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INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

ARBEITSVORHABEN DER FELLOWS
FELLOWS' PROJECTS 2025/2026

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VORWORT

In dieser Broschüre werden die Fellows des Wissenschaftskollegs im akademischen Jahr 2025/2026 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 2025 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 2025

Wenn nicht anders angegeben, erstrecken sich die Fellowships vom 16. September 2025 bis zum 15. Juli 2026.

PREFACE

This brochure presents the Fellows of the academic year 2025/2026. 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, 2025, 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 2025

If not otherwise indicated, the fellowships extend from September 16, 2025 to July 15, 2026.

ZOLTÁN ÁDÁM

from September 2025 to February 2026

PhD, Senior Research Fellow

HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest

Born in 1971 in Balassagyarmat, Hungary

BSc in Business Administration, College of Finance and Accountancy,

Salgótarján; MA in Southeast-European Studies, Central European University;

MA in Sociology, Eötvös Loránd University; MPhil in Political Science, Central

European University; Mid-Career Master in Public Administration, Harvard

University; PhD in Economics, University of Debrecen

HUNGARY UNDER ORBÁN: THE EU'S ONLY ELECTORAL AUTOCRACY IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

Viktor Orbán's Fidesz gained a two-thirds constitutional majority in the 2010 parliamentary elections, and Hungary subsequently entered a period of accelerating autocratization. My ambition for my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin is to complete a book on this process: its underlying reasons, enabling factors, most important elements, and consequences. For this process, paradoxically, made Hungary as important on the global stage as it has not been since the revolution of 1956.

In this spectacular process of autocratization, the governing parliamentary majority gradually gained power over the judiciary and all other formally independent agencies and public institutions—among others, the office of the chief prosecutor, the state accounting office, the public television and radio, and the public news agency. As the number of independent agencies shrank, public space was increasingly filled with government propaganda, often in the form of hate speech against government-designated scapegoats, including migrants and refugees, civil society organizations, the EU, the IMF, the UN, and George Soros. In 2019, in consequence, Hungary was classified as partly free by Free-

dom House (FH), which was the first time an EU member state was ever given this classification. Similarly, since 2020, the V-Dem Institute has classified Hungary an electoral autocracy, again for the first time for any EU member state. Nevertheless, the roots of the dramatic post-2010 Hungarian democratic decline should be sought in the pre-2010 period. Why, how, and with which specific consequences are the subject of my book.

Recommended Reading

- Ádám, Zoltán (2019). “Explaining Orbán: A Political Transaction Cost Theory of Authoritarian Populism.” *Problems of Post-Communism* 66 (6): 385–401. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10758216.2019.1643249>.
- (2020). “Re-feudalizing Democracy: An Approach to Authoritarian Populism Taken from Institutional Economics.” *Journal of Institutional Economics* 16 (1): 105–118. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1744137419000304>.
- (2023). “Economic Versus Authoritarian: Economic and Social Policies of Alternating Populisms in Pre- and Post-2010 Hungary.” In *Encyclopedia of New Populism and Responses in the 21st Century*, edited by Joseph Chacko Chennattuserry, Madhumati Deshpande, and Paul Hong. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-9859-0_11-1.

ROHINI BALAKRISHNAN
Ph.D., Professor of Ecology
Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

Born in 1963 in Mumbai, India
B.Sc. in Zoology, Bangalore University, M.Sc. in Zoology, Poona University,
Ph.D. in Behaviour Genetics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay

CRICKET SCORES: SINGERS AND LISTENERS
(A TINBERGIAN SYNTHESIS OF CRICKET AND
KATYDID ACOUSTIC COMMUNICATION)

Crickets and katydids are among the oldest terrestrial insects to have evolved acoustic communication for mate-finding. They show a bewildering diversity of signals and mate-finding strategies, across and within species and communities. My work tries to understand why signals are structured the way they are, when and where animals signal, and what drives these decisions. Equally important are decisions that receivers make based on these signals, on whom to approach or avoid, when, how, and whether to search for mates. I have examined these questions using a variety of approaches, from understanding the physics and physiology of signalling to the influence of immediate ecological context and evolutionary history. I have also examined the fitness consequences of these decisions. The empirical data have yielded many unexpected results, challenging some common assumptions in the area of animal communication. In this project, I would like to synthesise these findings on signalling and decision-making in the form of a book placed in the wider perspective of the field of animal communication. I believe that there is necessity at this point for a deeper reflection on the entrenched assumptions and approaches to the study of animal communication, how these limit our understanding, and how we may move forward. This is of particular significance when trying to understand anthropogenic impacts on animal communication. This book will also examine more

broadly the historical trajectory of animal behaviour research and how anthropomorphism and human perception may have biased this trajectory.

Recommended Reading

Jain, Manjari, Swati Diwakar, Jimmy Bahuleyan, Rittik Deb, and Rohini Balakrishnan (2014). “A Rain Forest Dusk Chorus: Cacophony or Sounds of Silence?” *Evolutionary Ecology* 28: 1–22.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10682-013-9658-7>.

Raghuram, Hanumanthan, Rittik Deb, Diptarup Nandi, and Rohini Balakrishnan (2015). “Silent Katydid Females Are at Higher Risk of Bat Predation than Acoustically Signalling Katydid Males.” *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 282: 20142319. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2014.2319>.

Deb, Rittik, Sambita Modak, and Rohini Balakrishnan (2020). “Baffling: A Condition-Dependent Alternative Mate Attraction Strategy Using Self-Made Tools in Tree Crickets.” *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 287: 20202229.
<https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2020.2229>.

JONAS-SÉBASTIEN BEAUDRY

DPhil, Professor of Law

McGill University, Montreal

Born in 1981 in Montreal, Canada

BCL and LLB, McGill University, LLM, Harvard Law School, DPhil in Law,
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MEDICAL AID IN DYING, AUTONOMY, AND SOMATIC OPPRESSION

This research explores how social inequalities can subtly and profoundly shape decisions around Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD). While debates about MAiD often center on protecting vulnerable lives versus respecting individual autonomy, both sides assume patients are making free and informed choices. But what if some of these choices are shaped by hidden forms of social or bodily oppression?

Drawing on feminist philosophy and disability studies, this project introduces a new concept—somatic oppression—that refers to how people with certain bodies (e.g., disabled, ill, or aging bodies) may face stigma, marginalization, or reduced social status. These pressures can impact not just how people are treated, but also how they see themselves and their life options. The project also redefines autonomy through a relational lens, arguing that true autonomy depends not only on individual capacity to choose, but also on the social environment that either supports or undermines one's ability to reflect, define, and act on one's values.

Three goals guide the research:

- (1) Build a model showing how somatic oppression affects personal autonomy.
- (2) Apply this model to real-world MAiD decisions, revealing how social pressures might influence people's desire to end their lives.

(3) Propose policy reforms that better protect meaningful autonomy in MAiD cases.

Methodologically, the project blends analytic philosophy with critical, justice-oriented approaches. It starts with real-life cases of injustice to build better legal and ethical frameworks. Ultimately, the research will produce a scholarly book and policy tools that support more just, inclusive MAiD laws—ensuring decisions to die are not only legal, but truly free.

Recommended Reading

Beaudry, Jonas-Sébastien. “Somatic Oppression and Relational Autonomy: Revisiting Medical Aid in Dying through a Feminist Lens.” *UBC Law Review* 53, no. 2 (2020): 241–298.

—. *The Disabled Contract: Severe Intellectual Disability, Justice and Morality*. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

—. “Ableism’s New Clothes: Achievements and Challenges for Disability Rights in Canada.” *University of Toronto Law Journal* 74, no. 1 (2025): 1–40.

ELIZABETH A. CANNING
Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology
Washington State University, Pullman

Born in 1989 in Oklahoma City, Okla., USA
B.A. in Psychology, University of Oklahoma, M.A. and Ph.D. in
Social Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

INSTRUCTORS AS MEANING-MAKERS: HOW BELIEF SYSTEMS SHAPE GROWTH-MINDSET CULTURE

Imagine a student receives a disappointing grade on an exam—their “belief system” about what that exam grade means about their intelligence is likely to shape their response. Extensive research has illustrated how mindset beliefs (i.e., people’s beliefs about the fixedness or malleability of intelligence) operate as a “meaning system” that influences the types of goals students set, how they attribute, interpret, and respond to struggles, and whether they seek or avoid challenging tasks and learning opportunities. A student who holds a fixed mindset believes intelligence is a stable, unchangeable trait. Thus, they are likely to interpret their disappointing grade as a reflection of weak ability that they can’t do much to change, which may lead them to expend less effort and underperform. A student who holds a growth mindset believes that intelligence is malleable and can be developed over time. Thus, they are likely to interpret their disappointing grade as a sign that they need to put in more effort, seek help, and use different strategies when preparing for the next exam.

Most of the research in this area focuses exclusively on students and their belief systems, without considering the institutional, cultural, and contextual environment that either corroborates or negates these belief systems. This proposed project considers mindset beliefs as a philosophy or meaning system that is embedded in the culture of a classroom environment and shaped by the instructor. Classroom cultures provide a coherent meaning system that students use for understanding and responding to academic events. During my time at

the Wissenschaftskolleg, I will work on synthesizing several mixed-methods data sources to provide empirical support for a theoretical model of growth-mindset classroom culture that includes (a) teachers' beliefs and intentions for the culture they plan to create; (b) teachers' implementation of the culture, communicated by what they do and say in the classroom; and (c) students' interpretation of the classroom culture—including their perceptions and experiences. My project will form a unified model of how teachers' and students' belief systems interact to either facilitate or inhibit curiosity, learning, effort, motivation, and performance.

Recommended Reading

- Canning, Elizabeth A., Katherine Muenks, Dorainne J. Green, and Mary C. Murphy (2019). "STEM Faculty Who Believe Ability Is Fixed Have Larger Racial Achievement Gaps and Inspire Less Student Motivation in Their Classes." *Science Advances* 5 (2): eaau4734. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aau4734>.
- Canning, Elizabeth A., Elise Ozier, Heidi E. Williams, Rashed AlRasheed, and Mary C. Murphy (2022). "Professors Who Signal a Fixed Mindset about Ability Undermine Women's Performance in STEM." *Social Psychological and Personality Science* 13 (5): 927–937. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19485506211030398>.
- Canning, Elizabeth A., Makita White, and William B. Davis (2024). "Growth Mindset Messages from Instructors Improve Academic Performance among First-Generation College Students." *CBE—Life Sciences Education* 23 (2). <https://doi.org/10.1187/cbe.23-07-0131>.

MATTHEW CRAVEN
PhD, Professor of International Law
SOAS University of London

Born in 1963 in Felsted, United Kingdom
BA Hons Law, LLM, and PhD in International Law, University of Nottingham

GEOPOLITICAL JURISPRUDENCE AT THE FRONTIER

We seem to be living in an age when “geopolitics” has returned to the international agenda in a way that has not been apparent for several decades. Whether one looks at the Russian invasion of Ukraine, US moves to authorise deep-sea bed mining, or the extension of Chinese claims over the South China Seas, a much commented-upon pattern seems to be emerging in which geopolitical contestation over global resources has thoroughly displaced the traditional “rules-based” international legal order. A simple question may be asked nevertheless: Is this oppositional description of international law, on the one hand, and geopolitics, on the other, as straightforward as seems to be imagined? Might there not be more politics in the law, and more law in the politics, than we care to admit? And if so, how might we then respond to what appears to be the recrudescence of a geopolitical antagonism?

This project will thus seek to retrace the relationship between the thought and practice of geopolitics and that of international law. Focusing, in particular, on the emerging threads of geopolitical thought after 1890, it will not only provide an account of the juridical dimensions of geopolitics, but also broaden our understanding of international law’s own engagement with geophysical space. In developing an account of what I call “geopolitical jurisprudence,” I seek to draw attention to the processes by which geopolitical imaginaries come to be formalised through the creation of “international frontiers.” International frontiers, here, are not the sovereign frontiers of the nation state, but extra-sovereign demarcations that run across global space, creating an alternate terrain of jurisdictional rivalry and contestation. It is only by way of recognising that geopoliti-

cal imaginaries depend upon their formalisation, I argue, that we may better contest them or offer up alternatives.

Recommended Reading

Craven, Matthew. "Between Law and History: The Berlin Conference of 1884–1885 and the Logic of Free Trade." *London Review of International Law* 3, no. 1 (2015): 31–59.

—. "'Other Spaces': Constructing the Legal Architecture of a Cold War Commons and the Scientific-Technical Imaginary of Outer Space." *European Journal of International Law* 30, no. 2 (2019): 547–572.

Craven, Matthew, Sundhya Pahuja, and Gerry Simpson. "Reading and Unreading a Historiography of Hiatus." In *International Law and the Cold War*, edited by Matthew Craven, Sundhya Pahuja, and Gerry Simpson, 1–24. Cambridge University Press, 2019.

TSITSI DANGAREMBGA

DLitt (honoris causa), Rhodes University; author and filmmaker, Director
Institute of Creative Arts for Progress in Africa, Harare

Born in 1959 in Mutoko, Zimbabwe

B.Sc. in Psychology, University of Zimbabwe, Diploma in directing and
screenwriting, Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin

UBUNTU 2.0: INSIGHTS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FROM ANCIENT BANTU-SPEAKING CULTURES

Ubuntu 2.0 is a rendering in nonfiction and fiction of the ancient ideological system of Bantu-speaking peoples whose cultures refer to it with words derived from the cultures' respective words for "person." This system is most widely known by the Zulu word "Ubuntu." "Ubuntu" is frequently translated in mainstream discourse as the quality of being human. In philosophy it has come to be characterised as a form of "humanism." However, the term "humanism" is bounded by the knowledge systems of European modernity through which the concept was created. Consequently, the full spectrum of meaning signified by the term "ubuntu"—a concept that arose outside of the "humanism"-generating knowledge system—is not fully captured by notions of humanity. "Ubuntu" speaks to how an individual human being can function well and sustainably as a person in their environment. The word answers the question of how we can be good people. The answer is illustrated in the chiShona greeting "I am well if you are well too." According to Micere Githae Mugo (*The Imperative of Utu/Ubuntu in Africana Scholarship*, Daraja Press, 2021), the logical conclusion of not being well is death. Thus, the meaning of the chiShona greeting can be expanded to mean: "I am dead if you are dead, too"; or "I live if you live, too." Mugo formulates the central idea of "Ubuntu" in this way: "I am because you are and since you are, therefore I am." Recognising the relationship between ideological and economic systems, Ubuntu 2.0 contributes to retrieving what has been lost in

translation and deploys this to suggest a paradigm for a practical, person-focused ubuntu in a period of late capitalism.

Recommended Reading

Dangarembga, Tsitsi. *Nervous Conditions*. Faber & Faber, 2021. First published 1988 by The Women's Press. German: *Aufbrechen*. Translated by Ilija Trojanow. Orlanda, 2019.

—. *This Mournable Body*. Graywolf Press, 2018; Faber & Faber, 2020. German: *Überleben*. Translated by Anette Grube. Orlanda, 2021.

—. *Black and Female*. Faber & Faber, 2022. German: *Schwarz und Frau: Gedanken zur postkolonialen Gesellschaft*. Translated by Anette Grube. Quadriga, 2023.

