am lohnendsten sind.

Die Mitglieder der Schwerpunktgruppe sind Johanna Mappes (Convener), Marie E. Herberstein und David W. Kikuchi.

Johanna Mappes
Focus Group Integrating Mimicry into Community Ecology

There is a wealth of knowledge on how signals evolve between individuals of the same species or between two species, but we know very little about how rich, natural communities affect signal evolution. Even more strikingly, we have little theory or little data on how signalling between species can, in turn, affect the dynamics of their communities. Our Focus Group will investigate the dynamical feedback between communication and the structure of ecological communities.

We will focus on issues that heretofore largely been ignored. More specifically, we will study:

− how the evolutionary dynamics of mimicry change if the populations of models and mimics do or do not compete for the same resources (the latter is assumed in classic Müllerian mimicry theory),
− whether indirect interactions between warning-colored prey and their predators influence population dynamics (via apparent competition and related mechanisms), and
− how mimicry evolves when predators can share information about which prey phenotypes are most profitable.

The members of the Focus Group are: Johanna Mappes (Convener), Marie E. Herberstein, and David W. Kikuchi.

Johanna Mappes

Anfang 2019 wurde in Antwerpen der aus Warschau stammende Regisseur und Dramaturg Krystian Lada als erster Preisträger gewählt.

In memory of Gerard Mortier, the innovative opera director who died in 2014, a European promotion prize for young talents was created. It will be awarded to young talents that engage in musical theater as a modern art form, for example in the areas of directing, music, stage set design, or technology. Mortier himself spoke with such enthusiasm about his time as a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg that it seems only logical to offer the prizewinners of the Mortier Next Generation Award a similar experience with a short-term Fellowship.

In Antwerp at the beginning of 2019, the director and dramaturge Krystian Lada, who comes from Warsaw, was selected as the first prizewinner.
Mit dem College for Life Sciences will das Wissenschaftskolleg Forscherinnen und Forschern aus den Lebenswissenschaften am Beginn ihrer Karriere 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 auszusteigen, Umschau zu halten und dabei 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 den Fellows des Wissenschaftskollegs gleichgestellt. Das Institut erwartet, dass sie für die Dauer ihrer Fellowships in Berlin arbeiten und aktiv an der Gemeinschaft der Fellows teilnehmen. 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 with 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 and research plans, rethink earlier work or empirical data – at any rate, to drop out
of the routine of daily work, to take a look around and 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 the Fellows of the Wissenschaftskolleg.

The institute expects them to work in Berlin for the duration of their Fellowships and to actively take part in the Fellow community. The Wissenschaftskolleg provides the stipend, accommodation, and services.

The Fellows of the College for Life Sciences are free to engage in additional activities within 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 2019/20

Lynae M. Brayboy Gynäkologie, Physiologie Providence, RI
Bryan C. Daniels Quantitative Biologie, Physik Tempe, Ariz.
Patrick Lelliott Zellbiologie, Immunologie Osaka
Alexandros Pittis Genomik Vancouver
Stoyan Popkirov Klinische Neurologie Bochum
Kimberley Prior Evolutionsbiologie Edinburgh

Scientific Committee des College for Life Sciences

Dieter Ebert Zoologie, Evolutionsbiologie Basel
Raghavendra Gadagkar Biologie Bangalore
Carl Eduard Scheidt Medizin, Psychotherapie Freiburg
Simone Reber Quantitative Biologie Berlin
Constance Scharff Verhaltensbiologie Berlin