



Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

ARBEITSVORHABEN DER FELLOWS
FELLOWS' PROJECTS 2023/2024

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VORWORT

In dieser Broschüre werden die Fellows des Wissenschaftskollegs im akademischen Jahr 2023/2024 vorgestellt. Im Zentrum steht die Beschreibung der Arbeitsvorhaben, denen sie sich während ihres Aufenthaltes am Wissenschaftskolleg widmen wollen. Dazu kommen bibliografische Empfehlungen mit den Titeln einiger Aufsätze oder Bücher, die sie Interessierten zur Lektüre empfehlen, sowie kurze biografische Angaben.

Die meisten Fellows kommen für ein volles akademisches Jahr. Eine kürzere Aufenthaltsdauer ist jeweils vermerkt.

In der Zeit zwischen dem Redaktionsschluss dieser Broschüre und dem Beginn des akademischen Jahres am 16. September 2023 können sich noch Änderungen ergeben. Aktualisierte Informationen zu den Fellows und ihren Arbeitsvorhaben sowie zu Veranstaltungen mit Fellows und zum Wissenschaftskolleg insgesamt stehen auf der Internetseite des Wissenschaftskollegs – www.wiko-berlin.de – zur Verfügung.

Berlin, im Juli 2023

Wenn nicht anders angegeben, erstrecken sich die Fellowships vom 16. September 2023 bis zum 15. Juli 2024.

PREFACE

This brochure presents the Fellows of the academic year 2023/2024. 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. A shorter planned stay is noted for each Fellow, where applicable.

Between the submission deadline to this brochure and the beginning of the academic year on September 16, 2023, some 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 www.wiko-berlin.de.

Berlin, July 2023

If not otherwise indicated, the fellowships extend from September 16, 2023 to July 15, 2024.

IVEREN ABIEM

from September 2023 to February 2024

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

Ph.D., Lecturer in Ecology and Conservation Biology

University of Jos

Born in 1987 in Jos, Nigeria

Studied Plant Science and Technology and Conservation Biology at the

University of Jos and Ecology at the University of Canterbury

ASSESSMENT AND ECONOMIC VALUATION OF ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVIDED BY FOREST- AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

With tropical landscapes becoming increasingly modified by human activities, especially agriculture, increased research to understand and mitigate biodiversity loss is paramount to manage and restore earth's ecosystems. My proposed research will investigate the biodiversity and ecosystem services in forest-agricultural landscapes. Ecosystem services benefit humans in many ways: food provisioning, climate regulation, water purification, oxygen production, recreation, and ecotourism. These services have societal and economic value.

There is a growing understanding of the true worth of nature, especially with the unprecedented increase in environmental degradation. Several studies have tried to assess and quantify the value of services provided by ecosystems. Only by placing the correct economic value on the benefits we derive from nature can we understand how important it is to conserve it.

My research aims at determining the ecosystem services provided by forest-agricultural landscapes in Nigeria.

The specific objectives are:

1. To assess the ecosystem services provided by these landscapes.
2. To identify the most valued ecosystem services provided by these landscapes to local communities.

3. To select and use suitable indicators to quantify the ecosystem services identified.

During my fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I will develop a methodology for this project and write a grant proposal.

Basically, the study will involve two methodological approaches:

- a participatory assessment (involving residents of the study area or local stakeholders) to assess the ecosystem services provided by montane forests and
- field measurements (observations and experiments) of some indicators/bioindicators of ecosystem services for example, carbon sequestration, water provisioning and assessment of non-timber forest products.

Recommended Reading

Abiem, Iveren, Ian Dickie, David Kenfack, and Hazel Chapman (2021). “Con-specific Negative Density Dependence Does Not Explain Coexistence in a Tropical Afromontane Forest.” *Journal of Vegetation Science* 32 (1): e12990. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvs.12990>.

— (2023). “Factors Limiting Plant Recruitment in a Tropical Afromontane Forest.” *Biotropica* 55 (1): 221–231. <https://doi.org/10.1111/btp.13179>.

Abiem, Iveren, David Kenfack, and Hazel Chapman (2023). “Assessing the Impact of Abiotic and Biotic Factors on Seedling Survival in an African Montane Forest.” *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* 6: 1108257. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2023.1108257>.

JOSH BERSON

Ph.D., Anthropologist, Philosopher
Berlin

Born in 1975 in New York City, N.Y., USA

Studied Design of the Built Environment at Harvard University and
Anthropology and History and Philosophy of Science at the University of
Pennsylvania

THE HABIT OF LIFE

What began as a study of the cognitive ecology of animacy – how our habits of classifying the world into animate and inanimate are shaped by our strategies for keeping body and soul intact – has grown into something at once more expansive and more personal.

In *The Habit of Life*, I offer an exploratory account of what it is to experience another presence as a “familiar” – and what kind of ethos, what kind of “habit of life,” takes form when we attend to the role of the senses in mediating this experience.

Starting with my own experience as a monaural hearer, I formulate an ecology of the senses that emphasizes the resonant properties of the Earth and our bodies and the role that sound and other field phenomena play in bringing us into contact with other presences living and geospheric. In contrast, say, to vision, for the mechanosensory (acoustic, tactile, proprioceptive, interoceptive) senses, we are rarely in a position to blockade or orient the organs of sensation. In our encounters with the mechanosensory world, we are confronted with our permeability, not to say our impermanence. Recovering an awareness of our impermanence, I propose, is the key to formulating a habit of life that resists the urge to view our situation as one of permanent crisis.

The Habit of Life draws together strategies of inference from cognitive and linguistic anthropology and the philosophy of the evolutionary sciences. It represents the culmination of a ten-year effort to formulate a critical approach to the

study of niche construction – a way of reasoning about our strategies for accommodating bodily need that attends to how these strategies become saturated with value.

Recommended Reading

Berson, Josh. *The Meat Question*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2019.

—. *The Human Scaffold*. Oakland: University of California Press, 2021.

JOEL BLECHER

Ph.D., Associate Professor of History

The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Born in 1982 in Oberlin, Oh., USA

Studied Religion and Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University

PROFIT & PROPHECY: ISLAM AND THE SPICE TRADE

My current book project, “Profit & Prophecy: Islam and the Spice Trade,” explores the dynamic and competing visions of Islam that transformed the ethics of global maritime trade prior to the rise of modern capitalism. The book takes readers on a journey along the spice routes of the long 15th century – traversing the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean – and brings to life the dilemmas faced by Muslim merchants and scholars who navigated the risks of the spice routes’ moral, economic, and geographic hazards. Because the worlds of religious scholars and businessmen were interlinked in this period, their stories offer a rare archive that bridges the histories of religion and commercial life, illuminating how Muslim sensibilities of economic justice and oppression formed, fragmented, and evolved across vast distances. The book argues not only that growing demand for spices in the long 15th century increased patronage for Islamic scholarly knowledge, but also that the spice trade conditioned the lively debates among Muslims over price fixing, tariffs, taxes, market regulation, administrative corruption, worldly desire, and the value of spices themselves. In turn, the religious commitments that emerged from these debates normalized certain commercial practices to the exclusion of others, exerting a homogenizing force on trade that operated beyond the boundaries of any single empire, while also being open to change as Muslims ventured into new parts of the world. In doing so, the book will significantly expand our understanding of late medieval and early modern Islamic economic thought and offer a counter-history of a trading route largely remembered in the Western imagination as the spark for the European “Age of Discovery.” In this way, “Profit & Prophecy”

will help rewrite our narratives of the history of globalization and shed new light on how and why people have turned to religious traditions to make sense of their commercial worlds.

Recommended Reading

Blecher, Joel. *Said the Prophet of God: Hadith Commentary across a Millennium*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2018.

—. “Scholars, Spice Traders, and Sultans: Arguing over the Alms-Tax in the Mamluk Era.” *Islamic Law and Society* 27 (2020): 53–82.

Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani. *Merits of the Plague*. Edited and translated by Joel Blecher and Mairaj Syed. London: Penguin Classics, 2023.

OMRI BOEHM

from February to July 2024

Ph.D., Associate Professor of Philosophy

The New School for Social Research, New York

Born in 1979 in Haifa, Israel

Studied at the Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding

Students at Tel Aviv University and Philosophy at Yale University

A CRITIQUE OF POST-METAPHYSICAL THINKING

Perhaps the broadest consensus in current philosophical circles is that ethical and political thinking must be radically separated from religious and metaphysical considerations. This consensus, it is thought, is the inheritance, perhaps the radicalization, of Enlightenment philosophy: just as Spinoza separated the ethical and political from faith and religion (in the *Ethics* and the *Theological-Political Treatise*, respectively), we have separated them from metaphysical deliberations about the structure of reality. The post-metaphysical trend is clearest today in Kantian approaches to ethics and politics (cf. Rawls' "Political not Metaphysical," Habermas' "turning a deaf ear" to metaphysics, or O'Neil's "constructionism"), as well as in pragmatist positions (cf. Rorty's "The Priority of Democracy to Philosophy"). That post-colonialist and critical race theories question the very possibility of metaphysics goes without saying. My aim is to begin a comprehensive critique of this post-metaphysical consensus – systematically, historically, and politically. I propose to give a hearing to Kant's claim that critical non-dogmatic metaphysics (in fact, rational faith) can be taken seriously as a necessary condition of progressive – even revolutionary – Enlightenment philosophy. The project's historical core consists in confronting the prevalent trend (cf. Jonathan Israel's work) of regarding Kant's defense of metaphysics as a sign of "moderate" (not to say reactionary and racist) thinking. The project's systematic core consists in articulating the metaphysical conditions necessary for Kantian nor-

mative thinking – especially in the *Critique of Judgment* – as indispensable to the current – and urgent – political projects of the day.

Recommended Reading

Boehm, Omri. *Kant's Critique of Spinoza*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

—. *Haifa Republic: A Democratic Future for Israel*. New York: New York Review Books, 2021. German: *Israel – eine Utopie*. Berlin: Propyläen, 2020.

—. *Radikaler Universalismus: Jenseits von Identität*. Berlin: Propyläen, 2022.

RUTH CHANG

DPhil, Chair and Professor of Jurisprudence
University of Oxford

Born in 1963 in Minneapolis, Minn., USA

Studied Law at Harvard University and Philosophy at the University of Oxford

MAKING IT MATTER

Making It Matter proposes an alternative to dominant views of what it is to be a rational agent. Dominant views have in common the fundamental idea that rationality is a matter of recognizing reasons and values and then responding appropriately to them. In the mooted alternative, rationality centrally involves the normative power to create reasons and values through commitments that provide their grounds. Through commitments, we can quite literally – under suitable conditions – create reasons to do one thing rather than another, thereby making ourselves ultimately responsible for normative truths, such as “I have most reason to be a philosopher than a banker.” By making things matter, we write the story of our lives and create our distinctive rational identities. Setting out this view involves close examination of several major philosophical issues, such as the grounds of rational choice, the role of comparisons in practical justification, the structure of practical and theoretical normativity, different accounts of normative powers, the truth in existentialism and the truth in realism, and the determinants of agency. Instead of thinking that the world presents us with things that matter, we should allow that rational agency centrally involves making things matter.

Recommended Reading

Chang, Ruth (2016). “Hard Choices.” *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 3 (1): 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1017/apa.2017.7>.

—(2021). “What Is It to Be a Rational Agent?” In *The Routledge Handbook of Practical Reason*, edited by Ruth Chang and Kurt Sylvan, 95–110. London and New York: Routledge.

—(2023). “3 Dogmas of Normativity.” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 40 (2): 173–204. <https://doi.org/10.1111/japp.12626>.

LORRAINE DASTON

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg

Ph.D., Director emerita, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

Professor, Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago

Born in 1951 in East Lansing, Mich., USA

Studied History, Philosophy, Mathematics, and History of Science

at Harvard and at Cambridge

DISASTERS AND BLAME

The category of the *natural* disaster, for which neither God nor man is to blame, is a distinctive creation of the Enlightenment, and making sense of the suffering wrought by an earthquake, a volcano, a flood, or some other explosion of nature's raw power has been perhaps the central challenge to ethics ever since. The obverse of blameless evil – blameless natural disaster and blameless human victims – is meaninglessness: no one intended the evil done and no one deserved the evil suffered. It was all an accident. What, then, is the point? Is there a point? These questions tormented post-Enlightenment thinkers. When the Victorian poet Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote bitterly of nature as “A hollow form with empty hands” and refused to “Embrace her as my natural good,” he captured the horrified vision of nature as a theater of senseless violence. In stark contrast to the injunctions of Enlightenment natural theology, moral philosophy, and political theory from Alexander Pope to Jean-Jacques Rousseau to seek the good in nature, nineteenth-century thinkers shuddered in the face of nature's waste and devastation, all of it devoid of purpose.

My question is: what happens when we *lose* the Enlightenment category of natural disaster, and with it, the concept of blameless evil? As in the Enlightenment, great tectonic plates seem to be crashing up against one another in our heads. In the age of anthropogenic climate change and genetic engineering, the very idea of nature, autonomous and impervious to human will, seems to be dissolving. For good or for ill, the radius of human foresight and power – and

with it the radius of human responsibility – has at least in our imaginations lengthened to the point that we have reversed roles with nature: no longer almighty mother (or cruel stepmother) to us cowering children, nature is now imagined as our ward, fragile and in need of our protection.

Recommended Reading

Daston, Lorraine. *Against Nature*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2019.

DEBORA DINIZ

Dr., Professor of Law, Anthropologist
University of Brasília

Born in 1970 in Maceió-Alagoas, Brazil
Studied Anthropology and Gender Studies at the University of Brasília

AFTER THE END: LIVED EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN IN
THE AFTERMATH OF THE ZIKA AND COVID
EMERGENCIES IN BRAZIL

Brazil was the epicenter of two global health emergencies in the past decade, Zika and Covid. During both emergencies, women were the most-impacted people. For global and local health policies, an emergency has an ending, a moment when the state of alert is lifted. My project is to understand how the declaration of “the ending” of an emergency is understood and experienced by the affected population, particularly women and their families in Brazil. I will review my ethnographic data collected in the past decade to explore how “the ending” is shaped by different understandings of time, space, biographies, relations, and (inter)dependencies among affected women. During my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I want to dedicate time to reviewing the literature about how time is a lived and contextualized experience and to work on my empirical data with the aim of writing on the significance of time and the politics of survival in the aftermath of health emergencies.

Recommended Works and Reading

Diniz, Debora, dir. *Ziça*. 29:33 min. São Paulo: Itinerante Filmes, 2016. Vimeo video, posted by Itinerante Filmes, April 4, 2016. <https://vimeo.com/161463392>.

—. *Ziça: From the Brazilian Backlands to a Global Threat*. London: Zed Books, 2016.

Diniz, Debora, Luciana Brito, and Gabriela Rondon. “Maternal Mortality and the Lack of Women-Centered Care in Brazil during COVID-19: Preliminary Findings of a Qualitative Study.” *The Lancet Regional Health – Americas* 10 (2022): 100239. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lana.2022.100239>.

JEFFREY DÖRING

von Februar bis April 2024

Mortier Next Generation Fellow

Regisseur

Leipzig

Geboren 1991 in Greiz, Deutschland

Studium der Theaterwissenschaft, Philosophie und Deutschen Philologie an der Freien Universität Berlin und der Dramaturgie an der Akademie für Darstellende Kunst Baden-Württemberg

BLAUBARTS BURG – EIN LABOR FÜR DOKUMENTARISCH-IMMERSIVES MUSIKTHEATER

In „Blaubarts Burg“ spüre ich der Frage nach, inwiefern sich dokumentarische Theatermethoden (die sich auf Interviews und O-Töne stützen) in die Komposition eines bestehenden Musiktheaterwerkes integrieren lassen. Es geht hierbei darum, Arbeitsweisen der sog. Freien Theaterszene für die Oper als Kunstform zu erschließen und fruchtbar zu machen. Denn noch immer finden Operninterpretationen in Deutschland vorwiegend an institutionalisierten Häusern statt und verbleiben ästhetisch häufig in der Form einer „Guckkastenbühne“.