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 Cambridge

RETHINKING RISK IN A DANGEROUS AGE

Misfortune is the human lot, whether in the form of an ice age, a plague, or an earthquake, and cultures everywhere have found ways of cushioning themselves against the worst-case scenario. Pliable building materials in earthquake zones, dikes and levees in flood plains, quarantining the sick, and institutionalized solidarity are all forms of risk management. But the dominant method for taming risk in the contemporary world is insurance. Since the eighteenth century, insurance has grown from a canny bet on the success of long-distance mercantile ventures into an immense and immensely wealthy global system based on vast databases and complex mathematical modelling of both the probabilities of disaster and also the performance of the financial markets in which insurance companies invest their reserves.

Like their customers, insurance companies hedge their bets by taking out insurance in their turn, so-called reinsurance. The biggest reinsurance companies in the world sit at the top of a pyramid of primary and secondary insurers. In the last fifty years, the risks reinsurance firms are being asked to cover have climbed steeply. Climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of disasters like hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and mudslides, and the ever-denser concentration of populations in cities has also multiplied the damage claims when a catastrophe strikes an urban area.

These factors are forcing the reinsurance industry to rethink their own attitudes toward risk, including investment risks. We are in the midst of a quiet revolution in the way that those masters of disasters, the reinsurance firms, radically revise the business of risk in our dangerous age.

Recommended Reading

Coen, Deborah R. *The Earthquake Observers: Disaster Science from Lisbon to Richter*. University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Daston, Lorraine. "What Is an Insurable Risk? Swiss Re and Atomic Reactor Insurance." In *Managing Risk in Reinsurance: From City Fires to Global Warming*, edited by Niels Viggo Haueter and Geoffrey Jones, 230–247. Oxford University Press, 2017.

ELISE M. DERMINEUR REUTERSWÄRD

Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economic History
Stockholm University

Born in 1982 in Belfort, France

B.A. in History and Geography and M.A. in History, University of Strasbourg,
Ph.D. in History, Purdue University

THE MORAL ECONOMY: HISTORY AND EXPLORATIONS OF A CRITICAL CONCEPT

My book project is tentatively titled *The Moral Economy: History and Explorations of a Critical Concept*. This book explores the relationship between markets and society. Specifically, it retraces the history of the moral economy and analyzes the transformations and evolutions it has undergone over time. By “moral economy,” I mean the non-economic norms affecting commercial interactions, such as fairness, cooperation, flexibility, and other-regarding norms. The book illustrates how, in premodern communities, exchanges were governed by the norms of the moral economy in the context of a lack of efficient institutional structures for contract enforcement and coercion. These norms not only guided transactions, but also strengthened community cohesion. They established a strong mutual insurance system, offering support and security to members long before the emergence of modern welfare states.

However, at the turn of the nineteenth century, industrialization, urbanization, and demographic explosion coalesced to form the tenets of modernity, causing the norms of the moral economy to wane. The welfare state replaced community support, cities stretched and disrupted previously enmeshed ties between people, and changes in work, especially wage labor, altered the meaning of communality. Yet, the norms of the moral economy have not disappeared altogether. They have evolved, adapted, and even persisted in modern societies. This book explains how and why.

Recommended Reading

- Dermineur, Elise M. *Gender and Politics in Eighteenth-Century Sweden: Queen Louisa Ulrika (1720–1782)*. Routledge, 2017.
- . “Rethinking Debt: The Evolution of Private Credit Markets in Preindustrial France.” *Social Science History* 42, no. 2 (2018): 317–342.
- . *Before Banks: The Making of Credit and Debt in Preindustrial France*. Cambridge University Press, 2025.

LUÍS DUARTE DE ALMEIDA

DPhil, Professor of Jurisprudence

NOVA University Lisbon

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Born in 1976 in Lisbon

Licenciatura in Law and Mestrado in Law, University of Lisbon, DPhil in Law,

University of Oxford

ACCORDING TO LAW

How can you know how you ought *legally* to behave? The answer may seem simple: just look at the laws of your country. If a law requires some action, you legally ought to perform it. If a law forbids it, you legally ought not to perform it. And if no law either requires or forbids it, you neither ought nor ought not to do so. This answer may reflect most people's views about the law. Yet it is not how lawyers think or courts decide. When lawyers argue before courts, and courts argue for their verdicts, their arguments are varied and complex, and their conclusions can surprise lay people. I will try to make sense of this complexity. Most philosophical accounts of law pay relatively little attention to legal argumentation: they focus on general law, which they see as a system of authoritatively laid-down rules, and take the role of courts as that of syllogistically "applying" such rules to the cases before them. But there are reasons to think this view of legal arguments is flawed. My project takes the opposite approach, starting with the philosophical analysis of legal arguments themselves to only then draw further-reaching conclusions about law—and about the gap between how law is seen, on the one hand, by lawyers, and, on the other, by everyone else.

Recommended Reading

Duarte d'Almeida, Luís. *Allowing for Exceptions: A Theory of Defences and Defeasibility in Law*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

—. “On the Legal Syllogism.” In *Dimensions of Normativity: New Essays on Metaethics and Jurisprudence*, edited by David Plunkett, Scott J. Shapiro, and Kevin Toh, 335–364. Oxford University Press, 2019.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oso/9780190640408.003.0015>.

—. “What Is It to Apply the Law?” *Law and Philosophy* 40 (2021): 361–386.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10982-021-09405-x>.

RENATE DÜRR
Dr. phil., Professor of History
University of Tübingen

Born in 1961 in Bologna, Italy
M.A. and Dr. phil. in History, Freie Universität Berlin

DEALING WITH ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN EARLY MODERN GERMANY: BAPTISMAL SERMONS FOR MUSLIM, JEWISH, AND “HEATHEN” CONVERTS

Fragmented into rival territories, ravaged by wars, and beset by confessional discord, the Holy Roman Empire (HRE) has long been perceived as playing a marginal role in European expansion, global trade, and slavery. Recent scholarship challenges this notion by introducing the concept of “colonialism without colonies” to the study of early modern Germany. My book project explores the potential of a postcolonial reinterpretation of the HRE through an interpretation of printed baptismal sermons delivered to Muslim, Jewish, and “heathen” converts. These treatises, spanning at least 40 pages and often extending up to 200 pages, transcend the mere transcription of the sermon delivered at the baptismal ceremony. Instead, I interpret them as sites of knowledge production in church halls and thus as a first step towards a global intellectual microhistory of migration to and diversity in early modern Germany. Ultimately, the printed baptismal sermons provide a lens through which to examine ethnic and religious diversity in early modern towns and villages, the coexistence of non-baptized “heathens” in burgher households, and how pastors addressed slavery in their sermons. This approach will reveal a *longue durée* of forced migration to Germany and deepen our understanding of slavery’s impact on early modern German society. In the process, I will explore key questions like these: What did Germans know about Islam, Judaism, or West African pagan religions? What did it mean for Muslim, Jewish, and “heathen” converts to embody knowledge about the world, religious practices such as circumcision, or “natural historical”

explanations of Black skin color? And how might this study reshape our understanding of contemporary concepts of dependency applied to servants and serfs (Leibeigene)?

Recommended Reading

Dürr, Renate. "Mapping the Miracle: Empirical Approaches in the Exodus Debate of the Eighteenth Century." *Past and Present* 237 (2017): 93–133.

—, ed. *Threatened Knowledge: Practices of Knowing and Ignoring from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century*. Routledge, 2021.

Brauner, Christina, Renate Dürr, Philip Hahn, Anne Sophie Overkamp, and Simon Siemianowski, eds. *Encountering the Global in Early Modern Germany: Microhistories of Mobility, Materiality, and Belonging*. Berghahn, 2025.

MATTHIAS FRIEDRICH

Dr. phil., Archäologie

Wien

Geboren 1988 in Freudenberg, Deutschland

BA, Archäologie, Universität Bonn; MA, Archäologie, Universität Freiburg;

MA by research, Kunstgeschichte, University of York; Dr. phil., Archäologie,

Universität Freiburg

SINNESPRAKTIKEN UND SINNESREGIME: MATERIELLE KULTUR UND DIE SINNE IN DER ARCHÄOLOGIE DES MITTELALTERS UND DER NEUZEIT

Die sensorische Wahrnehmung des Menschen und deren Kategorisierung – die Sinne – sind biologisch und kulturell bedingt und sowohl historisch als auch wissenschaftstheoretisch von großer Bedeutung für die Erforschung vergangener Gesellschaften. In den letzten Jahrzehnten haben sich verschiedene kulturwissenschaftliche und historische Disziplinen mit den sinnlichen Modalitäten des Menschen im Rahmen der historischen Sinnesforschung oder „Sensory Studies“ befasst. Während sich in der englischsprachigen Archäologie eine „Sensory Archaeology“ etabliert hat, sind in der deutschsprachigen Forschung bisher nur wenige Ansätze zu verzeichnen.

In meinem Buchprojekt am Wissenschaftskolleg mit dem vorläufigen Titel „Sinnespraktiken und Sinnesregime: Materielle Kultur und die Sinne in der Archäologie des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit“ untersuche ich sensorische Modalitäten und materielle Kultur im vormodernen Zentraleuropa. Das Projekt ist in drei Hauptaspekte gegliedert: (1) Materielle Kultur und der Körper, (2) Macht und Herrschaft, (3) Persönliche und materielle Handlungsspielräume. Die konzeptionell ausgerichtete Arbeit zeigt die Möglichkeiten und Grenzen einer „sensorischen“ Perspektive in der Archäologie des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit auf und diskutiert diese kritisch.

Bisherige Arbeiten in der Mediävistik betonten häufig die positiven Aspekte der Sinne. Ich möchte jedoch auch die einschränkenden und negativen Seiten sensorischer Wahrnehmung untersuchen und nutze hierfür das Konzept der „Sinnesregime“ (*sensory regimes*) aus den Visual Culture Studies als Denkrahmen.

Anhand von archäologischen Fallbeispielen wird untersucht, wie die sozialen Kategorien Geschlecht, Alter, Religion und Status die Konstruktion der Sinneswahrnehmung beeinflussten (und umgekehrt). Ziel ist es, die aktive Rolle materieller Kultur bei der Konstituierung von oder Auflehnung gegen sensorische Regime herauszuarbeiten.

Lektüreempfehlung

Friedrich, Matthias, und James M. Harland, Hg. *Interrogating the 'Germanic': A Category and Its Use in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*. De Gruyter, 2021.

Friedrich, Matthias. „Zu viel des Guten? Materielle Kultur und sinnliche Wahrnehmung im frühen Mittelalter.“ In *Curiositas*, herausgegeben von Andreas Speer und Robert Maximilian Schneider, 559–574. De Gruyter, 2022.

—. *Image and Ornament in the Early Medieval West: New Perspectives on Post-Roman Art*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.

GIOVANNI GALIZIA

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg
PhD, Professor of Zoology and Neurobiology
University of Konstanz

Born in 1963 in Rome

Studied Biology at 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.

A new aspect we are moving into right now is: What does disease smell like? Honeybees fight diseases in the hive using collective behavior: sick bees are isolated and kept away from the queen, infected brood is killed, and dead bees are quickly removed from the hive. All of these behaviors are controlled by odors, some released by the sick animal, some by the pathogens itself. How do bees recognize and attribute meaning to these odors?

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 Pierre-Marie Lledo, eds. (2013). *Neurosciences: From Molecule to Behavior; A University Textbook*. Springer.

Galizia, C. Giovanni (2014). “Olfactory Coding in the Insect Brain: Data and Conjectures.” *European Journal of Neuroscience* 39 (11): 1784–1795.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ejn.12558>.

Paoli, Marco, and C. Giovanni Galizia (2021). “Olfactory Coding in Honeybees.” *Cell and Tissue Research* 383: 35–58.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00441-020-03385-5>.

LUCA GIULIANI

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg
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 the
University of Basel and at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
(LMU Munich)

A FACE FOR SOCRATES: THE MAKING OF ANCIENT GREEK PORTRAITS

This is the title of a book that I am writing in collaboration with Maria Luisa Catoni (Fellow 2009/2010), to be published by Oxford University Press in 2026. It deals with the portrait that was dedicated to Socrates' memory by friends or pupils, sometime after he had been tried and executed, but before his official rehabilitation—at a time when he was still considered a public criminal. We have already published papers on this subject. Writing a monograph now forces us to widen the scope and to examine the tradition of ancient Greek portraiture in general. This means also to revisit the most relevant scholarship on the subject, which is strongly rooted in a very specific German culture, highly sophisticated and at the same time deeply dated. Complex problems sometimes become easier to manage when you look at them from far away. In our case, the necessity to address a wider English audience, while at the same time keeping our text brief and clear, has helped us to gain a new perspective. We are now beginning to see the outlines of a theory of ancient portraiture as being both similar to and profoundly different from its modern counterpart, with the portrait of Socrates at its centre.

Recommended Reading

Catoni, Maria Luisa, and Luca Giuliani. "Socrates Represented: Why Does He Look Like a Satyr?" *Critical Inquiry* 45 (Spring 2019): 681–713. [:org/10.1086/702595](https://doi.org/10.1086/702595).

—. "Der verurteilte Philosoph, die Satyrn und das Hässliche: Das frühe Sokrates-Porträt im Kontext." *Jahrbuch des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts* 136 (2021): 151–197. <https://doi.org/10.34780/vm7e-66pi>.

MARLIES GLASIUS

PhD, Professor of International Relations
University of Amsterdam

Born in 1969 in Haarlemmermeer, Netherlands
MA in English Language and Literature and MA in International Law,
University of Amsterdam; PhD, Netherlands School of Human Rights
Research, University of Utrecht

THE TAX POLITICS OF THE SUPER-RICH

Taxing the super-rich—individuals with assets worth \$50 million or more—presents problems. While their wealth kept rising, wealth-based taxation declined and super-rich tax avoidance flourished. The super-rich are now under pressure, as wealth-based taxation is gaining salience in political debates and international tax cooperation compromises tax avoidance. But in research on the problem of wealth-based taxation, the views and actions of the super-rich themselves have been curiously absent. This project's guiding question is: When and how do the super-rich deploy their resources against or for wealth-based taxation?

Sub-project 1 uses my recently compiled dataset on the tax politics of the world's 100 richest billionaires living in democracies to examine change over time in their tax speech and tax behaviour, and to consider whether billionaire tax behaviour is responsive to media shaming and/or to punitive sanctions. Sub-project 2 examines the minority of the super-rich who advocate for more wealth-based taxation, to understand what motivates them and how effective their brand of activism is. Sub-project 3 relates billionaire tax behaviour to their philanthropic endeavours.

Recommended Reading

Glasius, Marlies. *The International Criminal Court: A Global Civil Society Achievement*. Routledge, 2006.

Glasius, Marlies, and Armine Ishkanian. "Surreptitious Symbiosis: Engagement between Activists and NGOs." *Voluntas* 26, no. 6 (2015): 2620–2644.

Glasius, Marlies. *Authoritarian Practices in a Global Age*. Oxford University Press, 2023.

DIETER GRIMM

Permanent Fellow des Wissenschaftskollegs

Rektor des Wissenschaftskollegs (2001–2007)

Dr. Dr. h.c. mult., LL.M. (Harvard), Professor (em.) des Öffentlichen Rechts

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Bundesverfassungsrichter a. D.

Geboren 1937 in Kassel, Deutschland

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.

Außerdem bereite ich einen Band mit meinen wichtigsten Arbeiten zur Geschichte, Theorie und Dogmatik der Grundrechte vor.

