



REDRESSING SUFFERING AND HARM.  
THE CRIMINAL TRIAL  
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It is not easy to write a report on one's residency at Wiko, as the kind of welcome one receives is quite comprehensive and combines very different facets of life, so much so that the lines of what contributes to professional life can get blurred. I will cover the various arenas of life at Wiko one by one, as well as the way each of them contributed to the progress of my work, directly or indirectly. The first of these arenas was the German course,

which I began in early August. It is one of the opportunities offered to Wiko residents to anchor the year spent at the institute within the broader context of Berlin and Germany. Although I had learned German as my first foreign language in high school, I barely practiced it afterwards. This intensive German course (four hours a day) gave me the opportunity to rediscover, years later, a linguistic universe that I had partly forgotten. During these small-group classes, I also met some colleagues with whom I would soon have regular discussions about areas of research that immediately piqued my interest: legal or political history (of Poland, in particular), cultural history (of the 18th century), the history of interreligious relations (in the Ottoman Empire), and the study of bird behavior. The soon-to-be quite close relationships, forged during these small-group classes aimed at learning a language together in the summer and before the official residency began, were important milestones in my socialization at Wiko. Visits to various parts of Berlin with an architect/city planner also helped us both familiarize ourselves with the surroundings of Wiko and start developing the sociability specific to the institution.

Meals were one of the arenas designed to combine an intense sociability among colleagues – who did not know one another beforehand (with a few rare exceptions) and who came from different countries and different disciplines – with the progress of our respective studies. In a skillfully organized way, the common lunches fostered these very particular discussions, whose topics were difficult to anticipate, given Wiko Fellows' relatively random seating arrangements at the various tables. Thus, from one day to the next, conversations about world events (often questioned through the lens of each Fellow's nationality), cultural activities, and experience of Berlin alternated with scientific discussions of subjects of shared interest. Precisely because of the great unpredictability of the topics discussed, these meals allowed me to become aware of the significance of an issue, an entire area of research, or an approach that I had not thought of before. I could suddenly see potential areas of convergence with my own work. I was somewhat used to this exercise in the meetings of the institution I work at, the *École des hautes études en sciences sociales* in Paris, owing to its multidisciplinary nature, but this experience was more intense at Wiko (given its international dimension, the daily obligations of sociability, and the random seating arrangements). Everyone was at a distance from the immediate issues of their home institutions, which reinforced the feeling that we could speak more freely. However, over time, I started making one-on-one table reservations with colleagues I knew better, which allowed us to focus the conversation on topics that we might otherwise not have been able to discuss as extensively with random seating arrangements.

Like the common meals, the Tuesday Colloquium was beneficial to me for two reasons. First, it gave me the opportunity, on a weekly basis, to step out of my research areas and open my mind. Thanks to Wiko's timesaving organization of the Tuesday Colloquium, I could thus become acquainted with what was being done in other scientific and creative fields and thereby broaden my knowledge. To do so, as with the lunches, I had to make it a point before entering the room to be receptive to all fields, which was the only way to systematically allow each session to bring out angles to explore for my own research. This method allowed me not only to expand my knowledge, but also – thanks to the discussions following the seminar – to delve deeper into some ideas about the history of religions, the relationship between environmental sciences (or biology) and politics, or the nature of literary, poetic, or musical creation, for instance. Second, the Tuesday Colloquium provided me with elements directly related to my current or planned research interests in several fields: the history, philosophy, and sociology of law; the notions of assemblage, *dispositif*, or system in the humanities and social sciences; psychoanalysis and its relationship to the social sciences; the links between violence, memory, and literature; and sociology inspired by pragmatism. In March, my participation in the "Fruitful Frictions Forum," co-organized by Barbara Stollberg-Rilinger and Daniel Schönplflug on the theme "Sokal Reloaded. On Hoaxes and What Can(t) Be Learned from Them," allowed a few colleagues and me to look into major aspects of the evaluation of scientific work at the crossroads of different sciences.

Given its link to Berlin, Wiko also offers opportunities for meetings and discussions with the city's various scientific institutions. During my residency, I was thus able to establish scholarly contacts with several colleagues from the Centre Marc Bloch, in particular during two scientific events where I gave presentations: one titled "A Sociological Approach of the Relationship between Law and Politics. The Place of Victims in Criminal Trials," which I gave in December as part of the Winter School "Politics and Law," co-organized by the Centre Marc Bloch, Humboldt-Universität, and Oxford University; the other titled "On the Force of *Dispositifs*," which I gave with Janine Barbot in May as part of a seminar at the Centre Marc Bloch.

Last but not least, another arena was the office, an everyday space for reading, analyzing fieldwork data, having in-depth discussions, and writing about research in progress. I came to Wiko with fieldwork data already collected and a rough outline for a book that my colleague and partner Janine Barbot and I were planning to write about the devices aimed at redressing harm and wrongdoings, in particular criminal trials. Being able to

live with Janine and our children at Villa Walther and having our two offices nearby, one on Koenigsallee, the other on Wallotstraße, was ideal for us. Considering the magnitude of the work required for our book, I was faced with a recurring dilemma throughout the year: participating in the many thought-provoking workshops and discussions on various topics organized at Wiko, in addition to the Tuesday Colloquium and the common meals, or focusing on my work in progress. I resolved to tip the scale in favor of the latter aspect, feeling with some sense of urgency when I arrived at Wiko the need to finish my current book project. Unfortunately, from January on, the same was true for the German course, which I had to give up despite how interesting it was. Thus, during the first months of my residency until the end of December, I focused on systematically analyzing observational data on criminal trial hearings and writing the first draft of the chapter about these hearings. The second period, until mid-March, was devoted to finalizing other chapters and thinking about how to link the different sections of the book. Thanks to its efficiency, Wiko's library provided me with the last texts that I needed to read to complete the book. My presentation on February 25 at the Tuesday Colloquium and the following discussions helped me – and came just at the right time – to develop an overall approach for the book, so it could be aimed at a wider audience. From mid-March on, Janine Barbot and I took advantage of the last few months to think about the book as a whole and write the last additions. As we go back to Paris, we still have some work to do, but I believe that we are now in the home stretch.

The year was marked by the measures to mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, which had very contrasting effects on Wiko's various arenas. These measures put a stop to the common meals and the workshops. The Colloquium was held by videoconference. Although the presentations and discussions were quite interesting, videoconferencing limitations hindered lateral communication among colleagues. They also affected the continuity of discussions between the Colloquium and other moments of collective life. Fortunately, by the time the epidemic broke out, close relations with certain colleagues had already been established. Face-to-face discussions were still possible, and I was able to carry them on in spaces repurposed to that end, such as the garden in the spring. Book circulation was suspended. Luckily for our project, by March, we had completed our main readings. These measures did not apply to the office, and I was fortunate enough to be able to keep going there every day. Wiko offered Janine an additional office at Villa Walther, while our children, enrolled at the Berlin French High School and at Humboldt-Universität respectively, had to study in our apartment, in lockdown.

Besides Wiko, it is worth mentioning that, as a Parisian sociologist, I enjoyed discovering the immense city of Berlin, visiting its neighborhoods, and riding my bike in and around the Grunewald forest, alone or with family and Wiko's friends.