Exemplarisch wird dies anhand von Béla Bartóks Kammeroper *Herzog Blaubarts Burg* und Recherchen zum Thema Alterseinsamkeit praktisch erprobt. Dafür werde ich Interviews mit dem Personal von Pflegeeinrichtungen und der Geriatrie in Berlin, aber vor allem auch mit Seniorinnen und Senioren in Altersheimen und in ambulanter Pflege führen. Aus den digital aufgezeichneten Gesprächen sollen anonymisierte O-Töne entstehen, die das Thema Alterseinsamkeit aus verschiedenen Perspektiven beleuchten.

An diese alleinige Recherchephase schließt sich ein künstlerischer Gruppenprozess an. Dafür werde ich gemeinsam mit einem Arrangeur, einer Person für Sound- und Videokunst als auch einer Szenografin aus dem Ausgangsmaterial aus Interviews und der Oper eine szenisch-musikalische Skizze entwickeln. Das

Ziel besteht darin, sowohl die O-Töne dramaturgisch in die Opernpartitur zu integrieren als auch einen installativ begehbaren Raum zu gestalten, der den Arbeitsstand präsentiert. Die dreimonatige Residenz schließt mit einer öffentlichen Präsentation dieser Operninstallation für einen Sopran und einen Bariton ab. Die Gäste werden dazu eingeladen, gemeinsam mit den Projektbeteiligten sich über den gezeigten Arbeitsstand auszutauschen. Daraus sollen sich Ideen und Methoden für eine spätere Fortführung der Projektarbeit ergeben.

Lektüreempfehlung

Goldstaub Collective. „Traces of a Water Spirit: A Rehearsal Journal.“ *Schlosspost*, 12. November 2017 bis 18. Juli 2018.

<https://schloss-post.com/category/traces-of-a-water-spirit/>.

Döring, Jeffrey. „The Dramaturg Has to Be Seen and Heard: Carmen Kovacs and Jeffrey Döring.“ Von Carmen Kovacs. *The Theatre Times*, 5. Juni 2018.

<https://thetheatretimes.com/dramaturg-seen-heard-carmen-kovacs-jeffrey-doring/>.

—. „Rechte sind keine Privilegien – Warum wir Hörenden unser Verständnis von Teilhabe und Inklusion in der Kulturarbeit dringend überdenken müssen.“ *Zeitschrift für Sozialmanagement* 20, Nr. 2 (2022): 95–106.

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 Technical University of Munich, the
University of South Alabama, and the University of Basel

EVOLUTION'S UNSUNG HERO: DIFFUSE 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. Here I will focus on the concepts that underlie diffuse coevolution of hosts and parasites. Coevolution is typically defined as reciprocal selection between two closely interacting species. This definition focuses on the phenotypic traits of the coevolving antagonists that negatively influence each other. However, in many cases, it is not one pair of a host and a parasite species that interact and coevolve, but multiple host species and/or multiple parasite species. This was first recognized for flowering plants and their pollinators, where several pollinators (e.g. bees, flies) may interact with several plant species. Coevolution is no longer specific, but diffuse. The same has been observed for hosts and their parasites and may well be the dominant form of coevolution. But it has received hardly any attention from evolutionary biologists.

Population genetic models have greatly helped to elucidate the mechanisms of specific coevolution, but they fail to explain the processes underlying diffuse coevolution. In my project, I want to conceptualize the phenomenon of diffuse coevolution, focussing on hosts and their parasites. In particular, I want to work out:

- Where is the boundary between the parameter space of models for specific and diffuse coevolution?

- Which evolutionary framework is best suited to understand the processes at work during diffuse coevolution?
- And what predictions can be derived from the model of diffuse coevolution?

With my project, I hope to gain a better understanding of how coevolution works and which models can explain genetic- and species-diversity best. I want to explore whether there are general rules determining the underlying processes. Answering these questions would be a major step forward in understanding biodiversity.

Recommended Reading

Ebert, Dieter (2008). “Host-Parasite Coevolution: Insights from the *Daphnia*-Parasite Model System.” *Current Opinion in Microbiology* 11 (3): 290–301. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mib.2008.05.012>.

— (2018). “Open Questions: What Are the Genes Underlying Antagonistic Coevolution?” *BMC Biology* 16: 114. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12915-018-0583-7>.

Ebert, Dieter, and Peter D. Fields (2020). “Host-Parasite Coevolution and Its Genomic Signature.” *Nature Reviews Genetics* 21: 754–768. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41576-020-0269-1>.

ISMAILA EMAHI

from September to December 2023

Iso Lomso Fellow

PhD, Senior Lecturer in Chemistry

University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani

Born in 1981 in Kumasi, Ghana

Studied Chemistry at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and at Saint Louis University and Water and Environmental Management at the University of Gloucestershire

PROGRESS TOWARD THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTIFICIAL TONGUES FOR SMART DETECTION AND REMOVAL OF TOXIC METALS FROM WATER

The pollution of waterbodies with chemicals remains a global threat, but the pollution of waterbodies with heavy metals is much more alarming. This is because of the transversal nature of heavy metal pollution. Once present, heavy metals can easily make their way into soils, aquatic organisms, and eventually the food chain. Additionally, heavy metals cannot be removed once ingested or taken up and can bioaccumulate in organisms, causing devastating health implications even when present at very low concentrations. Amongst the known heavy metals that can pollute waterbodies, the most toxic are mercury, lead, cadmium, and arsenic. To ensure public health safety, it is important that vulnerable waterbodies are constantly monitored for “high” levels of these toxic metals and that efforts are made to remove them. Although technologies exist for both monitoring and removing these toxic metals, they require expensive equipment, infrastructure, and training of personnel and often involve laborious procedures. Handy and sensitive but relatively cheaper alternatives that can be used at the point of sampling are crucial to ensure safe water for all.

My research goal is to investigate and develop inexpensive, environmentally friendly electrochemical sensors for detecting, quantifying, and removing toxic

metals in water. Sensors can be modified to not only detect, but also remove targeted contaminants. So, the focus of my research is to develop artificial or electronic “tongues” (to detect and remove) rather than “noses” (to merely detect). This will be achieved using DNA aptamers, which are single-stranded nucleic acids that can bind to targets with affinity and specificity. The use of the DNA aptamers as recognition elements will ensure that only the specific targeted metals will be removed, so that other beneficial metal ions like calcium and magnesium remain intact.

I will use my residency at the Wissenschaftskolleg to continue to develop my research ideas, analyse some data I have already generated for the project, and prepare manuscripts for publication.

Recommended Reading

Emahi, Ismaila, Paige R. Gruenke, and Dana A. Baum (2015). “Effect of Aptamer Binding on the Electron-Transfer Properties of Redox Cofactors.” *Journal of Molecular Evolution* 81: 186–193. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00239-015-9707-7>.

Emahi, Ismaila, Michael P. Mitchell, and Dana A. Baum (2017). “Electrochemistry of Pyrroloquinoline Quinone (PQQ) on Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotube-Modified Glassy Carbon Electrodes in Biological Buffers.” *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* 164: H3097–H3102. <https://doi.org/10.1149/2.0151703jes>.

Emahi, Ismaila, Patrick O. Sakyi, Pennante Bruce-Vanderpuije, and Abdul Rasheed Issifu (2019). “Effectiveness of Raw versus Activated Coconut Shells for Removing Arsenic and Mercury from Water.” *Environment and Natural Resources Research* 9 (3): 127–134. <https://doi.org/10.5539/enrr.v9n3p127>.

BARBARA ENGELKING

from September to December 2023

Dr. Dr. h.c. Dr. h.c., Professor of Social Sciences

Polish Center for Holocaust Research, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at
the Polish Academy of Sciences

Born in 1962 in Warsaw

Studied Psychology at the University of Warsaw

HIDING JEWS IN WARSAW 1939–1946

I am working on a book about Jews in hiding in Warsaw under German occupation in 1939–1945. Some did not obey the ordinances from the beginning of the occupation – they did not put on armbands, did not go to the ghetto. Others escaped from the ghetto at various stages of its existence (before the deportation, after it, even during the Warsaw ghetto uprising), many came to Warsaw from other cities, hoping to remain anonymous more easily in a large city. All were threatened with death at any time, as well as denunciations and blackmail. Almost every Jew in hiding came into contact with Polish blackmailers – people who, under the threat of handing them over to the Germans, robbed them, often depriving them of their livelihood.

My goal is to present the dangers and the many complex problems faced by those in hiding (including housing, false documents, livelihoods, security measures) and those who wanted to help them. I want to move away from the stereotype of the passivity of Jews and the crucial role of Poles for their survival. I intend to show how much determination and courage Jews showed when hiding on the Aryan side, how they were independent and helped each other. I want to describe the individual and organized aid and – above all – self-help networks that involved many Jews in hiding.

Recommended Reading

Engelking, Barbara, and Jacek Leociak. *Getto warszawskie. Przewodnik po nieistniejącym mieście*. Warsaw: IFiS PAN, 2001. English: *The Warsaw Ghetto: A Guide to the Perished City*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2009.

Engelking, Barbara. *Such a Beautiful Sunny Day... Jews Seeking Refuge in the Polish Countryside, 1942–1945*. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem Publications, 2016.

Grabowski, Jan, and Barbara Engelking, eds. *Night without End: The Fate of Jews in German-Occupied Poland*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2022.

KIT FINE

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New York University

Born in 1946 in Farnborough, United Kingdom
Studied Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at Balliol College, Oxford

A NUMERICAL MODEL FOR PARITY AND IMPRECISION

Building on the work of Ruth Chang, I develop a numerical model for parity and imprecision in value and in belief. The basic idea is to replace the notion of an approximate value or an approximate difference in credence with the notion of an approximate difference in values and an approximate ratio of credences. Thus we can no longer properly speak of the value (even the approximate value) of an item or the credence (even the approximate credence) of a proposition, but should speak instead of the approximate difference in values or the approximate ratio of credences. This simple move turns out to be an extremely powerful device that allows us to go far beyond what is representable by means of approximate values or approximate credences. We also jettison the idea of representing parity or imprecision by a set of precise values or a set of precise credences. Sometimes there exists no underlying set of precise values or precise credences; but, even when they do exist, they do not constitute a useful tool for computing how parities or imprecisions should be resolved. The framework should admit of a wide range of applications, and among the applications we wish to consider is one to decision-making in AI, wherein the notion of an approximate difference or ratio can provide a useful tool for the machine to communicate with the user on how hard cases are to be resolved.

Recommended Reading

Fine, Kit. *Modality and Tense: Philosophical Papers*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2005.

—. *Semantic Relationism*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007.

—. *Vagueness: A Global Approach*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

ANDREAS FOLLESDAL
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University of Oslo

Born in 1957 in Boston, Mass., USA
Studied Philosophy, Sociology, and Psychology at the Universities of Oslo and
Uppsala and Philosophy at Harvard University

THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS ANTIDOTE TO AUTHORITARIAN POPULISM

The European Convention on Human Rights and its Court were set up after World War Two to help states uphold democracy and the rule of law against backsliding. How can the Court perform these tasks in the face of two apparently conflicting challenges?

The Court is now required to serve a subsidiary, deferential role granting states a discretionary “margin of appreciation.” The Court also faces a rise of authoritarian populist movements and governments that are reluctant to delegate authority, in particular to elitist international human rights courts staffed with foreigners, who constrain democratic majorities in favor of minorities that threaten their traditions and values – such as criminals, refugees, and religious, ethnic, sexual, or other minorities.

The project reviews and builds on recent contributions in political science, law, and political theory to provide 1) a more careful analysis of the sorts of reactions and pushback the Court faces; 2) a working definition of authoritarian populism; 3) the peculiar design challenges for an independent yet accountable ECtHR; 4) critical and constructive engagement with authoritarian populism to identify aspects that merit respect and accommodation; and 5) some strategies available to the ECtHR to render it more resilient and helpful against authoritarian populism – without treaty change.

– Since the application was written, there have been several insightful contributions to these topics, and the project may change due to them.

Recommended Reading

Follesdal, Andreas (1998). "Survey Article: Subsidiarity." *Journal of Political Philosophy* 6 (2): 190–218. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9760.00052>.

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GIOVANNI GALIZIA

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Born in 1963 in Rome

Studied Biology at the Freie Universität Berlin and Zoology at the
University of Cambridge

OLFACTORY CODING IN THE BRAIN

Olfaction is far from understood – not in humans, and not in any animal species. The structure of neural networks is quite similar across many species in the animal kingdom, but when comparing honeybees and humans, the significance of odorants is very specific to each: a positive odor for us (e.g. the smell of a banana) may mean something different to a bee (in this case: alarm, and sting the intruder!). From a neurobiological point of view, a major question is: how does the coding of odors with an innate meaning differ – if at all – from the coding of odors that appear not to have had any role in the evolution of a species?

I will analyze this question using insects, in particular honeybees and fruit flies. It will be necessary to understand how single olfactory receptors respond to a large panel of chemicals – i.e., to understand their molecular response range, or, in other words, to understand which odorants they are tuned to. From there, we need to follow the neuronal circuits into the brain, and we need to create computer models of brain circuitry.

Understanding how neural networks in the brain attribute information to a sensory stimulus will help us understand how our brain creates a representation of the world, a prerequisite for higher order brain functions such as intelligence, sentience, and consciousness – though the latter will be a big leap.

Recommended Reading

Galizia, C. Giovanni, and Wolfgang Rössler (2010). “Parallel Olfactory Systems in Insects: Anatomy and Function.” *Annual Review of Entomology* 55: 399–420. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-ento-112408-085442>.

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ALISA GANIEVA

Writer

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PHANTASMAL REPUBLIC, A NOVEL

Some social movements arise casually and inadvertently, sprouting up from a joke, a slip of a tongue, a momentary sentiment that suddenly acquires life and energy of their own. While toying with reminiscences of The Mountainous Republic, a partially recognized state that blinked on the territory of the North Caucasus just for a few years during the Russian civil war of 1917–1922, a group of friends couldn't expect that their light talks would crawl from under their control to extend and grow into a real power carrying along characters of different social strata, genders, ethnicities, and worldviews.

Narrated from the perspective of a middle-aged divorced woman, a teacher of Dagestani literature struggling with the patriarchal pressure of her own family, a story of ideas that escape their creators and start a journey of their own, intermingles with a myriad of other stories about battles of individuals and a state, a person and a society, experiments and traditions, law and enterprise.

The Mountainous Republic was a concept of a secular union of numerous Caucasian peoples that for a brief moment won its way in the historical clash of different visions of the region's future after the Bolshevik coup. A contest among the Sharia Islamic groups, reactionary imperialistic groups, and leftist and Bolshevik groups that took place right after the dismantling of the Russian Empire, a tangle of Turkish, German, and British influences – all that suddenly reemerges in the present revealing the relevancy of almost the same choice for today.

Recommended Reading

- Ganieva, Alisa. *Prazdničnaja gora*. Moscow: AST, 2012. English: *The Mountain and the Wall*. Dallas, TX: Deep Vellum, 2015. German: *Die russische Mauer*. Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2014.
- . *Ženich i nevesta*. Moscow: AST, 2015. English: *Bride and Groom*. Dallas, TX: Deep Vellum, 2018. German: *Eine Liebe im Kaukasus*. Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2016.
- . *Oskorblennye čustva*. Moscow: AST, 2018. English: *Offended Sensibilities*. Dallas, TX: Deep Vellum, 2022. German: *Verletzte Gefühle*. Klagenfurt: Wieser, 2021.

LUCA GIULIANI

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Rector of the Wissenschaftskolleg (2007–2018)
Dr. phil., Prof. emer. for Classical Archaeology
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Born in 1950 in Florence, Italy
Studied Classical Archaeology, Ethnology, and Italian Literature at
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(LMU Munich)

1. THE PROBLEM OF ROMAN COPIES:

A TRANSATLANTIC DISSENT

2. SOCRATES' UGLINESS:

A SEMANTIC INTERPRETATION

Ad 1. The problem of Roman copies has become a topic over the past 30 years or so. Until then, there used to be a consensus in the discipline that ancient Roman sculptors had frequently copied Greek masterpieces from the 5th and 4th century BCE. This assumption has come under heavy criticism, first in the US, then in Anglo-American academia as a whole. The existence of Roman copies, so the revisionists' claim, is to be considered a myth, as the result of a (German) philhellenic bias that has completely neglected the originality of Roman artists. From very early on, the two camps (one asserting, the other negating the existence of copies) stopped communicating with each other; this has favoured the emergence of sectarian certitudes – which does not seem to be a satisfactory state of affairs.