Lektüreprüfung

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

ONUR GÜNTÜRKÜN

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg
Dr. phil., Dr. h.c., Professor for Psychology
Ruhr University Bochum

Born in 1958 in Izmir, Turkey

Diploma in Psychology and Dr. phil. in Psychology, Ruhr University Bochum

ONE COGNITION

The famous evolutionary biologist Simon Conway Morris wrote: “Convergence points to the existence of a deeper structure in biology ... Evolutionary paths are diverse, but the goals are limited.” This remark postulates the existence of constraints that steer evolutionary events into certain common paths. Instead of a rich diversity, we therefore discover astonishing similarities in life forms. Does this also apply to the brain and cognition?

Possibly yes. Great apes such as chimpanzees have complex cognitive abilities and a brain with a large neocortex weighing a total of about 400 g. In comparison, birds such as corvids and parrots have a brain weight of between 3 and 25 g and no neocortex. This should make it impossible for birds to develop high cognitive abilities. However, studies over the past two decades have shown that there is no single cognitive ability in chimpanzees that has not also been demonstrated in corvids and parrots. Not only that, but the cognitive mechanisms these animals use to solve mental problems appear to be very similar. So, brains may look different, but they produce very similar cognitive abilities. But what are the constraints that force brains to converge in terms of cognition? Does the algorithmic process of information processing allow for little variance? Or is neural implementation a bottleneck? Or both? I will investigate this using working memory as a test field. This cognitive ability has been studied in a very large number of species, has strict constraints in humans (delay duration, number of items, complexity of items, influence of distractions), and its neural basis is well known in mammals and, to some extent, in birds. Therefore, working memory

may be a good starting point for explaining why there are strong convergent forms of cognition between different species.

Recommended Reading

Stacho, Martin, Christina Herold, Noemi Rook, et al. (2020). “A Cortex-Like Canonical Circuit in the Avian Forebrain.” *Science* 369: eabc5534.
<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abc5534>.

Güntürkün, Onur, Kaya von Eugen, Julian Packheiser, and Roland Pusch (2021). “Avian Pallial Circuits and Cognition: A Comparison to Mammals.” *Current Opinion in Neurobiology* 71: 29–36.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.conb.2021.08.007>.

Güntürkün, Onur, Roland Pusch, and Jonas Rose (2024). “Why Birds Are Smart.” *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* 28 (3): 197–209.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2023.11.002>.

MATTHEW HAHN

Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Biology and Computer Science
Indiana University Bloomington

Born in 1975 in Hackensack, N.J., USA

B.S. in Biology, Cornell University, Ph.D. in Biology, Duke University

EVOLUTIONARY CAUSES AND MECHANISMS OF MALE MUTATION BIAS

Parents leave mutations to their children, but not always in equal amounts. In mammals, male parents transmit three times as many mutations to their children as do females. This pattern is now referred to as male mutation bias. Male mutation bias was first identified in humans in 1947, but it has since been confirmed using DNA sequencing of genomes in multiple species. Researchers have proposed several explanations for the pattern, one of which—that the male germline replicates throughout the lifetime, while the female germline does not—became the dominant explanation in the field. However, although germline cell replication does differ between the sexes, multiple lines of evidence have emerged that cast doubt on germline replication as the main driver of male mutation bias. One of these pieces of evidence is that males also have higher mutation rates in their somatic cells. Although mutations in somatic cells are not transmitted to offspring, they are a common source of cancer, which is also overwhelmingly male-biased in humans. Once the “structural” mechanism of germline cell replication as the driver of male mutation bias is removed, we are left with multiple possible evolutionary mechanisms that could explain this pattern. These more general mechanisms could then explain differences not only in transmitted mutations, but also in mutations that drive cancer and other aging-related disease. My fellowship plan is to explore a range of evolutionary hypotheses for differences in male and female mutation rates, developing and testing predictions made by each of these hypotheses.

Recommended Reading

- Hahn, Matthew W., and Luay Nakhleh (2016). “Irrational Exuberance for Resolved Species Trees.” *Evolution* 70 (1): 7–17. <https://doi.org/10.1111/evo.12832>.
- Hahn, Matthew W., Yadira Peña-Garcia, and Richard J. Wang (2023). “The ‘Faulty Male’ Hypothesis for Sex-Biased Mutation and Disease.” *Current Biology* 33 (22): R1166–R1172. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2023.09.028>.
- Wang, Richard J., Samer I. Al-Saffar, Jeffrey Rogers, and Matthew W. Hahn (2023). “Human Generation Times across the Past 250,000 Years.” *Science Advances* 9 (1): eabm7047. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abm7047>.

GEOFFREY GALT HARPHAM

from March to May 2026

Ph.D., historian

Durham, N.C.

Born in 1946 in Chicago, Ill., USA

B.A. in English, Northwestern University, Ph.D. in English, University of California

THE ENDS OF RACE: THE RISE AND FALL OF A CONCEPT, 1780–1900

I will be preparing a series of ten lectures that track the arguments made in a forthcoming book called “The Ends of Race: The Rise and Fall of a Concept, 1780–1900.” Focusing on a few key critical exchanges, the book stresses the agonistic or polemical character of the scientific discourse in which the concept of race was debated and defined, and the ends the concept was made to serve. The book will trace the rise of race as a promising area of inquiry with potentially vast implications at the beginning of the nineteenth century to its collapse at the end of the century when the leading scientists concluded that despite a century of scientific inquiry, the concept could not support scientific research and should be abandoned. The connecting link of what I call a “skeletal account” is provided by a common reference to craniology or skull measurement as the most promising source of hard evidence for the existence of something presumed to be a biological fact but that otherwise lacked a physical basis.

Recommended Reading

Harpham, Geoffrey Galt. *The Ascetic Imperative in Culture and Criticism*. University of Chicago Press, 1987.

—. *The Humanities and the Dream of America*. University of Chicago Press, 2011.

—. *Scholarship and Freedom*. Harvard University Press, 2020.

VALESKA HUBER

Dr. phil., Professor of History
University of Vienna

Born in 1980 in Heidelberg, Germany

BSc in History and Politics, London School of Economics and Political Science,
MPhil in History, University of Cambridge, Dr. phil. in History, University of
Konstanz

LANGUAGE BARRIERS: SPEAKING ACROSS DIVIDES

The project explores the role of language, broadly conceived, in globalising processes of the long twentieth century. Although they are often unacknowledged or even invisible, issues of language speak to central tensions in global history. They are tied to overarching power structures—colonial, national, or economic—and, at the same time, intensely personal in their relation to identity-building and individual expression. Since the late nineteenth century and, increasingly, during the 1920s and beyond, national languages were standardised, vernaculars came under threat, world languages were hotly debated, and experiments with artificial languages emerged in very diverse contexts.

What is more, language and its relation to the “global” are also particularly topical at this present moment. Conceptions of language are changing rapidly in the age of AI, and, for the first time, we can imagine a world without language barriers. Yet, while language barriers may seem finally surmountable, new rifts are emerging. At a time when English has achieved an unprecedented dominance in popular culture, trade, teaching, and publishing, questions of standardisation and linguistic diversity are increasingly being discussed. When it comes to the practice of global history, a passionate debate has erupted in relation to the dominance of English as a vehicle of (uneven) communication.

Research on languages has consequently developed into a thriving but not yet consolidated subfield of global history. This project takes these recent individual explorations as its point of departure. Its goal is to move language history to the

centre of global history research and to initiate a larger interdisciplinary conversation about language that speaks to the broad themes of standardisation and diversity, elitism and accessibility, simplification and complexity, and to the tension between the social and the global at large.

Recommended Reading

Huber, Valeska. *Channelling Mobilities: Migration and Globalisation in the Suez Canal Region and Beyond, 1869–1914*. Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Huber, Valeska, and Jürgen Osterhammel, eds. *Global Publics: Their Power and Their Limits, 1870–1990*. Oxford University Press, 2020.

Huber, Valeska. “Openness and Closure: Spheres and Other Metaphors of Boundedness in Global History.” In *Rethinking Global History*, edited by Stefanie Gänger and Jürgen Osterhammel, 139–160. Cambridge University Press, 2024.

TAMARA HUNDOROVA

VUIAS Fellow abroad

Dr., Professor of Literature, Principal Research Fellow

Shevchenko Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine,
Kyiv

Associate Fellow, Ukrainian Research Institute, Harvard University

Born in 1955 in Poltava, Ukraine

Dr., Theory of Literature and Ukrainian Literature, Shevchenko Institute of
Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

THE IDEA OF OCCIDENTALISM AND POST-WORLD
WAR UKRAINIAN CULTURAL IMAGINATION
(1945–1949)

This project examines the intellectual debates in Ukrainian displaced persons (DP) camps in 1945–1949 regarding the postwar “crisis of Europe” and how these debates shaped the Ukrainian immigrant culture. It focuses on analyzing the concept of the West within the framework of Occidentalism studies and in the context of 20th-century Ukrainian literature.

The idea of this project is framed by Occidentalism studies that emerged in the late 20th century to reconsider the specificity of Western modernity and deconstruct the concept of Eurocentrism. The project investigates how discussions about Western cultural canons and European historiographies were reflected in the artistic imaginations of Ukrainian refugees and manifested in literary works written and published in DP camps. Another aspect of the project involves analyzing Ukrainian refugee intellectuals’ attempts to revive prewar modernist and avant-garde traditions, particularly the neoclassical movement (Mykola Zerov, among others) and Mykola Khvylovy’s “Asian Renaissance.”

The place of Ukrainian literature in the Western cultural canon played an essential role in discussions, producing the concept of “grand literature.” This

concept originated in the Artistic Ukrainian Movement (1945–1948), a powerful cultural and intellectual movement in the DP camps.

I explore how discussions about European identity correlate with the philosophy of displacement, existentialism, rethinking provincialism, and the modernization of Ukrainian culture in the middle of the twentieth century. The project focuses on the ideas of two prominent intellectuals of that time—Volodymyr Yaniv (1908–1991) and Yuri Shevelov (1908–2002), who represented the two main versions of Occidentalisms in Ukrainian postwar imagination—the nationalist and the decolonial.

Recommended Reading

Hundorova, Tamara. “Ukrainian Euromaidan as Social and Cultural Performance.” In *Revolution and War in Contemporary Ukraine: The Challenge of Change*, edited by Olga Bertelsen, 161–179. Ibidem, 2016.

—. *The Post-Chornobyl Library: Ukrainian Postmodernism of the 1990s*. Translated by Sergiy Yakovenko. Academic Studies Press, 2019.

—. “The Ukrainian Underground: Aesthetics, Resistance, and Performance.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Soviet Underground Culture*, edited by Mark Lipovetsky, Maria Engström, Tomáš Glanc, Ilja Kujuk, and Klavdia Smola, 277–302. Oxford University Press, 2024.

MURAD IDRIS

Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Theory
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Born in 1984 in Kuwait, Palestinian
Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania

ISLAM IN THEORY: SCRIPTS OF UNFREEDOM, FANATICISM, AND VIOLENCE

What lies beneath Euro-American discourses about what Islam “means” or what it “needs”? What if these discourses’ persistent terms are keys that unlock critical questions about modernity, global order, and contemporary ideals? *Islam in Theory* begins from the observation that three common tropes frame Muslims as a problem in modernity. They are the translation of Islam as submission, the idea that Islam needs a reformation to fight fanaticism, and the claim that Muslims need to disavow violence and embrace jihad as a spiritual struggle. *Islam in Theory* analyzes the productivity and long histories of the three tropes for constructions of Islam. It uses them to reframe the genealogies of freedom, toleration, and violence in political theory and in global histories of political thought. The project makes three arguments. First, the three scripts have been productive of the idea that freedom, toleration, and peace are problems for Muslims. The recurrent claims are scripts, or popular formulas that instantiate racialized assumptions, sedimented through repetition, that order what and how people think while erasing their own tracks. Second, the broader place of submission, reformation, and jihad in the history of political thought is underappreciated. Recovering the three concepts’ genealogies restores critiques and frameworks that discourses of freedom, toleration, and peace have obscured. Third, beyond discourses about Islam versus modern ideals, 20th-century anticolonial Muslim thinkers connect these terms to violent hierarchies that accompany modernity. They outline a counterview of an unreformed world order and global injustice. The project brings a political theory lens to bear on the long histories of dis-

courses about Islam, modern ideals, and their intersections. It dissects the unacknowledged assumptions enclosed in such discourses, and it carves out space for narrating global political theory from marginal perspectives and archives.

Recommended Reading

Idris, Murad. *War for Peace: Genealogies of a Violent Ideal in Western and Islamic Thought*. Oxford University Press, 2019.

Jenco, Leigh K., Murad Idris, and Megan C. Thomas, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Political Theory*. Oxford University Press, 2020.

Idris, Murad. "The Kazanistan Papers: Reading the Muslim Question in the John Rawls Archives." *Perspectives on Politics* 19, no.1 (2021): 110–130. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S153759272000239X>.

JAE EUN KIM

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg

Ph.D., Korea Foundation Endowed Associate Professor of Sociology, Professor of Law (by courtesy)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Born in 1978 in Seoul

PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles

REPERTOIRES OF REDEMPTION: MIGRATION, ASYLUM,
AND RELIGION IN THE ERA OF INVOLUNTARY
IMMOBILITY

When the Trump administration made Christian refugees an exception to its so-called “Muslim Ban,” pundits wondered if this policy would require the government to assess who are real Christians. This kind of quandary is not new. The controversies over the Christian conversion of Muslim migrants from Iran, Afghanistan, or Syria have generated a similar debate in Europe. These controversies pose a set of intriguing questions. Does the state have the right or capacity to establish an individual’s religious identity? What types of actors are involved in refugee-making and with what motives? What kinds of practical challenges, legal intricacies, and moral dilemmas do they face, and how do they make sense of and respond to these? My book project explores these questions by drawing on long-term, transnational, multi-sited ethnographic research on the migration trajectories, legalization strategies, and religious conversion careers of ethnic Korean migrants from China to the United States, focusing especially on those who apply for refugee status as Christians.

My project moves beyond “seeing like a state,” to borrow James Scott’s much-celebrated term. It instead turns attention to how migrants see the state, or more specifically, how migrants experience the everyday working of immigration law and actively partake in the dialogical production of “refugees” from above and below. The project’s bottom-up view reveals how the migration-control regimes

of affluent liberal democracies are centrally involved in the unequal distribution of life chances, honor, credit, and moral worth across the globe. It also shows how (aspiring) migrants' extensive engagement with these regulatory apparatuses, long before their arrivals on the shores of affluent immigration states, informs their entrepreneurial approach to the asylum institution. Migrants' encounter with immigration law is rarely unmediated, though. My project sheds light on the dense, transnational networks of for-profit and non-profit intermediaries that buttress, appropriate, modify, or contest the story that law tells about itself. By bringing together macro- and micro-level analyses, the project investigates how migration governance, transnational religion, and the politics of humanitarianism are navigated and negotiated on the ground with their full complexity and contradictions.

Recommended Reading

- Kim, Jaeun (2022). "Between Sacred Gift and Profane Exchange: Identity Craft and Relational Work in Asylum Claims-Making on Religious Grounds." *Theory and Society* 51 (2): 303–333. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-021-09468-8>.
- (2024). "Seeing like a Church, Seeing like a State: The Church-State Relation in Religious Asylum Adjudications." *Canopy Forum: On the Interactions of Law and Religion*. Posted on May 23, 2024. <https://canopyforum.org/2024/05/23/seeing-like-a-church-seeing-like-a-state-the-church-state-relation-in-religious-asylum-adjudications/>.
- (forthcoming). "Getting Saved from Illegality and Unbelief? Religious Asylum, Migration Dreams, and Christian Conversion." In "Mobile Temporalities and Political Possibilities," special issue, *Migration Studies* 13 (3). <https://doi.org/10.1093/migration/mnaf041>.