Ad 2. Sometime after Socrates' death, but before his official rehabilitation in Athens, some friends and disciples of Socrates decided to erect a portrait statue of their beloved teacher. This portrait, of which we have copies, depicted the

philosopher looking like a satyr. Why did his pupils take such a provocative decision? The standard answer to this question is: because Socrates actually happened to look like a satyr. We (Maria Luisa Catoni, a former Fellow, and I: this is a project we are pursuing in cooperation) don't find this answer convincing and would like to propose an alternative explanation. The result should be a short monograph to be published with Oxford University Press.

Recommended Reading

Catoni, Maria Luisa, and Luca Giuliani. "Socrates Represented: Why Does He Look Like a Satyr?" *Critical Inquiry* 45 (Spring 2019): 681–713.
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Gazda, Elaine, ed. *The Ancient Art of Emulation: Studies in Artistic Originality and Tradition from the Present to Classical Antiquity*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2002.

DIETER GRIMM

Permanent Fellow des Wissenschaftskollegs

Rektor des Wissenschaftskollegs (2001–2007)

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Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

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Studium der Rechtswissenschaft und Politikwissenschaft in Frankfurt/Main,

Freiburg/Breisgau, Berlin, Paris und Harvard

DEUTSCHE VERFASSUNGSGESCHICHTE, BAND II

(KAISERREICH UND WEIMARER REPUBLIK)

Vor meiner Wahl zum Bundesverfassungsrichter (1987) arbeitete ich an einer deutschen Verfassungsgeschichte. Der erste Band, der die Zeit vom Beginn des modernen Konstitutionalismus (1776) bis zur Auflösung des Deutschen Bundes (1866) behandelt, erschien 1988 bei Suhrkamp (5. Aufl. 2017). Ich möchte versuchen, das Werk abzuschließen, und habe deswegen die Arbeit an dem folgenden Band (Kaiserreich und Weimarer Republik) wieder aufgenommen. Ob es auch noch um eine Verfassungsgeschichte der Bundesrepublik ergänzt wird, muss vorerst offenbleiben.

Lektüreempfehlung

Grimm, Dieter. *Die Historiker und die Verfassung: Ein Beitrag zur Wirkungsgeschichte des Grundgesetzes*. München: C.H.Beck, 2022.

ANDREW HUI

PhD, Associate Professor of Humanities
Yale-NUS College, Singapore

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Studied Liberal Arts and Comparative Literature at St. John's College, Annapolis, Yale Divinity School, the Scuola Normale Superiore, and Princeton University

CONFUCIUS THE STOIC: THE ENCOUNTER BETWEEN CHINESE AND WESTERN PHILOSOPHY IN THE GLOBAL RENAISSANCE

In a 1595 letter, the Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci wrote that in their teachings and morals, the works of ancient Chinese philosophers were like “another Seneca.” My project, “Confucius the Stoic,” is about the encounter between two cultures – Europe and China – and how this encounter was made possible by a small group of highly erudite religious men. It occurred at the pivotal moment when Renaissance humanism was giving way to the early modern age of science. The Jesuits – a new Catholic order founded to combat the Reformation within Europe and to evangelize the world – constructed the idea of a global humanism, and this construction was made possible, I argue, through the retrieval of the texts of antiquity, both Western and Eastern.

I will investigate how Christian missionaries retrieved the texts of Western classical antiquity to explain Confucianism to Europe and conversely retrieved the texts of Confucianism to explain Christianity to China. In seeking to find equivalences between Greco-Roman and Chinese antiquities, the Jesuits translated Euclid, Epictetus, and Aristotle into classical Chinese and brought astronomical and cartographic knowledge into the imperial court. In turn, in their field reports and rendering of the Confucian Four Books into Latin, the missionaries saw the Chinese sharing the same idea of the “natural light of reason” as the ancient Stoics. Eventually, the work of the Jesuits fueled the imagination

of European thinkers such as John Webb, Athanasius Kircher, and Leibniz. Thus, this episode in cultural encounters prompts us to re-examine the construction of “East” versus “West” in the formative age of global modernity.

Recommended Reading

Hui, Andrew. *The Poetics of Ruins in Renaissance Literature*. New York: Fordham University Press, 2016.

—. *A Theory of the Aphorism from Confucius to Twitter*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019.

—. “Dreams of the Universal Library.” *Critical Inquiry* 48, no. 3 (2022): 522–548.

HAROLD JAMES

PhD, Dr. h.c., Professor of History and International Affairs
Princeton University

Born in 1956 in Bedford, United Kingdom
Studied History at Cambridge University

THE HISTORY OF MODERN FINANCE

Finance plays a key role in the story of the history of capitalism because financial institutions involve a degree of organization that serves to camouflage or obscure the market process. The extent of financialization can be measured; but often the growth in the scale of financial institutions means a camouflaging or even suppression of basic market signals. Banks, which are at the center of finance capitalism, have consequently puzzled many observers. They are conceptually a black box, in which the outsider – the depositor – does not really know much about how his money is being used; consequently, banks are subject to panics and runs as some depositors change their opinion and come to believe that their funds may not be safe and as other depositors realize that the fact of a run means that not all liabilities can be paid and that it is advantageous to be first in line to make a withdrawal. Modern banks have increased their complexity and hence their intransparency. In the recent financial crisis, observers were astonished to find that in a panic, price signals no longer operated to clear markets and that it was impossible to determine the worth of complex derivative products. This study will emphasize the way capitalism – especially financial capitalism – depends on often intransparent clusters and networks. These develop in particular locations – capitalist hubs – but depend on technologies that extend their influence widely, even globally. The study showcases particular examples of key figures in social and financial networks, emphasizing linkages between finance and other activities, including artistic patronage and politics. How do the practitioners of an activity that depends on undisclosed and non-public information convince others of their competence and probity:

through political activity, artistic or religious practice, or even skill at nonfinancial strategic games, from chess to bridge to Tai Chi?

Recommended Reading

James, Harold. *The German Slump: Politics and Economics 1924–1936*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986.

—. *The End of Globalization: Lessons from the Great Depression*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.

—. *Seven Crashes: The Economic Crises That Shaped Globalization*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2023.

NILS JANSEN

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europäisches Privatrecht
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster

Geboren 1967 in Hannover, Deutschland

Studium der Rechtswissenschaft, Philosophie und Politik an den Universitäten
Passau und Kiel

EUROPÄISCHE RECHTSGESCHICHTEN

Das Recht bildet einen wesentlichen Baustein der modernen Identität Europas. Die institutionellen Ordnungen nahezu aller staatlichen und nichtstaatlichen Gesellschaften Europas sind rechtlich verfasst; die Suprematie des Rechts, der Rechtsstaat und die Menschenrechte bilden einen unangefochtenen Kern europäischer Wertüberzeugungen. In meinem Projekt möchte ich die Grundlagen legen für ein Buch, das man früher eine europäische Rechtsgeschichte genannt hätte, weil es der Geschichte dieses Sets von Überzeugungen und institutionellen Arrangements nachgeht. Dabei ist das Projekt von den zwei Annahmen getragen, dass diese Geschichte sich nicht in einer „großen Erzählung“ rationalisieren lässt, sondern als komplexes Geflecht verbundener Einzelgeschichten rekonstruiert werden muss, und dass die Hauptakteure dieser Geschichten Juristen waren: Anwälte, Ministerialbeamte, Professoren und Richter. Das europäische Recht hat viele Eltern: nicht nur die Gelehrten Bolognas und die Richter Henrys II. in London, sondern auch Kanzleijuristen an der römischen Kurie und am Hof Friedrich II., die Gesetze zu einem Mittel politischer Herrschaft machten, oder französische Theologen wie Petrus Abaelard und Thierry von Chartres, die mit der Unterscheidung von *ius positivum* und *ius naturale* die Grundlagen für Diskurse legten, die in die Beichtstühle der Gegenreformation, aber auch zu den Verfassungsurkunden der Aufklärung und zur Trennung von Recht und Moral führen sollten. Naturgemäß kam es hier zu Konkurrenz und Streit. Wenn mein Projekt eine professionsgeschichtliche Perspektive

wählt, soll es, anders als frühere dogmen-, ideen- oder wissenschaftsgeschichtliche Ansätze, nicht zuletzt auch sichtbar machen, wie weit die Rationalität des Rechts ein Resultat hoch konfliktiver, kontingenter Prozesse bildet.

Lektüreempfehlung

Jansen, Nils. *Die Struktur des Haftungsrechts: Geschichte, Theorie und Dogmatik außervertraglicher Ansprüche auf Schadensersatz*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003.

—. *The Making of Legal Authority: Non-legislative Codifications in Historical and Comparative Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

—. *Recht und gesellschaftliche Differenzierung: Fünf Studien zur Genese des Rechts und seiner Wissenschaft*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2019.

MARTHA S. JONES

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History and of the SNF Agora Institute
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

Born in 1958 in New York City, N.Y., USA

Studied Psychology at Hunter College, Law at CUNY School of Law, and
History at Columbia University

HARD HISTORIES

Hard Histories examines the role of historical thinking in processes of reckoning with the difficult, unwelcome, and even unspeakable past. They shatter old myths and open up new ways forward. “Hard” points to how difficult it is to dislodge a mythical past, while also pointing to how new historical truths threaten to humble, destabilize, and transform us. Hard histories is also a practice that reckons with the difficulties of reinterpreting the historical archival record while also changing it.

Historians often speak to other historians – a debate we term historiography – while hard histories speak to those outside the academy. Hard histories challenge popular narratives while also valuing transparency, collaboration, an ethics of care, and public-facing knowledge production that builds bridges, relationships, and new modes of storytelling.

Hard histories invite a look inward at what happens when historians counter mythical tellings of the past. Lessons surface. Denial is a force distinct from the archival record. Subterfuge distorts understanding. Values – tradition, reputation, and excellence – keep myths afloat. Hollow gestures paper over vestiges of a troubled past. Academic explanations of the past run counter to those of families, communities, and critics who stand in defense of the myths we aim to dispel.

Hard histories in the U.S. have been especially brought to bear on the past of slavery, settler colonialism, and racism, shattering myths and replacing them

with new histories. Still, we must ask where hard histories end and new futures begin. We must ask, “Who owns history?” I am a historian unearthing how slavery and racism are embedded in the present and also a descendant of women enslaved in 19th-century America. Hard histories expose not only how the histories we tell have changed. It reveals how who tells those histories has changed, too.

Recommended Reading

Jones, Martha S. *All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African American Public Culture, 1830–1900*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007.

—. *Birthright Citizens: A History of Race and Rights in Antebellum America*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

—. *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All*. New York: Basic Books, 2020.

NIKO KOLODNY

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University of California, Berkeley

Born in 1972 in New York City, N.Y., USA

Studied Philosophy at Williams College, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at the University of Oxford, and Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley

PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF PRIVACY FOR A DIGITAL AGE

The ever-present surveillance of our lives, insofar as our lives are linked to the Internet or the “internet of things,” has left our understanding of the morality of privacy in disarray. My aim in this project is thus to develop a framework for characterizing the morality of privacy that can guide our thinking about the nature and limits of privacy in a world in which relations between individuals are mediated and monitored by digital technologies.

The first step in understanding the morality of privacy is understanding your underlying interests in privacy, interests that might ground your right to privacy. The interests are various. In some cases, the interests are straightforward. My learning something about you, such as that you committed a crime as an adolescent, can affect how I view you and interact with you as a person. In other cases, the interests are more mysterious. What interest of yours is compromised by my spying on you naked, if you never find out about it, and so do not experience feelings of shame or embarrassment?

The second step in understanding the morality of privacy is understanding the objections to privacy – the countervailing interests that I and others have that might prevent your interests in privacy from grounding a right to privacy. These objections are likewise various. For instance, I might have objections to being kept from learning that you are not trustworthy. And I might have objections to more pedestrian burdens that I must bear to avoid learning about you.

Even if I have no interest in your conversation, I may have an interest in not having to move away so as to avoid overhearing what you say.

The resulting framework of the morality of privacy is highly pluralistic. There is a diversity of reasons to care about and to oppose privacy. An adequate view of the morality of privacy – and so a view that can guide our thinking about the right to privacy and its limits in the digital age – consists in appreciating and articulating the distinctions, instead of attempting to impose a superficial uniformity on them, as prominent existing accounts of the right to privacy tend to do.

Recommended Reading

Kolodny, Niko. “Love as Valuing a Relationship.” *Philosophical Review* 112, no. 2 (2003): 135–189.

—. “Why Be Rational?” *Mind* 114, no. 455 (2005): 509–563.

—. *The Pecking Order: Social Hierarchy as a Philosophical Problem*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2023.

MICHAL KRAVEL-TOVI

Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology

Tel Aviv University

Born in 1973 in Be'er-Sheva, Israel

Studied Anthropology, Sociology, and Psychology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

ACCOUNTING OF THE SOUL: THE SOCIAL LIFE OF AN AMERICAN-JEWISH “CONTINUITY CRISIS”

Over the last three decades, American Jewry, a small but highly established ethno-religious minority group, has been flooded by concerns about numerical decline, commonly tagged as the “Jewish continuity crisis.” Deeply invested in socio-demographic forms of knowledge, Jewish leaders and organizations have construed certain trends as approaching a critical threshold, framing them as both markers and catalysts of assimilation and assigning them an existential weight. Based on a long-term anthropological and socio-historic study, I ask how and why American Jewry perceives and manages itself as a community facing a “continuity crisis.” What are the scientific and discursive practices that shape this understanding? How do these practices steer certain population visions and policy interventions? And what can these communal dynamics teach us about the sensibilities, as well as strengths, of American Jewry as a minority, post-Holocaust, and diasporic Jewish community? By looking into the production and circulation of population statistics on various American-Jewish sites, I shed light on the constitutive role of social-scientific knowledge in the making of American Jewish imageries and policies of crisis. This inquiry implicates broader theoretical concerns, particularly the public life of demography as a generative social knowledge; the multivalent cultural value of quantification; and the governmental, survivalist strategies of minority groups as voluntary communal polities.

Recommended Reading

Kravel-Tovi, Michal, and Bilu Yoram (2008). “The Work of the Present: Constructing Messianic Temporality in the Wake of Failed Prophecy among Chabad Hasidim.” *American Ethnologist* 35 (1): 64–80.

Kravel-Tovi, Michal (2017). *When the State Winks: The Performance of Jewish Conversion in Israel*. New York: Columbia University Press. Paperback 2021.

— (2020). “The Specter of Dwindling Numbers: Population Quantity and Jewish Biopolitics in the United States.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 62 (1): 35–67.

ANDRÉ KRISCHER

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Studium der Geschichte, Philosophie, Anglistik und Geographie in Köln, Bonn und Münster

NACH DEM KRIEG. DEUTSCHLAND IN DER WELT DER 1650ER-JAHRE

Das Buch erzählt die Geschichte der ersten deutschen Nachkriegszeit und füllt damit zugleich eine historiografische Leerstelle: Die Dekade nach dem Westfälischen Frieden von 1648 und vor dem 1661 beginnenden Zeitalter Ludwigs XIV. wurde bislang kaum eigens untersucht und dargestellt. Sie war eine Zeit des Übergangs, aber mit eigenem Profil: eine Zeit, die noch weitreichend von den verheerenden und deprimierenden Folgen des Dreißigjährigen Kriegs geprägt wurde, aber die von den Zeitgenossen auch als Zeit der Möglichkeiten und der politischen Experimente gesehen wurde.

Das Buch erschließt diese Sichtweisen anhand von Selbstzeugnissen wie Tagebüchern, Chroniken und Briefen, aber auch von Bittschriften oder Verhörprotokollen. Selbstzeugnisse erlauben es, Lebenswelten und Alltag dicht zu beschreiben und damit lebendig und anschaulich werden zu lassen. Da sie aber nur in überschaubarer Zahl vorliegen, eröffnen und begrenzen die Selbstzeugnisse mögliche Perspektiven gleichermaßen. Sie setzen durch das, was ihre Verfasserinnen und Verfasser bewegte und beschäftigte, selbst die Themenschwerpunkte.

Das Buch bietet keine Gesamtdarstellung der Dekade, eröffnet dafür aber aufschlussreiche und zugleich paradigmatische Perspektiven. Fürstendiener, Äbte, Nonnen, Pfarrer und Bürgermeister kommen ebenso zu Wort wie Bauern, Handwerker, Juden und städtische Unterschichten. Sie berichten über All-

tag und Mentalitäten, Ängste, Sorgen und Hoffnungen, über Politik, Recht und Kriminalität, Kunst, Gelehrsamkeit, Dichtung und Musik. So werden die Selbstzeugnisse zu Zeitzeugnissen. Es handelt sich dabei zwar stets um deutsche oder deutschsprachige Perspektiven, dabei aber auch um solche, die über Deutschland hinausreichen und europäische oder sogar globale Verbindungen sichtbar machen.

Lektüreempfehlung

Krischer, André. *Die Macht des Verfahrens: Englische Hochverratsprozesse 1554–1848*. Münster: Aschendorff, 2017.

—, Hg. *Verräter: Geschichte eines Deutungsmusters*. Köln: Böhlau, 2019.

Krischer, André und Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, Hg. *Tyrannen: Eine Geschichte von Caligula bis Putin*. München: C.H.Beck, 2022.

WOLF LEPENIES

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Rektor des Wissenschaftskollegs (1986–2001)
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Studium der Soziologie, Philosophie und Publizistik
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1. DAS DEUTSCH-FRANZÖSISCHE VERHÄLTNIS IM PROZESS DER EUROPÄISCHEN INTEGRATION

2. EMMANUEL MACRON – DER UNVOLLENDETE GAULLIST

Ad 1. Das Barcelona Center for Foreign Affairs (CIDOB) hat europäische Politiker und Wissenschaftler eingeladen, an einem Projekt mitzuwirken, das die Rolle Deutschlands im Prozess der europäischen Integration untersuchen soll: *Pax Germanica? The Rise and Limits of German Hegemony in European Integration*. An diesem Projekt beteilige ich mich mit einem Essay, dessen Redaktion fast abgeschlossen ist: *Germany and France – The Elusiveness of a Joint Hegemony*. Darin beschreibe ich, wie im Prozess der europäischen Einigung Frankreich und Deutschland miteinander ein hegemoniales Duo bildeten, das die Entwicklung Europas entscheidend beeinflusste. Die hegemoniale Balance zwischen beiden Ländern ging verloren, als Deutschland nach der Wiedervereinigung und nach der Osterweiterung der EU sowohl die ökonomische als auch die politische Führungsrolle innerhalb der EU übernahm. In der Präsidentschaft Nicolas Sarkozys reagierte Frankreich darauf mit der Wiederbelebung eines alten Plans, in Europa gegen deutsches Dominanzstreben eine Allianz der „lateinischen Nationen“ zu bilden. Durch deutsches Veto zunächst verhindert, hat Emmanuel Macron diesen Plan wieder aufgenommen und der französischen

Diplomatie die Anweisung gegeben, in Europa den Südkontakten Frankreichs Priorität einzuräumen. Es bleibt abzuwarten, wie sich als Folge des Überfalls von Wladimir Putin auf die Ukraine das staatliche Beziehungsgeflecht innerhalb Europas verändert und welche Auswirkungen es auf die deutsch-französischen Beziehungen haben wird.

Ad 2. Als Reaktion auf die gegenwärtigen Turbulenzen der französischen Politik plane ich einen Essay, der die Politik Emmanuel Macrons vor dem Hintergrund des politischen Erbes Charles de Gaulles analysiert. De Gaulle schuf mit der Verfassung der V. Republik eine „Präsidentenmonarchie“. Macron verkörpert das monarchische Element des Gaullismus wie kein anderer Präsident vor ihm – aber er missachtet, dass sich nach dem Willen de Gaulles die Legitimation präsidentieller Macht nicht zuletzt der durch die Verfassung gewährten Möglichkeit verdankt, über politische Maßnahmen des Präsidenten eine Volksabstimmung herbeizuführen. Diese Missachtung ist eine Ursache der gegenwärtigen politischen Krise in Frankreich und wird zu einer Destabilisierung der V. Republik führen.

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HOW MEMORY CIRCUITS IN THE BRAIN USE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PAST TO INFORM FUTURE CHOICES

Learning and memory are core cognitive functions that are supported by complex neural circuits in the brain. The key region for the formation of new autobiographical memories is the hippocampus. Within the hippocampus, the dentate gyrus (DG) is a highly specialized brain region with unique properties. First, the DG has particularly expanded in the mammalian lineage and is the subregion with the highest number of neurons. Second, neurons in the DG continue to be born in the adult brain, which is unique among brain regions and is thought to convey a heightened level of plasticity. Third, neurons in the DG have large specialized synapses, such that activity in target neurons can be elicited by one or just a few inputs. While the many specializations point to the hippocampal DG network as a key region for memory-related computations, the function of the DG remains understudied and poorly understood compared with other modules in memory networks. Understanding DG network computations is essential for therapeutic intervention in disease, as cellular changes in the DG are among the first to be identified in aging, depression, and epilepsy. My previous work has shown that neuronal activity patterns in the DG have a pivotal role in pattern separation. Pattern separation is an essential neural computation that allows for similar memories to be stored in distinct subpopulations

of neurons, such that memories do not interfere with each other. More recently, I have discovered that neuronal activity in the DG not only distinguishes among similar patterns, but may also contribute to the planning of future actions. However, it remains unknown how the computations in the DG are integrated into a broader network that processes the outcome of past actions to inform future memory-guided choices. My goal is to experimentally and conceptually advance our understanding of the neural mechanisms for memory and decision making by focusing on computations that originate in dentate networks.

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NEURAL COMPUTATIONS IN REAL BRAINS AND IN ARTIFICIAL SYSTEMS

Although neural computations are the cornerstone of both neuroscience and artificial intelligence, the biological foundations of how large populations of neurons perform computations in the brain are only beginning to be revealed. Among the approaches to identify the underpinnings of neural computations, the brain's navigation system provides particularly intriguing access. Although brain regions that support navigation, such as the hippocampus and entorhinal cortex, are removed from sensory inputs and motor outputs by multiple processing stages, neuronal activity patterns emerge in these brain regions that correspond to readily identifiable physical locations in the real world. Collectively, the activity patterns of single neurons therefore form a map-like representation of the natural world. Although moderately complex computational models can readily reproduce this phenomenon, it remains unclear how closely the models capture the key computations in a critical set of connections between neurons that perform these computations in real brains. The work that is proposed here will first review successful case studies – including from invertebrate models – that have identified brain circuits for spatial navigation and underlying computations. We will then take a comprehensive approach to ask whether these studies can be extrapolated to increasingly more complex systems or whether we need to rethink how neural computations can be identified once large populations of neurons are connected across multiple brain regions. Although our thinking will be grounded in biological systems, it will also consider approaches

from a broad range of disciplines, such as the visual arts, social sciences (e.g., geography), economics, and computer science.

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PARASITE DOSE AND THE COURSE OF INFECTION: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY META-ANALYSIS

We live on a planet of parasites. Parasitic species occur across the tree of life and infect all kinds of host organisms. Parasites play a crucial role in ecology and evolution: infections can change the food webs and nutrient flow of an ecosystem and impose strong selection pressures on host populations. From a practical perspective, parasites do enormous damage to human health and to agriculture, but can also serve our purposes as biocontrol agents. Thus, it is important to understand the ecological and evolutionary factors that govern how parasites interact with their hosts.

One central aspect of parasite ecology is variation in exposure dose. Depending on where a host is, how it behaves, and who it interacts with, it can encounter different numbers of a parasite species. This variation in dose can cause differences in the course of infection, that is, in the number of parasites inside the host at a given time (the parasite “burden”). In turn, differences in burden affect the severity of the infection and the risk of transmission to new hosts.

Although there is often detailed case-by-case information on the effects of exposure dose for specific host-parasite combinations, we lack an understanding of the general patterns. For example, higher doses can lead to higher overall parasite burdens, lower overall parasite burdens, or earlier peaks in parasite burden.

Are certain types of parasites or conditions more likely to produce one pattern than the other? My project aims to answer this and similar questions by using meta-analysis to synthesize published studies from diverse fields. The ultimate goal is to detect fundamental patterns in dose effects and thus to aid predictions for novel host-parasite combinations.

Recommended Reading

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SCRIPTING RITUAL: CLASSIC MAYA RELIGION AND THE SPREAD OF HIEROGLYPHIC WRITING

This project offers a novel analysis of the relationship between religion, politics, and writing in ancient Mesoamerica, one of just four world regions where writing was invented independently. It examines the intersection of scribal and religious transmission among Classic Maya elites (250–900 CE), whose participation in joint rituals and the exchange of religious artifacts promoted cultural cohesion across a politically fragmented landscape.

In the region spanning parts of what are now Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador, scholars have defined Classic Maya civilization according to a series of common cultural traits, including a hieroglyphic script. Rapid progress in hieroglyphic decipherment since the 1980s has fed a surge in studies of Classic Maya culture, economy, and politics that provide an ever-richer image of these dynamically interconnected, interdependent polities. All evidence indicates that Classic Maya society hosted a vibrant intellectual culture that included ritual practices, political ideologies, mathematical and astronomical study, artistic canons, and hieroglyphic literacy. Still, it remains unclear how these archaeologically ephemeral phenomena spread or how intellectual exchange intersected with politics, trade, or military encounters.

The project centers on two key questions: what role did religion play in the development of Maya hieroglyphic writing? And how did the Classic Maya maintain a coherent, mutually legible script in the absence of political unification? To explore these questions, the project uses epigraphic and iconographic analysis to reconstruct trajectories of hieroglyphic and religious transmission

and to contextualize them within interactions across Classic Maya society more broadly. It also addresses the consequences of this Classic Maya case for understanding religious exchange as a social process that can foster, rather than just mirror, cultural and political integration.

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- (2022). "Qualia of Proximity and Materiality in Classic Maya Hieroglyphs." *Signs and Society* 10 (1): 48–77. <https://doi.org/10.1086/717562>.
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BERLIN, VINETA: EINE DEUTSCHE STADTBAUGESCHICHTE (ARBEITSTITEL)

Der Schwerpunkt meiner künstlerisch-bildarchäologischen Praxis liegt auf der Recherche, Bearbeitung und Neukontextualisierung gebrauchsfotografischer Bildkonvolute aus öffentlichen Archiven. Die ursprüngliche Funktion dieser Aufnahmen – etwa technische Fotografien für den Städtebau, Überwachungs- oder Erfassungsaufnahmen staatlicher Sicherheitskräfte – ist heute erloschen. In meiner Arbeit lege ich Bildüberschüsse frei und mache einen Reichtum an Zeichen sichtbar, die mit der zeitlichen Distanz an historischer und ästhetischer Relevanz gewinnen. Bisher entstanden sind umfangreiche Ausstellungen und Publikationen zum Ostberlin der 1950er-Jahre, zur Berliner Mauer, zu den Archiven der Staatssicherheit und zum westdeutschen Linksterrorismus.

Berlin, VINETA ist ein fotografisch-literarisches Projekt, an dem ich zusammen mit der Schriftstellerin Annett Gröschner arbeite und das in eine Ausstellung und eine Publikation münden soll. Ankerpunkt ist ein Mitte der 1960er-Jahre entstandenes Konvolut von ca. 2.500 Fotografien, das in Vorbereitung des Umbaus eines Areals um die Vinetastraße im Bezirk Wedding 1964–65 für die Berliner Bauverwaltung angefertigt wurde. Zusammen ergeben sie einen historischen „Streetview“ von den Häusern an 25 Straßen und Plätzen, die bis zu den späten 1970er-Jahren fast vollständig abgerissen wurden. Das Viertel war das größte zusammenhängende urbane Sanierungsgebiet der alten Bundesrepublik und Westberlins. Konzeptuelle Grundlage war die „Charta von Athen“, jener Thesenkatalog mit 95 Leitsätzen zum Städtebau, den Le Corbusier 1933 verfasst hatte.

Berlin, VINETA möchte das Thema Stadtpolitik an einem wichtigen Beispiel des Stadumbaus multiperspektivisch durchdeklinieren. Es geht nicht um Regionalgeschichte, sondern eine im Bachtin'schen Sinne gedachte Chronotopie anhand von Fotografien, Nachlässen von Architekten und Stadtplanungsämtern, Grundstückskartierungen, Bau- und Abrissakten. An keinem Berliner Viertel zeigt sich die auf weite Strecken verfehlte Wohnungspolitik am deutlichsten, kein Viertel eignet sich besser, um zu fragen: Wie wollen und wie können wir zukünftig in der Stadt leben?

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TIMESCAPES OF BEHAVIOR: LONG-TERM RESEARCH AND THE BIRTH OF BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY

By measuring, collecting, and analyzing, long-term projects in behavioral ecology have translated animals' lives into vibrant understandings of the changing landscapes in which they live. Ecologists have measured changes in animal populations and behavior from season to season, each year's observations adding to the scientific value of observations carefully acquired in previous decades. When these projects started as small, scrappy enterprises, their horizon of expectation extended only a few years into the future. By the 1990s, the accumulation of longitudinal data meant that incoming students could start analyzing questions before they even ventured to the field. Valuable on their own, in intellectual synergy these data provide a remarkable record of our planet's ecosystems' transformations in the past half century.

Each chapter of my planned book follows the history of an animal and a place where scientists have studied its behavior for decades. As research tools have changed along with the requirements for receiving permission, so too have scientific practices and the forms of collaboration required to sustain science in the long term. The shared experiences of negotiating research permits, months spent away from campus, writing grants to the same agencies, and the tendency, as projects diversified, to study multiple animals at the same site, contributed to a shared sense of enterprise, despite the profound differences in landscapes and animal biology. Behavioral ecology as a discipline thus came to embrace organis-

mal diversity as part of its mandate, just as conservationists lauded biodiversity as a sign of a healthy landscape.

From laughing hyenas to endangered jays, the lifetimes of individual animals make tangible how they are adapting, or not, to changing local conditions. Their fates, and ours, are woven together through time and place.

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Medusa Verlag, Kyjiw

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Studium der Deutschen und Englischen Philologie und der Weltliteratur an der Kyiv National Linguistic University

GEMEINSAMER HORIZONT

Der Sammelband, an dem ich als Herausgeberin arbeiten werde, hat den Arbeitstitel „Gemeinsamer Horizont“ und behandelt das zweite Jahr des russischen Vernichtungskrieges gegen die Ukraine. Die Autorinnen und Autoren beschreiben sowohl aus unmittelbarer Nähe als auch aus der Distanz die Kriegslandschaft in und außerhalb der Ukraine.

Alle Orte in der heutigen Ukraine befinden sich in permanenter Bedrohung, aber die Temporalitäten, in denen sie existieren, sind unterschiedlich: einige stehen unter Besatzung, andere sind Schlachtfelder, manche bereits befreit. Aus all diesen Zeiträumen wird berichtet, Verbrechen und Widerstandsstrategien werden dokumentiert, die Wirklichkeit immer neuer Katastrophen koexistiert mit der Erinnerung und mit dem Versuch der Heilung. Es gibt innerhalb des Landes bereits ein „Davor“ und „Danach“.