DMITRI KOURLIANDSKI

Composer

Paris

Born in 1976 in Moscow

Graduation in Composition, Moscow State Conservatory

COMPOSITION OF A STRING QUARTET, AN ENSEMBLE PIECE, AND A CHAMBER OPERA

I have two major premieres planned for 2026, a string quartet for the Diotima Quartet and a piece for the Ensemble Multilateral, commissioned by Radio France for the program “Création mondiale.” We are also working on a chamber opera *À la ligne* with director Anne Theron, librettist Beate Haeckl, and the Ensemble Des Equilibres. As part of my Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin residency, I plan to complete these projects. I also plan to continue creating electronic music as part of my personal project *Kourliandski 2.0*.

Recommended Works

Kourliandski, Dmitri. “Dmitri Kourliandski Ft. Teodor Currentzis—The Riot of Spring.” YouTube video from the premiere by musicAeterna, conducted by Teodor Currentzis at the Ruhrtriennale on October 2013. Posted by FANCYMUSIC, February 20, 2014.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3VX6-4VTs4>.

—. *Octavia. Trepanation*. Opera for soloists, choir and live electronics (2017).

—. *Possible places*. Concerto for violin solo and chamber orchestra (2020).

TARRAH KRAJNAK

Artist, Associate Professor of Art
University of California, Los Angeles

Born in 1979 in Lima

BFA, Ohio Wesleyan University, MFA in Photography, University of
Notre Dame

REPOSE

My photographic practice combines performance, archival research, writing, and video. I use the camera, my own indigenous body, and strategies of re-enactment, re-staging, and re-photography to build new relationships with the colonial materials of history. My work is rooted in conceptual photography, but in the re-materialization of the medium. I am interested in photography not as a means to document the world as it is, but as a tool for making visible submerged or forgotten histories, for collective imagining, and to open a dialogue between the past and present in order to challenge the structures of power, gender, race, and class.

During my fellowship year I plan to continue my project entitled *RePose*. *RePose* exists as both a durational live performance and an ongoing collection of silver gelatin prints. The project examines the history of “women’s poses” across a wide range of sources including my own personal collection and site-specific archival research—the poses come from fashion, vintage pornographic magazines, artist monographs, art history books, museum catalogs, and anthropological studies that span centuries and continents. Over the course of my live performances, I choose poses from among these images to “re-pose” using my own body, slowly producing a series of new self-portraits in real time. The accumulation of the new photographic prints collectively gives way to a new typology of women’s poses that is stripped of its original source.

At the Wissenschaftskolleg I will engage in embodied research methods in the studio that will draw upon the history of re-enactment in dance, as well as

incorporate body training techniques such as mime. This research will push and expand my project *RePose* into interdisciplinary and experimental forms beyond the parochial boundaries of photographic discourse.

Recommended Reading

Krajnak, Tarrah. *El Jardín de Senderos Que Se Bifurcan*. DAIS Books, 2021.

—. *Master Rituals II: Weston's Nudes*. TBW Books, 2022.

—. *RePose*. Fw:Books, 2023.

REIMER KÜHN

Dr. rer. nat., Professor of Statistical Physics (Emeritus)

King's College London

Born in 1955 in Glückstadt, Germany

Diploma in Physics, Christian-Albrechts Universität zu Kiel and University of

Sussex, Dr. rer. nat., Christian-Albrechts Universität zu Kiel

FROM NEURONS TO BRAINS—FROM SOCIETIES OF BRAINS TO BRAINS OF SOCIETIES

In my project, I will analyze collective information processing in and of societies. I will explore to which extent a neural network analogy can provide useful concepts and guiding principles for such an analysis, and whether it could help rationalize important structural and dynamic properties of societies. Key observations underlying the analogy are that neurons in a brain, like members of a society, communicate with each other, and that they evaluate received information to determine their (re-)action in a given communicative or situational context. Evaluations are, moreover, adapted in the process, entailing that responses and actions are not hard-wired. Neural networks, like societies, therefore constitute adaptive collective information processing systems, with information processing capabilities transcending those of their constituent elements. Key predictions of the analogy include (i) the stability of macroscopic properties of societies, thus a possible rationalization of the emergence of a stable spectrum of agreed norms, rituals, and dominant intellectual paradigms, which may, however, evolve on long time scales and even undergo rare spontaneous major disruptions analogous to phase transitions, (ii) the existence of fundamental limitations of information-processing capabilities, (iii) along with that, a degradation of the adaptability of societies as they increase the number and complexity of the processes they attempt to support, and (iv) a hierarchical de-differentiation of societies as generic response to major crises. The purpose of my fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg is to elaborate the predictions that suggest themselves

through the neural network analogy and to try testing them against (i) historical studies of societies over longer time horizons, specifically concerning the dynamics and phenomenology of major transformations and crises, (ii) the history of law and economics, (iii) insights of evolutionary biology and anthropology, and (iv) existing sociological theories.

Recommended Reading

Kühn, Reimer, and Uta Horstmann (1997). “Random Matrix Approach to Glassy Physics: Low Temperatures and Beyond.” *Physical Review Letters* 78: 4067–4070. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.78.4067>.

Kühn, Reimer (2008). “Spectra of Sparse Random Matrices.” *Journal of Physics A* 41: 295002. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1751-8113/41/29/295002>.

Anand, Kartik, Jonathan Khedair, and Reimer Kühn (2018). “A Structural Model for Fluctuations in Financial Markets.” *Physical Review E* 97: 052312. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevE.97.052312>.

FRIEDA LANGE

von September bis Dezember 2025

Mortier Next Generation Fellow

Theaterregisseurin

Berlin

Geboren 1995 in Freital, Deutschland

B.A., Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg

STAHLGIPFEL

Mein Projekt umfasst die Arbeit an einem dokumentarischen Musiktheaterstück, das für die Ruhrtriennale 2025 geplant ist und sich intensiv mit dem Konzern Thyssenkrupp sowie ausgehend davon mit Mechanismen der Macht, Ausbeutung und Widerstand beschäftigt. Ich möchte die weitreichenden Folgen der aktuellen Massenentlassungen betrachten und dabei die Möglichkeiten und die Verantwortung künstlerischer Bearbeitungen realer Sachverhalte reflektieren.

Die erste Phase meiner Arbeit konzentriert sich auf die Recherche: Ich führe Interviews mit ehemaligen und aktiven Thyssenkrupp-Beschäftigten, erforsche die Dynamik von Streiks (sowohl in ihrer realen Ausprägung als auch in Bezug auf ihre potenzielle theatrale Inszenierung) und widme mich auch besonders dem Thyssenkrupp-Chor, der bis 2021 aktiv war und für das Projekt wiederbelebt werden soll.

Aus der Recherchephase soll sowohl eine Textfassung entstehen als auch ein musikalisches Konzept. Ausschnitte davon plane ich im Wissenschaftskolleg performativ vorzustellen.

Ausgewählte Inszenierungen

Lange, Frieda, und Lisa Pottstock, Regie. „Ich erwarte die Ankunft des Teufels.“. Musiktheaterstück nach dem Tagebuch der Mary MacLane. Premiere 2. Mai 2023, St. Pauli Theater Hamburg.
<https://frieda-lange.com/ich-erwarte-die-ankunft-des-teufels>.

Lange, Frieda, Regie. „drive your plows over the bones of the dead.“ Musiktheater nach „Der Gesang der Fledermäuse“ von Olga Tokarczuk. Premiere 14. März 2024, Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg.
<https://mediathek.hfmt-hamburg.de/12go/-/get/v/902>.

—, Regie. „Monte Rosa.“ Von Teresa Dopler. Premiere 18. August 2024, Theater natur Festival, Waldbühne Benneckenstein.
<https://frieda-lange.com/monte-rosa>.

TOMILA LANKINA

DPhil, Professor of International Relations
London School of Economics and Political Science

Born in 1971 in Tashkent

BA in Indian Studies, Tashkent Institute of Oriental Studies,
MA in International Relations, Tufts University, DPhil in Politics,
University of Oxford

HISTORICAL LEGACIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE FRONTIER AND CIVIC AND POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN RUSSIA

The project builds on Lankina's previous award-winning book on the Russian Empire's institution of *sosloviye* (estates). Drawing on Max Weber's analysis of the Russian estates, it explores the long-term significance of the pre-modern social divides for political regime dynamics in East European Countries, including Russia. The new project explores the implications of Russian social structure and the peculiarities of the social development of different regions for dissent in the present.

I will systematically analyse how the historical legacies of social divides shape citizen propensity to engage in civic protest, street rallies, and other kinds of dissent. The proposed research agenda will include other social legacies (like the settlement of German communities in Russian regions; religious schism; religious pluralism in the regions; and historical variations in the political development of territories that are now in different countries, among them Ukraine, as contrasting cases of civic activism) and will explore how these legacies may impinge on patterns of protest activism in the present. It will also bridge distinct bodies of scholarship that are broadly concerned with analysing support for democracy/autocracy and protest but approach these questions from different theoretical angles and analytical traditions.

The data collection task includes three main components: 1) collecting more fine-grained data on patterns of religious settlement and tracing how it relates to subsequent social protest and activism in the Imperial period and in the post-communist period; 2) data on voting patterns and preferences of the different estates (*sosloviya*) in local government elections and *zemstvo* elections to gauge the extent to which the social variations in Tsarist Russia across the localities already shaped patterns of voting and civic and political activism before the Revolution; and 3) data on carefully selected cases that are otherwise similar when it comes to patterns of Soviet socio-economic development, but vary in political and civic activism in the post-communist period.

Being in Berlin for a year will allow this author to leverage materials on German settlement in the Volga areas and to conduct interviews with communities of descendants of Germans, who returned to Germany from Eastern Europe and Russia.

Recommended Reading

Lankina, Tomila, and Lullit Getachew. "Mission or Empire, Word or Sword? The Human Capital Legacy in Postcolonial Democratic Development." *American Journal of Political Science* 56, no. 2 (2012): 465–483.

Lankina, Tomila, and Alexander Libman. "The Two-Pronged Middle Class: The Old Bourgeoisie, New State-Engineered Middle Class, and Democratic Development." *American Political Science Review* 115, no. 3 (2021): 948–966.

Lankina, Tomila. *The Estate Origins of Democracy in Russia: From Imperial Bourgeoisie to Post-Communist Middle Class*. Cambridge University Press, 2022.

BRIAN LARKIN

PhD, Professor of Anthropology
Barnard College, Columbia University

Born in 1964 in London
PhD in Anthropology, New York University

THE MEDIA SYSTEM OF EMPIRE

In 1839 the British Colonial Office received 902 pieces of correspondence from its far-flung territories. By 1909 this number rose to 90,000, and by 1939 it passed 300,000. Empire is the extension of political power and administration across racial, linguistic, and cultural difference. In the case of the British Empire that power depended upon a communicative infrastructure of files, memos, minutes, dispatches, and other documents which enacted the practical work of drawing disparate territories into a single system. As the size and complexity of empire grew, British imperialists had to innovate new forms of storing and circulating information. My book project examines the infrastructures, protocols, circulatory forms, and storage mechanisms by which information was moved and stored at different points in British imperial history. Cumulatively, these changes formatted the civil service for a modern era of information, one that undergirded empire as an organizational system. I examine the material infrastructures of imperial information systems. This is what I term the media system of Empire.

Recommended Reading

Larkin, Brian. *Signal and Noise: Media, Infrastructure, and Urban Culture in Nigeria*. Duke University Press, 2008.

—. “The Politics and Poetics of Infrastructure.” *Annual Review of Anthropology* 42 (2013): 327–343.

—. “The Cinematic Milieu: Technical Evolution, Digital Infrastructure, and Urban Space.” *Public Culture* 33, no. 3 (2021): 313–348.

WOLF LEPENIES

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

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

CHARLES DE GAULLE UND SEIN POLITISCHES ERBE

Das politische Erbe Charles de Gaulles prägt bis heute den Doppel-Hegemon Deutschland-Frankreich, erinnert an seine Warnung vor einem unkritischen Vertrauen Europas in die Schutzmacht Amerika und legt es nahe, gegenüber der EU-Bürokratie dem „Europa der Nationen“ einen größeren Stellenwert zu geben. In mehreren Schritten will ich die europapolitische Aktualität dieses Erbes aufzeigen.

1. Von Charles de Gaulle und Konrad Adenauer geprägt, wurde die Entwicklung der Europäischen Union weniger von den hegemonialen Ambitionen Deutschlands als vielmehr von einem deutsch-französischen Doppel-Hegemon bestimmt.

2. Als der deutsche Bundestag bei der Ratifizierung des Élysée-Vertrags von 1963 in einer Präambel die atlantische Orientierung der Bundesrepublik hervorhob, war Charles de Gaulle davon tief betroffen: „Die Ehe wurde nicht vollzogen“, lautete sein bitterer Kommentar. Die genannte Präambel motivierte de Gaulle noch stärker, das zusammenwachsende Europa vor einem zu engen Schulterschluss mit den USA zu warnen und den Kontinent zu mahnen, selbstbewusst seine eigenen, nicht zuletzt militärischen Stärken weiterzuentwickeln. In den gegenwärtigen Zeitenwenden können de Gaulles Worte nicht anders als prophetisch klingen.

3. Emmanuel Macron verkörpert das monarchische Element der V. Republik wie kein anderer Präsident vor ihm – und missachtet zugleich, dass sich in den Vorstellungen de Gaulles die präsidentiale Macht im Konfliktfall durch das Plebiszit legitimieren muss. Dadurch hat der „halbe Gaullist“ Macron seine innenpolitische Legitimation erheblich geschwächt – und damit auch seinen außenpolitischen Einfluss reduziert.

4. In der Außenpolitik ein treuer Erbe de Gaulles, entwarf Macrons „Initiative für Europa“ die Vision eines souveränen, geeinten und demokratischen Europa. Berlin reagierte darauf mit routiniert vorgetragener realpolitischer Skepsis. Jetzt zeigt sich, dass im gaullistischen Pathos Macrons mehr realpolitische Voraussicht enthalten war als in der deutschen Skepsis. Die Folge ist ein Bedeutungsverlust des Doppel-Hegemons: Die europäischen Weichenstellungen werden jetzt weniger von einer Achse Paris-Berlin als vielmehr von einer englisch-französischen Entente cordiale bestimmt.

Lektüreempfehlung

Lepenies, Wolf. *Die Macht am Mittelmeer: Französische Träume von einem anderen Europa*. Hanser, 2016. Französisch: *Le Pouvoir en Méditerranée: Un rêve français pour une autre Europe*. Übersetzt von Svetlana Tamitegama. Éditions de la Maison des sciences de l'homme, 2020.

—. “Germany and France—The Elusiveness of a Joint Hegemony.” In *Discussing Pax Germanica: The Rise and Limits of German Hegemony in European Integration*, herausgegeben von Emmanuel Comte und Fernando Guirao, 75–91. Routledge, 2025.