Unter einem ganz anderen Zeitdruck stehen die Länder, die den ukrainischen Widerstand offiziell unterstützen. Die proklamierte Zeitenwende verzögert sich, der Krieg wird allmählich normalisiert und seine globalen Folgen verdrängt. Große Bewegungsprozesse, seien es flüchtende Menschen, humanitäre oder militärische Hilfen, verlaufen parallel zu Prozessen der geografischen und mentalen Isolation. Die Kluft zwischen unterschiedlichen Erfahrungen, zwischen sicheren und bedrohten Orten wird immer größer.

Und trotzdem – gibt es die Aussicht auf einen gemeinsamen Horizont, auf ein zukünftiges Handeln und Denken, das die Isolation und die Zerstörung

überwinden kann? Diese Frage und denkbare Antworten werden die Zusammenstellung und die Themen des Bandes bestimmen.

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Studium der Rechtswissenschaft und Komparatistik in Tübingen, München
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1. A CONCEPT OF CONSTITUTION

2. PETER SZONDI, DIE MEINUNGSFREIHEIT UND DIE AUTONOMIE DER LITERATUR

Ad 1. Today most people think of a constitution as a supreme norm that serves as the legal standard for political institutions like parliaments and governments. But constitutions also “constitute.” They create the very institutions they claim to oblige. While there is a well-known philosophical debate about the normative status of “constitutive norms” (Searle), this problem has rarely been seriously addressed in constitutional theory. Still, the question of the degree to which constitutional law is a normative enterprise is not only theoretically challenging, but also practically relevant. Especially the global proliferation of unamendable clauses in constitutions may be better understood from an analytical perspective on the constitutive character of constitutional law.

Ad 2. Im Mai 1967 wurden Rainer Langhans und Fritz Teufel, zwei Angehörige der Kommune I, einer bekannten Gruppe studentischer Spontis, wegen des Verteilens von Flugblättern vor der Mensa der FU in Berlin-Dahlem angeklagt. Vorgeworfen wurden ihnen „Aufforderung zur Brandstiftung“. Im Prozess traten zugunsten der Angeklagten zahlreiche Professoren auf, unter ihnen Peter Wapnewski, der erste Rektor des Wissenschaftskollegs, und Peter Szondi, der Begründer der Komparatistik in der Bundesrepublik. Die Philologen versuch-

ten mit ihren Mitteln nachzuweisen, dass die Flugblätter nicht zu einer Straftat taugten. Während die dazu verfassten Gutachten von den nachfolgenden Literaturwissenschaften mal als überholte Form des *close reading* verworfen, mal als eigentlicher Grund für den Freispruch gefeiert wurden (übrigens ohne dass das Urteil dazu aus den Archiven geholt wurde), fehlt es an Einordnungen des Prozesses in die Rechtsgeschichte der Meinungsfreiheit ebenso wie in die Debatte um die Autonomie der Kunst. Eine Analyse des Urteils wird zeigen, dass die konventionellen juristischen Instrumente, mit denen das Gericht zu einem Freispruch kommt, der politischen und ästhetischen Dimension der Flugblätter besser gerecht werden als die Hermeneutik der professionellen Philologen. Zugleich steht der Prozess am Anfang einer Entwicklung der Meinungsfreiheitsdoktrin, die bis heute nachwirkt.

Lektürecmpfehlung

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POWERING CAPITALISM. REVISITING THE HISTORY OF CENTRAL BANKS (19TH–21TH CENTURIES)

Central banks are key economic and political institutions. They are at the heart of financial systems and money creation. Their actions have considerable consequences for macroeconomic and financial stability, inequality, and the financing of governments. My project is to write a history of central banks as an engine of capital accumulation and financial development. Three main actions of central banks have been crucial for this purpose: (i) anchoring and stabilizing expectations about the long-run value of money (price and exchange rate stability); (ii) ensuring liquidity in money and financial markets; and (iii) lending to certain agents (including non-financial institutions, such as firms or the state) to foster investment and capital accumulation, and sometimes discriminating between markets to influence the allocation of capital. These actions have taken different forms over time, depending on the financial system and its relationship with the state. Scholars have described at length the role of central banks in ensuring currency convertibility, the security of the payments system, and – later in the 20th century – the implementation of macroeconomic stabilization policies. The importance of central banks in the development of financial systems and the allocation of investments is less well known. We lack a general and comparative perspective on this kind of policies over the long run. The monetary and financial spheres are not independent. Managing money through interest rates, lending, or credit control confers financial power on certain public or

private actors. This is where the history of central banking and the history of capitalism meet.

Recommended Reading

Monnet, Eric. *Controlling Credit: Central Banking and the Planned Economy in Postwar France, 1948–1973*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

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Biology at the University of Groningen and ETH Zurich

THE EVOLUTION OF RESOURCE UTILIZATION STRATEGIES IN THE GUT MICROBIOME

The human gut is home to trillions of bacterial cells that shape our metabolism and have a major impact on our health. One of the key functions that bacteria perform in the gut is to break down complex polysaccharides from our diet (commonly known as dietary fiber) that cannot be degraded by humans, since our digestive system harbors a limited enzymatic repertoire for carbohydrate utilization. To carry out this process, bacteria use a set of specialized enzymes in addition to membrane transporters to import large polysaccharides intracellularly. This machinery is encoded in gene clusters that are tightly regulated and that can vary considerably among bacterial species and even among different strains of the same species.

During my time at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I plan to study the evolution of gene clusters for dietary fiber utilization in the *Bacteroides*, one of the most abundant genera of bacteria in the human gut. Using genomic analyses in combination with physiological data and mathematical modeling, I will explore whether there are trade-offs that explain the large structural and functional variation in polysaccharide degradation genes observed across these gut commensals. Moreover, I will investigate the role of horizontal gene transfer in shaping how these gene clusters are formed and organized in the genome and how this process depends on the complexity of the target fiber. Overall, I hope that this

research builds an understanding of how the genomic content and architecture of polysaccharide utilization clusters in bacteria are linked to their functionality, which can inform the development of strategies for rational microbiome engineering using dietary fibers and probiotics.

Recommended Reading

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FRANCO MORETTI

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Professor (emer.) of English and Comparative Literature
Stanford University

Born in 1950 in Sondrio, Italy
Studied Modern Literatures at the University of Rome

DIMENSIONS OF TRAGIC CONFLICT

In 2023–24, I will return to my long-term research project on tragic form, which I see as a small-scale model for those uncanny struggles to the death – most radically, civil wars – that are one of the salient aspects of human societies.

As the tragic scene shifts from the Greek royal palace to Baroque courts and modern households, the causes and nature of conflict also change, but (at least) two formal relationships remain visible throughout the development of this genre: the fundamental properties of dramatic networks and the rhetoric of face-to-face confrontations. Translating a dramatic character-system into a network is arguably the best way to visualize the system of alliances and oppositions that lies behind tragic collision: intuitive and analytic at once, this sort of literary x-ray offers a powerful introduction to the “macro” dimension of drama. At the opposite end of the scale lies the study of the “micro” strategies adopted when the principles that are at stake in the plays are actually put into words: from the *stichomythia* so characteristic of Greek drama to Hamlet’s puns, Calderon’s cosmologies, Racine’s symmetry, Schiller’s explicit confrontations, Büchner’s out-of-control metaphors, or Ibsen’s prose. Combining traditional literary hermeneutics with the new possibilities of quantitative criticism, this study aims at a historical phenomenology of radical conflict as it emerges from the *longue durée* of tragic form.

Recommended Reading

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JULIANO MORIMOTO
from February to July 2024
Fellow of the College for Life Sciences
DPhil, Zoology
University of Aberdeen

Born in 1991 in São Paulo, Brazil
Studied Biological Sciences at the Federal University of Parana and
Zoology at the University of Oxford

INDIVIDUALS AS PARTICLES AND SPECIES AS SHAPES IN INFINITE SPACES

Can we better predict how species will interact and respond to climate change?

From micro to macro, nature repeats itself across spatial scales: planets are like particles if we consider the vastness of space. This means that, in some cases, it is possible to adapt theories designed from one scale to another or to use knowledge from one theory to predict results across scales. One example is the quantum gravity theory in physics, which aims to integrate Einstein's theory of relativity (macro) with quantum mechanics (micro) in a unified theory. This led to the prediction of a new particle: the "graviton."

In biology, a similar approach could be taken. Imagine the distribution of a species (say, humans) on the planet. Each individual could be considered as a particle, while the entire human population could be represented as a geometrical shape within which all individuals (particles) live. The limits (or "walls") of this geometrical shape are determined by climate conditions (e.g., temperature) and by interactions with other species. For example, there are no (natural) human populations living in Antarctica due to its overly harsh climate and lack of other species for food. This concept could be imagined as analogous to a balloon full of gas, where the balloon walls are the limits of the species' survivability and the gas particles inside are individuals interacting within those limits. What happens when the climate changes? Environments that were inhospitable

can become mild and vice versa. Species that did not interact now might do so. This means that, as the climate changes, the limits of species' distribution also change.

In this project, I will model species as shapes and individuals as particles, to integrate species-species interaction in changing climates into a thermodynamic model of species distribution. In particular, I will first borrow the concepts and equations from statistical thermodynamics and fluid dynamics to model the interaction between two species in changing environments. The species will be considered as immiscible fluids (i.e. not forming a homogeneous mixture with one another) with different densities and viscosities, and their interaction will be modelled using a partial differential equation. One can imagine the approach here as if we were modelling how water (species A) and oil (species B) interact in a flask and how this interaction changes as we increase the temperature of the solution.

Overall, this project will develop a new framework to investigate how species respond to climate change. This new framework combines for the first time concepts from physics (fluid and thermodynamic) and mathematics (differential geometry) and biology into an integrative model.

Recommended Reading

Morimoto, Juliano, and Mathieu Lihoreau (2019). "Quantifying Nutritional Trade-Offs across Multidimensional Performance Landscapes." *The American Naturalist* 193 (6): E168–E181. <https://doi.org/10.1086/701898>.

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Morimoto, Juliano, Pedro Conceição, Christen Mirth, and Mathieu Lihoreau (2023). "Nutrignometry I: Using Right-Angle Triangles to Quantify Nutritional Trade-Offs in Performance Landscapes." *The American Naturalist* 201 (5). <https://doi.org/10.1086/723599>.

JACOB K. OLUPONA

from February to July 2024

Ph.D., Professor of African and African American Studies

Professor of African Religious Traditions, Harvard Divinity School

Harvard University

Born in 1951 in Ondo State, Nigeria

Studied Religious Studies at the University of Nigeria and History of Religions

at Boston University

CHIEF LÓÒGHÒ: THE BIOGRAPHY OF AN AFRICAN MEDICINE MAN

My project *Chief Lóòghò Bamatula: The Biography of a Nigerian Medicine Man* will recover the deep body of indigenous knowledge in Nigeria through the life and work of Chief Lóòghò Bamatula, a powerful 96-year-old traditional healer, cultural fixture, and icon in the community of the city of Ile-Oluji in Ondo State, Nigeria. Tracing the inspiring life of Chief Lóòghò Bamatula, this project seeks to illuminate the spiritual and philosophical sources of knowledge production, conversations about traditional medicine today, and his conversion to Christianity. Through interviews with Chief Lóòghò Bamatula, his extended family, and others who know him and his life's work, this ethnographic research examines the powerful but often overlooked questions of how indigenous ways of knowing shape understandings and practices of power, medicine, and wellness in Africa.

The impact of this work is fourfold. First, Chief Lóòghò's biography and insights offer us the possibility to understand the power of an indigenous knowledge system in African life in the contemporary period. Second, Chief Lóòghò's proficiency in traditional medicine raises questions about the importance of traditional healing methods, including Oogun, in solving modern diseases and epidemics like Covid-19. Third, Chief Lóòghò's involvement in public projects, service in the Nigerian civil war, political leadership, and advis-

ing three *Oba* (kings) from his hometown offer a fascinating example of how the spiritual practices like divination constitute an integral part of the social fabric of Yoruba communities. Fourth, his own conversion to Christianity offers a deeper foray into Yoruba belief systems, pluralism, and metaphysics, especially as Chief Lòòghò worships Ogun, creates charms, and considers himself a Christian, all in the same cosmology. Through his narrative accounts, Chief Lòòghò provides insights into deep theological, political, economic, and social issues, illuminated through his insights as a warrior, healer, religious leader, and theologian.

Recommended Reading

Olupona, Jacob K. *City of 201 Gods: Ilé-Ifè in Time, Space, and the Imagination*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011.

—. *African Religions: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Olupona, Jacob K., and Rowland O. Abiodun, eds. *Ifá Divination, Knowledge, Power, and Performance*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016.

PALLAVI PAUL

from September to December 2023

Ph.D., Cinema Studies, Artist

Berlin and New Delhi

Born in 1987 in New Delhi

Studied Film Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University

PNEUMA

Through the last two years of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the “breath” has moved from being a recessed biological function to a palpable collective act.

While this time of contagion has produced a unique alertness to the breath, it is also impossible to think of any other moment in the history of our shared world without thinking of this most fundamental act of claiming life. To breathe is to avow the *élan vital*. The time of the breath, then, is a sensorial, spiritual, political, scientific, and historical time. This short and felt interval also poses a unique challenge for the act of filming. How does one produce an image of something that is present but invisible? The chasm between sensation and representation becomes instantly perceptible. The unrepresentability of the breath swells further as it weaves across various bodies, landscapes, and stories. The split second of the breath is also a splitting of the osmotic edges of cinema. In a climate in which images and the people they encounter are heaving, film frames and edits straddle a delicate boundary between inspiration (breathing in) and expiration (breathing out). To produce a breathable cinematic time is now layered with echoes of life, imagination, disappearance, and death.

My project tries to establish aesthetic and theoretical transmissions with this altered timescape.

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- . "Mediatized Contagion: Some Propositions on Pandemic Media." *BioScope: South Asian Screen Studies* 13, no. 1 (2022): 12–18.
- . "Objects as Exhibits: Performances of the Forensic." In *Acts of Media: Law and Media in Contemporary India*, edited by Siddharth Narrain, 218–237. New Delhi: SAGE, 2022.

DAVID PLUNKETT
Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy
Dartmouth College

Born in 1982 in Ann Arbor, Mich., USA
Studied Philosophy at the University of Michigan

CONCEPTUAL ETHICS AND THE FOUNDATIONS OF NORMATIVITY

We engage in normative and evaluative thought and talk throughout our lives – roughly, thought and talk about what we should do, think, or feel, or about what is valuable or good. For example, we make claims about how we should treat other people, what the virtues and vices are of various social/political institutions, and what makes a scientific theory a rational one to believe. Some normative and evaluative concepts seem more “authoritative” than others. For example, the concept of the “all-things-considered ought” seems to pick out something more normatively important than the concept “legal obligation.” My project concerns a deep skeptical challenge about our existing seemingly most “authoritative” normative concepts. The challenge claims that these concepts fail to pick out the “most normatively important” parts of reality. If our most authoritative normative concepts are defective in this way, this would undercut our use of them across the board, including when evaluating other normative concepts, such as “justice” or “rationality.” The challenge thus threatens the normative foundations of all the normative and evaluative concepts that we use. This challenge connects to skeptical hypotheses discussed throughout the history of moral philosophy. However, the most well-known challenges concern our current normative concepts. In contrast, this challenge – which is equally important, but relatively neglected – concerns which concepts we should use. I will investigate this skeptical challenge as a way to illuminate the foundations of normativity and value, with a particular focus on connections to moral philosophy, epistemology, and philosophy of law.

Recommended Reading

Plunkett, David. "Which Concepts Should We Use? Metalinguistic Negotiations and the Methodology of Philosophy." *Inquiry* 58, nos. 7–8 (2015): 828–874. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2015.1080184>.

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BARBARA PRAINSACK
Dr. phil., Professor for Comparative Policy Analysis
University of Vienna

Born in 1975 in Klagenfurt, Austria
Studied Political Science at the University of Vienna

CARING STATES: SOLIDARITY IN A TURBULENT WORLD

The book that I plan to write at the Wissenschaftskolleg will build upon my and colleagues' work on solidarity, but expand it in significant ways. It is tentatively titled "Caring states: Solidarity in a turbulent world."

For a Report for the Nuffield Council on Bioethics (NCOB) in 2011, I developed a working definition of solidarity that was intended to strengthen the analytical power of the concept and enhance its value for policy making. Drawing on practice epistemology, I proposed a framework that helps to understand where, why, and how solidaristic practices emerge and how they solidify into social, legal, and other institutions.

In the following years, together with colleagues from various disciplines, I have developed our conceptual approach to solidarity further and used it to think and work through regulatory and social problems in different areas, including data governance, epidemics, and the future of work – all against the backdrop of digital transformations. My book will draw upon insights from these projects, as well as on current work with colleagues on all continents who seek to foreground non-European traditions of solidarity scholarship and practice. Specifically, my monograph will explore what solidarity can do to tackle current transboundary problems such as health crises, climate change, and democratic backsliding. If we understand solidaristic institutions as those that people contribute to according to their abilities and receive support as they need it, can solidarity help us envisage a new welfare state, without the known bureaucratic problems and unintended consequences? Can it help to address the problem of

climate change? Can it help to protect people's rights and interests in the digital era more effectively? Finally, how can public institutions be inclusive beyond current limits of citizenship and other categories of exclusion? Can solidarity help to create "caring states"?

Recommended Reading

Prainsack, Barbara (2017). *Personalized Medicine: Empowered Patients in the 21st Century?* New York: New York University Press.

Prainsack, Barbara, and Alena Buyx (2017). *Solidarity in Biomedicine and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Prainsack, Barbara, Seliem El-Sayed, Nikolaus Forgó, Łukasz Szoszkiewicz, and Philipp Baumer (2022). "Data Solidarity: A Blueprint for Governing Health Futures." *The Lancet: Digital Health* 4 (11): e773–e774.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2589-7500\(22\)00189-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2589-7500(22)00189-3).

LARA PUHLMANN

from February to July 2024

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

Dr. rer. nat., Biological Psychology

Leibniz Institute for Resilience Research, Mainz

Born in 1991 in Berlin

Studied Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience at the University College

London and Biological Psychology at the Max Planck Institute for Human

Cognitive and Brain Sciences

DIGITAL BIOMARKERS FOR RESILIENCE RESEARCH

Since treatment-oriented approaches have shown limited success in addressing the global burden of mental disorders, researchers and policymakers are increasingly emphasizing early detection and prevention as complementary strategies. Exposure to adverse events or stressors is a major risk factor for the development of mental health conditions, particularly depressive and anxiety-associated disorders. One promising avenue towards prevention is the science of resilience – the maintenance or quick recovery of mental wellbeing during or after periods of adversity.

The study of resilience processes within individuals relies on the accurate monitoring of symptoms before the onset of a disorder. However, traditional mental health assessments, such as self-report questionnaires, can be insensitive to subtle and often heterogeneous subclinical symptoms. My project aims to examine the use of digital biomarkers (DBMs) as novel, more objective and sensitive indicators of disorder symptoms in healthy but stress-exposed adults. Clinical work suggests that patients' facial expressivity and voice pitch derived from video-recorded clinical interviews can serve as DBMs, aiding disorder diagnosis and prognosis. To extend this work to subclinical populations, I recently developed a novel interview paradigm that captures transdiagnostic symptom clusters including anxiety, depression, and somatisation. Facial movements, vocal acous-

tics, and other behavioural features displayed during the interview are extracted from video recordings using machine-learning algorithms. As a first proof-of-concept, my aim is to identify the behaviours that best predict self-reported mental health problems. These may ultimately serve as richer and more objective indicators of underlying psychological dysfunction in future resilience research.

At the Wissenschaftskolleg, I intend to evaluate data from my interview paradigm and the current literature to address the following questions: Is it possible to identify DBMs that reliably indicate subclinical transdiagnostic symptoms? If so, which type of behaviours are most informative? Lastly, I will explore the use of DBMs to assess psychological, social, and structural resources, as well as ethical questions related to digital health monitoring.

Recommended Reading

Puhlmann, Lara M. C., Sofie L. Valk, Veronika Engert, Boris C. Bernhardt, Jue Lin, Elissa S. Epel, Pascal Vrtička, and Tania Singer (2019). “Association of Short-Term Change in Leukocyte Telomere Length with Cortical Thickness and Outcomes of Mental Training among Healthy Adults: A Randomized Clinical Trial.” *JAMA Network Open* 2 (9): e199687.
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<https://doi.org/10.1097/PSY.0000000000000970>.

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THOMAS RICHARDS

D.Phil., Professor of Evolutionary Genomics
University of Oxford

Born in 1977 in Cambridge, United Kingdom
Studied Human Sciences at University College London and Evolutionary
Biology at the University of Oxford and the Natural History Museum, London

NEW WAYS OF UNDERSTANDING CELL EVOLUTION THROUGH INFOGRAPHICS

The infographic method brings together narratives, data, figures, and illustrations to convey complex themes in a manner accessible to a wide audience. Good infographics are like onions: you can look at the object or illustration in its entirety and understand it. Yet, they also have multiple layers that can be “peeled back” to convey details and data and to frame unresolved issues. They are a unique tool, providing an accessible narrative to complex stories.

There are few more complex stories than how cells evolved; here, there are many hypotheses, little direct experimentation, and conflicting results. Such research integrates investigation from many disconnected academic fields, without which it is often difficult to see progress and unresolved questions. Summary and synthesis are therefore very important, as they allow people across different fields to understand what lies at the heart of unresolved issues and what further progress is needed. If communicated correctly, infographics also allow people not in the field – indeed not working in science at all – to see the progress of the discipline. New ways to communicate these narratives are needed. It is a long-term ambition of mine to develop a visual language to tell the story of cell evolution from the beginning of life to the emergence of complex, compartmentalised cellular forms. I will use my time at the Wissenschaftskolleg to put “pencil to paper” and begin this work.

Recommended Reading

Milner, David S., Victoria Attah, Emily Cook, Finlay Maguire, Fiona R. Savory, Mark Morrison, Carolin A. Müller, et al. (2019). “Environment-Dependent Fitness Gains Can Be Driven by Horizontal Gene Transfer of Transporter-Encoding Genes.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 116 (12): 5613–5622. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1815994116>.

Jenkins, Benjamin H., Finlay Maguire, Guy Leonard, Joshua D. Eaton, Steven West, Benjamin E. Housden, David S. Milner, and Thomas A. Richards (2021). “Emergent RNA–RNA Interactions Can Promote Stability in a Facultative Phototrophic Endosymbiosis.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 118 (38): e2108874118. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2108874118>.

Galindo, Luis Javier, David S. Milner, Suely Lopes Gomes, and Thomas A. Richards (2022). “A Light-Sensing System in the Common Ancestor of the Fungi.” *Current Biology* 32 (14): 3146–3153.e3. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2022.05.034>.

HEDWIG RICHTER

Dr. phil., Professorin für Neuere und Neueste Geschichte
Universität der Bundeswehr München

Geboren 1973 in Bad Urach, Deutschland

Studium der Geschichte, Germanistik und Philosophie an der Universität
Heidelberg, der Queen's University Belfast und der Freien Universität Berlin

HAUSFRAUEN. DEMOKRATIE, PATRIARCHAT UND KONSUM IN DER FRÜHEN BUNDESREPUBLIK

Anhand der Figur der Hausfrau in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland untersuche ich die Resilienz von Geschlechterordnungen und die Frage nach dem Zusammenhang des Hausfrauenmodells mit der neuen demokratischen und marktwirtschaftlichen Ordnung. Dabei liegt ein Schwerpunkt auf dem Versuch, sich dem Beginn des Anthropozäns in der Mitte des 20. Jahrhunderts mikrohistorisch anzunähern. Als Startpunkt gilt zumeist die „Great Acceleration“ mit extremen sozioökonomischen und das Erdsystem betreffenden Veränderungen. Das Modell der Hausfrau war ein westliches Phänomen und stand in enger Verbindung mit Konsum und wachsendem Wohlstand. Hausfrauen waren daher wesentliche Trägerinnen der sozioökonomischen Trends wie steigendem Wasser- und Nahrungsmittelverbrauch, Anstieg der Weltbevölkerung oder wachsendem Tourismus.

Die Studie soll die Geschichte der bundesrepublikanischen Nachkriegsgesellschaft und ihre scheinbare Stabilität aus der Perspektive einer Mehrheit der Frauen ergänzen. Im Zentrum stehen die ersten Nachkriegsjahrzehnte, doch es soll einen Ausblick bis in die Gegenwart geben. Meine These ist, dass sich das Hausfrauenmodell aufgrund seiner doppelten Natur durchsetzen konnte: Einerseits diente es als natürliches, zeitloses Refugium, andererseits als idealer Rahmen für die großen Transformationen der zweiten Jahrhunderthälfte. Denn es legitimierte die anstehenden Veränderungen, ohne den Männern zu viel abzuverlangen – eine wichtige Voraussetzung für die Pazifizierung einer

patriarchalisch geprägten Gesellschaft. Zwei weitere Thesen schließen sich an. Die Idee der Hausfrau erlaubte die Illusion einer „nivellierten Mittelstandsgesellschaft“, weil sie sich in allen Schichten fand. Und schließlich diente das Hausfrauenmodell als einigendes Band des Westens. Es stand als vermeintlich natürliches und freies Lebenskonzept gegen den sozialistischen Lebensentwurf mit Frauenarbeit. Wesentlich dafür war der Konsum, zu dessen richtigem, demokratischem Gebrauch die Hausfrauen mit unzähligen öffentlichen Programmen geradezu erzogen werden sollten.

Die Figur der Nachkriegshausfrau verstehe ich als eine innovative Traditionserfindung, eine Novität aus Reaktion und Modernität.

Lektüreempfehlung

Richter, Hedwig. *Moderne Wahlen: Eine Geschichte der Demokratie in Preußen und den USA im 19. Jahrhundert*. Hamburg: Hamburger Edition, 2017.

—. *Demokratie: Eine deutsche Affäre. Vom 18. Jahrhundert bis zur Gegenwart*. München: C.H.Beck, 2020.

—. *Aufbruch in die Moderne: Reform und Massenpolitisierung im Kaiserreich*. Berlin: Suhrkamp, 2021.

KIRSTEN SCHEIWE

Dr. iur., Professorin für Recht

Stiftung Universität Hildesheim

Geboren 1956 in Hamburg, Deutschland

Studium der Rechtswissenschaften an den Universitäten Bochum, Köln und

München und der Philosophie und Geschichte an der Universität München

„KLATSCHEN ALLEIN GENÜGT NICHT“ – EIN PLÄDOYER FÜR EIN SORGSAMES RECHT

Alle Menschen benötigen im Lauf ihres Lebens Sorge, Pflege und Unterstützung durch andere (*care*), und fast jeder Mensch sorgt mehr oder weniger für andere. Dies ist universell und existenziell notwendig. Es zu unterstützen ist eine gesellschaftliche Aufgabe und Gegenstand rechtlicher Regulierung im Sozialstaat. Viele Sorgetätigkeiten werden jedoch unzureichend anerkannt, zu gering bezahlt, unterschätzt oder von der Politik in die „Privatsphäre“ abgeschoben. Die Covid-19-Krise hat die gesellschaftliche Bedeutung von Care wie in einem Brennglas gezeigt. Der neue Ansatz des sorgsamen Rechts untersucht verschiedene Rechtsbereiche in Deutschland (Familien-, Sozial- und Arbeitsrecht, Pflegerecht, Verfassungs- und Europarecht, internationales Recht). Die Regulierung von bezahlten und unbezahlten Sorgetätigkeiten durch Recht und Sozialpolitik zwischen öffentlicher und privater Verantwortung sowie Fragen der Verteilungsgerechtigkeit stehen im Mittelpunkt. Untersucht werden die Gestaltung und Interpretation von Rechten und Pflichten, Prinzipien und Begriffen (Schutz der Menschenwürde, Sozialstaatsprinzip, Solidarität, soziale Rechte). Schwerpunkte sind die Sorge für Kinder und junge Menschen sowie für pflegebedürftige Personen. Ausgehend von einem relationalen Verständnis von Autonomie und Teilhabe sind *care/caring* angesiedelt in asymmetrischen Beziehungen und Machtverhältnissen zwischen Selbstbestimmung und Abhängigkeit.

Das sorgsame Recht ist Teil des interdisziplinären Forschungsfeldes *caring and the law* und der *legal gender studies*. Anschlüsse bestehen zu Sozialethik, Rechtsphilosophie, Sozialwissenschaften, Rechtssoziologie, Sozialpolitik und Care-Ökonomie. Im Fokus steht die Frage, wie ein sorgsames Recht zu gestalten ist, das zu einer Aufwertung und angemessenen Anerkennung von Care beiträgt, und welche sozial- und rechtspolitischen Schritte dies erfordert.

Lektüreprüfung

Scheiwe, Kirsten. *Kinderkosten und Sorgearbeit im Recht: Eine rechtsvergleichende Studie*. Frankfurt/Main: Klostermann, 1999.

—. „Caring rights and obligations in German family law and social policy: How far have we come?“ In *Family Matters: Essays in Honour of John Eekelaar*, herausgegeben von Jens M. Scherpe und Stephen Gilmore, 263–281. Cambridge: Intersentia, 2022. Deutsch: „Sorgetätigkeiten und care im Familien- und Familiensozialrecht – Wie weit sind wir in Deutschland gekommen auf dem Weg zu einem ‚sorgsamem Recht‘?“ *NZFam Neue Zeitschrift für Familienrecht*, Nr. 2 (2022): 45–54.

—. „It’s about Time – Gender, Justice and Working Time Regulation in Employment and Care Work.“ In *Social Justice and the World of Work: Possible Global Futures*, herausgegeben von Brian Langille und Anne Trebilcock, 315–326. London: Bloomsbury / Hart, 2023.

MARTIN SCHÜTTLER

Professor für Komposition

Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart

Geboren 1974 in Kassel, Deutschland

Studium der Instrumentalen Komposition, Elektronischen Komposition,

Musiktheorie und Klavier an der Folkwang Universität der Künste

KOMPOSITION MUSIKTHEATRALER, INSTRUMENTALER & INTERMEDIALER WERKE

Im Zentrum meiner Arbeit am Wissenschaftskolleg steht die Komposition eines Musiktheaters, welches die Tradition der europäischen Oper mit einer dystopischen Fortschrittserzählung und künstlichen (Sing-)Stimmen verbindet. Parallel dazu schreibe ich an weiteren Kompositionen, darunter ein neues Werk für großes Ensemble und ein Solostück für Violine mit Kammerelektronik.

Lektüre- und Hörempfehlungen

Schüttler, Martin. *Pelze & Restposten*. MusikFabrik, Donatienne Michel-Dansac, James Wood, Eva Zöllner, Daniel Gloger, Sebastian Berweck, Suono Mobile, Christof M. Löser. Wergo WER 65752, 2009, CD.

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CARLOS SPOERHASE

Dr. phil., Professor für Neuere deutsche Literaturwissenschaft
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Geboren 1974 in Eschwege, Deutschland

Studium der Deutschen Literatur und Philosophie sowie der Politischen
Theorie und Ideengeschichte an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin und der
Johns Hopkins University

ÄSTHETISCHE QUANTITÄTEN: ÜBER DAS MASS DER KÜNSTE

Das Forschungsvorhaben geht von der Hypothese aus, dass die Untersuchung ästhetischer Formen eine systematische Berücksichtigung von quantitativen Größen und Größenverhältnissen verlangt. Es möchte zeigen, dass die Untersuchung sowohl der etablierten Beobachtungsweisen von Kunst als auch der ästhetischen Gestaltungsverfahren von Kunstwerken von einer Fokussierung auf Skalierungsphänomene erheblich profitieren kann. Auf diese Weise sollen einerseits Skalierungsfragen im ästhetischen Theorierepertoire fest verankert werden. Andererseits soll anhand von vergleichenden Fallstudien zu ästhetischen Gebilden aus der Geschichte der Literaturen und der Künste untersucht werden, wie sich Größen oder Umfänge auf deren Produktion und Rezeption auswirken – und welche Effekte die Manipulationen dieser Größen und Umfänge nach sich ziehen. Ein besonderes Augenmerk soll dabei auf die Epoche um 1900 gerichtet werden, in der sich die moderne Ästhetik in einem engen interdisziplinären Austauschverhältnis geistes-, sozial- und lebenswissenschaftlicher Fächer schrittweise herausbildet. Ausgehend von systematischen Interessen und historischen Untersuchungen sollen die quantitativen Maßstäbe, nach denen die Künste jeweils beobachtet und geschaffen werden, auf ihren formprägenden Charakter hin transparent gemacht werden.