DMITRI LEVITIN

PhD, Fellow

All Souls College, University of Oxford

Born in 1986 in Moscow

BA in History, MPhil in History, and PhD in History, University of Cambridge

THE WESTERN MIND: THE ORIGINS OF A MYTH

At the end of the 18th century, German thinkers started offering genealogies of modernity running from Classical Athens (especially its philosophers), through early Christianity (considered a Greek rather than a Jewish phenomenon, at least in spirit), to modern “enlightened” Protestantism. A century earlier, this genealogy would have been unthinkable. For in 1700, every European intellectual would have agreed that Greek philosophy was not qualitatively different from its “oriental” counterpart, and that Christianity had emerged directly from Judaism.

Combining intellectual and social history, my project will provide a new account of how this peculiar Eurocentrism emerged, and why it proved so successful, coming to be deployed in political debates about Jewish emancipation and the abolition of Atlantic slavery. It will suggest that explanations that simply explain the phenomenon as a product of European imperialism are not convincing, and that a more complex account is required. In the process, the project will identify the origins of some long-lasting concepts and ideas: (1) the distinction between “Pauline” and “Jewish” Christianity; (2) the distinction between “pre-” and “post-Socratic” philosophy; (3) a “Greek miracle” in intellectual history; (4) the earliest full conspiracy theory about a Jewish politico-economic plot to take over the world; (5) the first fears of a “Great Replacement” of native Europeans by immigrants. It will suggest that the parallel appearance of these concepts was not unconnected.

Recommended Reading

Levitin, Dmitri. *Ancient Wisdom in the Age of the New Science*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Hardy, Nicholas, and Dmitri Levitin, eds. *Confessionalisation and Erudition in Early Modern Europe: An Episode in the History of the Humanities*. Oxford University Press, 2019.

Levitin, Dmitri. *The Kingdom of Darkness*. Cambridge University Press, 2022.

NIKLAS MAAK

von September 2025 bis Februar 2026

Dr. phil., Redakteur

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Geboren 1972 in Hamburg, Deutschland

Maitrise, Philosophie, École des hautes études en sciences sociales,

Dr. phil., Kunstgeschichte, Universität Hamburg

RUINEN DER ZUKUNFT. ROMS GRANDE RACCORDO ALS MODELL FÜR DIE POSTDIGITALE STADT

In kaum einer anderen Großstadt Europas wurde nach 1945 das historische Zentrum so deutlich vom Raumbedarf der Dienstleistungsmoderne getrennt wie in Rom. Um der wachsenden Verkehrsströme Herr zu werden und gleichzeitig den für den Tourismus so wichtigen historischen Charakter der Innenstadt Roms zu erhalten, beschloss die Stadtregierung nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg, im Abstand von sieben Meilen vom Kapitols Hügel eine ringförmige Schnellstraße um die Stadt zu bauen, an der alle Funktionen der modernen Stadt aufgereiht werden sollten wie eine Perlenkette von Modernitäten: Am „Grande Raccordo Anulare“ siedelte sich nach 1948 ein neues Rom aus Autohäusern, Einkaufszentren, Universitäten, Bürotürmen, Schwimmbädern, Freizeitparks und Wohnkomplexen an. Die Digitalisierung verwandelt dieses „Band der Modernitäten“ heute in einen Ruinenpark. Um das Zentrum Roms mit seinen antiken Ruinen legt sich jetzt ein Gürtel von Ruinen der Moderne: aufgegebene Tankstellen, leerstehende Einkaufszentren, nie fertiggebaute Bürokomplexe. Rom wird zur Matrix für eine zerfallende Moderne. Doch Rom ist auch eine Stadt, die über 2000 Jahre Erfahrungen mit dem Umgang, der Besiedlung und Neuverwendung von Ruinen hat. Erste Ergebnisse im Bemühen, die neuen Ruinen am GRA zu nutzen und mit der Neubesiedlung und Umnutzung auch die sozialen Rituale neu zu bestimmen, die eine postindustrielle Gesellschaft für neue Formen des Gemeinschaftslebens entwickeln müsste,

lassen sich schon jetzt beobachten: In meinem Forschungsvorhaben will ich anhand des empirischen Materials aus Rom die Frage stellen, ob die Aneignung und der Umbau der durch die Digitalisierung entstehenden Ruinen – Ruinen von Bürotürmen in der Folge des Siegeszugs von Homeoffice, Ruinen von Malls in der Folge des dominanten Onlinehandels – einen möglichen Weg der Stadtgestaltung in Zeiten des Klimawandels weisen könnte. Die neuen Ruinen von Rom erscheinen als ein weltweit einzigartiges Laboratorium für die Neufindung der Stadt. Das Wort „Ruine“ stammt vom lateinischen „ruere“ ab, das auch „eilen“, „beschleunigen“ bedeutet. Könnte die Ruine nicht nur als sentimentale Erinnerung an verfallene Pracht, sondern als Beschleuniger von Möglichkeiten, Chancen und Veränderungen gesehen werden?

Lektüreempfehlung

- Maak, Niklas. *Wohnkomplex: Warum wir andere Häuser brauchen*. Hanser, 2014.
Englisch: *Living Complex: From Zombie City to the New Communal*. Übersetzt von Bram Opstelten. Hirmer, 2015.
- . *Technophilia*. Hanser, 2020.
- . „The Xenophora Principle: Finding San Carlino ... in a Shell.“ In *Finding San Carlino: Collected Perspectives on the Geometry of the Baroque*, herausgegeben von Adil Mansure und Skender Luarasi, 129–141. Routledge, 2020.

IRYNA MAKHOUSKAYA
from September 2025 to February 2026
Dr., History
Warsaw

Born in 1973 in Minsk
Dr. in History, Belarusian State University

SOLIDARITY AND THE HORIZONTAL NETWORKS OF THE POST-1991 TRANSFORMATION PERIOD AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE 2020 REVOLT: A RESEARCH NETWORK AND ETHNOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE OF PROTEST

The mass protest movement against the falsification of the 2020 presidential elections in Belarus demonstrated the immense driving force of solidarity and horizontal networks within civil society. New social media, particularly Telegram, played a significant role in this movement by enabling the creation of protest communities. The presence of this fundamentally new social platform, which renders territorial proximity no longer a prerequisite for uniting like-minded individuals, distinguishes the solidarity-building processes of 2020. However, the social mobilization of the late socialist period and the transformation phase, which began with Perestroika and the dissolution of the USSR, constituted a historical precedent for these processes; this remains largely understudied but can deliver important insights into the cycle of mobilization-repression-atomization of society in post-Soviet society. In this respect, Belarus, as one of the most exceptional and interesting cases of non-transition to democracy after 1991, is an ideal case study to investigate not only on the factors ensuring the success of protest movements, but also the variables that decide on their failure.

The present project aims to address this gap in the historical anthropology of social mobilization in Belarus and, at the same time, widen the spaces of aca-

demic freedom by pursuing scholarly endeavors in a field that remains a complete taboo within Belarus.

Recommended Reading

Makhouskaya, Iryna, and Iryna Romanova. *Mir: historyya myastechka, shto raskazali yago zhykhary* [Mir: The history of the town as told by its inhabitants]. European Humanities University, 2009.

—. “‘Where Has Everything Gone?’ Remembering *Perestroika* in Belarusian Provinces.” In *Reclaiming the Personal: Oral History in Post-Socialist Europe*, edited by Natalia Khanenko-Friesen and Gelinada Grinchenko, 256–287. University of Toronto Press, 2015.

Makhouskaya, Iryna. “Kanets savetskay epokhi i nezalezhnasts’ Belarusi u pamyatsi zhyharou belaruskay pravintsyi” [The end of the Soviet era and the independence of Belarus in the memory of residents of the Belarusian province]. In *Drogi do niepodległości Polski i Białorusi: Szkice z historii i kultury Białorusi i Polski* [Roads to the independence of Poland and Belarus: Sketches from the history and culture of Belarus and Poland], edited by Michał Jarnecki, 95–115. Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, 2021.

ISABELA MARES

Ph.D., Arnold Wolfers Professor of Political Science
Yale University

Born in Warsaw

B.A. in Political Science, Bryn Mawr College, M.A. and Ph.D. in Political
Science, Harvard University

DEFENDING PARLIAMENT: RESPONSES OF MAINSTREAM PARTIES TO PARLIAMENTARY EROSION

This book-length project investigates how mainstream political parties can respond to and contain parliamentary disruption initiated by extremist parties. Whether from the far right or far left, these parties often enter legislatures intent on undermining parliamentary procedures and obstructing the legislative process. How can democratic parties effectively counter such threats and safeguard parliamentary integrity? To answer this question, I conduct a comparative historical analysis of political developments in France and Germany, spanning from the Weimar Republic and the French Third and Fourth Republics to the present day. I develop a typology of parliamentary defense strategies, ranging from targeted sanctions against individual legislators to broader institutional reforms, such as changes to parliamentary or electoral rules. The project further examines the political demand for these defense strategies and the conditions under which stable legislative majorities can be formed to implement them. I argue that the success of collective defense measures depends on mainstream parties first establishing clear political boundaries—a *cordon sanitaire*—between themselves and ideologically adjacent extremists, and I analyze the political dynamics behind such decisions.

Recommended Reading

Mares, Isabela. *From Open Secrets to Secret Voting: Democratic Electoral Reforms and Voter Autonomy*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Mares, Isabela, and Lauren E. Young. *Conditionality and Coercion: Electoral Clientelism in Eastern Europe*. Oxford University Press, 2019.

Mares, Isabela. *Protecting the Ballot: How First-Wave Democracies Ended Electoral Corruption*. Princeton University Press, 2022.

PABLO A. MARQUET

Ph.D., Professor of Ecology

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago

External Professor, The Santa Fe Institute

Born in 1963 in Santiago

Ph.D. in Biology, University of New Mexico

UNIVERSAL ECOLOGY. UNDERSTANDING LIFE FROM CELLS TO SOCIETIES

Ecology is fundamental to understand the phenomenon of life from cells to societies. The origin of life is the origin of an ecology; it is the origin of a biosphere and our way of being in the world. We argue that what unfolded from there can be understood only if we do away with the levels-of-organization paradigm and view from a different perspective: what unfolds for life is a recurrent process guided by the first principles underlying energy, matter, and information flows. The details of this dynamic and its manifestation in different phenomena—from cells to ecosystems and societies—form the core of the research I will undertake at the Wissenschaftskolleg and that will become a book on the subject. This book is foremost a synthesis of works I have done during the last 30 years and also a source of original research ideas. Among the former are the issues of general laws underlying the structure of ecological systems, manifesting in recurrent mathematical objects or relationships, such as scaling laws or invariant distributions characterizing dynamics, and accounting for observables such as the distribution of species richness, species abundances, genes in populations, and gene families in genomes. Among the latter are the fundamental role of neutrality and realized fitness symmetry, the fundamental role of stochasticity and birth and death dynamics, the role of key environmental factors such as temperature in affecting ecological patterns from cells to ecosystems, and the universal character of these effects. The most important new insights provided by the book arise from the blending of ecology, math, physics, economy, philos-

ophy, and sociology that runs through it. Importantly, we mount an organized attack aimed at deconstructing the metaphysics of the level-of-organizations paradigm and propose a different epistemological stance. The end result is a radical philosophical view on how to interpret ecological dynamics, including the human phenomenon, society, and its relation to the rest of the natural world.

Recommended Reading

Marquet, Pablo A., Andrew P. Allen, James H. Brown, et al. (2014). “On Theory in Ecology.” *BioScience* 64 (8): 701–710. <https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biu098>.

Marquet, Pablo A., Guillermo Espinoza, Sebastian R. Abades, Angela Ganz, and Rolando Rebolledo (2017). “On the Proportional Abundance of Species: Integrating Population Genetics and Community Ecology.” *Scientific Reports* 7: 16815. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-17070-1>.

Arroyo, José I., Beatriz Díez, Christopher P. Kempes, Geoffrey B. West, and Pablo A. Marquet (2022). “A General Theory for Temperature Dependence in Biology.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119 (30): e2119872119. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2119872119>.

JOHN LEVI MARTIN

Ph.D., Florence Borchert Bartling Professor of Sociology
University of Chicago

Born in 1964 in New York City, N.Y., USA

B.A. in Sociology and English, Wesleyan University, M.A. and Ph.D. in
Sociology, University of California at Berkeley

DEFERENCE AND DISRUPTION IN POLITICAL INTERACTION

I will be examining the traces of political action left by political actors in the floor debate of the Weimar Reichstag—a case where the multiparty system, and the complexity of the space of alliance, led to complicated political maneuvering until the end, at which point there was an utter collapse of the possibility of politics. To do this, I propose to use formal textual analysis, concentrating less on the substance of what people say and more on how they reference one another and respond to one another. While floor debate is rarely a good place to learn what political actors think, it can be an excellent place to examine how parties signal their willingness to move about in a space of alliances—to increasingly affiliate with some and disaffiliate with others. In particular, I am interested in how parties signal their willingness to move closer to others on future issues, as well as how some party members may signal their interest in possibly abandoning their fellows and shifting parties. (We can partially assess parties' willingness to affiliate with others by examining their future alignment in terms of voting, and individuals' willingness to shift parties on the basis of later changes.) They do this, I propose, in large part by continually adjusting their degrees of politeness (deference) when reacting or referring to others. Rather fine differences in degree of deference, however, can be communicated only in a relatively “quiet” parliament. Where the overall level of emotion runs high, subtle signals are likely to be washed out, and one of the things I am interested in is whether and when the extreme parties (Communist and Nazi) made it difficult for other

parties to maneuver politically. I am also interested in the fact that there were partisan differences in the respect with which representatives were treated—many hard-right nobles may have been treated with surplus deference because of their titles, age, fame, or military service, and many working-class representatives were perhaps treated more curtly despite their willingness to conform to parliamentary norms—biases that could interfere with the capacity to signal. I also will look at how some actors deliberately contravened norms in order to signal to their (outside) constituents the authenticity of their opposition to the parliamentary regime, but sometimes at the cost of being absent for critical maneuvering with insiders.

Recommended Reading

Martin, John Levi. *Social Structures*. Princeton University Press, 2009.

—. *The True, the Good, and the Beautiful: The Rise and Fall and Rise of an Architectonic for Action*. Columbia University Press, 2024.

Rohr, Benjamin, and John Levi Martin. “The State and the Emergence of the First American Party System: Roll Call Voting in the New York State Assembly during the Early Republic.” *American Sociological Review*, first published July 15, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224251344574>.

OKSANA MIKHEIEVA

from September 2025 to February 2026

VUIAS Fellow abroad

Dr., Professor

Kyiv School of Economics

Born in 1971 in Kirovograd, Ukraine

Diploma in History and Dr. in History, Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University

DEPENDENCY AND DISSONANCE: EVERYDAY LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION

This project addresses the everyday life experiences of people under the Russian occupation in Ukraine. Russian aggression against Ukraine, which began in 2014, led to the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and the occupation of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. A full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine resulted in the occupation of parts of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. Today in Ukraine we can talk about “old” (since 2014) and “new” (since 2022) occupied territories. This allows us not only to rethink the current experience of occupation, but also to look at the consequences of occupation in the long term.

The dynamics of the perception of Russian aggression against Ukraine since 2014 have clearly demonstrated the difficulty of identifying the situation as war and occupation. The use of different terms in describing the events and the long and gradual “language adjustment” reflect information warfare, propaganda, and the aggressor’s desire to downplay or hide its role in the events. This is relevant both during the conflict and long afterwards. For example, in post-WWII Soviet Ukraine, the lack of language to describe the World War II occupation and its limited and one-sided nature created a highly ideological and empirically flawed “precedent text” for both institutions and citizens. The preservation of the Soviet narrative in mass consciousness during the Ukrainian post-Soviet era

and its vehement opposition to the national one is also reflected in the way occupation and collaboration are perceived and articulated today, under the conditions of full-scale Russian aggression.

Despite considerable scholarly attention to the occupation, many issues require further in-depth understanding. In this project I would like to discuss how war and occupation in real time show the problematic nature of “neutral” terminology. What are the limitations of existing theoretical concepts and of their applicability to different contexts? Why is the identification of situations as war and occupation often delayed? What do we know and understand about the occupation based on a detailed study of it from a historical perspective? Is it possible to apply this knowledge to assess what is happening now, in the context of Russia’s full-scale war against Ukraine?

Recommended Reading

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Mikheieva, Oksana, and Irina Kuznetsova. “War-Time Volunteering and Population Displacement: From Spontaneous Help to Organised Volunteering in Post-2014 Ukraine.” *Voluntary Sector Review* 15, no. 1 (2024): 74–91. <https://doi.org/10.1332/20408056Y2023D000000009>.

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CHRISTOPH MÖLLERS

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Dr. iur., LL.M., Professor of Public Law and Legal Philosophy

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Born in 1969 in Bochum, Germany

Studied Law and Comparative Literature in Tübingen, Munich, and Chicago

ART—LIBERTY—FREEDOM OF ART

In contemporary culture wars, artistic freedom has become one of many controversial goods. Beyond some interesting legal issues, especially with regard to the protection of publicly funded art, fundamental problems of political and aesthetic theory become apparent: Why should the arts be better protected than any other social practice? Does such a protection not presuppose the very distinction of art from non-art that is often denied by contemporary aesthetics' emphasizing the political or intervening character of art? Finally, can any form of freedom that is required to enable artistic production be at all guaranteed by political or legal institutions? Historically, a stable connection between political freedom and successful aesthetic productivity cannot be established, but such a connection seems to be the condition for any justified privileged treatment of artistic freedom. The project will try to explore these questions and thus the intricate connections between political, legal, and aesthetic freedom.

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Jelavich, Peter. *Kunstfreiheit: Eine deutsche Ideologie*. Klostermann, 2025.

LEONIE C. MOYLE

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Indiana University Bloomington

Born in 1971 in Melbourne, Australia

B.Sc. (Honours) in Biology, Australian National University, B.A. (Honours) in

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MECHANISMS OF SPECIATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Speciation—the biological process through which all new species arise—has received more than a century and a half of scrutiny since the publication of Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species* in 1859. Over that time, the study of the speciation process has itself evolved, as new theoretical and empirical advances have resolved some questions and opened additional ones. Contemporary speciation research is in the throes of another such transition. The causes of this transition are diverse, but one substantial factor is the vast increase in our access to “genomic” information: we now can characterize the complete set of DNA sequence variation in almost any organism, on a scale and level of detail unprecedented even two decades ago. The consequences of this empirical shift have been widespread across biology—influencing both the way that researchers ask and answer biological questions, and how they conceptualize foundational processes. This is equally true of studies of the process of speciation specifically, but our foundational concepts, questions, and texts have lagged behind these changes. As a Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, my goals are to clarify and synthesize these new empirical advances in speciation biology. This will entail clarifying the conceptual implications of genomic data for how we think about the formation of species, how we make inferences about the speciation process from empirical data, and even about the nature of species themselves. I anticipate that this project will involve three major synthesis and writing projects, one of which will be a book prospectus.

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BSc in Food Science and Technology, Makerere University, MSc and PhD in
Food Science, Stellenbosch University

THE COLD CHAIN AND PERISHABLE PRODUCE LOSS IN THE UGANDAN FOOD SYSTEM

The annual increase in the world population puts pressure on the food systems to provide enough food for all global citizens. Among the foods most consumed are those with a short life span, termed perishable produce, that need special handling after harvest or slaughter. They include fish, meat, poultry, dairy products, eggs, fruit, and vegetables. These easily spoil and become unsafe for consumption if not kept at recommended refrigeration conditions long after harvest or slaughter. The handling of perishables under refrigerated conditions during transit, storage, and display is termed cold chain handling. While cold chains are well developed in developed countries, most developing countries have minimally invested in cold chains and therefore contribute greatly to post-harvest losses and the waste of perishable produce globally and to related costs on the environment and climate. This research seeks to establish the cold chain capacity in the Ugandan food value chain and the related costs in terms of losses and waste where absent. The results of this study will guide policy on and investment in this important aspect of the food system.

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FRANZISKA NEUMANN

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Technische Universität Braunschweig

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B.A., Geschichte, M.A., Geschichte, Dr. phil., Neuere und Neueste Geschichte,
Technische Universität Dresden

RESTE UND RESSOURCEN: ABFALLREGIME IN LONDON IM LANGEN 18. JAHRHUNDERT

Abfall gehörte zum Alltag in einer frühneuzeitlichen Stadt. Allein die täglichen Verrichtungen in Haus und Hof brachten Reste wie Asche, Fäkalien oder Küchenabfälle hervor. Hinzu kamen Abfälle, die in Gewerbe und Handel und nicht zuletzt durch die Omnipräsenz von Tieren anfielen, wie etwa Schlachtreste, Bauschutt oder Mist. Die für sich genommen einfache Feststellung, dass Abfall zum Alltag in einer frühneuzeitlichen Stadt gehörte, steht zugleich quer zu etablierten Forschungspositionen, die sich selten mit Abfall, sondern vor allem mit Recycling beschäftigt haben. Statt das widersprüchliche Verhältnis von Stadt und Abfall auf eine Geschichte des Recyclings zu reduzieren, möchte das geplante Projekt die Ambivalenz von Abfall als Rest und Ressource in den Fokus rücken: Was ist Abfall unter den Bedingungen einer vormodernen, vorindustriellen Gesellschaft? In welche politischen, wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Strukturen war Abfall eingebettet? Welche Strategien gab es im Umgang mit Abfall? Und schließlich: Welche Werte, Normen und Wissensordnungen prägten den alltäglichen Umgang mit Abfall? Diese Fragen sollen in dem Projekt am Beispiel von London im langen 18. Jahrhundert untersucht werden. Das Buch möchte Abfall auf seinen verschlungenen Wegen durch die Metropole folgen: von den Abfalleimern durch die Straßen und Nachbarschaften bis auf die Deponien in und um London. Aufgrund der Vielzahl von Praktiken, Ordnungsvorstellungen und Diskursen, die mit Abfall verbunden sind, soll Abfall

als Sonde dienen, um eine neue Perspektive auf die Herausforderungen des Zusammenlebens in der frühneuzeitlichen Stadt zu werfen. Eine historische Perspektive auf Abfall kann zudem aktuelle Diskussionen bereichern, weniger im Sinne einer Suche nach Vorbildern in der Vergangenheit, sondern vielmehr, um ein differenzierteres Verständnis für das überzeitlich spannungsgeladene Verhältnis von Menschen, Resten und Ressourcen zu erhalten.

Lektüreempfehlung

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—. „Vormoderne Recycling-Mentalität? Abfall und Abfallregime im frühneuzeitlichen London.“ *Historische Zeitschrift* 317, Nr. 1 (2023): 63–94.

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BA (Hons.) in Political Science and MA in Sociology, University of Alberta,
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RECOLLECTING LEGALITIES: CONSTITUTIONAL RECONCILIATION AND THE FUTURE OF MULTINATIONAL DEMOCRACIES

In recent decades, the question of Indigenous self-determination has become an increasingly pressing concern at national and international levels. Yet, taken as a legal object, it seems not to “fit” into the confines of existing constitutional or international law. My project resolves this problem by focusing on the role that systems of internal colonization have played within liberal democracies.

Through a comparative analysis of legal changes that occurred in Canada and South Africa starting in the 1920s, I argue that courts effectively withdrew the question of Indigenous self-determination from international law by treating it as a strictly domestic issue. Further, as the courts have recently tried to work their way towards acknowledging Indigenous jurisdictions, the problem is revealed as being about an absolutist assumption of sovereignty that impedes constitutional reconciliation. From this perspective, the real problem of Indigenous self-determination is not one of “fit” within existing constitutional or international legal instruments, but of the persistence of assumptions of absolute sovereignty applied to Indigenous peoples. Based on a comparative analysis of constitutional reconciliation undertaken in Canada and South Africa, my project offers practical lessons for moving beyond sovereign absolutism towards multinational federalism and more just forms of democratic constitutionalism.

Recommended Reading

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Iso Lomso Fellow

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BSc in Mathematical Sciences, University of Burundi, MSc in Mathematical

Sciences and PhD in Epidemiology, Stellenbosch University

UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECTS OF THE
BIOMOLECULAR DYNAMICS OF MALARIA PARASITES
AND VECTOR THROUGH MULTISCALE MODELLING
AND AGENT-BASED MODELS

Malaria remains a significant public health problem in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). Currently, all intervention tools, such as diagnostics, treatment, and vector control, are impeded by increasing concern about malaria parasites and vector biomolecular dynamics. In many African countries, the interventions of the National Malaria Control Programs are challenged by (1) *hrp2/hrp3* deletions, which threaten the use of Rapid Diagnosis Tests (RDTs) with false-negatives, resulting in (2) asymptomatic cases of infections that remain undiagnosed and untreated with the current control efforts that focus on the diagnosis and treatment of febrile patients presenting to hospitals and health centers, (3) drug resistance, which has been documented against available antimalarial drugs, and mutations associated with it have been reported in some SSA countries, and (4) anopheles resistance to insecticide, whereas the success of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs), distribution campaigns, and indoor residual spraying (IRS) depends on killing mosquitoes and destroying larval habitats by the insecticides sprayed. Thus, the overall aim of this project is to develop and compare two modelling frameworks (one using a multiscale modelling approach and another

using agent-based models), which are believed to be able to provide more insight to advise the design of optimal and effective malaria interventions.

Recommended Reading

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BComm, University College Dublin, MBA and PhD in Business Economics,
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THE FABRIC OF PROFIT: EUROPEAN TEXTILES IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, 1750–1850

The Fabric of Profit addresses the history of capitalism as its general theme with a focus on the history of European textiles during the revolutionary age from 1750 to 1850. The project is organized around two research “streams” that draw on a variety of primary sources to address distinct but complementary questions about the practices and discourses of profit. First, how were profits understood, pursued, and generated in economic practice? Second, how were profits constructed and contested in economic discourses about political economy? The project’s innovative character stems both from its profit-oriented analytical approach as well as from a methodology organized around global commodity chains. By structuring its macro-analysis around these chains, the project benefits from their well-known methodological advantages to situate the economic and social evolution of European textiles in the context of global history.

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BENJAMIN D. PIEKUT

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Cornell University

Born in 1975 in Camp Hill, Pa., USA

B.A. in Music, Hampshire College, M.A. in Composition, Mills College,
M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Historical Musicology, Columbia University

SOUND ART: HISTORY IN SEARCH OF A CONCEPT

In this project, I examine questions of method in the historiography of sound art, arguing that existing scholarship has failed to define its object with clarity. Authors have emphasized sound art's engagements with architecture, its sculptural qualities, its art-gallery context, or its basis in the material properties of sound, but in every case, they employ this or that framework without reflecting on the more fundamental question: How could sound art have been a choice or a possibility in the first place, even if it was one with many conflicting definitions? To what did it respond? I argue that sound art was a concept (not an art movement, technique, or medium) that emerged historically and socially around 1980. This concept, I will contend, came into shape in response to local pressures placed on the category of "music" across diverse artistic practices of the post-disciplinary avant-garde after 1960, including dance, sculpture, free jazz, and performance. In contrast to a prevailing critical narrative that represents sound art as an insurgent avant-garde counterposed to music, I view the consolidation of the concept to have been more closely related to culturally conservative initiatives of the 1980s, such as Jazz at Lincoln Center. I also examine this history of a modern aesthetic concept in relation to a contemporary artworld that is necessarily global, characterized by discrepant relationships to the histories of modernity and marked by variegated experiences of time. Instead of ignoring the circumstances of the concept's appearance, as do many new accounts of sound art outside of Europe, I argue that provincializing these conditions permits a much wider, transnational account of the concept's reformulations and effects.

Recommended Reading

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—. *Henry Cow: The World Is a Problem*. Duke University Press, 2019.

—. “The Vernacular Avant-garde: A Speculation / Tamara Levitz and Benjamin Piekut.” By Tamara Levitz. *ASAP/Review*, September 3, 2020.

<https://asapjournal.com/the-vernacular-avant-garde-a-speculation-tamara-levitz-and-benjamin-piekut/>.

RONALD C. PO

Dr. phil., Associate Professor of Chinese and Maritime History
London School of Economics and Political Science

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Dr. phil. in History, Heidelberg University

SHARK FIN IN CHINA: A CULTURAL HISTORY

How did a tasteless, nutrient-poor part of a marine predator become one of the most prized symbols of status and refinement in early modern China and beyond? This project traces the cultural ascent of shark fin from an overlooked by-product to an elite delicacy deeply embedded in the rituals and social imagination between the fourteenth and early twentieth centuries. While shark fin soup had little culinary merit, it came to signify wealth, hospitality, and moral cultivation. Its prestige was not driven by merchants or imperial decree, but by scholars, poets, and physicians who encoded it with symbolic and medicinal value.

Through literary praise, gastronomic writing, and ritual etiquette, shark fin became a marker of social distinction. Its presence at banquets was expected; its absence, a subtle breach of decorum. This history offers a window into how cultural meanings are shaped and sustained, and how oceanic life was drawn into the fabric of Chinese society through an expanding foodscape.

This project does not, of course, advocate for the continued consumption of shark fin. On the contrary, it uses history to interrogate tradition. Beyond cuisine, it rethinks “maritime China”—not merely as trade or naval design, but as a realm of meaning, porous and entwined. As George Orwell wrote, “it could plausibly be argued that changes of diet are more important than changes of dynasty.” In this spirit, the project reflects on how traditions are made—and just as powerfully, unmade.

Recommended Reading

Po, Ronald C. *The Blue Frontier: Maritime Vision and Power in the Qing Empire*. Cambridge University Press, 2018. Paperback 2019.

—. “Qing China and Its Offshore Islands in the Long Eighteenth Century.” *The Historical Journal* 67, no. 3 (2024): 430–462.

—. *Shaping the Blue Dragon: Maritime China in the Ming and Qing Dynasties*. Liverpool University Press, 2024.

TERESA PRÄAUER

von September bis Dezember 2025

Schriftstellerin

Wien

Geboren 1979 in Linz, Österreich

Magistra der Philosophie, Germanistik, Universität Salzburg und Klasse für Malerei, Mozarteum Salzburg, Postgraduiertenstudium, Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien

NIE MEHR WEINEN (ARBEITSTITEL)

Ein literarischer Essay zu Tränen, Rührung, Melancholie und Überwältigung durch „künstliches“ Pathos.

Wie bereits in ihren Großessays „Tier werden“ (Wallstein 2018) und „Mädchen“ (Wallstein 2022) dient das literarische Schreiben der Schriftstellerin als Werkzeug des Nachforschens und Nachdenkens – hier über ein höchst ambivalentes Gefühl: das der (unerwünschten, zu vermeidenden) Rührung.

Mittels Erinnerung, Lektüre (u. a. László F. Földényi) und genauer (Bild-) Beschreibung werden unterschiedliche Begriffe literarisch umrissen: Nähe, Distanz, Künstlichkeit, Natürlichkeit, Gefühl, Romantik, Gruppen und „Außenseiter“, emotionale Vereinnahmung, Trauer.