Lektüreempfehlung

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—. „‘A Monster in Its Breadth and Length’: Schiller’s *Wallenstein* and the Poetics of Scale.“ *Modern Philology* 118, Nr. 1 (2020): 87–106.

ARJUN SRIVATHSA

from September 2023 to January 2024

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

PhD, Interdisciplinary Ecology

National Centre for Biological Sciences–Tata Institute of Fundamental
Research, Bangalore

Born in 1988 in Bengaluru, India

Studied Chemistry, Botany, and Zoology at Christ University, Wildlife Biology
and Conservation at the National Centre for Biological Sciences–TIFR, and
Interdisciplinary Ecology at the University of Florida

THE JUNGLE BOOK REIMAGINED: CONSTRUCTING NARRATIVES ON NATURE AND WILDLIFE USING SCIENCE AND ART

Popular narratives shaped by stories and folklore have profound impacts on how we interact with nature. They collectively determine our relationship with wild animals and are integral in guiding our decisions whether and how to protect species threatened with extinction. Narratives can be influenced and altered through knowledge generation (scientific exploration) and propagation (science communication). My first objective is to construct a unified conceptual framework that synergistically integrates the various components of Asiatic wild dog (“dhole”) ecology that my research has been addressing. I will use empirical data to test and validate this framework, to gain a holistic understanding of how metapopulations of socially complex species function in heterogenous landscapes. Second, I intend to use my skills as a cartoonist and storyteller to combine science, art, humour, and popular culture to retell stories about dholes and other Indian wildlife species in the form of a fully illustrated book. This “reimagined” version of *The Jungle Book* will be rooted in ecological insights gained from rigorous scientific research and linked to narratives that indigenous scientists have accumulated through their lived experience. Considered together,

(i) scientific investigation into how animal populations and metapopulations function and confronting theory with field data forms the basis for formulating strategies to reverse trajectories of extinction; and (ii) adopting innovative ways to communicate insights gained from such scientific research can help reconstruct narratives of human-wildlife relationships and foster public engagement in conservation.

Recommended Reading

Srivathsa, Arjun, Ryan G. Rodrigues, Kok Ben Toh, Arun Zachariah, Ryan W. Taylor, Madan K. Oli, and Uma Ramakrishnan (2021). “The Truth about Scats and Dogs: Next-Generation Sequencing and Spatial Capture-Recapture Models Offer Opportunities for Conservation Monitoring of an Endangered Social Canid.” *Biological Conservation* 256: 109028. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2021.109028>.

Srivathsa, Arjun, Aditya Banerjee, Soumya Banerjee, Malaika Mathew Chawla, Anshita Das, Divyajyoti Ganguly, Ryan G. Rodrigues, et al. (2022). “Chasms in Charismatic Species Research: Seventy Years of Carnivore Science and Its Implications for Conservation and Policy in India.” *Biological Conservation* 273: 109694. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2022.109694>.

Srivathsa, Arjun, Divya Vasudev, Tanaya Nair, Stotra Chakrabarti, Pranav Chanchani, Ruth DeFries, Arpit Deomurari, et al. (2023). “Prioritizing India’s Landscapes for Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Human Well-Being.” *Nature Sustainability*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-023-01063-2>.

BARBARA STOLLBERG-RILINGER

Rektorin des Wissenschaftskollegs

Dr. phil., Professorin für Geschichte der Frühen Neuzeit

Geboren 1955 in Bergisch Gladbach, Deutschland

Studium der Geschichte, Germanistik und Kunstgeschichte
an der Universität zu Köln

GRAUSAMKEIT, DISZIPLIN UND VERZWEIFLUNG: FRIEDRICH WILHELM I. UND DER PREUSSISCHE MYTHOS

Friedrich Wilhelm I., der legendäre preußische „Soldatenkönig“ (1688–1740), traumatisierte seinen Sohn, den späteren König Friedrich „den Großen“, demütigte seine Töchter, verprügelte seine Diener, misstraute seinen Beamten, verabscheute die Gelehrten, verachtete den Adel, mied die Frauen, war legendär geizig und detailversessen, rauchte, trank, fluchte und tobte, hielt aber peinlich auf Sauberkeit, Drill und strengste Frömmigkeit. Sein bizarres Verhalten desavouierte sämtliche Normen und Werte der zeitgenössischen Eliten. In Europa seiner Zeit galt er deshalb als lächerlicher Tyrann, dessen Macht früher oder später von selbst zusammenbrechen würde. Das war bekanntlich ein Irrtum. Im preußisch-deutschen Nationalmythos des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts spielte Friedrich Wilhelm I. die Rolle des großen Staats- und Heeresbaumeisters; selbst kritischen Historikern galt er als derjenige, der „das deutsche Volk zum Preußentum erzog“. Daran konnte der Alliierte Kontrollrat nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg anknüpfen, als er Preußen als „Träger des Militarismus und der Reaktion“ von der Landkarte strich. Derzeit erfreut sich dieser König wieder wachsender Beliebtheit bei der Neuen Rechten.

Was mich an dieser bizarren Figur interessiert, ist der radikale Normenwandel, den er einleitete: vom Wandel des Männlichkeitsideals, des körperlichen Habitus und des Kleidungsstils bis hin zum Wandel des Wirtschaftsverhaltens, der Regierungspraxis und der Organisation physischer Gewalt. Wie kam es

dazu, dass das, was besorgte Zeitgenossen als Folge einer schweren Affektstörung des Königs betrachteten, nachträglich als genialer Plan erscheinen konnte? An dieser Figur lässt sich exemplarisch beobachten, wie innerhalb kurzer Zeit eine völlig neue historische Erzählung entsteht.

Lektüreempfehlung

Stollberg-Rilinger, Barbara. *Des Kaisers alte Kleider: Verfassungsgeschichte und Symbolsprache des Alten Reiches*. München: C.H.Beck, 2008. Englisch: *The Emperor's Old Clothes: Constitutional History and the Symbolic Language of the Holy Roman Empire*. New York: Berghahn, 2015.

—. *Maria Theresia: Die Kaiserin in ihrer Zeit. Eine Biographie*. München: C.H.Beck, 2017. Englisch: *Maria Theresa: The Habsburg Empress in Her Time*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2022.

Krischer, André und Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger, Hg. *Tyrannen: Eine Geschichte von Caligula bis Putin*. München: C.H.Beck, 2022.

YANFEI SUN

Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology

Zhejiang University, Hangzhou

Born in 1976 in Zhejiang, China

Studied Sociology at the University of Chicago

PREMODERN EMPIRES AND RELIGIOUS TOLERATION: A HISTORICAL COMPARATIVE STUDY

Existing studies of empires emphasize the high capacity of premodern empires to stomach and skillfully exploit religious, ethnic, linguistic, and cultural diversities. They thereby belie the fact that premodern empires displayed vast differences in the handling of religious diversity in their territories – while some empires allowed all kinds of religions to flourish, other empires persecuted heretics and nonbelievers and carried out forced conversion. During my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, I will work on my book manuscript that seeks to map and explain the variations among more than 30 selected premodern Eurasian empires in their level of toleration of different religions. This book manuscript will argue that a premodern empire's level of toleration of different religions is not primarily determined by the state capacity, geopolitics, or the specific attributes of the religious ecology in that empire, but by the nature of the state religion installed by the premodern empire. It will further argue that an empire tended to be intolerant when its state religion had a zero-sum mentality (zero-sumness) toward other religions and a strong conversion drive (evangelicalness).

Zero-sum evangelical state religions could lead to religious wars, inquisitions, religious persecution, and forced conversion. These were commonplace in premodern Europe where Christianity, a quintessential zero-sum evangelical religion, reigned. Yet, it was also in this land of extreme religious intolerance that the modern ideologies of religious liberty were born. The book manuscript will reflect on this great paradox of history.

In the age of secularism, the political influence of zero-sum evangelical religions seemed to have waned. Yet, the zero-sum/evangelical mentality continues to profoundly shape the world we live in, manifesting itself in various secular ideologies and movements, when their advocates still think in a true/false or right/wrong binary mode and strive for hegemony.

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Sun, Yanfei (2014). "Popular Religion in Zhejiang: Feminization, Bifurcation, and Buddhification." *Modern China* 40 (5): 455–487.

— (2017). "The Rise of Protestantism in Post-Mao China: State and Religion in Historical Perspective." *American Journal of Sociology* 122 (6): 1664–1725.

— (2019). "Reversal of Fortune: Growth Trajectories of Catholicism and Protestantism in Modern China." *Theory and Society* 48 (2): 267–298.

BARBARA THÉRIAULT

Dr. phil., Professor of Sociology
Université de Montréal

Born in 1972 in Lévis, Quebec, Canada

Studied Political Science at the Université Laval, Sociology at the Max-Weber-Kolleg, University of Erfurt, and Anthropology at the European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)

AVERAGE AESTHETICS OR THE REGULAR HAIRCUT. THE AESTHETIC DIMENSION OF THE SOCIAL IN A GERMAN CITY

In “Die Abenteuer einer linkshändigen Friseurin,” due to appear in March 2024, I propose an exploration as a sociologist, but also as a hairdresser – an observational profession if ever there was one, of which I am an apprentice. I conduct interviews and observations in the social and confidential environment of three hairdressing salons and one barber shop in a town in central Germany.

While doing so, I pay attention to the particular sociability, superlative language, and culture of non-confrontation characteristic of these temples of beauty and well-being, thus revealing Georg Simmel’s not-so-secret influence. The salons also impose their own topics: aging, “natural” beauty, fashion, holidays as markers of life. The physical proximity and non-sexual intimacy with strangers specific to the practice of hairdressing raise other Simmelian themes: the importance of senses and of appearance as a medium of social interaction and aesthetic judgment.

In addition to capturing the aesthetic dimension of the social, I aim to continue to work on the renewal of sociological writing through “sociological feuilletons,” short texts combining sociology, literature, and reportage and inspired by Siegfried Kracauer and German journalism of the 1920s and 1930s. In recent years, sociological feuilletons have been the subject of seminars, workshops, columns in newspapers, and a new magazine (*Siggi, le magazine de sociologie*,

<https://editionueberland.de/shop/siggi-le-magazine-de-sociologie/>). I further develop this form of writing in publications related to this project and in the form of an anthology.

Recommended Reading

Thériault, Barbara (2004). *“Conservative Revolutionaries”: Protestant and Catholic Churches in Germany after Radical Political Change in the 1990s*. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books.

— (2013). *The Cop and the Sociologist: Investigating Diversity in German Police Forces*. Bielefeld: transcript.

— (2020). *Die Bodenständigen: Erkundungen aus der nüchternen Mitte der Gesellschaft*. Leipzig: edition überland.

MARION TIEDTKE

von September 2023 bis Februar 2024

Professorin für Schauspiel und Ausbildungsdirektorin, Dramaturgin für Schauspiel und Oper

Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst (HfMDK), Frankfurt/Main

Geboren 1962 in Köln, Deutschland

Studium der Philosophie, Germanistik und Geschichte an der Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg und der Freien Universität Berlin

DIE ARBEIT HINTER DEM VORHANG:
PRODUKTIONSWEISEN DES THEATERS AM BEISPIEL
DER BERLINER SCHAUBÜHNE IN DEN SIEBZIGER- UND
ACHTZIGERJAHREN (ARBEITSTITEL)

Das Theater befindet sich in den letzten zehn Jahren in einer permanenten Krise: Es soll seine öffentlichen Subventionen rechtfertigen, es produziert immer mehr, um seine Zuschauerzahlen zu halten, es legitimiert sich über Auslastung und Einnahmen. Wie im Hochdruckkessel haben sich Produktionszeiten verkürzt, die Zahl der zu spielenden Rollen für die Schauspielerinnen und Schauspieler extrem erhöht, die Aufgaben vervielfältigt.

Die Zeit scheint lange vorbei zu sein, in der sich ein Ensemble noch vertiefen konnte in die großen Repertoirestücke, um über eine intensive Probenarbeit neue Aspekte in der Dramatik freizulegen oder gar große Autoren und Autorinnen kontinuierlich aufzubauen – wie Botho Strauß oder Peter Handke an der Berliner Schaubühne. Die Inszenierungen von Peter Stein, Klaus Michael Grüber und Luc Bondy setzten Maßstäbe. Hier wurden in langer Vorarbeit mit Experten, aber auch mit dem Ensemble (Schauspielerinnen und Schauspieler sowie dem gesamten künstlerischen Personal) Texte gelesen, studiert und diskutiert. Anhand der Protokolle der Berliner Schaubühne und durch eine Vielzahl unterschiedlicher Interviews mit wichtigen Schauspielerinnen und Schauspielern wie Peter Simonischek, Edith Clever, Udo Samel, Ernst Stötzner

u. v. a. soll ein Sachbuch entstehen, das diese Arbeit rekonstruiert. Die Recherche als Blick zurück richtet zugleich den Blick nach vorne, um in Zukunft wieder nach anderen Kriterien der Theaterarbeit zu suchen als die der Auslastungszahlen und Einnahmen. Oftmals ist einer kulturaffinen Öffentlichkeit nicht bekannt, wie im Theater ein künstlerisches Programm entsteht, wie Proben ablaufen, Entscheidungs- und Produktionsprozesse sich gestalten. Die Monografie kann Einblick darin geben und zugleich die besondere Arbeitsweise der Schaubühne den heute üblichen Produktionsbedingungen gegenüberstellen.

Lektüreempfehlung

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Tiedtke, Marion. „Einfach loslassen. Zu Luk Percevals Inszenierung ‚Mut und Gnade‘ am Schauspiel Frankfurt.“ In *Arbeitsbuch 2019: Luk Perceval*, herausgegeben von Thomas Irmer, 94–97. Berlin: Theater der Zeit, 2019.

—. „Fehlende Gewaltenteilung: Die Intendanten haben zu viel Macht, sagt die Dramaturgin Marion Tiedtke. Was können die Theater dagegen tun?“ Von Christine Dössel. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 12. April 2021.

CLAUDIA VERHOEVEN

Ph.D., Associate Professor of History
Cornell University

Born in 1972 in Leiden, the Netherlands
Studied Philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley and
History at the University of California, Los Angeles

LOVE AND TERROR: A REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY OF THE MANSON MURDERS

My project is a history of the 1969 Manson murders, an infamous criminal case in 20th-century U.S. history that has entranced the American public for half a century. This case has long been a classic of true crime and a touchstone of popular culture, but my work aims to make the Manson materials appear as an exemplary site for historical scholarship. It does this by taking a methodologically kaleidoscopic approach – explicitly moving from legal history in one chapter to cultural history in another, then political, intellectual, spatial, environmental, etc. – and by borrowing insights from philosophy, political theory, anthropology, and religious studies. Importantly, while my project is an American history based on years of empirical research, its argumentation is shaped by my background in philosophy, my training in modern Russian/European cultural-intellectual history, and my work on the long, global history of terror/ism. Thus, rather than intervening specifically in U.S. historiography, my book takes up the Manson murders as a historical case with which to think through a set of universal questions about the nature of authority, charisma, terror, myth, apocalypticism, and the Anthropocene.

Recommended Reading

Verhoeven, Claudia. *The Odd Man Karakozov: Imperial Russia, Modernity, and the Birth of Terrorism*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2009.

—. “Time of Terror, Terror of Time: On the Impatience of Russian Revolutionary Terrorism (Early 1860s – Early 1880s).” In “Modern Times? Terrorism in Late Imperial Russia,” edited by Anke Hilbrenner and Frithjof B. Schenk, special issue, *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* 58, no. 2 (2010): 254–273.

—. “Epilogue: Shock and Awe, Terrorism and Theory.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the History of Terrorism*, edited by Carola Dietze and Claudia Verhoeven, 691–711. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022.

MARCUS WILLASCHEK
Dr. phil., Professor of Philosophy
Goethe University Frankfurt/Main

Born in 1962 in Arnsberg, Germany
Studied Philosophy, Biology, Psychology, and Law at the University of Münster

TIME, SUBJECTIVITY, AND DEATH

Subjectivity and time have both been central topics of philosophical reflexion since antiquity. Moreover, both are currently the focus of intensive scientific and philosophical research. However, there is little work on the interrelations between them. This project explores the hypothesis that time and subjectivity might be interdependent phenomena. More specifically, it pursues the idea that while subjective experience is necessarily related to the temporal present (or “now-indexical”), the distinction between past, present, and future (sometimes called the “passage of time”) is essentially subjective (or “I-indexical”) in that it depends on a first-person perspective. To say that the passage of time is subjective, however, is to deny neither that we all share the same present nor that the passage of time is a real phenomenon. Rather, the aim is to argue from the reality of subjective experience to the “inter-subjective” reality of the passage of time. Thus, the project aims to show that the phenomena expressed by “I”- and “now”-thoughts are interdependent parts of a whole – the conscious life of a person – that has the structural property of “I-now-indexicality.”

If this hypothesis could be substantiated, it would have far-reaching consequences for the philosophies of mind and of time. Moreover, this hypothesis stands in the context of a larger project about the value of life and the badness of death, which emphasizes the I-now-indexical character of human life and of the values that structure it. Thus, the project is meant to contribute to our understanding of what it is to lead a human life and how to cope with its finitude.

Recommended Reading

Willaschek, Marcus. *Der mentale Zugang zur Welt: Realismus, Skeptizismus und Intentionalität*. Frankfurt/Main: Klostermann, 2003.

—. *Kant on the Sources of Metaphysics: The Dialectic of Pure Reason*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

—. “Death and Existential Value: In Defence of Epicurus.” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 106, no. 2 (2023): 475–492.

CHRISTOPHER WOOD

Ph.D., Professor of German
New York University

Born in 1961, Boston, Mass., USA
Studied History, Literature, and Fine Arts at Harvard University

POPULAR ANTIQUITIES: THE SUNKEN CITIES
(FOLKLORE AND FOLK ART REASSESSED)

I propose a reinterpretation of early modern European culture (fifteenth to eighteenth centuries) based on local legends and so-called folk art. These under-exploited and not unproblematic bodies of material will yield an unfamiliar picture of the collective memory and vernacular or unofficial dreams and fears. Cognizant of the historiographical and ideological hazards, I will work along the borderlands between literary history and art history, tracking symbols, motifs, plots, characters, and etymologies. Encoded in the legends are troubled, clouded recollections of the European past; preoccupations with suffering and conflict, with secrecy and access to knowledge; anxieties about food and climate; erosion of confidence in rituals, sacrifices, curses, and incantations; suspicions that the past was fuller and more real than the present; and the persistence of incompletely mourned pasts and undead bodies.

At the core will be abyssal, speluncar, and hypogean imagery, for example the many local legends involving doomed cities sucked back into the earth or the waters. The legends interpret dimly recalled records of catastrophe and accidents in moral terms: a “people’s morality” and a people’s eschatology emerges outside of Christianity. There is often an anti-establishment or socially subversive quality to the legends. The unburied past reproached elite, promulgated histories, just as folk art reproached the authored yet rule-based art cultivated in the art academies. I present the vernacular material with its negative aura not as low or underdeveloped culture but rather as a form of counterculture, as a ri-

poste to and parody of emerging academic, clerical, and bureaucratic narratives and archives.

Recommended Reading

Wood, Christopher S. *Forgery, Replica, Fiction: Temporalities of German Renaissance Art*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

Nagel, Alexander, and Christopher S. Wood. *Anachronic Renaissance*. New York: Zone Books, 2010.

Wood, Christopher S. *A History of Art History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2019.

BIN XU

Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology

Emory University, Atlanta

Born in 1974 in Hangzhou, China

Studied Sociology at Northwestern University

LISTENING TO THUNDER IN SILENCE: THE POLITICS AND ETHICS OF MEMORY OF TIANANMEN 1989

“Forgetting” has been a term widely used in academic and public discourses of the memory of the 1989 Tiananmen protests and the state’s brutal crackdown. But it is conceptually unclear, empirically ineffective, and ethically problematic. Conceptually, it relies on a problematic assumption that silence means forgetting. Empirically, it lumps together different states of memory: don’t remember, don’t talk about, don’t know, and don’t care. Ethically, it blames the Chinese people for their “complicity” and distributes the moral responsibility equally between the repressive regime and the people, between the powerful and the powerless. I argue that “silence” provides greater conceptual precision, more analytical subtlety, and less ethical liability. Silence does not mean forgetting. Nor does it always mean the complete absence of sound. Rather, it refers to the absence of certain – not all – discourses about the past in some situations. I propose an empirical analytical frame based on different forms of silence: silencing, silenced, and silent. While prior studies have focused on Tiananmen exiles and public memories outside China, my project takes up the challenge to “listen to thunder in silence” within China by collecting textual materials and conducting interviews with silent or silenced people. I also advocate for an ethical neutrality based on silence, which recognizes individuals’ moral-political dilemmas under a repressive regime and enables all involved parties to participate in a more inclusive transitional justice process to restore historical truth in the future. This project not only contributes to the specific literature on the Tiananmen memory,

but also offers a general perspective on silence that can be useful for the politics and ethics of remembering in other contexts.

Recommended Reading

Xu, Bin. *The Politics of Compassion: The Sichuan Earthquake and Civic Engagement in China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2017.

—. *Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.

—. *The Culture of Democracy: A Sociological Approach to Civil Society*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2022.

BEE YUN

Dr. phil., Professor of Political Science
Sungkyunkwan University, Seoul

Born in 1968 in Seoul

Studied Political Science and International Relations at Seoul National
University and Political Science at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

THE WILL TO DEMOCRACY. DEMOCRACY IN EAST
ASIA AND A NEW GLOBAL HISTORY OF DEMOCRACY
IN THE 21ST CENTURY

This project deals with a question that has been gaining in importance recently: how can one explain the worldwide rise of Western democracy from the 19th century to our time? The focus of the project is on the experience of the democracies in East Asia (Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan), whose success is reflected in their political stability, rapid economic growth, and, most recently, effective and successful management of the COVID-19 crisis. By historically and comparatively examining the paths to democracy in East Asia and comparing them with the European cases, the project aims to critically examine different explanatory models for the conditions and causes of the development of democracy and to produce new research approaches.

Central to the considerations is the concept of the will to democracy, which is also the title of the project proposed here. The concept emphasizes the artificiality of modern democracy: artificiality in the sense that modern democracy, rather than being a natural evolution out of certain cultural characteristics, was rather an artificial product of thought and endeavor, in which a number of ideas played a core role (in philosophical terminology, they are called “values” precisely to denote their artificiality): the freedom of individuals, equality, and later human dignity and equal rights. They were supplemented by certain organizational principles of government. A society becomes democratic only when consensus is formed on those core values and principles. For this, they must be con-

sciously propagated. Once democracy is established, it can survive and spread only if one persists in those values and principles and strives to develop them further. Democracy is thus based on a series of acts of will, both in its formation and in its survival.

The concept of the will to democracy is intended to mark precisely this centrality of the voluntaristic aspect. The insight gained through this project into the development of democracy in East Asia will finally serve to reflect on the state of democracy from a global perspective. By doing so, this project attempts, on the one hand, to reconstruct the various development paths of democracy from a global historical perspective and, on the other hand, to ask what prospects there are for democracy as a form of political and social life in our age.

Recommended Reading

Yun, Bee. "A Long and Winding Road to Reforming the Corrupt Republic: Niccolò Machiavelli's Idea of the One-Man Reformer and His View of the Medici." *History of Political Thought* 41, no. 4 (2020): 539–558.

—. *Wege zu Machiavelli: Die Rückkehr des Politischen im Spätmittelalter*. Cologne: Böhlau, 2021.

—. "The Scientist of Politics? The Typology of Princedoms in *The Prince* and Machiavelli's Ambition as a Theorist of Human Action." In *Rethinking Medieval and Renaissance Political Thought: Historiographical Problems, Fresh Interpretations, New Debates*, edited by Chris Jones and Takashi Shogimen, 59–86. London and New York: Routledge, 2023.

BÉNÉDICTE ZIMMERMANN

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg

Dr., Directrice d'études

École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris

Born in 1965 in Mulhouse, France

Studied History and Political Science at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-

Sorbonne and the Institut d'études politiques de Paris

IN SEARCH OF SUSTAINABLE WORK

Work has been a latecomer to sustainability debates, and it remains unclear what sustainability exactly means in relation to work. Whereas trade unions and labor studies used to focus on the individual and social sustainability of work (in the sense of work that does not endanger the physical and mental health of workers and may contribute to their well-being), another understanding that asks how work relates to ecological sustainability (in the sense of the contribution of work to climate warming, pollution, and loss of biodiversity) is gaining importance. How do these two understandings interrelate? And can work be sustainable at all in a growth- and profit-oriented capitalist economy?

Based on an empirical examination of initiatives claiming to pursue social and ecological sustainability in the sphere of work, the project aims to contribute to a critical conceptualization of sustainable work.

Recommended Reading

Renard, Léa, and Bénédicte Zimmermann. “‘Gute Arbeit’ und ‘qualité de vie au travail’: Kategorisierungsprozesse im deutsch-französischen Vergleich.” *Berliner Journal für Soziologie* 30, nos. 3–4 (2020): 421–451.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11609-021-00432-y>.

Herzog, Lisa, Katrin Sold, and Bénédicte Zimmermann. “Essential Work: A Category in the Making?” In *Shifting Categories of Work: Unsettling the Ways We Think about Jobs, Labor and Activities*, edited by Lisa Herzog and Bénédicte Zimmermann, 252–264. London: Routledge, 2022.

Herzog, Lisa, and Bénédicte Zimmermann, eds. *Shifting Categories of Work: Unsettling the Ways We Think about Jobs, Labor and Activities*. London: Routledge, 2022.

COLLEGE FOR LIFE SCIENCES

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, frühere Arbeiten oder empirische Daten zu analysieren oder zu überdenken, Ideen zu entwickeln, Forschungspläne zu entwerfen, sich neu zu orientieren – jedenfalls für eine beschränkte Zeit aus der Routine der täglichen Arbeit auszuweichen und dabei mit Wissenschaftlerinnen, Künstlern und Intellektuellen verschiedenster Fachgebiete und Traditionen zu interagieren.

Die Fellows des *College for Life Sciences*, die nach Begutachtung durch ein Scientific Committee für eine Dauer von drei bis fünf 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 them to analyze or rethink earlier work or empirical data, develop ideas and research plans, gain new orientation – at any rate, to drop out of the routine of their daily work and to interact with scientists, artists, and intellectuals from the widest possible spectrum of fields and traditions.

Selected by a Scientific Committee, the Fellows of the *College for Life Sciences* are invited to come for three to five months. They are on equal terms with the Fellows of the Wissenschaftskolleg.

The institute expects them to live and 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.

Fellows des College for Life Sciences

Iveren Abiem	Ecology and Conservation Biology	Jos
Eva Lievens	Evolutionary Ecology	Konstanz
Juliano Morimoto	Zoology	Aberdeen
Lara Puhmann	Biological Psychology	Mainz
Arjun Srivathsa	Conservation Ecology	Bangalore

NAME FELLOWSHIPS

Iso Lomso Fellowship

Iso Lomso bedeutet in isiXhosa „das Auge von morgen“: in die Zukunft blicken, den Grundstein für das Morgen legen. Mit dem *Iso Lomso Fellowship Programme* hat das Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) im Jahr 2017 eine Förderlinie speziell für afrikanische Nachwuchswissenschaftlerinnen und -wissenschaftler aus allen Disziplinen etabliert. Die Fellowships in diesem Programm erstrecken sich über drei Jahre, von denen zehn Residenzmonate – in drei Etappen – am STIAS absolviert werden. Einige dieser Residenzmonate können alternativ an einem internationalen Partnerinstitut verbracht werden. Das Wissenschaftskolleg ist ein solches Partnerinstitut und lädt in jedem akademischen Jahr in der Regel zwei Fellows aus dem *Iso Lomso Programme* ein, für drei Monate ans Kolleg zu kommen.

Iso Lomso Fellow des akademischen Jahres 2023/2024 ist Ismaila Emahi, University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani.

Iso Lomso means “the eye of tomorrow” in isiXhosa: seeing towards the future, laying the foundations for tomorrow. In 2017, the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) established with the Iso Lomso Fellowship Programme a support programme especially for young African academics from all disciplines. The fellowships in this programme last for three years, of which ten months consist of residence in three stages at the STIAS. Alternatively, some of these residence months can be spent at an international partner institute. The Wissenschaftskolleg is such a partner institute and, as a rule, each year invites two Fellows from the Iso Lomso Programme to come to the Kolleg for three months.

Iso Lomso Fellow of the academic year 2023/2024 is Ismaila Emahi, University of Energy and Natural Resources, Sunyani.

Mortier Next Generation Fellowship

Zur Erinnerung an Gerard Mortier, den 2014 verstorbenen innovativen Opernintendanten, wurde ein europäischer Förderpreis für junge Talente geschaffen, die sich – beispielsweise in den Bereichen Regie, Musik, Bühnengestaltung oder Technik – für das Musiktheater als moderne Kunstform einsetzen. Mortier selbst sprach mit solchem Enthusiasmus von seiner Zeit als Fellow des Wissenschaftskollegs, dass es nur folgerichtig scheint, den Preisträgerinnen oder Preisträgern des Mortier Next Generation Award eine ähnliche Erfahrung zu ermöglichen und eine Kurzzeit-Fellowship anzubieten.

Mortier Next Generation Fellow des akademischen Jahres 2023/2024 ist Jeffrey Döring.

In memory of Gerard Mortier, the innovative opera director who died in 2014, a European promotion prize for young talents was created. It is 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.

Mortier Next Generation Fellow of the academic year 2023/2024 is Jeffrey Döring.

VUIAS FELLOWSHIP

Zusammen mit ukrainischen und internationalen Partnern bemüht sich das Wissenschaftskolleg um den Aufbau eines Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (UIAS) in Kyiv. In der Gründungsphase unter Kriegsbedingungen soll zunächst eine virtuelle Struktur, das VUIAS, entstehen.

Im ersten akademischen Jahr 2023/2024 werden insgesamt 14 VUIAS-Fellowships für ukrainische Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler unterschiedlicher Disziplinen vergeben. Acht *VUIAS Fellowships abroad* werden von Institutes for Advanced Study in Europa und den USA ausgeschrieben und finanziert. Weitere sechs *VUIAS Fellowships in Ukraine* hat das Wissenschaftskolleg für Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler in Universitäten und Forschungseinrichtungen der Ukraine ausgeschrieben, die ihre Arbeit dort weiterführen.

VUIAS Fellow abroad 2023/2024 am Wissenschaftskolleg ist
Kateryna Mishchenko.

In close cooperation with Ukrainian as well as international partner institutes the Wissenschaftskolleg helps to launch a Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (UIAS) in Kyiv. A preliminary virtual institute, VUIAS, will begin operations in the academic year 2023/2024.

In this first academic year, 14 VUIAS Fellowships will be awarded to Ukrainian scholars from different disciplines. Eight *VUIAS Fellowships abroad* are funded and hosted by some of the world's leading Institutes for Advanced Study in Europe and the USA. Another six *VUIAS Fellowships in Ukraine* are granted by the Wissenschaftskolleg to scholars continuing their work in universities and research institutions in Ukraine.

VUIAS Fellow abroad 2023/2024 at the Wissenschaftskolleg is
Kateryna Mishchenko.

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