Lektüreempfehlung

Präauer, Teresa. *Tier werden*. Wallstein, 2018. Englisch: *Becoming Animal*.
Übersetzt von Kári Driscoll. Seagull Books, 2024.

—. *Das Glück ist eine Bohne*. Wallstein, 2021.

—. *Kochen im falschen Jahrhundert*. Wallstein, 2023. Englisch: *Cooking in the Wrong Century*. Übersetzt von Eleanor Updegraff. Pushkin Press, 2025.

SALLY SEDGWICK
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BA in Philosophy, University of California, Santa Cruz, Ph.D. in Philosophy,
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TEMPORALITY AND METHOD IN HEGEL'S *PHENOMENOLOGY*

In his 1807 *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Hegel argues that we can identify stages in the journey of modern Western consciousness and describe its steps towards maturity in the form of a temporally ordered narrative. This is one respect in which temporality figures in the *Phenomenology*. In my proposed project, however, I am concerned with how Hegel ties temporality to the nature of knowing itself. A principal aim of the *Phenomenology* is to expose the illusion of the Cartesian assumption that we can start inquiry from nowhere and sweep history wholly aside. Hegel seeks to persuade us that all knowledge, including self-knowledge, is indebted to the road we knowers have travelled. In defending the thesis that all thinking is anchored in and responsive to history, Hegel challenges still persistent assumptions about the possibility of presuppositionless knowing.

In his *Phenomenology*, Hegel notes that, in his tale of the progress of consciousness through various forms of knowing, he will rely on a “philosophical” or “scientific” method of cognition, a method he distinguishes from its “mathematical” counterpart. He notes in an intriguing remark that “pure mathematics ... does not set time, as time, over and against space as the second material [Stoff] for its study.” Mathematical cognition is “dead,” in Hegel’s characterization, insofar as it is inattentive to process and treats its most basic concepts as “fixed” or “lifeless.” Mathematical cognition is “dead,” in addition, insofar as it is insufficiently self-critical. Because it asserts its definitions as immediately cer-

tain or established, mathematical cognition closes itself off to the possibility of further development.

Part of my project will involve exploring Hegel's account of the nature of concepts. To what extent are they "plastic" or "dialectical," in his view? In addition, I will consider how he understands the conditions of self-critical inquiry. Must such inquiry be absolutely presuppositionless? Is presuppositionless inquiry even possible? My suspicion is that Hegel doubts that wholly presuppositionless inquiry is possible because he is persuaded that even our most abstract and self-critical acts of thinking are anchored in history.

Recommended Reading

Sedgwick, Sally. *Kant's Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.

—. *Hegel's Critique of Kant: From Dichotomy to Identity*. Oxford University Press, 2012.

—. *Time and History in Hegelian Thought and Spirit*. Oxford University Press, 2023.

MICHAEL SEEWALD

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University of Münster

Born in 1987 in Saarbrücken, Germany
Diploma in Catholic Theology and M.A. in Philosophy and Politics,
University of Tübingen, Dr. theol., Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
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WHAT IS “DOGMATIC” ABOUT THE HISTORY OF DOGMA?

As modern historiography began to take shape in the 18th century, Protestant Enlightenment theologians such as J.F.W. Jerusalem developed the concept of a “history of dogma.” Their aim was to look at the formation of Christian doctrine not primarily from the perspective of continuity, as implied by the idea that this doctrine had developed gradually and organically, but in terms of the discontinuities, innovations, or even ruptures that can be found within it. The Catholic Church long rejected such an approach. Thus, a negative attitude towards the history of dogma can even be seen among such Catholic theologians as Georg Hermes, who was condemned by Pope Gregory XVI in 1835 for holding that “positive doubt” was a necessary part of theological methodology and that reason was the only way that the human mind could come to know God. According to one of his students, Hermes argued that “as a Catholic he could not recognise a history of dogma in the ordinary sense of the word, because dogmas have always been what they are.” Most Catholic theologians of the 19th and early 20th century would have agreed. Today, however, the history of dogma is a well-established discipline in faculties of Catholic Theology around the world.

My project deals with the following questions: (1) When, how, and why did the Catholic attitude towards the project of a history of dogma change? (2) Is

there a specifically Catholic approach to the history of dogma that differs from the approaches of other Christian denominations or from how non-theological disciplines, such as the history of ideas, approach the historical development of Christian doctrine? (3) Within Catholic theology, the history of dogma is often seen as an adjunct to dogmatic theology. But what is “dogmatic” about the history of dogma?

The aim of my project is to historicise the history of dogma as a discipline within Catholic theology, to investigate what its denominational biases are, and to suggest a place for the history of dogma in relation to other theological disciplines.

Recommended Reading

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Baur, Ferdinand Christian. *History of Christian Dogma*. Edited by Peter C. Hodgson. Oxford University Press, 2014.

Seewald, Michael. *Theories of Doctrinal Development in the Catholic Church*. Translated by David West. Cambridge University Press, 2023.

LIAM SHAW

from September 2025 to February 2026

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MPhys, University of Oxford, MRes in Modelling Biological Complexity and

PhD in Computational Biology, University College London

THE EVOLUTIONARY ROLES OF EXTRACHROMOSOMAL DNA

All organisms store DNA in chromosomes, but DNA can also exist outside them. This extrachromosomal DNA (ecDNA) can facilitate evolution—from antimicrobial resistance in bacteria to tumour progression in human cancer—but its diverse roles have not been considered together. During my fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, I will explore how evolutionary theory can bring this diversity within a common framework.

The focus of my usual research is bacterial plasmids: self-copying genetic elements in bacteria that can replicate independently. Plasmids are key vectors for important functions, including antimicrobial resistance, and are the best-studied example of ecDNA, even though we do not understand many features of their spread and evolution. Recently, the use of whole-genome sequencing to study human cancers has revealed that many tumour cells also contain ecDNA. In cancer, ecDNAs are associated with oncogenes and drug resistance. The uncontrolled growth of cancer cells in a multicellular organism has been described as an atavistic return to a more “single-celled” existence. Though ecDNA in cancer has many differences from plasmids, the similarities are further evidence in support of this concept and suggest that drawing on evolutionary theory for plasmids could be beneficial in this very different area.

Beyond humans, ecDNA has also been studied in model systems such as yeast, where it can confer environmental adaptations, and in plants, where it can confer herbicide resistance. These striking findings across different fields confirm that ecDNA plays important roles across biology, often linked to scenarios of rapid adaptation. However, at the moment, this research is scattered in different disciplines, often with different terminology and frameworks. By performing a synthesis of our current knowledge of the forms and functions of ecDNA, I hope to identify commonalities in research questions and approaches that could point the way for future areas of study and clinical applications.

Recommended Reading

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BSc in Microbiology with Industrial Experience, University of Reading,

PhD in Biology, University of Bath

THE ROLE OF REGULATORY CHANGES IN SHAPING THE EVOLVABILITY OF OPPORTUNISTIC PATHOGENS

Opportunistic pathogens cause the majority of global disease burden and dominate the WHO's antimicrobial resistance (AMR) priority pathogens list. Unlike specialised obligate pathogens, opportunists that infect hosts from an environmental reservoir face a major challenge: they are poorly adapted to cause infections. Infection by an opportunist can therefore be viewed as an important example of an evolutionary niche transition—a situation where opportunists must rapidly adapt their biology to meet the challenges of a novel and hostile host environment. My research seeks to understand how opportunistic pathogens achieve the remarkable adaptability and evolvability needed to establish infection. I am especially interested in the role of gene regulatory network changes—which commonly occur in opportunistic bacteria during infection—and how these rewire to adapt gene expression responses to better suit the host environment. During my stay at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I would like to explore how regulatory mutations drive infection by these organisms, and how these changes impact their evolvability to future challenges, for example antibiotic therapy. I will do this with a focus on the model opportunist *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and will seek to outline similarities in gene regulatory network adaptation between this organism and other bacterial species, for example when infecting comparable body sites. This project will form an important foundation to direct my

future experimental plans and shape my hypotheses. My goal is to understand the fundamental evolutionary systems forces shaping the niche transition of opportunistic pathogens from the environment to becoming clinical and epidemic pathogens.

Recommended Reading

Shepherd, Matthew J., Aidan P. Pierce, and Tiffany B. Taylor (2023). “Evolutionary Innovation through Transcription Factor Rewiring in Microbes Is Shaped by Levels of Transcription Factor Activity, Expression, and Existing Connectivity.” *PLOS Biology* 21 (10): e3002348.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3002348>.

Shepherd, Matthew J., Mitchell Reynolds, Aidan P. Pierce, Alan M. Rice, and Tiffany B. Taylor (2023). “Transcription Factor Expression Levels and Environmental Signals Constrain Transcription Factor Innovation.” *Microbiology* 169 (8): 001378. <https://doi.org/10.1099/mic.0.001378>.

Shepherd, Matthew J., Taoran Fu, Niamh E. Harrington, et al. (2024). “Ecological and Evolutionary Mechanisms Driving Within-Patient Emergence of Antimicrobial Resistance.” *Nature Reviews Microbiology* 22: 650–665.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41579-024-01041-1>.

JENNA SMITH

from September 2025 to January 2026

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

PhD, Medicine and Health

The University of Sydney

Born in 1995 in Nowra, NSW, Australia

BSc (Honours in Psychology) and PhD in Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney

IMPLEMENTING EQUITABLE SHARED DECISION MAKING FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN PRIMARY CARE

During my current fellowship at the Sydney Health Literacy Lab (The University of Sydney), I aim to implement shared decision making for older women in the national breast cancer screening program (i.e., through improved messaging and decision support tools). During my time at the Wissenschaftskolleg, I will be expanding this program of work to broadly think about how equitable shared decision making can be implemented in primary care health assessments for older people.

All older people should have the opportunity to engage in primary care discussions about their health goals and the benefits and risks of interventions to make high-quality health decisions. Annual health assessments provide a chance for this, but shared decisions are difficult to achieve. I will develop interventions to enable older people to engage in discussions about their health in primary care.

I hope to broaden my horizons during my College for Life Sciences fellowship, particularly to explore the intersections of ageism, reducing overdiagnosis and overtreatment, health literacy, and equity, in the context of an increasingly digitalised health system. I will meet with academics, research groups, and clinicians to understand current efforts to implement shared decision making for older people in the German health system, as well as review the literature. This

will enable me to form a comprehensive foundation of knowledge through reflection and discussions, gain creative insights I would otherwise miss out on, and ultimately strengthen my international impact in my first independent research program.

Recommended Reading

Smith, Jenna, Rachael H. Dodd, Karen M. Gainey, et al. (2021). "Patient-Reported Factors Associated with Older Adults' Cancer Screening Decision-Making: A Systematic Review." *JAMA Network Open* 4 (11): e2133406. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.33406>.

Smith, Jenna, Erin Cvejic, Nehmat Houssami, et al. (2024). "Randomized Trial of Information for Older Women about Cessation of Breast Cancer Screening Invitations." *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 39: 1332–1341. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-024-08656-3>.

Smith, Jenna, Rachael H. Dodd, Katharine A. Wallis, et al. (2024). "General Practitioners' Views and Experiences of Communicating with Older People about Cancer Screening: A Qualitative Study." *Family Practice* 41 (4): 543–553. <https://doi.org/10.1093/fampra/cmact126>.

MEGAN SØRENSEN

from September 2025 to February 2026

Fellow of the College for Life Sciences

PhD, Mechanistic Biology

Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

Born in 1991 in Cambridge, United Kingdom

BA in Natural Sciences, University of Cambridge, MSc by Research, University of York, PhD in Mechanistic Biology, University of Sheffield

ON THE HUNT FOR NOVEL MICROBIAL ENDOSYMBIOSES

Organisms do not live in isolation; instead they interact with one another constantly in countless ways. Endosymbioses are the most intimate form of species interaction because one partner resides physically within the cells of the other. Many fundamental questions regarding how endosymbiotic partnerships evolve remain unanswered because of how difficult this process is to study. To answer these questions, we need to discover new model systems that represent the “missing links” in these important evolutionary events.

A class of microbes known as protists encompass a staggering degree of diversity and include many different types of endosymbiotic partnerships. However, only a small fraction of protist diversity has been explored, and it is highly likely that there are many more endosymbioses yet to be discovered.

With this project, I aim to identify potentially novel protist endosymbioses from older literature sources. Older sources are often overlooked, but hold a treasure trove of early protist descriptions, including, in some cases, species that have been recorded but have since been forgotten. To achieve this, I will be searching journal archives, starting with the Wissenschaftskolleg library, for anomalous or curious descriptions, in particular within the descriptions of pigmentation and of “photosynthetic bodies.” I will then cross-reference these early descriptions with current research to ascertain whether these potential endo-

symbioses have been confirmed. Candidates for future research would be those with promising original descriptions but very little follow-up work. This would enable me to investigate these candidate endosymbioses as part of my own future research.

Overall, this project aims to identify new protist endosymbioses that have the potential to become insightful future model systems and to contribute their piece to the puzzle of understanding endosymbiosis evolution.

Recommended Reading

- Sørensen, Megan E. S., A. Jamie Wood, Ewan J. A. Minter, Christopher D. Lowe, Duncan D. Cameron, and Michael A. Brockhurst (2020). “Comparison of Independent Evolutionary Origins Reveals Both Convergence and Divergence in the Metabolic Mechanisms of Symbiosis.” *Current Biology* 30 (2): 328–334.e4. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2019.11.053>.
- Sørensen, Megan E. S., A. Jamie Wood, Duncan D. Cameron, and Michael A. Brockhurst (2021). “Rapid Compensatory Evolution Can Rescue Low Fitness Symbioses Following Partner Switching.” *Current Biology* 31 (17): 3721–3728.e4. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2021.06.034>.
- Sørensen, Megan E. S., Vasily V. Zlatogursky, Ioana Onuț-Brännström, Anne Walraven, Rachel A. Foster, and Fabien Burki (2023). “A Novel Kleptoplastic Symbiosis Revealed in the Marine Centroheliid *Meringosphaera* with Evidence of Genetic Integration.” *Current Biology* 33 (17): 3571–3584.e6. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2023.07.017>.

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. Es ist kein Wunder, dass sich der König derzeit wachsender Beliebtheit bei der Neuen Rechten erfreut.

Mein Arbeitsvorhaben ist ein sehr langfristiges: Ich schreibe an einer Biografie dieses Königs. Was mich an der bizarren Figur interessiert, ist zweierlei. Zum einen lässt sich an dem Umgang des Königs mit seinen Favoriten, Ministern, Beamten und Untertanen die soziale Logik der Autokratie veranschau-

lichen. Meine These ist, dass dieser König sich verhielt wie ein sozialer Außenseiter statt wie ein Erbmonarch und die Grundlagen seiner eigenen Legitimität untergrub. Zum anderen interessiert mich 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. Die Frage ist: Wie kam es dazu, dass das, was besorgte Zeitgenossen als Folge einer schweren Affektstörung des Königs betrachteten, nachträglich als genialer Plan erscheinen konnte?

Lektüreempfehlung

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

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

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

KARMA URA

from February to June 2026

PhD, President

Centre for Bhutan and Gross National Happiness Studies, Thimphu

Born in 1961 in Bumthang, Bhutan

BA (Hons) in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Oxford University,

MPhil in Economics, University of Edinburgh, PhD in International

Development, Nagoya University

WELL-BEING IN ART

Through surveys and statistical analysis, I have explored the issues surrounding happiness and well-being. On an occasional basis, I have also been engaged in artistic creations of spiritual murals, paintings, and the design of secular objects and performances. I have endeavoured to integrate social science research and aesthetic pursuits for a balanced experience in my life.

But I have never been blessed with an opportunity to immerse myself in drawing and painting for any continuous period. In this blessed five-month fellowship, I want to use drawings as a means of exploring the conditions of happiness and well-being and their manifestations as subjective experiences. Such visual representations might be better at triggering public discourse on happiness than texts and graphs that appeal more to literate audiences. Drawings and paintings bring the whole and the parts together and create sensory and cognitive experience much faster for a broader audience.

I would like to depict in about 10 drawings the multifaceted conditions of happiness that emerge from (1) mental health and emotions; (2) personal relationships and communitarianism; (3) the environment and aesthetic experiences of nature (for example, as elucidated by Humboldt and Goethe); (4) the relationship to time and the life cycle; (5) health and vitality; (6) the senses, knowledge, and education; (7) politics, rights and freedoms; (8) identity and culture; and (9) wealth, possessions, and living.

Recommended Reading

Ura, Karma. *The Hero with a Thousand Eyes: A Historical Novel*. Karma Ura, 1995.

Ura, Karma, Sabina Alkire, Tshoki Zangmo, and Karma Wangdi. *An Extensive Analysis of GNH Index*. Centre for Bhutan Studies, 2012.

Ura, Karma. *The Unremembered Nation*. 2 vols. Oxford University Press, 2023.

KIA VAHLAND

von September 2025 bis Februar 2026

Dr. phil., Redakteurin

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Dozentin, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Geboren 1970 in Marburg, Deutschland

M.A., Kunstgeschichte und Politikwissenschaften, und Dr. phil.,

Kunstgeschichte, Universität Hamburg

MOMENTE, DIE BLEIBEN. ZUM POLITISCHEN UND GESELLSCHAFTLICHEN EINFLUSS VON KRISEN- UND KRIEGBILDERN IM 20. UND 21. JAHRHUNDERT

Mein Projekt behandelt den Einfluss herausragender politischer Bilder auf die öffentliche Sphäre. Was muss geschehen, damit ein Bild vielfach reproduziert wird, ein internationales Publikum findet sowie politische und gesellschaftliche Impulse setzt? Welche Rolle spielen bekannte politische Bilder – von Gemälden über Pressefotografien bis zu Social-Media-Postings – insbesondere in Krisen und Kriegen seit den 1930er-Jahren bis heute?

Diese Fragen sind in unserer bildorientierten Epoche so aktuell wie relevant, wurden in der kunst-, medien-, geschichts- und politikwissenschaftlichen Forschung bislang jedoch nicht grundsätzlich und medienübergreifend gestellt. Meiner These zufolge kann ein singuläres Bildwerk eine historische Situation auf den Punkt bringen und ihre medial-politische Rezeption prägen, zugleich aber zeitübergreifend zu einem Sinnbild für Affektlagen werden, in denen sich politisches und persönliches Erleben verschränken. Die Studie widmet sich der kommunikativen, politischen, stilistischen Funktionsweise bleibender Bilder insbesondere von Gewalt und anderen Konflikt- und Ausnahmesituationen.

Lektüreempfehlung

Vahland, Kia. *Lorbeeren für Laura: Sebastiano del Piombos lyrische Bildnisse schöner Frauen*. Akademie Verlag, 2011.

—. *Leonardo da Vinci und die Frauen: Eine Künstlerbiographie*. Insel Verlag, 2020.

—. *Caspar David Friedrich und der weite Horizont*. Insel Verlag, 2024.

JULIANE VOGEL

Permanent Fellow des Wissenschaftskollegs

Dr. phil., Professorin für Neuere Deutsche Literatur und Allgemeine

Literaturwissenschaft

Universität Konstanz

Geboren 1959 in Mainz, Deutschland

Studium der Germanistik und Anglistik an der Universität Wien und der

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg

TRAVELING FORMS. A GLOSSARY

Im kommenden Forschungsjahr werde ich eine Buchpublikation vorbereiten, die zentrale Begriffe des von mir an der Universität Konstanz geleiteten und von der NOMIS Foundation finanzierten Forschungsprojekts „Traveling Forms“ vorstellen wird. Erstellt werden soll ein Glossarium von Begriffen, mit dessen Hilfe die Migration ästhetischer und sozialer Formen beschrieben werden kann. Dabei untersuchen wir sowohl aus literaturwissenschaftlicher wie anthropologischer Perspektive den Zusammenhang von Formwandel und Ortswechsel. Grundlegend ist dabei die Annahme, dass Formen sich verändern, wenn sie kulturelle, politische, soziale oder nationale Grenzen überschreiten, dass sie sich aber auch umgekehrt nur dann erhalten und stabilisieren können, wenn sie immer wieder aufs Neue relokalisiert und adaptiert werden. Als Literaturwissenschaftlerin werde ich mich vor allem auf Stichworte konzentrieren, die das Traveling und die Reisewege literarischer Gattungen betreffen. Dabei geht es neben den Prozessen der Relokalisierung auch um die Herstellung von Reiseformen. Welche formalen Operationen steigern die Übertragbarkeit und Portabilität einer Form? Welche Rolle spielen Fragmentierung, Miniaturisierung oder die Lockerung formaler Zusammenhänge? Aber auch: Welche politischen und kulturellen Kontexte fördern bzw. verhindern das Reisen einer Form?

Außerdem bereite ich gemeinsam mit Carlos Spoerhase ein Forschungsvorhaben zum Thema „Grammatik und Geschichte“ vor, das am Wissenschaftskolleg angesiedelt werden soll. Wir wollen das sprachliche Formenrepertoire der Literatur auf der Ebene präzise bestimmbarer grammatischer Phänomene untersuchen und sowohl historisch und systematisch die historischen Gestaltungspotenziale, Darstellungs- und Affektlogiken aufdecken, die mit grammatischer Formgebung verbunden sind. Auf diese Weise möchten wir die tief liegende Geschichtlichkeit der formbildenden Kraft der Grammatik sichtbar machen.

Lektüreempfehlung

Menke, Bettine, und Juliane Vogel, Hg. *Flucht und Szene: Perspektiven und Formen eines Theaters der Fliehenden*. Theater der Zeit, 2018.

Vogel, Juliane. *Aus dem Grund: Auftrittprotokolle zwischen Racine und Nietzsche*. Fink, 2018.

UWE VOLKMANN

Dr. iur., Professor für Öffentliches Recht und Rechtsphilosophie
Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main

Geboren 1960 in Lünen, Deutschland
Dr. iur., Philipps-Universität Marburg

KONSTITUTIONELLE DEMOKRATIE. ZUR DYNAMIK EINER POLITISCHEN FORM

Wenn heute vielfach von einer Krise der konstitutionellen Demokratie gesprochen wird, suggeriert das die Vorstellung eines mehr oder weniger feststehenden Typus politischer Organisation. Beide darin zusammengebrachten Begriffe, Verfassung (Konstitution) und Demokratie, sind allerdings in hohem Maße voraussetzungsvoll und für unterschiedliche Ausfüllungen offen, und je nachdem, wie sie inhaltlich bestimmt werden, fällt auch ihre Zuordnung anders aus. Mein Projekt, das in eine Buchpublikation münden soll, will zunächst das unübersichtliche Begriffsfeld ordnen und die möglichen Zuordnungen zu verschiedenen Modellen zusammenziehen, die dann darauf befragt werden, was Verfassung und Demokratie füreinander leisten, wie sie sich wechselseitig stabilisieren können und wo sie spezifische Legitimitätsprobleme und Spannungen aufwerfen. Im klassischen Modell eines liberalen Konstitutionalismus entstehen solche dadurch, dass die Verfassung hier tendenziell als Einhegung und Begrenzung von Demokratie fungiert, als Bollwerk gegen die „Tyrannei der Mehrheit“; dadurch gerät sie automatisch in einen gewissen Gegensatz zur Möglichkeit demokratischer Selbstbestimmung. Grundlegend anders stellt sich die Situation wiederum dar, wenn die Verfassung, wie es heute in vielen Staaten der Welt der Fall ist, als Inbegriff einer guten politischen Ordnung einem Gemeinwesen Sinn, Orientierung und Tiefe gibt. Daraus ergeben sich andere und intensivere Verbindungen zur Demokratie, sofern diese in anspruchsvollen Lesarten ihrerseits als gemeinsames Unternehmen von Bürgern bestimmt wird. Beide liefen bisher in einem Projekt der Stiftung politischer Gemeinschaft zu-

sammen, das aber im Gegensatz zu älteren Formen der Gemeinschaftlichkeit auf der universalen Sprache individueller Rechte basiert. Dadurch brechen zugleich neue Spannungen auf, an die heute populistische Bewegungen oder Konzepte „illiberaler Demokratie“ anschließen können.

Lektüreempfehlung

Volkman, Uwe. *Grundzüge einer Verfassungslehre der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*. Mohr Siebeck, 2013.

—. *Rechtsphilosophie*. C.H.Beck, 2. Aufl. 2023.

—. *Demokratie und Vernunft*. Mohr Siebeck, 2024.

ERICA WEITZMAN

Ph.D., Associate Professor of German
Northwestern University, Evanston

Born in 1975 in Washington, D.C., USA

B.A. in English and French, College of William and Mary, M.A. in Creative
Writing, Boston University, M.A. in Liberal Studies, The New School for
Social Research, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, New York University

BLUSTER: BOURGEOIS ANXIETY AND EXPOSITORY STYLE IN MID- TO LATE NINETEENTH-CENTURY GERMANY

My project investigates a strangely dominant, yet up to now largely unexamined style in mid- to late nineteenth-century German letters: a paradoxical combination of bombast, avuncularity, belligerence, and petulance that I, taking a cue from the first of Friedrich Nietzsche's *Untimely Meditations*, designate with the name of "Gepolter"—or, in English, "bluster." Proceeding from this text of Nietzsche's—a scathing review of the last book of the renegade theologian and recent convert to scientific materialism David Friedrich Strauss—and moving to the larger scope of nineteenth-century German intellectual and popular culture (in particular, the critical polemics of the young Karl Marx and the humorous novellas of Wilhelm Raabe), my project considers the ideological and affective implications of this style—as well as the accusation of practicing it—as at once a form of self-legitimation and a response to a legitimation crisis. Bluster, as I hypothesize, is the rhetoric of male bourgeois fragility in the age of the bourgeoisie's apparent triumph, an unconscious defensive strategy in the face of the feared loss of cultural and political power at that power's tenuous height.

My project analyzes the elements and effects of this strategy in light of the conflicted complacency of much of nineteenth-century German culture already diagnosed by Nietzsche: the mixture of anxious epigonism and preemptive defensiveness of the supposed victors of the end of history, which only barely

hides both the precariousness and the violence that such a victory implies. In this way, my project aims to excavate the cultural, psychological, and political valences of a tone nearly ubiquitous at the time, but rarely considered in and of itself, with clear consequences for the understanding of public rhetoric up to and including the present day.

Recommended Reading

Weitzman, Erica. *Irony's Antics: Walser, Kafka, Roth, and the German Comic Tradition*. Northwestern University Press, 2015.

—. *At the Limit of the Obscene: German Realism and the Disgrace of Matter*. Northwestern University Press, 2021.

LEA YPI

Permanent Fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg

PhD, Professor in Political Theory

London School of Economics and Political Science

Honorary Professor in Philosophy, Australian National University, Canberra

Born in 1979 in Tirana

Laurea in Philosophy and Laurea Specialistica in Literature, University of

Rome La Sapienza, Master of Research in Political Science and PhD in Political

Theory, European University Institute

A COSMOPOLITAN THEORY OF TERRITORIAL JUSTICE

Ypi will complete a book provisionally entitled “Territorial Justice: A Cosmopolitan Account” that answers the following questions: What justifies the territorial rights of states? What implications does the defence of territorial rights have for the analysis of historical injustice and the control of resources, as well as migration and the right to exclude? Situated in a Kantian tradition that explores external freedom in relation to domestic and cosmopolitan justice, her analysis emphasises the provisional and conditional nature of states’ claim to territorial jurisdiction. The result is a novel theory of territorial rights that tries to avoid the status-quo bias of existing liberal theories whilst developing new insights on how to think about the state in new global circumstances.

Recommended Reading

White, Jonathan, and Lea Ypi. *The Meaning of Partisanship*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Ypi, Lea. *The Architectonic of Reason: Purposiveness and Systematic Unity in Kant's Critique of Pure Reason*. Oxford University Press, 2021. German: *Die Architektonik der Vernunft: Zweckmäßigkeit und systematische Einheit in Kants Kritik der reinen Vernunft*. Translated by Antonia Grunert. Suhrkamp, 2024.

—. *Free: Coming of Age at the End of History*. Penguin Press, 2021. German: *Frei: Erwachsenwerden am Ende der Geschichte*. Translated by Eva Bonné. Suhrkamp, 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 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 Wissenschaftskolleg provides the stipend, accommodation, and services.

Fellows des College for Life Sciences

Liam Shaw (University of Bristol), Evolutionary Biology

Matthew Shepherd (The University of Manchester), Microbial Evolution

Jenna Smith (The University of Sydney), Public Health

Megan Sørensen (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf), Evolutionary Biology

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 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 Fellows

Matia Mukama (Kyambogo University, Kampala), Food Science
David Niyukuri (University of Burundi, Bujumbura), Epidemiology,
Mathematical Modelling

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 2025/2026 ist Frieda Lange.

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 2025/2026 is Frieda Lange.

VUIAS FELLOWSHIP

Zusammen mit ukrainischen und internationalen Partnern bemüht sich das Wissenschaftskolleg seit Herbst 2023 um den Aufbau eines Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (UIAS) in Kyjiw. Für die ersten drei Jahre der Gründungsphase wurde zunächst eine virtuelle Struktur, das VUIAS, geschaffen.

Im akademischen Jahr 2025/2026 werden voraussichtlich etwa 30 VUIAS-Fellowships an ukrainische Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler unterschiedlicher Disziplinen vergeben. Etwa die Hälfte davon sind *VUIAS Fellowships abroad*, die von verschiedenen Institutes for Advanced Study in Europa und den USA ausgeschrieben und finanziert werden. *VUIAS Fellowships in Ukraine* werden an Wissenschaftlerinnen und Wissenschaftler vergeben, die ihre Arbeit an Universitäten und Forschungseinrichtungen in der Ukraine weiterführen.

As of the fall 2023 and in close cooperation with Ukrainian as well as international partner institutes, the Wissenschaftskolleg is helping launch a Ukraine Institute for Advanced Study (UIAS) in Kyiv. A preliminary virtual institute, VUIAS, began operation in the academic year 2023/2024.

Planned for the academic year 2025/2026 is to award about 30 VUIAS Fellowships to Ukrainian scholars from various disciplines. About half of them are *VUIAS Fellowships abroad*, funded and hosted by some of the world's leading Institutes for Advanced Study in Europe and the USA. *VUIAS Fellowships in Ukraine* are granted to scholars continuing their work in universities and research institutions in Ukraine.

VUIAS Fellows abroad am Wissenschaftskolleg

Tamara Hundorova (Shevchenko Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv), Literature
Oksana Mikheieva (Kyiv School of Economics), History, Sociology

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